

000617

*not used  
ad libitum*

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

GOVERNORS' CAUCUS  
MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

*July 8, 1972*

IN 1970, THE GOVERNORS IN THIS ROOM WERE THE HEART  
AND SOUL OF THE RESURGENCE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY,

YOU TURNED THINGS AROUND,

AT A TIME WHEN REPUBLICANS WERE MOUNTING A GRAVE AND  
SERIOUS THREAT TO THE BROAD BASED COALITION OF DEMOCRATIC MAJORITIES  
IN OUR NATION, YOUR EFFORTS BROUGHT DEMOCRATIC VICTORIES WHERE  
THEY COUNTED -- IN THE LEGISLATURES AND STATE HOUSES OF THIS  
COUNTRY,

YOU SHOWED THAT NIXON NOT ONLY LACKED A GAME PLAN, HE  
DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THE SCORE WAS,

TODAY, YOUR VICTORIES AND LEADERSHIP ARE THREATENED --  
AND, NOT ONLY BY REPUBLICANS,

AND ONCE AGAIN THE SURVIVAL OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
MIGHT WELL BE IN YOUR HANDS,

- 2 -

WE ARE THREATENED BY A NARROW IDEOLOGICAL ELITE WHICH WANTS TO CUT OFF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY FROM ITS ROOTS -- THE VERY COALITIONS YOU HAVE PUT TOGETHER: WORKING PEOPLE, BLACKS, THE ELDERLY, ETHNIC VOTERS, AND TRADE UNIONISTS,

OUR PARTY IS THREATENED BY A MOVEMENT TOO OFTEN DOMINATED BY THOSE WHO SAY "GIVE US CONTROL OR WE WILL RUIN THE PARTY,"

OUR PARTY IS THREATENED BY SOME WHO TOO EASILY IGNORE THE IMPORTANT DAY-TO-DAY NEEDS OF WORKING FAMILIES AND SEEK TO EMBROIL US IN ISSUES OF CONCERN FOR A PRIVILEGED FEW,

OUR PARTY IS THREATENED BY SOME WHO WANT TO DRIVE OUT ELECTED OFFICIALS FROM RESPONSIBLE POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS OF OUR PARTY,

- 3 -

OUR PARTY IS THREATENED BY THOSE WHO PROCLAIM THAT  
THEY DON'T NEED YOU, THEY DON'T WANT YOU, AND THEY HAVE NO USE  
FOR YOU.

WE SHOULD WELCOME THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL CITIZENS  
TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, INCLUDING THOSE WHO ARE FREQUENTLY  
TERMED ACTIVISTS,

BUT I RESIST THE IDEA THAT ANY SINGLE GROUP, NO  
MATTER HOW HIGHLY MOTIVATED AND CONVINCED OF ITS OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS,  
SHOULD DOMINATE OUR PARTY TO THE EXCLUSION OF ALL OTHERS,

AND, I REJECT THE NOTION THAT A SELF-ANNOINTED ELITE  
IS MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE THAN THOSE DEMOCRATICALLY  
ELECTED OFFICIALS -- SUCH AS YOURSELVES -- WHO HAVE BEEN ELECTED  
BY THE VOTES OF THOUSANDS OR IN SOME CASES, MILLIONS OF VOTERS,

000621

- 4 -

THE ONLY RESULT OF THESE STRATEGIES IS THE REAL  
POSSIBILITY OF A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY, AND THE REAL LOSERS WILL  
BE THE PEOPLE AND THAT PARTY WHICH HAS REPRESENTED THE PEOPLE --  
THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY,

WE MUST NOT LET THIS HAPPEN,

WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PASS LEGISLATION IN CIVIL  
RIGHTS, AID TO THE POOR AND NEEDY, LEGISLATION IN HEALTH CARE,  
EDUCATION AND HOUSING, LEGISLATION FOR YOUTH IN NEED AND THE  
ELDERLY, FOR CITIES AND FOR THE FARMER, ONLY BECAUSE WE HAVE  
BEEN A BROAD COALITION PARTY , , , AND NOT THE PARTY OF ANY  
SINGLE, NARROW, IDEOLOGICAL, SOCIAL OR POLITICAL ELITE,

WE HAVE FORMED THE COALITIONS WHICH ARE THE NECESSARY,  
INEVITABLE, AND UNENDING ARITHMETIC OF DEMOCRACY,

- 5 -

YOU HERE TODAY FOUND THE MEANS TO PUT THE NECESSARY MAJORITY COALITIONS TOGETHER WHICH LED US TO VICTORY.

AS A PARTY, WE MUST NOT RETREAT.

AS GOVERNORS, YOU MUST NOT FALTER.

THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SIMPLY MUST WORK CLOSELY WITH THE NATION'S GOVERNORS.

AND, THAT DOESN'T MEAN LUNCHEONS AT THE WHITE HOUSE, A MEETING ONCE A YEAR, OR THE ASSIGNMENT OF A STAFF MAN TO BE THE "LIASON" WITH THE GOVERNORS.

IT DOES MEAN A CONTINUING EFFORT AND PROCEDURE BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE ~~GOVERNORS~~ *Governors*. I LAID OUT SUCH A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OVER THREE YEARS AGO.

I BELIEVE GOVERNORS MUST BE INCLUDED IN NATIONAL DECISION-MAKING. WE MUST HAVE THE PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVE FORMULATION OF THE NATIONAL BUDGET, FOR EXAMPLE.

GOVERNMENT IN THIS COUNTRY MUST BE A PARTNERSHIP.

ALL DECISIONS CANNOT AND MUST NOT BE MADE IN WASHINGTON.

WE ARE FACING A CHALLENGE IN 1972. AND, I ASK THE GOVERNORS TO JOIN ME, AND TOGETHER WE CAN WIN IN NOVEMBER.

AS YOUR CANDIDATE, I WILL LEAD US TO VICTORY.



# 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](http://www.mnhs.org)