

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

COPE BANQUET

San Mateo, California

November 5, 1971

I want to talk to you tonight about the Presidency.

And, I want to announce to you here in San Mateo that I am completely convinced that presidents cannot hide behind the shield of staff assistants -- away from the people, away from comment, away from the reality of the outside world.

Presidents cannot exist in splendid isolation.

And, when they do, all American citizens are the losers.

I ask you tonight -- where does the President travel?

Where does he go? How isolated is he? Where has he been? Where does he intend to go? And are these plans right for the nation?

Now, I commend the President's diplomatic initiatives in announcing plans to visit Peking and Moscow.

But I'd like to see him visit Watts or Hunters Point. I'd like to see him look at the unemployment lines in this nation.

I'd like to see him come to San Mateo -- to a labor meeting to talk about the wage-price freeze and the despair that countless workers feel because they may be the next to lose their jobs in this confused and floundering economy.

Where does the President go when he leaves the White House?

He travels almost 1,000 miles to the Detroit Economic Club to answer questions from big business.

But, he will not go to an AFL-CIO meeting one block from the White House to consult with labor leaders on his economic game plan.

He spends his week-ends in seclusion in Key Biscayne or San Clemente or Camp David. But when is the last time he went into the inner city? When did he last see a welfare recipient or an elderly person trying to survive inflation on a fixed income?

Yes, and when did he last visit a college campus?

Does he really know the American people? Is he really in tune with their problems, their hopes, their dreams, their aspirations?

He met with his economic advisers at Camp David -- completely surrounded, completely protected. And, they came up with an economic plan of sorts.

It might have been a more equitable plan if they had met in a labor hall and with labor leaders.

The President salutes American agriculture. But where does he do it? At a California rice farm? At a Midwest wheat farm? No, he does it on the front lawn of the White House in Washington.

Maybe that's why he has no agricultural policy. Maybe that's why farm income is lower than it has been since the depths of the Great Depression.

In short, the President avoids going where he will hear the voice of the people. The result is hardly surprising:

I ask you tonight: Who has a voice at the White House?

Who speaks for the farmers? I'll tell you. No one.

Who speaks for the consumers? I'll tell you -- No one.

Who speaks for labor? I'll tell you -- No one.

Who speaks for students? I'll tell you -- No one.

Who speaks for children -- yours and mine? I'll tell you -- No one.

Who speaks for the working men and women? I'll tell you -- No one.

But we know who speaks for big business, the merchants, the big corporations, the bank presidents, the financial houses, the large corporate farms.

The blunt fact is that the President has lost touch with the American people.

If we were in touch, he could not have waited 2 1/2 years before he acted against devastating inflation.

He could not have allowed unemployment to climb to over 5.5 million persons.

He could not have allowed teenage unemployment to rise to over 17 percent.

He could not have allowed interest rates to go sky high.

He could not have allowed the productive machinery of private enterprise to dwindle to 75 percent of capacity.

When it came to power, the Administration said it would be an open administration.

But, the door has been slammed.

When he does speak to the people, the President invariably filters his words through the electronic maze of television.

The President has held only 20 press conferences in two years and eleven months.

But he has been on television over 46 times -- that is 20 times more than President Johnson during his five years in office, and three times more than in the two years and ten months of President Kennedy.

Thus, the Nixon Presidency has become a shielded Presidency, a restricted presidency, an isolated presidency.

And, as a result, this Administration lacks the programs equal to the demands of the times.

It has no program for jobs. It has no program for economic conversion for defense industries and no system for compensating workers who are thrown out of jobs by closing defense plants.

It has no program for building the countless public projects our cities and rural communities need so badly.

It has no program for providing mass transit.

It has no program for revitalizing rural America.

But, it does have a program for freezing wages.

It does have a program for sidestepping the critical questions of high corporate profits, high unemployment, of high interest rates, and ever-increasing prices.

Its program is simple: It substitutes the illusion of progress for real action, real plans, real results.

Small wonder there is a crisis of confidence in the nation today. The stock market tumbles. Consumers are reluctant to spend.

Plants remain under-utilized. Complaints from the working man that prices are increasing even though there is a freeze are dismissed by the Administration.

What it amounts to is this: Dismal failure.

Yet, the Administration keeps telling us, "We are succeeding." "Our policies are sound."

And, they are right. Their policies are soundly producing both inflation and unemployment.

They have succeeded in putting more people on the unemployment compensation rolls than had been there in a decade.

They have succeeded in reversing a ten-year decline in the number of Americans living in poverty.

They have succeeded in making 65 American cities -- the highest number in a decade -- centers of persistent and substantial unemployment.

What this Administration just does not understand is that the number one domestic priority of this nation must be jobs, jobs, jobs.

