

Bedford-Stuyvesant

I am proud to be here in Bedford-Stuyvesant . . . an area that your late, great Senator Bob Kennedy made his own special concern.

~~I am proud to stand on Bob Kennedy's ground . . . and to fight for the things Bob Kennedy believed in.~~

~~Senator~~ Bedford-
~~Bob~~ Kennedy had a dream for ~~Bedford~~ Stuyvesant. He dreamed that

an area steeped in the oldest and richest traditions of Brooklyn could fight its way back from adversity . . . could provide a shining example of unity and brotherhood in a time of fear and ~~division~~ . . . could be a place where everybody had a piece of the action.

He made a start toward turning that dream into a reality.

~~Bob Kennedy began the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Project.~~

And Bob Kennedy and the Democrats in Congress made another and bigger start . . . with the poverty program . . . Youth In Action . . . with experimental health centers in Crown Heights and Bedford-Stuyvesant . . . with job training and employment . . . with aid to education . . . with ~~Project Head Start~~ . . . with housing.

We made a start toward attracting industry into Bedford-Stuyvesant.

~~... so that with a flourishing economy everyone can some day have
his own
piece of the action.~~

We have done a lot . . . but we must do more.

Unemployment among the young people in this community ~~and~~
~~others like it is too high.~~ *Too many of them are school drop-outs.*

~~Our schools are not giving our people the skills they need to
make their own way in life.~~

Too many become trapped in a
~~Our~~ welfare system discourages initiative and keeps people
which
on the dole and off the payroll.

We can do better. *We must do better. . . We will
do better.*

~~We cannot stop now until everyone has an equal chance in life
. . . until the dream of Bob Kennedy and John Kennedy and Martin
Luther King is fulfilled . . . until this is one nation, under God,
with liberty and Justice for all. . . one America.~~

forward . . .
We are moving ~~toward~~ that goal. . . and there is only one
thing that can stop us--a loss of faith in each other.

I pledged my faith to the dream of one America long before I
first ran for public office.

I have kept that faith for more than twenty years.

And I renew that pledge today.

There is one party and one set of candidates ^{which} have never had ~~any~~ ^{his} faith in the people.

~~There are some people who don't care to come to Bob Kennedy's ground and talk about the things that matter to you.~~

Mr. Nixon said at the start of this campaign that he was going ^{put} ~~to leave the cities to Mr. Agnew--his urban expert~~ ^{Gov.} ~~who got that way~~ ^{- in charge of the cities.} by running a suburban county board.

Well, ^{some people noticed} some people noticed the other day that the Republican ambassador to urban America wasn't spending much time there . . . and they asked him about it.

He said he saw no reason to come into the cities . . . that city people who wanted to see him and hear him could turn on the TV or come to his ~~suburban~~ ^{in the hotels,} rallies

And ~~besides~~ besides, he added, he could prescribe for the problems of the cities ^{without ever visiting them. going near them.} ~~from the safe distance of the suburbs~~

~~Just listen to what the Republicans' urban expert said to the~~

~~poor people in the cities the other day.~~

He said--and I quote--"You may give us your symptoms but we will make the diagnosis, and we, the Establishment . . . will implement the cure."

That's what the Republican Vice Presidential Candidate
~~So help me, that is what a candidate for Vice President of the~~

~~United States~~ said the other day.

Then he said: "If you've seen one City Slum, you've seen them all."
~~I say shame, Mr. Agnew, shame on you of little faith.~~

I say that you . . . ~~you~~ ^{you} the people of Bedford-Stuyvesant . . .

must play the biggest role in solving the problems of ~~the~~ Bedford-Stuyvesant.

~~Can the people of our cities . . . black or white, rich or poor . . . afford to have that kind of mentality running the country?~~

There are those this year who say that our ^{poor} black people should stay away from the polls . . . that ^{you} they have no stake in this election

And there are others who say that our poor white people should vote ^{your} their fears and hates . . . ~~should~~ succumb to the demagogues and the shouters.

To the latter, I say ~~a vote for George Wallace is~~ ^{not only} a vote for

And I say to you: The Challenge of the City is the greatest challenge which we face here at home. We are going to meet this challenge.

~~hatred and fear . . . it is really a vote for Republican indifference.~~

And to all of our ~~poor~~ ^{people} people . . . white and black . . . I say,
just put the Republicans in office and you will find out what sort
^{you do have}
~~of~~ a stake you had in this election.

The Republicans talk alot about the "forgotten Americans."

I say, put them in office, and you will find out what it is
to be forgotten.

They have been forgetting the American people for as long as
any of us can remember.

They forgot you during those eight, long recession-ridden years

in the 1950s . . . when ~~people~~ ^{this country} drifted on dead center and
forgot its social ^{obligations} responsibilities. ~~it~~ And if you think things are

now, just wait
rough ~~they forgot~~ until we have another Republican recession. You

won't be worrying about hard core unemployment . . . eveyone will

be worrying about a job.

Republicans
They forgot you when the Democrats were fighting for aid to
education . . . housing . . . medicare . . . the war on poverty . . .
job training . . . yes, and even rat control.

They forgot you when they snuggled up to Strom Thurmond ~~down~~ ^{the}

most reactionary of all ~~the~~ extremists

~~South.~~

And now they have written

~~they forgot you~~ you off again because their vice presidential

urban ambassador wants to sit this one out, ~~in the suburbs.~~

Well, the Democrats have never written you off . . . and you aren't going to sit this election out.

We Democrats know that you care what happens to America . . . what happens in Vietnam . . . in our cities.

And I know that Americans who care want leaders they can trust.

~~They do not want a President who is afraid to meet me in open debate . . . or a Vice President who is afraid to take his case to the people of the cities.~~

And I say: you can trust the Democrats. I ask you help. ^{us and} With your help, we will win this election.

And that's the crucial issue in this election:

Who can you trust to lead this country forward for the next four years.



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org