

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

RECEPTION FOR ERIE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

Buffalo, New York

October 12, 1971

Tonight, I want to talk to you about three things: First, the failures of the Nixon Administration: Second, the failures of the Republican Administration in Erie County; and third, a new Manifesto for Democratic Victory -- now and in 1972.

The Nixon Administration Failures.

No failure is more conspicuous nor more upsetting than the down-the-drain economics of the Nixon Administration.

Only he was too blind and too stubborn to admit it.

The President is a quick-change artist.

It took him thirty-four months to conclude that his economic game plan was a disaster. But then -- quick change -- it took him less than 48 hours to announce a program that was a bonanza to big business.

It took him thirty-four months to figure out that the cost of living was going up -- medical costs, 6 percent; transportation, 6 percent; lumber, 29 percent; utilities, 11 percent.

But then -- quick change -- it took him less than 48 hours to nullify long negotiated, legal labor contracts -- contracts that allowed working men to catch up.

It took him thirty-four months to figure out that his policies produce unreasonably high unemployment rates. But, then -- quick change -- it took him less than 48 hours to conclude that what is good for business is good for Americans.

I say to Mr. Nixon that he should have come to Erie County -- maybe even the Republican County Executive would have told him:

-- unemployment was less than 3 percent in 1968, now it is over 9 percent

-- Quaker Oats, Remington Rand, Continental Can Co., Curtis Wright, Bond Banking -- these and other firms have closed their doors since 1968 -- and all in Erie County.

-- Finally, because there are no jobs, 10,000 young people leave Erie County every year.

This is what the Republican County Executive should have told Nixon. This is what I hope he told Vice President Agnew last week.

The Nixon Administration has failed to solve the welfare crisis. After proposing an imaginative plan, he drops it. He postpones it. And, in the process, he postpones the hopes of recipient and taxpayer alike.

Before he made his decision, he should have come to Erie County:

-- case loads have increased 11,000 since 1971

-- 26,000 new persons were added to the rolls

Property taxes have increased to pay for additions to the welfare rolls -- rolls that swell because there are no jobs in the Nixon Economy.

Look at the other failures of the Nixon Administration.

-- he has failed to solve the education crisis, he vetoes badly needed education appropriations

-- he has failed to solve the health care crisis -- he cuts medicare, vetoes hospital construction, opposes national health insurance

-- he has failed to feed the hungry and the poor

-- he has increased the cost of food stamps, attempted to cut the school lunch program, and for the first time in ten years, there has been an increase in the number of poor persons in the United States.

The Nixon response to serious problems is the traditional Republican response -- public relations, press releases, illusions of progress.

Just as he had a "secret plan" for ending the war, he now has a secret plan for ending inflation -- he plans to put everybody out of work, then there will be no income, no money, no spending, hence, no inflation.

The Nixon failure in Washington is matched by the Republican failure here in Erie County.

-- the Republican Administration has failed to take advantage of federal programs.

-- it has dilly-dallied for 3 1/2 years for a new football stadium

-- it almost forgot to file applications for federal and state drug abuse assistance

-- it has failed to take full advantage of federal Hill-Burton programs.

I say to you tonight, we have a joint goal:

I am going to do all I can to end four years of Republican Administration in Washington, if you will end 148 years of Republican misrule in Erie County.

And, while I am not going to speculate on who the best man is to end the mess in Washington, I know who the best man is to end the mess in Erie County -- Mayor Frank A. Sedita.

Mayor Sedita has been cited by both of your local papers for his outstanding job in management, and as a man who can bring citizens together.

He knows government and how it works.

He has brought federal grants to Buffalo.

-- he got money for a drug abuse and control program

-- he has reduced crime in Buffalo

-- he has instituted reforms in the Police Department

-- he has received money for the Clean Water Act for Buffalo Sewer Treatments.

He is a liberal, he is a Democrat, but more than that, he is a doer.

His opponent is a talker, a promiser. And, like most Republicans, his promises usually go bad.

We have a job in front of us.

And, if we are going to win, then we need a Manifesto for Democratic Victory.

First, we need to have unity -- unity of purpose and unity of people.

We cannot have splinter politics or the politics of rule or ruin. This does not work. It is not good for the country nor for the party. The history is all too clear -- splinter politics elects Republicans, and Republicans elect unemployment, tight money, high interest rates, and increasing inflation.

Second, we Democrats must refocus our attention on the little guy, the average worker -- the man of moderate means who pays his taxes but thinks the rich should pay more, who is outraged at the cost of medical care, who desperately wants clean streets and safe streets. This is the man of the Democratic Party, and he is Black, White, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Indian.

Third, we need to focus on the young people -- we must tell them that the Democratic Party has something to offer. They can change things in this party, and the proof is that they have changed things enormously since 1968. Young people can get a piece of the action here.

Fourth, we need to talk straight to the American people. We have to restore the trust, the confidence, that people should feel for their government.

We cannot have government by crisis.

Finally, we must have something to offer the American people -- we must have programs that work, a sense of priorities that appeals to all Americans, and the will, backed by committed leadership, to do what we must to bring the good life to all Americans.