The Administration has but one plan for dealing with the unemployment problem -- ignore it.

Americans expect more from their President.

They have a right to expect our national government to solve the problems of the economy with farmers for all Americans.

They should be able to trust and have confidence in their government.

They have a right to expect job opportunities -- because jobs mean that families stay together and live and grow together.

There are urgent things to be done. And, with your help we can do them.

We can have meaningful tax reform to give the working man a break and stimulate purchasing power.

We can increase farm income, and stimulate the housing market.

We can insist on reduced interest rates.

We can accelerate and expand public works projects.

We can pass welfare reform and give direct financial aid to our hard-pressed cities.

We can begin investing our resources in people.

And we can begin in November, 1972, with your help to have a Decade of Dynamic Domestic Development.

We can reverse the tide that has made this nation privately wealthy but publicly poor.

Above all, we can restore the trust, the faith, and the confidence of people in their government and in their President.

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HEAD TABLE

Turn on the lights

ED.
MR. MICHELSON & WIFE - PRES, SAN MATEO LABOR
(BUTCHERS UNION) COUNCIL

CHAM. OF
DINNER

⊗ JACK SMITH & Virginia - (RETAIL CLERKS)

⊗ WARREN BILLINGS

GEORGE DAVIS & ~~GINGER THOMAS~~

Sen

ALAN CRANSTON - Sen Tunney
cong McClellan

JACK HENNING + WIFE (COCKTAILS AFTER)

SEN.

ARLEN GREGORIO & Dorena

⊗

FRED SMITH & WIFE - STATE COPE COORDINATOR

DAN DEL CARLO & WIFE Recycle

WAYNE THOMAS & WIFE - PRES SAN MATEO
BUILDING TRADES.

AL GRUHN - PRES. STATE FED OF LABOR

ASSY. LEO MCCARTHY - IN AUDIENCE
" Geo Ryan " "

1 S. 7 49ers
Vetings
Thespandan

#

Cope
thanks - Labo Rale!

Ch Jack Smith - Virginia

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San Mateo County - Central Labor Council

COPE - Annual Banquet

✓ Alan Cranston

⊕ Warren Bellini

✗ Sen Arlon Gregario

Suffered Political
imprisonment

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Freed by Pol. Action

✗ Ed Michelson - President
San Mateo Labor Council

COPE BANQUET

✗ Jack Henning - Sec. Treas

SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA

✗ Al Hukin

NOVEMBER 5, 1971

State President

⊕ Wayne Thomas - Pres. San Mateo Bldg Trades

⊕ Fred Smith - COPE Coordinator

Thanks! Labor + its role

✗ GOOD FOR OUR COUNTRY!

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People

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU TONIGHT ABOUT THE PRESIDENCY,

that all important office -

~~AND I WANT TO ANNOUNCE TO YOU HERE IN SAN MATEO THAT I~~

~~AM COMPLETELY CONVINCED THAT PRESIDENTS CANNOT HIDE BEHIND THE~~

~~SHIELD OF STAFF ASSISTANTS -- AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE, AWAY FROM~~

~~COMMENT, AWAY FROM THE REALITY OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD.~~

L

PRESIDENTS CANNOT EXIST IN SPLENDID ISOLATION.

Presidents must know the Country!

AND, WHEN THEY DO, ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE THE LOSERS.

L

I ASK YOU TONIGHT -- WHERE DOES THE PRESIDENT TRAVEL?

WHERE DOES HE GO? HOW ISOLATED IS HE? WHERE HAS HE BEEN? WHERE

DOES HE INTEND TO GO? AND ARE THESE PLANS RIGHT FOR THE NATION?

L

NOW, I COMMEND THE PRESIDENT'S DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES IN

ANNOUNCING PLANS TO VISIT PEKING AND MOSCOW.

BUT I'D LIKE TO SEE HIM VISIT WATTS OR HUNTERS POINT, I'D

LIKE TO SEE HIM LOOK AT THE UNEMPLOYMENT LINES IN THIS NATION,

I'D LIKE TO SEE HIM COME TO SAN MATEO -- TO A LABOR MEETING

TO TALK ABOUT THE WAGE-PRICE FREEZE AND THE DESPAIR THAT COUNTLESS

WORKERS FEEL BECAUSE THEY MAY BE THE NEXT TO LOSE THEIR JOBS IN

THIS CONFUSED AND FLOUNDERING ECONOMY.

WHERE DOES THE PRESIDENT GO WHEN HE LEAVES THE WHITE HOUSE?

well HE TRAVELS ALMOST 1,000 MILES TO THE DETROIT ECONOMIC CLUB

TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM BIG BUSINESS.

