

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

BAR-B-Q DINNER

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

OCTOBER 24, 1971

There is one paramount question facing the American people for the next year: Can this nation endure four more years of the Nixon Administration?

Can this nation endure four more years of an administration that does little about high taxes, ballooning welfare rolls, cities in crisis, rural areas in decay, and small businesses failing?

Can this nation endure four more years of an administration that refuses to feed the hungry or protect the innocent?

I say the American people are going to answer that four years is enough.

1972 will be the end of the Press Release Presidency.

1972 will be the year of the Democrats.

Why?

-- Because the American people will reject an Administration that for two and one half years refused to act against inflation, failed to admit its mistakes, and then took action that unfairly discriminated against the working man.

-- Because the American people will reject an Administration that has consistently pursued policies that favor the wealthy at the expense of the poor and the middle-income earner.

-- Because the American people will reject a Republican Administration that gives large corporate interest over \$11 billion in tax windfalls, allows steel prices to climb, and proposes a health insurance plan that amounts to a subsidy for private business.

-- Because the American people will reject an Administration that refuses to invest in social progress, that refuses to plan for conversion to a peacetime economy.

But most of all, the American people will reject an Administration that is without compassion -- an Administration that has totally failed in what should be America's number one priority -- jobs for the more than five million people now out of work.

Jobs mean income; and, income means better living.

Jobs mean hope; and hope means opportunity -- opportunity for one's self, his family, and his future.

I say: It is time to get Americans back to work.

We can no longer tolerate six percent of our working people unemployed.

We can no longer tolerate another 8 percent of the working population harboring expectations of being unemployed.

This nation needs direction, purpose, and an administration that understands the needs and hopes and aspirations of the people.

The Democratic Party understands frustrations. It understands the blacks in Chicago, the whites in Appalachia, the Chicanos in the Southwest, and Indian Americans throughout our land.

The Democratic Party knows that the middle and moderate income family cannot be left out of social progress.

The Democratic Party knows the importance of trained, skilled workers who are responsible for transforming ideas into goods.

The Democratic Party understands that this nation cannot be complacent about our tomorrows -- that it must anticipate and plan for the tomorrows. It understands that a society can shape its future if there is the will to plan, to think ahead.

And the Nixon Administration refuses to think or plan beyond the next, immediate crisis. And then the President goes on nationwide television with the latest TV spectacular.

That isn't good enough for the American people

But having said all that, let me remind you that the opposition will be tough -- unbelievably tough.

And we Democrats cannot win if we are divided or if we look only to past achievements.

Victory in 1972 will require unity and vision. We cannot afford divisions. And we must take to the people plans and programs for the future -- for a better life for our people in the '70's, in the '80's and beyond.

Programs for people -- that is the Democrats' secret weapon.

And that is what the opposition has never understood -- that people is what government is really all about.

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(A)

IT CERTAINLY IS AN HONOR TO BE HERE. I HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT IF I EVER RUN FOR OFFICE AGAIN, I'D RUN IN LAS VEGAS.

THIS A GREAT CROWD . . . AND THIS PICNIC IS A FIRST OF ITS KIND.

IT SHOWS WHAT CAN BE DONE WHEN DEMOCRATS GET TOGETHER.

IT SHOWS THE SPIRIT, THE VITALITY OF THE PARTY. IT TELLS NEVADA REPUBLICANS SOMETHING ALSO -- AND WHAT THEY SEE, WHAT THEY HEAR, THEY WON'T LIKE.

I WANT TO COMPLIMENT THE ORGANIZERS.

BUT, I AM NOT CERTAIN THAT I PARTICULARLY LIKE THE SLOT FOR MY SPEAKING TIME -- IT MAKES YOU FEEL INSECURE. HOW CAN HUBERT HUMPHREY FOLLOW ANN-MARGARET? WELL, I'LL TELL YOU -- VERY CLOSELY!

(B)

AND, I WAS INFORMED THAT MY GOOD FRIEND DON RICKLES WANTED TO COME, BUT HIS LEG IS IN A CAST. COULDN'T HAPPEN TO A NICER GUY.

ON MY WAY IN TODAY, I ASKED ONE OF MY AIDES HOW THE LAS VEGAS DEMOCRATS MANAGED TO HAVE SUCH A SMASHING AFFAIR -- THEY TOLD ME THAT SENATORS FROM YOUR STATE LEGISLATURES WERE TENDING BAR.

I WANT TO SAY THAT I REALLY ENJOY WESTERN BAR-B-QUES -- I USED TO GO TO A LOT OF THEM ONE TIME.

