

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF STATE CHAIRMEN

Washington, D.C. -- Mayflower Hotel

October 13, 1971

We have a golden opportunity for victory in 1972 in Minnesota and the nation -- victory not just for our party, but victory for the people.

Tonight, let me give you my prescription for the victory we can win.

These are the ingredients: Unity, Vision, Programs, Progressive Leadership, and -- taking a leaf from Harry Truman's book -- the people.

It should be unnecessary to mention the last ingredient in that prescription.

But too often in government we focus on programs and projects, on finances and funding, on the structure and institutions of government, when we should be looking at the people.

For that is what government is really all about -- people. And that is the Democrats' secret weapon.

If we continue to focus on people, if we back up our concern with action, and if we maintain our unity, then we can safely predict this:

We will elect a Democratic President next year. We will put in the White House a President who cares about people. Yes, a President who cares about:

-- the teenager, who in this Administration-manufactured recession faces an unemployment rate of 13.5 percent if he is white, and a scandalous 33.5 percent if he is black.

-- the elderly American, living on a fixed income and watching the price he pays for everything he or she needs go up, up and up.

-- the farmer, whose back has been forced to the wall by this Administration, and who has been made the victim of the worst economic conditions since the Great Depression of the 1930's.

-- the unemployed worker -- and there are more than 5 million of them "officially" unemployed today, and an estimated 1.5 million more who have become so discouraged trying to find a job that they have dropped out of the labor market altogether.

-- the 25 million Americans living in poverty today. And let me remind you that the number is increasing every day under this Administration, after a decade of uninterrupted decline under Democratic administrations.

-- the businessman, the housewife, and black American, the Chicano, and the others whose welfare has been callously ignored by an Administration practicing the politics of crisis and public relations gimmickry.

The opposition will be tough, but we can win in 1972 with unity and dedicated work.

We can win if we keep our focus on people -- their needs, their concerns, their hopes and dreams.

Let's remember Harry Truman. He took his campaign to the people in 1948. And this is what he said:

"We told the people the truth. And the people are with us. The tide is rolling. All over the country I have seen it in the people's faces. The people are going to win the election."

This is what I see as I travel around our great country. People everywhere know we can do better, and they want to get going -- we shall give them that opportunity in 1972.

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REMARKS

BY

SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

LUNCHEON

OCTOBER 13, 1971

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Age of Aquarius

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IT IS PART OF THE CONVENTIONAL
WISDOM OF AMERICAN POLITICS, THAT
NATIONAL COMMITTEES ARE, IN MOST
CIRCUMSTANCES, BENIGN APPENDAGES OF
THE PARTY ORGANIZATION. AND AS TITULAR
LEADER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, I
SURELY QUALIFY AS AN EXPERT ON BENIGN
APPENDAGES!

↳ BUT IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED,
A LOT OF PEOPLE IN AMERICA ARE SUDDENLY
QUITE INTERESTED IN THE ACTIONS THAT
THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WILL
BE TAKING THIS AFTERNOON AND TOMORROW.

THEY ARE INTERESTED FOR SEVERAL GOOD REASONS.

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-- UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF
CHAIRMAN LARRY O'BRIEN, THE DEMOCRATIC
NATIONAL COMMITTEE HAS BEEN MOVING
FORWARD ON A HOST OF FRONTS TO REBUILD
AND PREPARE THE PARTY FOR AN EFFECTIVE
AND WINNING CAMPAIGN NEXT YEAR.

-- THE COMPREHENSIVE REFORMS OF
THE MCGOVERN-FRASER AND THE O'HARA
COMMISSIONS HAVE CAPTURED THE IMAGINATION
OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS. THE

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE IS ~~THE~~ ^{THE} 1972

VEHICLE BY WHICH THESE REFORMS HAVE

BEEN ADOPTED AND WILL BE IMPLEMENTED

IN THE COMING MONTHS.

Policy Council At work on issues
 -- ~~FINALLY~~ *↳* THIS MEETING OF THE *Platform*

NATIONAL COMMITTEE WILL TAKE A NUMBER

OF ACTIONS THAT WILL VITALLY AFFECT

THE FUTURE OF THE PARTY AND THE OUTCOME

OF THE 1972 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

↳ FOR ALL THESE REASONS, YOU --

THE MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL

COMMITTEE -- FIND YOURSELVES FACED WITH

A NUMBER OF HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS...

↳ DECISIONS THAT WILL REQUIRE YOUR

CAREFUL AND THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION...

↳ DECISIONS THAT WILL REQUIRE YOU TO FACE

SQUARELY THE QUESTION: WHAT IS BEST

FOR THE PARTY ... NOT WHAT IS BEST FOR

ANY PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL, GROUP OR

FACTION WITHIN THE PARTY!

↳ YOU MUST CHOOSE AN ACTING

CHAIRMAN OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.

I HAVE KNOWN HAROLD HUGHES FOR

MANY YEARS...HE IS ^{my} AN ABLE AND RESPECTED

*Harold*⁵
SENATOR...A DEMOCRAT OF UNUSUAL
COMPASSION AND COMMITMENT.

↳ BY THE SAME TOKEN, I HAVE LONG
BEEN A FRIEND AND ADMIRER OF PATRICIA
HARRIS. ↳ I KNOW PAT AS ONE OF AMERICA'S
MOST GIFTED AND TALENTED WOMEN...A
LEADER IN HER PROFESSION...A PERSON OF
VISION AND RARE ABILITY.

↳ WE SHOULD COUNT OURSELVES
FORTUNATE INDEED THAT TWO SUCH ABLE
PEOPLE HAVE AGREED TO HAVE THEIR NAMES
PLACED IN NOMINATION FOR THE POSITION

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OF ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE CREDENTIALS
COMMITTEE OF THE 1972 DEMOCRATIC
NATIONAL CONVENTION.

THIS IS ONE OF THE FINEST
NATIONAL COMMITTEES THAT THIS PARTY
HAS EVER HAD -- DEDICATED TO THE PROGRESS
OF AMERICA AND THE WELFARE OF THIS
PARTY AND ITS MEMBERS. YOU OF THE
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE ARE FULLY
QUALIFIED -- INDEED YOU HAVE THE DUTY --
TO MAKE THIS IMPORTANT DECISION ON
YOUR OWN.

WHATEVER YOUR DECISION MAY BE --

I TRUST WE WILL KEEP OUR LONGER-RANGE
GOALS IN MIND.

I TRUST THAT WE HAVE REGAINED
THE MATURITY AND SENSE OF PURPOSE TO
UNDERSTAND THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF
JOINING TOGETHER IN A COMMON EFFORT
TO ELECT A DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT AND
VICE PRESIDENT IN NOVEMBER 1972.

*That is
our
immediate
goal*

I READ IN THE PAPERS ABOUT HOW
THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS ABOUT TO RELIVE

THE DIFFICULT DAYS OF 1968 . . . ABOUT
TO TEAR ITSELF APART OVER THE ISSUE OF
PARTY REFORM . . . AND, BY SO DOING,
HAND THE ELECTION TO RICHARD NIXON.
AND I SAY NONSENSE TO THESE STORIES.

We should EXPECT A SPIRITED CONTEST!

IN FACT, I WOULD BE MORE THAN A LITTLE
DISAPPOINTED IN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
IF WE EVER ADOPTED THE REPUBLICAN
TECHNIQUE OF AGREEING TO EVERYTHING BY
ACCLAMATION BEHIND TIGHTLY LOCKED DOORS.



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