BUT, HE ^{*does*} ~~WILL~~ NOT GO TO AN AFL-CIO MEETING ONE BLOCK FROM

THE WHITE HOUSE TO CONSULT WITH LABOR LEADERS ON HIS ^{*new*} ECONOMIC

GAME PLAN.

✓ He travels to Boston to talk to Editors. He travels to Alaska to see the Emperor of Japan

HE SPENDS HIS WEEK-ENDS IN SECLUSION IN KEY BISCAYNE OR SAN CLEMENTE OR CAMP DAVID. BUT WHEN IS THE LAST TIME HE WENT

INTO THE INNER CITY? WHEN DID HE LAST SEE A WELFARE RECIPIENT

visit a welfare office,

or an Employment office

OR AN ELDERLY PERSON TRYING TO SURVIVE INFLATION ON A FIXED

INCOME?

or AND WHEN DID HE LAST VISIT A COLLEGE CAMPUS? *to listen to young America?*

DOES HE REALLY KNOW THE AMERICAN PEOPLE? IS HE REALLY

IN TUNE WITH THEIR PROBLEMS, THEIR HOPES, THEIR DREAMS, THEIR

ASPIRATIONS?

And he must!

~~HE MET WITH HIS ECONOMIC ADVISERS AT CAMP DAVID --- COMPLETELY~~
~~SUPPORTED, COMPLETELY PROTECTED, AND, THEY CAME UP WITH AN~~
~~ECONOMIC PLAN OF SORTS.~~

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A MORE EQUITABLE PLAN IF THEY HAD MET IN A LABOR HALL AND WITH LABOR LEADERS.

[Large handwritten scribble]

agree

THE PRESIDENT SALUTES AMERICAN AGRICULTURE. BUT WHERE DOES HE DO IT? AT A CALIFORNIA RICE FARM? AT A MIDWEST WHEAT FARM? *or corn field* NO, HE DOES IT ON THE FRONT LAWN OF THE WHITE HOUSE IN WASHINGTON.

L ~~MAYBE THAT'S HIS AGRICULTURAL POLICY.~~ MAYBE THAT'S WHY FARM INCOME IS LOWER THAN IT HAS BEEN SINCE THE DEPTHS OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION.

L IN SHORT, THE PRESIDENT AVOIDS GOING WHERE HE WILL HEAR THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE. THE RESULT IS HARDLY SURPRISING:

Voice of the People

I ASK YOU TONIGHT: WHO HAS A VOICE AT THE WHITE HOUSE?

WHO SPEAKS FOR THE FARMERS? I'LL TELL YOU. NO ONE!

WHO SPEAKS FOR THE CONSUMERS? I'LL TELL YOU -- NO ONE.

WHO SPEAKS FOR LABOR? I'LL TELL YOU -- NO ONE!

WHO SPEAKS FOR STUDENTS? I'LL TELL YOU -- NO ONE.

WHO SPEAKS FOR CHILDREN -- YOURS AND MINE? I'LL TELL YOU --

NO ONE!

yes WHO ^{*in the white house*} SPEAKS FOR THE WORKING MEN AND WOMEN? I'LL TELL YOU --

NO ONE!

BUT WE KNOW WHO SPEAKS FOR BIG BUSINESS, ~~THE PRESIDENTS,~~ THE

BIG CORPORATIONS, THE BANK PRESIDENTS, THE FINANCIAL HOUSES, THE

LARGE CORPORATE FARMS — The President & his Cabinet!

THE BLUNT FACT IS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS LOST TOUCH WITH THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE.

IF WE WERE IN TOUCH, HE COULD NOT HAVE WAITED 2 1/2 YEARS
BEFORE HE ACTED AGAINST DEVASTATING INFLATION.

HE COULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED UNEMPLOYMENT TO CLIMB TO OVER
5.5 MILLION PERSONS.

HE COULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED TEENAGE UNEMPLOYMENT TO RISE
TO OVER 17 PERCENT.

HE COULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED INTEREST RATES TO GO SKY HIGH!

HE COULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED THE PRODUCTIVE MACHINERY OF
American Industry
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE TO DWINDLE TO 75 PERCENT OF CAPACITY.

San D. H. H.
Nov 5

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L ~~WHEN IT CAME TO POWER,~~ THE ADMINISTRATION SAID IT WOULD
BE AN OPEN ADMINISTRATION.

L BUT, THE DOOR HAS BEEN SLAMMED.

L WHEN HE DOES SPEAK TO THE PEOPLE, THE PRESIDENT INVARIABLY
FILTERS HIS WORDS THROUGH THE ELECTRONIC MAZE OF TELEVISION.