SPEAKING OF BEING VICE-PRESIDENT, NIXON IS NOT THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO HAVE A CONTROVERSIAL VICE-PRESIDENT. PRESIDENT EISENHOWER HAD ONE TOO!

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(C)

SOMETIMES I HAVE SYMPATHY WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT, NIXON

AGAIN WAITED UNTIL AGNEW WAS OUT OF THE COUNTRY BEFORE HE
ANNOUNCED HIS SUPREME COURT CHOICES.

AND, THEN AGAIN ... USUALLY I DO NOT HAVE ANY SYMPATHY
FOR HIM.

BECAUSE HE IS PART OF A TEAM -- A TEAM THAT HAS BEEN A
DISASTER FOR THE UNITED STATES.

THERE IS ONE PARAMOUNT QUESTION FACING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR THE NEXT YEAR: CAN THIS NATION ENDURE FOUR MORE YEARS OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION?

CAN THIS NATION ENDURE FOUR MORE YEARS OF AN ADMINISTRATION THAT DOES LITTLE ABOUT HIGH TAXES, BALLOONING WELFARE ROLLS, CITIES IN CRISIS, RURAL AREAS IN DECAY, AND SMALL BUSINESSES FAILING?

CAN THIS NATION ENDURE FOUR MORE YEARS OF AN ADMINISTRATION THAT REFUSES TO FEED THE HUNGRY OR PROTECT THE INNOCENT?

I SAY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE GOING TO ANSWER THAT FOUR YEARS IS ENOUGH.

1972 WILL BE THE END OF THE PRESS RELEASE PRESIDENCY.

1972 WILL BE THE YEAR OF THE DEMOCRATS.

WHY?

-- BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL REJECT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT FOR TWO AND ONE HALF YEARS REFUSED TO ACT AGAINST INFLATION, FAILED TO ADMIT ITS MISTAKES, AND THEN TOOK ACTION THAT UNFAIRLY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST THE WORKING MAN.

-- BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL REJECT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT HAS CONSISTENTLY PURSUED POLICIES THAT FAVOR THE WEALTHY AT THE EXPENSE OF THE POOR AND THE MIDDLE-INCOME EARNER.

-- BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL REJECT A REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION THAT GIVES LARGE CORPORATE INTEREST OVER \$11 BILLION IN TAX WINDFALLS, ALLOWS STEEL PRICES TO CLIMB, AND PROPOSES A HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN THAT AMOUNTS TO A SUBSIDY FOR PRIVATE BUSINESS.

-- BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL REJECT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT REFUSES TO INVEST IN SOCIAL PROGRESS, THAT REFUSES TO PLAN FOR CONVERSION TO A PEACETIME ECONOMY.

BUT MOST OF ALL, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL REJECT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT IS WITHOUT COMPASSION -- AN ADMINISTRATION THAT HAS TOTALLY FAILED IN WHAT SHOULD BE AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE PRIORITY -- JOBS FOR THE MORE THAN FIVE MILLION PEOPLE NOW OUT OF WORK.

JOBS MEAN INCOME; AND, INCOME MEANS BETTER LIVING.

JOBS MEAN HOPE; AND HOPE MEANS OPPORTUNITY -- OPPORTUNITY
FOR ONE'S SELF, HIS FAMILY, AND HIS FUTURE.

I SAY: IT IS TIME TO GET AMERICANS BACK TO WORK.

WE CAN NO LONGER TOLERATE SIX PERCENT OF OUR WORKING
PEOPLE UNEMPLOYED.

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POPULATION HARBORING EXPECTATIONS OF BEING UNEMPLOYED.

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THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY UNDERSTANDS FRUSTRATIONS. IT UNDERSTANDS THE BLACKS IN CHICAGO, THE WHITES IN APPALACHIA, THE CHICANOS IN THE SOUTHWEST, AND INDIAN AMERICANS THROUGHOUT OUR LAND.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY KNOWS THAT THE MIDDLE AND MODERATE INCOME FAMILY CANNOT BE LEFT OUT OF SOCIAL PROGRESS.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY KNOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINED, SKILLED WORKERS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSFORMING IDEAS INTO GOODS.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS NATION CANNOT BE COMPLACENT ABOUT OUR TOMORROWS -- THAT IT MUST ANTICIPATE AND PLAN FOR THE TOMORROWS.

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IS THE WILL TO PLAN, TO THINK AHEAD.

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AND THAT IS WHAT THE OPPOSITION HAS NEVER UNDERSTOOD -- THAT PEOPLE IS WHAT GOVERNMENT IS REALLY ALL ABOUT.

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