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REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

RECEPTION FOR ERIE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

OCTOBER 12, 1971

TONIGHT, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THREE THINGS:

FIRST, THE FAILURES OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION; SECOND, THE FAILURES OF THE REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION IN ERIE COUNTY; AND THIRD, A NEW MANIFESTO FOR DEMOCRATIC VICTORY -- NOW AND IN 1972.

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION FAILURES.

NO FAILURE IS MORE CONSPICUOUS NOR MORE UPSETTING THAN THE DOWN-THE-DRAIN ECONOMICS OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION.

ONLY HE WAS TOO BLIND AND TOO STUBBORN TO ADMIT IT.

THE PRESIDENT IS A QUICK-CHANGE ARTIST.

IT TOOK HIM THIRTY-FOUR MONTHS TO CONCLUDE THAT HIS ECONOMIC GAME PLAN WAS A DISASTER. BUT THEN -- QUICK CHANGE -- IT TOOK HIM LESS THAN 48 HOURS TO ANNOUNCE A PROGRAM THAT WAS A BONANZA TO BIG BUSINESS.

IT TOOK HIM THIRTY-FOUR MONTHS TO FIGURE OUT THAT THE COST OF LIVING WAS GOING UP -- MEDICAL COSTS, 6 PERCENT; TRANSPORTATION, 6 PERCENT; LUMBER, 29 PERCENT; UTILITIES, 11 PERCENT.

BUT THEN -- QUICK CHANGE -- IT TOOK HIM LESS THAN 48 HOURS TO NULLIFY LONG NEGOTIATED, LEGAL LABOR CONTRACTS -- CONTRACTS THAT ALLOWED WORKING MEN TO CATCH UP.

IT TOOK HIM THIRTY-FOUR MONTHS TO FIGURE OUT THAT HIS POLICIES PRODUCE UNREASONABLY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATES. BUT, THEN -- QUICK CHANGE -- IT TOOK HIM LESS THAN 48 HOURS TO CONCLUDE THAT WHAT IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS IS GOOD FOR AMERICANS.

I SAY TO MR. NIXON THAT HE SHOULD HAVE COME TO ERIE COUNTY -- MAYBE EVEN THE REPUBLICAN COUNTY EXECUTIVE WOULD HAVE TOLD HIM:

-- UNEMPLOYMENT WAS LESS THAN 3 PERCENT IN 1968, NOW IT IS OVER 9 PERCENT

- one out of every 7 in Erie county unemployed

-- QUAKER OATS, REMINGTON RAND, CONTINENTAL CAN CO., CURTIS WRIGHT, BOND BANKING -- THESE AND OTHER FIRMS HAVE CLOSED THEIR DOORS SINCE 1968 -- AND ALL IN ERIE COUNTY.

-- FINALLY, BECAUSE THERE ARE NO JOBS, 10,000 YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVE ERIE COUNTY EVERY YEAR.

THIS IS WHAT THE REPUBLICAN COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHOULD HAVE TOLD NIXON. THIS IS WHAT I HOPE HE TOLD VICE PRESIDENT AGNEW LAST WEEK.

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS FAILED TO SOLVE THE WELFARE CRISIS. AFTER PROPOSING AN IMAGINATIVE PLAN, HE DROPS IT. HE POSTPONES IT. AND, IN THE PROCESS, HE POSTPONES THE HOPES OF RECIPIENT AND TAXPAYER ALIKE.

BEFORE HE MADE HIS DECISION, HE SHOULD HAVE COME TO

ERIE COUNTY:

-- CASE LOADS HAVE INCREASED 11,000 SINCE 1971

-- 26,000 NEW PERSONS WERE ADDED TO THE ROLLS

7% of total Popul - Erie County on Welfare

PROPERTY TAXES HAVE INCREASED TO PAY FOR ADDITIONS

TO THE WELFARE ROLLS -- ROLLS THAT SWELL BECAUSE THERE ARE

NO JOBS IN THE NIXON ECONOMY.

*unemployed pay no taxes -
Welfare is Pd by taxes.*

LOOK AT THE OTHER FAILURES OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION.

-- HE HAS FAILED TO SOLVE THE EDUCATION CRISIS, HE VETOES

BADLY NEEDED EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

-- HE HAS FAILED TO SOLVE THE HEALTH CARE CRISIS -- HE

CUTS MEDICARE, VETOES HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION, OPPOSES NATIONAL

HEALTH INSURANCE

-- HE HAS FAILED TO FEED THE HUNGRY AND THE POOR

-- HE HAS INCREASED THE COST OF FOOD STAMPS, ATTEMPTED

TO CUT THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN

TEN YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF POOR

PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE NIXON RESPONSE TO SERIOUS PROBLEMS IS THE TRADITIONAL
REPUBLICAN RESPONSE -- PUBLIC RELATIONS, PRESS RELEASES,
ILLUSIONS OF PROGRESS.

