

Ambassador Harriman 000583

Sen Muskie

Victor Berger

F.R.R. Jones

REMARKS

THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL AWARD

APRIL 29, 1969

NEW YORK, N. Y.

~~Frank~~ O'Connor

Walter Kravitz

Bill Defects

D

Sen Jennings Randolph!
one of 7 left in Congress when FOR

Cam
in!

Amb. Harriman -
Salesman for my
COLUMBIA

I accept the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Award
with great pleasure... with great pride... and with a proper
amount of humility -- enough, but not too much.

I think most of you know what this award, particularly,
means to me.

Throughout the formative years of my life, the career
of Franklin D. Roosevelt, along with Woodrow Wilson's,
fashioned in my soul the fundamental belief that man has
within himself the capacity to build a more just and humane social
order.

Goodness

↳ President Roosevelt's unshakeable faith in the fundamental goodness of this country and her people has many times buttressed my faith in the ultimate worth of our democratic enterprise; especially in those moments of our national life when our actions have fallen below expectations.

X ↳ For the past quarter-century as an elected public official I have tried to live this faith and act on these beliefs.

↳ I have now resumed my teaching career in government and political science after a rather extended leave-of-absence to conduct some field research -- twenty-five years, to be exact.

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and We have been having some lively times on the campus.

~~and~~ *on* the basis of a number of discussions and debates I ~~had with~~ have ~~held~~ since assuming the title of V.P. -- Visiting Professor -- I gather that for some students the most damning criticism they can level at a political figure today is the charge of being an "Old Liberal", or even worse, "a Disciple of the New Deal". !

and It is an indication of our unsettled times that these epithets can be hurled with equal fervor from the far left and the far right.

L I find it difficult to refute the fact that I am, indeed, a liberal who has grown somewhat older. This coincidence of circumstances ~~necessarily~~, I suppose, qualifies me as an "Old Liberal" -- or at least an "Older Liberal". !

So Be it -

- 4 -

But I do dispute the implication that goes with the other charge -- the notion that advocacy of the principles and objectives of the New Deal somehow guarantee a person's irrelevance in today's circumstances.

I suspect further that persons who make these charges understand neither the philosophy which underlay the specific actions of the New Deal nor the relationship of this philosophy to our present social and economic challenges.

Having now been reestablished in the academic world thanks to the American people and the U.S. Constitution -- ~~I am emboldened~~ I am emboldened to dust off a little known scholarly work written by a candidate for the Master's degree in political science at Louisiana State University in the early 1940's.

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This student -- one H. H. Humphrey -- chose to write his thesis on "The Political Philosophy of the New Deal".
It he reached this rather erudite conclusion: "The primary objective (of the New Deal) has been to regain and to secure economic liberty for the average man, not by abrupt change and revolution, but by experimental reordering of the profit system in order to provide economic security without sacrificing political liberty."

↳ Today people remember or read about the multitude of agencies and initials which suddenly became part of every American's life in the 1930's.

↳ People forget or are seldom told of the tremendous outpouring of creative imagination, combined with a willingness to experiment, which lay behind these governmental initiatives.

tends to
 L We forget that FDR acted always with one objective firmly in mind: to create social and economic conditions in America whereby the individual, ~~not the bureaucracy~~, could again assume control of his own destiny.

L This is precisely the philosophy -- the attitude of mind -- which is essential today if we are again to seize the offensive against our current problems, ~~with~~ *and we must do this with* the same decisiveness, zeal and courage which marked our national life ~~the~~ *during these* ~~the~~ early days of the New Deal.

yes, This is precisely what is needed today if we are again to instill in this country a feeling of hope and confidence in our capacity to bend the future in the cause of freedom and humanity.

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Of course, today's economic and social conditions are as different from the ones which confronted Franklin D. Roosevelt as his were from those faced by Abraham Lincoln.

↳ No reasonable person would advocate a re-creation of the specific governmental actions which characterized the New Deal. ↳ And none do!! the outraged verbal assaults against "Old Liberals" and "New Dealers" notwithstanding!

↳ But, some of us are saying that the heart and the soul, ~~if you will~~, which FDR brought to government is urgently needed today -- particularly if we are to sustain the trust and faith of the least fortunate among us that the "system" will work for them also.

• and mind you, no system, no society can long survive without the faith & trust of its members.

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↳ To be candid, I would feel a good bit better about the present Administration's admonitions to lower our voices and pause in the unfinished work of social justice if we were also hearing some ^{solid} ~~rough~~ talk about what needed to be done and soon -- if we are to avoid the most serious of domestic difficulties.

↳ Too often it seems that the people who are ^{asked to} ~~supposed to~~ lower their voices are the same people who have not been listened to or heard from for all too many years -- ~~permitted to speak for two hundred years~~ ^{some for such 200 yrs.}

↳ I am all for not promising more than we can deliver -- But not to the point of permitting these sentiments to become rationalizations for doing less than the absolute maximum of what we are capable of doing... and ~~up to the point that we~~

~~believe our fundamental error has been in telling the American people that all should share equitably in the wealth and~~

~~opportunity of this nation, and forgetting that,~~ In fact, our ~~basic error has been~~ *has not been that we have promised too much but rather* the protracted failure to mobilize the

full resources and energies of this country to ~~reach this goal~~ *fulfill this nations promise.*

I have fought in the cause of humanity for too long to be silent now. I know that ~~these sentiments are supposed to be unpopular today~~ and that ~~the shrewd politician talks about other things -- organized crime, for example.~~

~~Well, I fought organized crime as Mayor of Minneapolis...~~

with the help of my friends... ~~and...~~ And I intend to keep on fighting the bigotry, hate,

intolerance, and injustice which still flourishes in this country...

and, in the end, we can win this battle too. *well*

Why, this faith in our future? My answer, because of that reservoir of good will, decency, & fair justice which is the ~~hidden~~ hallmark of our history.

