

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

DEMOCRATIC DAY CELEBRATION

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
October 27, 1971

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

Today, 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 Democrat's 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 in a fixed income and watching the price he pays for everything he or she needs go up, up, and up.

-- The small businessman, who has watched back-breaking inflation drive his operating costs sky-high -- so high that 10,000 small and medium sized firms were forced out of business last year.

-- 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 professional worker, the housewife, the 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.

We can win because there is a vast gulf between the promises of this Administration and its performance -- and the people know it.

Up until a few weeks ago, the President told us his economic game plan was working.

Well, the people know better.

The five million unemployed and their families -- more than 15 million Americans -- know better. And so do the millions more who know they could be thrown out of work next.

The Administration tells us it is winding down the war.

Then why is the bombing still going on -- not only in Vietnam, but in Cambodia and Laos?

The Administration tells us it is winning the battle against crime.

Yet the FBI says that major crimes in the nation increased from 4.4 million in 1963 to 5.5 million last year -- a rise of 25 percent.

Yes, the people know better.

They aren't being fooled by the Administration's public relations jargon nor its attempts to abolish distasteful words.

Did you know that the Administration doesn't use the word poverty anymore? It is too distasteful. They have named a task force to redefine poverty and come up with a term that sounds better.

And what happens when farm prices fall drastically below parity levels? That's no problem for the Administration. It merely devises a new parity ratio.

And the bombing in Southeast Asia? Its not bombing at all; its "protective reaction."

Unemployment in urban poverty neighborhoods went up again in the third quarter of this year to over 10 percent.

But the Administration has an answer for that: It simply won't issue these figures for all of 1972.

And it asks the people to believe that the fact that 1972 is an election year is nothing more than coincidence.

Next thing you know, they'll abolish the Weather Bureau forecast unless it happens to call for sunny skies.

Well, the people won't be fooled.

They want an Administration that talks straight, an Administration they can believe.

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.

#

000245

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

DEMOCRATIC DAY CELEBRATION

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

OCTOBER 27, 1971

201 - 2287

WE HAVE A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR VICTORY IN 1972 -- VICTORY
NOT JUST FOR OUR PARTY, BUT VICTORY FOR THE PEOPLE.

TODAY, 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.

-2-

FOR THAT IS WHAT GOVERNMENT IS REALLY ALL ABOUT -- PEOPLE.

AND THAT IS THE DEMOCRAT'S 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 IN A FIXED INCOME AND WATCHING THE PRICE HE PAYS FOR EVERYTHING HE OR SHE NEEDS GO UP, UP, AND UP.

-- THE SMALL BUSINESSMAN, WHO HAS WATCHED BACK-BREAKING INFLATION DRIVE HIS OPERATING COSTS SKY-HIGH -- SO HIGH THAT 10,000 SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED FIRMS WERE FORCED OUT OF BUSINESS LAST YEAR.

-- 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.

-4-

-- 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 PROFESSIONAL WORKER, THE HOUSEWIFE, THE 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.

000250

-5-

WE CAN WIN BECAUSE THERE IS A VAST GULF BETWEEN THE PROMISES OF THIS ADMINISTRATION AND ITS PERFORMANCE -- AND THE PEOPLE KNOW IT.

UP UNTIL A FEW WEEKS AGO, THE PRESIDENT TOLD US HIS ECONOMIC GAME PLAN WAS WORKING.

WELL, THE PEOPLE KNOW BETTER.

THE FIVE MILLION UNEMPLOYED AND THEIR FAMILIES -- MORE THAN 15 MILLION AMERICANS -- KNOW BETTER. AND SO DO THE MILLIONS MORE WHO KNOW THEY COULD BE THROWN OUT OF WORK NEXT.

THE ADMINISTRATION TELLS US IT IS WINDING DOWN THE WAR.

THEN WHY IS THE BOMBING STILL GOING ON -- NOT ONLY IN VIETNAM, BUT IN CAMBODIA AND LAOS?

2292

THE ADMINISTRATION TELLS US IT IS WINNING THE BATTLE AGAINST
CRIME.

YET THE FBI SAYS THAT MAJOR CRIMES IN THE NATION INCREASED
FROM 4.4 MILLION IN 1963 TO 5.5 MILLION LAST YEAR -- A RISE OF
25 PERCENT.

YES, THE PEOPLE KNOW BETTER.

THEY AREN'T BEING FOOLED BY THE ADMINISTRATION'S PUBLIC
RELATIONS JARGON NOR ITS ATTEMPTS TO ABOLISH DISTASTEFUL WORDS.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE ADMINISTRATION DOESN'T USE THE WORD
POVERTY ANYMORE? IT IS TOO DISTASTEFUL. THEY HAVE NAMED A TASK
FORCE TO REDEFINE POVERTY AND COME UP WITH A TERM THAT SOUNDS
BETTER.

AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN FARM PRICES FALL DRASTICALLY BELOW
PARITY LEVELS? THAT'S NO PROBLEM FOR THE ADMINISTRATION. IT
MERELY DEVISES A NEW PARITY RATIO.

AND THE BOMBING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA? ITS NOT BOMBING AT ALL;
ITS "PROTECTIVE REACTION."

UNEMPLOYMENT IN URBAN POVERTY NEIGHBORHOODS WENT UP AGAIN
IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF THIS YEAR TO OVER 10 PERCENT.

BUT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS AN ANSWER FOR THAT: IT SIMPLY
WON'T ISSUE THESE FIGURES FOR ALL OF 1972.

AND IT ASKS THE PEOPLE TO BELIEVE THAT THE FACT THAT 1972
IS AN ELECTION YEAR IS NOTHING MORE THAN COINCIDENCE.

NEXT THING YOU KNOW, THEY'LL ABOLISH THE WEATHER
BUREAU FORECAST UNLESS IT HAPPENS TO CALL FOR SUNNY SKIES.

WELL, THE PEOPLE WON'T BE FOOLED.

THEY WANT AN ADMINISTRATION THAT TALKS STRAIGHT, AN
ADMINISTRATION THEY CAN BELIEVE.

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.

#####



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org