L THE PRESIDENT HAS HELD ONLY 20 PRESS CONFERENCES IN TWO
YEARS AND ELEVEN MONTHS.

L BUT HE HAS BEEN ON TELEVISION OVER 46 TIMES -- THAT IS
20 TIMES MORE THAN PRESIDENT JOHNSON DURING HIS FIVE YEARS
IN OFFICE, AND THREE TIMES MORE THAN IN THE TWO YEARS AND TEN
MONTHS OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

u THE NIXON PRESIDENCY HAS BECOME A SHIELDED PRESIDENCY,
A RESTRICTED PRESIDENCY, AN ISOLATED PRESIDENCY, ~~to~~

AND, AS A RESULT, THIS ADMINISTRATION LACKS THE PROGRAMS

EQUAL TO THE DEMANDS OF THE TIMES.

↳ IT HAS NO PROGRAM FOR JOBS ↳ IT HAS NO PROGRAM FOR ECONOMIC
CONVERSION FOR DEFENSE INDUSTRIES AND NO SYSTEM FOR COMPENSATING
WORKERS WHO ARE THROWN OUT OF JOBS BY CLOSING DEFENSE PLANTS.

↳ IT HAS NO PROGRAM FOR BUILDING THE COUNTLESS PUBLIC
PROJECTS OUR CITIES AND RURAL COMMUNITIES NEED SO BADLY.

↳ IT HAS NO PROGRAM FOR PROVIDING MASS TRANSIT.

↳ IT HAS NO PROGRAM FOR REVITALIZING RURAL AMERICA.

Dismal Failure

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↳ WHAT IT AMOUNTS TO IS THIS: DISMAL FAILURE.

↳ YET, THE ADMINISTRATION KEEPS TELLING US, "WE ARE SUCCEEDING."

"OUR POLICIES ARE SOUND."

↳ AND, THEY ARE RIGHT. THEIR POLICIES ARE ~~COMPLETELY~~ PRODUCING
BOTH INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

↳ THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING MORE PEOPLE ON THE
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ROLLS THAN HAD BEEN THERE IN A DECADE.

↳ THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN REVERSING A TEN-YEAR DECLINE IN
THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS LIVING IN POVERTY.

↳ THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN MAKING 65 AMERICAN CITIES -- THE
HIGHEST NUMBER IN A DECADE -- CENTERS OF PERSISTENT AND SUBSTANTIAL
UNEMPLOYMENT.

But

WHAT THIS ADMINISTRATION JUST DOES NOT UNDERSTAND IS THAT

THE NUMBER ONE DOMESTIC PRIORITY OF THIS NATION MUST BE JOBS,

JOBS, JOBS,

Jobs

~~THE ADMINISTRATION HAS BUT ONE PLAN FOR DEALING WITH THE
UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM -- IGNORE IT.~~

[Large scribbled-out signature]

AMERICANS EXPECT MORE FROM THEIR PRESIDENT.

THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPECT OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO

SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE ECONOMY WITH *fairness* FOR ALL AMERICANS.

h THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRUST AND HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THEIR
GOVERNMENT.

Things to Do

THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPECT JOB OPPORTUNITIES -- BECAUSE

JOB MEAN THAT FAMILIES STAY TOGETHER AND LIVE AND GROW TOGETHER.

↳ THERE ARE URGENT THINGS TO BE DONE, AND, WITH YOUR HELP

WE CAN DO THEM.

↳ WE CAN HAVE MEANINGFUL TAX REFORM TO GIVE THE *family of the*
women from the farmer & the small businessmen
MAN A BREAK AND STIMULATE PURCHASING POWER.

↳ WE CAN INCREASE FARM INCOME AND STIMULATE THE HOUSING MARKET.
We can increase farm income

↳ WE CAN INSIST ON REDUCED INTEREST RATES.

↳ WE CAN ACCELERATE AND EXPAND PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS.

↳ WE CAN PASS WELFARE REFORM AND GIVE DIRECT FINANCIAL AID

TO OUR HARD-PRESSED CITIES.

WE CAN BEGIN INVESTING OUR RESOURCES IN PEOPLE.

AND WE CAN BEGIN IN NOVEMBER, 1972, WITH YOUR HELP TO HAVE
A DECADE OF DYNAMIC DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT. *Develop America*

WE CAN REVERSE THE TIDE THAT HAS MADE THIS NATION PRIVATELY
WEALTHY BUT PUBLICLY POOR.

ABOVE ALL, WE CAN RESTORE THE TRUST, THE FAITH, AND THE
CONFIDENCE OF PEOPLE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT, AND IN THEIR PRESIDENT.

*We can do all of this - by
Political ^{####} action ~~at~~
~~rather~~*



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