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yes/ I still believe that every individual in this society
can have his chance. *He must! He is needed! This is a fellow
 American!*

And I believe that those of us who have had our chance
 bear the moral obligation to help those who are less fortunate ~~to~~
 have the same break.

↳ This award -- no less than the life of the man in
 whose memory it is given -- strengthens my commitment
and renews my courage.

↳ For this I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

#

Remarks
The Hon. H H H
FDR Memorial Award
April 29, 1969

I accept the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Award ~~with~~ with great
~~pleasure~~ pleasure. . . with great pride. . . and with a proper amount
of humility--enough, but not too much.

I think most of you know what this award, particularly, means to
me.

Throughout the formative years of my life, the career of
Franklin D. Roosevelt, along with ~~that of Woodrow Wilson's~~ *Woodrow Wilson's*, ~~has~~ fashioned
soul the fundamental
~~around~~ in my ~~belief~~ belief that man has within himself the capacity
to build a more just and humane order.

President Roosevelt's unshakeable faith in the fundamental goodness
of this country and her people ^{many times} has buttressed my faith in the ultimate
worth of our democratic enterprise, especially in those moments when
~~we have failed~~ *our actions have fallen below expectations.*
~~as a nation we fail to live our professed beliefs.~~

For the past quarter-century as an elected public official
I have tried to live this faith and act on these beliefs.

~~As you know~~ ^{now} I have resumed ~~my~~ my teaching career in government and political science after a ~~some~~ ^{rather} extended leave-of-absence to conduct ^{some} field research--twenty-five years, to be exact. We have been having some lively times on the campus. *And*

I have held ~~with interest~~
 On the basis of a number of discussions and debates ~~with interest~~ assuming that for some students since ~~assumed~~ the title of "Professor," I gather ~~that some~~ of the most damning criticism ^{they can level} ~~that can be levelled~~ at a political figure today is the charge of being an "Old Liberal," ^{or,} "a Disciple of the New Deal," ~~and, of all, a belief that "Government can do~~

~~everything~~ It is an indication of our unsettled times that ~~the~~ these ~~criticisms~~ epithets can be hurled with equal ~~vehement~~ fervor from the far left and the far right.

I find it difficult to refute the fact that I am, indeed, a liberal who has grown somewhat older. ^{This} ~~That~~ ~~striking~~ coincidence of circumstances ^{qualifies me as} necessarily, I suppose, ~~making~~ an "Old Liberal."

But I do dispute the implication that goes with the other charge-- ^{principles and objectives of me} the notion that ~~my~~ advocacy of the New Deal ~~is a belief that government bears a major responsibility in our society for combatting critical social and~~

3/

~~economic ill~~ somehow ~~disqualifies a person for~~ ~~careful~~ guarantees
a person's irrelevance in today's circumstances.

I suspect further that persons who make these charges understand
neither the philosophy which underlay the specific actions of the
New Deal nor the relationship of this philosophy to our present
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This student--one H.H. Humphrey--chose to write his thesis on
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4/

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~~made on~~ *and* these governmental initiatives.
~~which lay behind the statisticians call the New Deal~~

L We ~~also~~ forget that FDR acted always with one objective firmly
in mind: to create social and economic conditions in America
whereby the individual, not the bureaucracy, could again assume
control of his own destiny.

L This is precisely the philosophy--the attitude of mind--which
is essential today if we are again to seize the offensive against
our current problems with the same decisiveness, ~~and~~ ~~zeal~~ and
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6/

lower their voices are the same people who have not been permitted to speak for two hundred years.

I am all for not promising more than we can deliver--up to the point of permitting these sentiments to become rationalizations for doing less than the absolute maximum of what we are capable of doing . . . and up to the point that we believe our fundamental error has been in telling the American people that all should share equitably in the wealth and opportunity of this nation, and forgetting that, in fact, our basic error has been the protracted failure to mobilize the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ full resources and energies of this country to reach this goal.

I have fought in the cause ^{of humanity} for too long to ~~remain~~ ^{be} silent now.

I know ~~the~~ that these sentiments are supposed to be unpopular today--and that the shrewd politician talks about other things--~~crime~~ ^W organized crime, for example.

Well, I fought organized crime as major of Minneapolis . . . and won. And I intend to keep on fighting the bigotry, hate, intolerance, and injustice which still flourishes in this country . . . and, in the end, ^{we can} ~~I intend to~~ win this battle too.

7/

I ~~still~~ ^{every} believe that ~~the~~ individual ~~can~~ in this society
can have his chance.

And I believe that those of us who have had our chance bear
the moral ~~which~~ ^{those roles are} obligation to help ~~our~~ less fortunate ~~brothers and~~
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This award--no less than the life of the ~~great~~ man in ~~whose~~
whose memory ~~the award~~ ^{it} is given--~~gives me~~ strengthens my
commitment and renews my courage.

For this I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

And I believe further that if we
establish ~~the~~ the right priorities in
our national life every



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