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TEST OF REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY AS HE SPOKE INFORMALLY TO A GROUP OF GEORGIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS AND PERSONAL FRIENDS DURING A VISIT IN ATLANTA ON FEBRUARY 5, 1969.

I want to do one thing in a hurry but with great sincerity and that is to thank all of you here. I know that you in this room as we put it up our way carried the freight. You are the ones that did the work that needed to be done and regrettfully we didnt have enough horse power all around the country to do the job that we would have liked to have done but individually and collectively everyperson here in this little gathering did a remarkable job against unbelievable odds. I don't suppose we ll go through another year like the year of 1968 in so far as the political life of this country is concerned. at least i hope we won't go through another like that. i remember on New Year's eve Mrs. Humphrey and I were out in Minnesota and when it became twelve o'clock we said, "Boy are we glad that year is over." I think you all would agree with me that after our Chicago Convention, the situatilon looked awful hopeless. And you can go back and piece together many things that we should have done that we outht to have done, that we wished we had done , all of which we can contemplate might have changed the results of the election, but it really doesn't do very much good to do that. I of course feel that in spite of what the circumstances were, we did quite well. We came so close that we surprised our friends and frightened our opposition and made many of those who are very close friends and stalwart supporters exceedingly sad because we didn't quite pull it off . no one feels any more sad about this deep in his heart than I do, because it is one of the great opportunities of a lifetime . It's sort of like reaching up.... climbing up the ladder and you are right there at the last run of the ladder and you just get your fingers up there and your finger nails just catch on the side of it... j you just get slivers... you don't quite get ahold of it... you don't make it. It isn't just losing it for oneself but for your followers for the people who have stood with you through the years... everyone of us in public life really are living testimo ial

to what other people can do for you. No one really makes very much out of it... out of public life alone, you have to have help, you need strong faithful, avid supporters and I have had a lot of those. They put their faith in me and when it doesn't quite work out you know that they are more heartbroken than anybody and you can't help but yourself feel that you've let them down.

But I want to make sure than in the months ahead, the years ahead that I do something to repay this party for the opportunity that was given me to be its standard bearer. I still feel a great urge for public service. I feel that public life is a life of rewards that go far beyond anything material. There are the rewards of achievement of participation... how wonderful it is to be in public life. No matter what you can do with private life, you can do more, or it seems to me at least in public office.

So we have come a long ways. And I don't want to remonise about yesterday... let's talk about tomorrow.

I want to say a few words about the Democratic Party. We have a new Chairman. He is a good Chairman. I have put my faith in him. There are others who could have served, but quite candidly I felt that the big struggle of 1970 by which we'll be judged in many ways were the congressional elections. This does not exclude gubernatorial elections by a long shot ~~but~~ for ultimately; your political party depends on the number of governor's who are willing to build a party in their respective states. Senators and Congressmen generally don't have much time to build their political parties. I can speak with some objectivity about this because I was a senator for 16 years, I helped build a political party before I went to the Senate and I helped solidify it while I was in the Senate. But the press, the media is going to judge the Democratic Party as to whether we have a chance in 1972 and you know what the impact is of the media today by how well we do with these crucial congressional elections and I wanted to

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have a Chairman that could identify with those elections... that would put himself to the test on those elections and at the same time would come in with vitality and the ability to articulate and speak to the public... to use the modern media of television and radio and to express the philosophy of this Party and to hopefully to build it. I think in Fred Harris we are going to have that kind of a man. I am sure that Fred will give everything that he has ... he is a hard worker. And he has a talented wife. He is bright. He has been elected several times to public office. He didn't get there by accident. He is a good man.' We need to give him support.

And I want you to know that I do not want the Democratic Party to be a regional party. The Republican Party for years suffered on that basis. This is another way of saying that here in Georgia and every other southern state the Democratic Party has to regain its position of prominence and it isn't good enough just to have a Democratic Governor. It's good, and you've got to have a Democratic Party working the Governor and working with your Congress and your Congressional Delegation. We do not want a black party and we do not want a white party. You know what my views are on this issue, and we don't want to drive people out of this party, we want to bring them in to this party. You can't have people all of like mind. No one ever had a winning party of all of like mind. What you have is a small sector or small segment and I believe there is a day ahead now when we can bring into the Democratic Party the kind of responsible leadership, responsible participation, middle of the road, left of center, a little right of center, some that are very liberal, some that are rather conservative and still find a basis home in the Democratic Party. We've never asked and I've never asked as a person what we call unanimity --- I have asked for a spirit of unity, there is a great deal of difference. Unanimity requires that everybody lock step according to the so called leader. Unity requires that we have some respect for each others

point of view and that we have more common objectives than we have differences. And I believe that's what we need in this Party. Now you can help us here in Georgia. Oh, you can help us so much... because you've got good leadership available.... you can build the kind of Democratic Party that we need throughout all of America... not just the south. I don't want to give you all of that stuff about the New South and the Old South, you've heard all that.. I think we ought to quit all of that. I think what we really ought to talk about is how we build a Democratic Party that is a part of this Nation. The Democratic Party has helped this country so much and you are going to find out that it helped ϕ more than some people thought it helped as the days go on.

