

May 26, 1969

MEMORANDUM

For: H.H.H.  
From: John G. Stewart  
Subject: Brief remarks to National Democratic Sponsors Club  
Washington, D.C., May 26, 1969

Informality and brevity are priorities for these remarks -- delivered from round tables after Kennedy, Harris, Muskie, in that order.

The audience, as you know, are young (35-45) businessmen who have been extremely successful in their respective enterprises. Many have never been involved in political activity before, and most have only deep reservations about the usual political fund-raising dinner -- hence the format which has been developed for this evening.

In addition to financial support, the participants will be asked to volunteer their time and energy on various projects, some political, others of a more non-political community-oriented variety. They will be working on various task forces and advisory groups organized by the Democratic National Committee.

You will be speaking last ... and everyone will have had a great deal to eat and drink. Bill Welsh and Phil Zeidman are unanimous in their advice to speak no longer than 8-10 minutes.

Two themes would be especially appropriate to this group:

1. Are we, as a nation and as a party, willing to run risks ... in the cause of peace ... in the cause of a just society?

You understand that greater rewards often demand the capacity and willingness to assume greater risks. This is true in business ... it is also true in the world of government and politics.

More than anything else today this means having the courage to look beyond yesterday's answers ... to question our own assumptions about the workings of our society ... and to learn to live with the diversity and controversy which is the basic strength of a democratic society.

In a time of conformity, will we retain the courage to speak out honestly ... even if it hurts?

2. We must recognize the growth potential of this country. Today people talk constantly of the crises and problems in this

country ... and, goodness knows, we have them in full measure.

But we must never forget our almost unlimited capacity for economic and social achievement -- if we are willing to run risks and if we explicitly tap this country's energy and vitality in behalf of noble objectives.

Change -- sometimes radical change -- is never easy. But change is an inseparable part of our lives, whether we like it or not.

Our job is to channel these forces for change toward the achievement of constructive goals ... rather than attempting to suppress these forces, thereby generating the hostility and violence which can destroy our economic, political and social institutions.

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