JUST AS HE HAD A "SECRET PLAN" FOR ENDING THE WAR, HE
NOW HAS A SECRET PLAN FOR ENDING INFLATION -- HE PLANS TO
PUT EVERYBODY OUT OF WORK, THEN THERE WILL BE NO INCOME, NO
MONEY, NO SPENDING, HENCE, NO INFLATION.

THE NIXON FAILURE IN WASHINGTON IS MATCHED BY THE
REPUBLICAN FAILURE HERE IN ERIE COUNTY.

-- THE REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION HAS FAILED TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

-- IT HAS DILLY-DALLIED FOR 3 1/2 YEARS FOR A NEW FOOTBALL
STADIUM

-- IT ALMOST FORGOT TO FILE APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL AND
STATE DRUG ABUSE ASSISTANCE

-- IT HAS FAILED TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF FEDERAL
HILL-BURTON PROGRAMS.

I SAY TO YOU TONIGHT, WE HAVE A JOINT GOAL:

I AM GOING TO DO ALL I CAN TO END FOUR YEARS OF REPUBLICAN
ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON, IF YOU WILL END 148 YEARS
OF REPUBLICAN MISRULE IN ERIE COUNTY.

AND, WHILE I AM NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON WHO THE BEST
MAN IS TO END THE MESS IN WASHINGTON, I KNOW WHO THE BEST
MAN IS TO END THE MESS IN ERIE COUNTY -- MAYOR FRANK A.

SEDLA.

MAYOR SEDITA HAS BEEN CITED BY BOTH OF YOUR LOCAL PAPERS
FOR HIS OUTSTANDING JOB IN MANAGEMENT, AND AS A MAN WHO CAN
BRING CITIZENS TOGETHER.

HE KNOWS GOVERNMENT AND HOW IT WORKS.

HE HAS BROUGHT FEDERAL GRANTS TO BUFFALO.

-- HE GOT MONEY FOR A DRUG ABUSE AND CONTROL PROGRAM

-- HE HAS REDUCED CRIME IN BUFFALO

-- HE HAS INSTITUTED REFORMS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

-- HE HAS RECEIVED MONEY FOR THE CLEAN WATER ACT FOR
BUFFALO SEWER TREATMENTS.

HE IS A LIBERAL, HE IS A DEMOCRAT, BUT MORE THAN THAT,

HE IS A DOER.

*Crime down in Buffalo by 13%
up in N.E. by 14%*

HIS OPPONENT IS A TALKER, A PROMISER, AND, LIKE MOST
REPUBLICANS, HIS PROMISES USUALLY GO BAD.

WE HAVE A JOB IN FRONT OF US.

AND, IF WE ARE GOING TO WIN, THEN WE NEED A MANIFESTO
FOR DEMOCRATIC VICTORY.

FIRST, WE NEED TO HAVE UNITY -- UNITY OF PURPOSE AND
UNITY OF PEOPLE.

WE CANNOT HAVE SPLINTER POLITICS OR THE POLITICS OF RULE
OR RUIN. THIS DOES NOT WORK. IT IS NOT GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY
NOR FOR THE PARTY. THE HISTORY IS ALL TOO CLEAR -- SPLINTER
POLITICS ELECTS REPUBLICANS, AND REPUBLICANS ELECT UNEMPLOYMENT,
TIGHT MONEY, HIGH INTEREST RATES, AND INCREASING INFLATION.

SECOND, WE DEMOCRATS MUST REFOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON THE LITTLE GUY, THE AVERAGE WORKER -- THE MAN OF MODERATE MEANS WHO PAYS HIS TAXES BUT THINKS THE RICH SHOULD PAY MORE, WHO IS OUTRAGED AT THE COST OF MEDICAL CARE, WHO DESPERATELY WANTS CLEAN STREETS AND SAFE STREETS, THIS IS THE MAN OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, AND HE IS BLACK, WHITE, CHICANO, PUERTO RICAN, INDIAN,

THIRD, WE NEED TO FOCUS ON THE YOUNG PEOPLE -- WE MUST TELL THEM THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS SOMETHING TO OFFER, THEY CAN CHANGE THINGS IN THIS PARTY, AND THE PROOF IS THAT THEY HAVE CHANGED THINGS ENORMOUSLY SINCE 1968, YOUNG PEOPLE CAN GET A PIECE OF THE ACTION HERE,

FOURTH, WE NEED TO TALK STRAIGHT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, WE HAVE TO RESTORE THE TRUST, THE CONFIDENCE, THAT PEOPLE SHOULD FEEL FOR THEIR GOVERNMENT,

WE CANNOT HAVE GOVERNMENT BY CRISIS.

FINALLY, WE MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO OFFER THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE -- WE MUST HAVE PROGRAMS THAT WORK, A SENSE OF
PRIORITIES THAT APPEALS TO ALL AMERICANS, AND THE WILL, BACKED
BY COMMITTED LEADERSHIP, TO DO WHAT WE MUST TO BRING THE
GOOD LIFE TO ALL AMERICANS.

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