I have not made any political speeches and I don't intend to be a carping critic of the new Administration. I think that's bad. I don't think it's fair. I don't think it's even good politics. But we'll wait, we'll see what they do, and I believe ~~if we disagree~~ that if we disagree ~~with~~ with what they do, the I believe we ought to have a constructive alternative. We ought not just be against... we ought to be for.

Now I want you to know that I am prepared to do what I can do to be hlepful.. if you think I can be hlepful... I know I am not the most popular political figure in some of your precincets, I am fully aware of that, but I have no particular ax to grind, I am a publicá man, I have not folded up my tent, I am not going to fall back into the desert of no mans land . I am going to be out in front. I am the leader of this party and I am going to act a s the leader of this party and I am going to try to see that we have in this Party the respect for one another and I would urge upon you that you have your voice heard just as other voices are being heard in this party... we have some voices that are quite far out as they are called, that are demanding this and are demanding that... Demands are always a little bit irritating to me, but I do believe that you can express in your ways for your part of the country for your needs down here certain responses and reactions from the Democratic National Committee and from those of us who are supposed to be

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National ~~is~~ Leaders in this party. We want your counsel and advice because many states in which we have very serious troubles and we want you to feel free to communicate. Don't we ~~wish~~ must not have any of this pouting where you just say I don't think they understand us. Because the trouble with that is the other guy doesn't think you understand him. And the telephone works and the/ airlines work... you may get sidetracked to Havana but we'll get you back.

I am going to be in Washington at least half of my time. Mr. Bill Connell who is here with me will be there most all of the time. You can always contact us. You would be doing me a great favor if you would keep in touch. Because I do feel a sense of responsibility and I do ~~feel~~ ~~want~~ no want the fight promoters in this country and we have some... to set one group against the other, one person against the other, before we even have a chance to get ourselves organized to win anything. We already have people, the communtators, who are trying to pit one person against the other for 1972 who knows whether 1972 will even be worth wanting... if we don't do something between now and 1972. The election of 1970 will determine a lot about what is going to happen in 1972. We don't know what Mr. Nixon's program is. We don't know what the Republican program is, but we do know one thing. In your part of america, where we are right now, the Republican Party intends to make this Republican territory. Make no mistake about it. The Republican Party intends to make this its stamping ground. Mr. Nixon is a capable political man. I have never underestimated him. Not like some of my fellow Democrats. And I have reason not to underestimate him. Remember he barely lost in 1960. In all of the great moment of glory and tragedy of the Kennedy period ... we forget what really happened. By a change of a few thousand votes, less than 50 thousands/ Nixon would have been President in 1960, by the way a change of 120 thousand in 1968 and I would have been President.

So these are close elections, the Republicans have been moving in year after year in the South. They have been moving in here ever since 1948 we know that. But particularly since the Eisenhower years and in the last four to eight years they have been working hard in the south.

There is no need ~~is~~/in us getting into a lot of arguments about civil rights.... you know what the law is.... and so do I, and you know that this country is changing,... and so do I.... and you know we are going to have to adjust ourselves to changes... and so do I... and what's the use in letting Republicans lead us off into a bloodbath arguing about something that you and I is going to happen one way or the other... Republican or Democrat.

I've got a lot of ~~spare~~ spunk left in me yet, and a lot of fire.... and I am not yet about ready to fold up. I am going back to my home state part of the time... I may come back from that state for some office. It's too early to make a safe prediction or to make sound plans, but Murial ~~wnd~~ and I will be out there, we have wonderful friends in Minnesota.

I want to leave one other thought with you. I've got one thing I'm proud about. Every city that we went to in this last election, we carried it. Every one. Wherever we were. We had some might good help in Atlanta and carried Atlanta even if I didn't get to come here. We carried communities in this last election that hadn't been carried for years... we really had some phenomenal successes in certain areas, and I know there were areas where had we done a little bit more, maybe it could have been better.

Thank you.

Regain Dixie, HHH Pleads

Former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey told a small group of Georgia Democrats at a private meeting Wednesday that a broadly based national Democratic party must include the South, the region he lost worst in the past presidential election.

Humphrey was in Atlanta to attend the funeral of Atlanta Constitution Publisher Ralph McGill and afterward met with 10 to 15 Democrats at the Marriott Motor Hotel.

In a 15-minute talk to the group, Humphrey said one of the prime aims of President Richard M. Nixon, who defeated Humphrey last November, is to convert the South, until eight years ago almost solidly Democratic, into "Republican territory."

The former vice president also talked about how it felt to lose

a close election for the presidency.

Among those at the meeting with Humphrey were former Gov. Carl E. Sanders, Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen, Georgia Democratic Party Treasurer W. D. Trippe, state party Executive Director Joe Sports, Georgia National Committeewoman Marjorie Thurman, Fulton County Democratic Chairman John Greer, Coca-Cola Co. executive Ovid Davis, Atlanta Democratic leader Irving Kaylor, and State

Rep. Mac Barber, a long-time friend of Humphrey's.

Humphrey told the group, "I want you to know that I do not want the Democratic party to be a regional party. The Republican party for years suffered on that basis. This is another way of saying that here in Georgia and every other Southern state the Democratic party has to regain its position of prominence and it isn't good enough just to have a Democratic governor.

"You've got to have a Democratic party working with the governor and working with Congress and your congressional delegation. We do not want a black party and we do not want a white party. You know what my views are on this issue, and we don't have to drive people out of this party, we want to bring them into this party . . .

"Now you can help us here in

Georgia . . . because you've got good leadership available. You can build the kind of Democratic party that we need throughout all of America, not just the South."

Humphrey said, "I don't want to give you all that stuff about the New South and the Old South. You've heard that. I think we ought to quit all that. I think what we really ought to talk about is how we build a Democratic party that is part of this nation."

He also told the group, "There is no need in us getting into a lot of arguments about civil rights. You know what the law is. And so do I. And you know that this country is changing, and you know we are going to have to adjust ourselves to changes, and what's the use in letting Republicans lead us off into a bloodbath arguing about something you and I know is going to happen one way or another—Republican or Democrat."

Humphrey pleaded with the Georgians to work for success in the 1970 congressional election, for, he said, the outcome will largely influence the 1972 presidential election.

"We don't know what Mr. Nixon's program is," he said. "We don't know what the Republican program is, but we do know one thing. In your part of America, where we are right now, the Republican party intends to make this Republican territory.

"Make no mistake about it. The Republican party intends to make this its stamping ground. Mr. Nixon is a capable political man. I have never underestimated him. Not like some of my fellow Democrats. And I have reason not to underestimate him."

Referring to his close defeat for president, Humphrey said, "It's sort of like reaching up, climbing up the ladder and you are right there at the last rung of the ladder and you just get your fingers up there and your fingernails just catch on the side of it . . . you just get slivers."

Humphrey told the Georgians he has no intention of retiring from the national political scene and leave the party to others.

"I want you to know that I am prepared to do what I can do to be helpful," he told the group. "I know I am not the most popular political figure in some of your precincts—I am fully aware of that—but I have no particular ax to grind. I am a public man, I have not folded my tent, I am not going to fall back into the desert of a no man's land."—REMER TYSON

HHH Drops Word: I'm Not Out Yet

By CHARLES POU

Atlanta Journal Political Editor

The 1972 Democratic presidential nomination derby? Don't count Hubert Humphrey out.

On the other hand, don't exactly count him in, because a 1970 bid for the U.S. Senate from Minnesota is the next thing up for the immediate past vice president and the immediate past Democratic presidential nominee.

Those were some of the words from Humphrey at a brief meeting of some past and present leaders of the Georgia Democratic party, following the funeral Wednesday of Ralph McGill, the distinguished publisher and former editor of The Atlanta Constitution.

Humphrey was reported as making these comments and others—including the assertion the South must be regained for Democrats in 1972—by Georgia Democratic party Director Joe Sports.

"HE ALSO recalled the campaign," said Sports, "and talked how it feels to get almost to the top rung of the ladder. He said it doesn't feel too good.

"But he said he really felt

worse for his friends who worked so hard than he did for himself..."

(Sports didn't say whether the former vice president was referring to Georgia in the feel-bad comment. No ranking office-holding Democrat, past or present, was speaking up at all for the party nominee. Gov. Lester Maddox made speeches for George Wallace in Georgia and in other Southern states. Candidate Humphrey buzzed the northwest corner of the state one night at 32,000 feet, en route between North Carolina and Tennessee, but forgot to drop out leaflets.)

Sports continued:

"Mr. Humphrey said he wanted to see the South speak out more on how it feels about the National Democratic party. He said that possibly we have been too complaisant, too nice."

(APPARENTLY the 1968 party nominee was referring to between-convention party matters. In Chicago last summer, both rival groups of delegates were speaking out—and at times hitting out. One Maddox delegate, who returned home to support Wallace, landed a very nifty, short-range punch to the solar plexus of a TV man.

(A lady from the rival Julian Bond contingent got in a short hassle with one of the convention floor security guards. She was trying to wrestle the state guidon from the party regulars. The woman retreated when the guard bopped her over the head with it.)

The Humphrey talk was a private affair at the Marriott Motor Hotel. Among others reported present were former Gov. Carl E. Sanders, Georgia National Committeewoman Marjorie Thurmond, Democratic Treasurer W. D. Trippe and Atlanta Democrat leader and strategist Irving Kaylor.

"Mr. Humphrey had especially asked that Mr. Gray (Democrat Chairman James Gray) be present," said Sports, "but it was on such short notice Mr. Gray could not be present. Some of the others there were present as individual friends of Mr. Humphrey..."

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