

TRANSCRIPT OF  
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY'S  
INTRODUCTION TO THE  
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
OF  
SENATOR GEORGE McGOVERN

AUGUST 8, 1972

Thank you very much. Thank you. I want my friend Senator Eagleton to know that his words of praise at this particular moment are more than welcome. I am very grateful to you, Tom.

I join many hundreds of thousands -- and millions -- of Americans in saluting a great Senator. A Senator from the state of Missouri that gave us a great President. A senator who has earned in his own right the title of courageous man, good man, decent man -- and friend of the Democratic Party of this nation: Tom Eagleton.

Tom, I don't know if you recall what Winston Churchill's wife said to him after his Party's defeat in the election in 1945 in Great Britain.

She said to him, "Winston, it is a blessing in disguise."

I've thought about that -- and I've often thought about what Sir Winston said to Mrs. Churchill.

He said, "If it's a blessing, it's very well disguised."

So, Tom, both you and I know what a blessing is that's "disguised."

But if this country can have two Vice Presidents at one time -- sometimes I think it should, but at no time has any President thought it should -- I would suggest Sarge Shriver and Tom Eagleton as a team.

Somebody asked me about tonight and I said we Democrats never like late-night shows. That's the Republican hour. We in Miami Beach had our late-night show and we thought we'd just do it over, to catch it on prime time with some modest and slight change in cast, but no change in purpose. And here we are.

The signal has already been given. We're in the right city. In case somebody doesn't know it we're about ready to occupy it.

So let the call go from this place: tonight we begin.

Tonight we start our march to the White House!

Tonight we serve notice that the Republican detour on the road of Democratic progress is all over!

Now, let me talk to my fellow Democrats. Tonight I am going to make a request of you.

Tonight I ask Democrats to come home!

Yes, my fellow Democrats, come home to your party, where you belong.

Come home to the party that has given us Presidential leadership to lead this nation in the battle for human rights.

Come home to the party that has consistently fought for full employment, for economic prosperity, and for security for the American working family.

Come home to the party that has given this nation Medicare for the elderly, child care and education for our children, compassion and hope for the less fortunate.

Come home to the party that has given American business and American labor more profits, more jobs, more opportunity, and the highest standard of living that any nation has ever known in recorded history.

Come home to the party which understands that national security is not only a matter of strong military defense, but also a matter of a strong economy, and of a just society in which the people believe in each other, and in which they believe in their government.

My fellow Democrats, set aside your differences -- join hands -- join hands and come home.

The price of disunity is defeat.

We learned that sad lesson in 1968.

And tonight, Richard Nixon is in the White House because too many Democrats wouldn't come home in 1968.

We've had our lost weekend. Enough of this. We have great things to do. The times call for the best that's in us.

This nation was conceived in faith and trust in the people. The very first three words of our Constitution should be the key to everything we think and do as a party, as leaders, and as citizens. Those three words represent the testimony and the testimonial to this nation: "We the people . . ." -- the story of the Republic. "We the people."

And from Jefferson to Jackson to Wilson and then on to Roosevelt, to Truman to Kennedy to Johnson -- our record is one of faith in and one of dedication to "We the people."

The Republican Administration has forgotten "We the people."

And we the people are tired of an Administration that repeats the self-styled litany of No, No, Go Slow, Not Now, Veto. That's not good enough.

Everybody knows tonight America is restless, many Americans unhappy, most of us worried.

We have a right to ask, what is it that Americans want?

Is it something beyond our reach? Is it something far out? Is it something that cannot be achieved? I think the answer is "no."

We the people want a nation at peace and we want an end to the war a Republican president promised he would end and could end.

We think that is a reasonable request.

We the people want jobs -- just jobs -- and a better quality of life.

We the people want our families to be safe from crime.

We the people want the best in education for our children.

We the people want to be treated fairly by our government.

We the people want to end hunger in this land of plenty.

We the people want a government that we can trust, and that we can believe in.

We want a President who reaches out to the young people of America and says: "This White House is your house. You can come home again. There is a friend here, and that friend is George McGovern."

We want a President whose heart goes out to the elderly, to the sick, to the needy and who says to them that America is their home. That man is George McGovern.

We want a President who will turn this popular call for tax reform into what we know can be tax justice. That man is George McGovern.

We want a President who will turn the battle for civil rights for some into the fulfillment of opportunity for all. That man is George McGovern.

We want a President who will make the right for a job into an opportunity for rewarding work. That man is George McGovern.

We want a President who will turn the promise of peace into peace itself. That man is George McGovern.

Few in this audience or this nation know the candidate of this party as I do. I have known him for years. And six months of political competition cannot diminish or destroy better than 10 years of intimate friendship.

George McGovern is my friend. Our friendship has been tested and strengthened by the fires of political competition.

When George McGovern tells me that he wants to lead our nation out of the shadow of the long lines of unemployment into the bright sunlight of economic justice and prosperity, I believe him, because I know him.

When he says that he wants to bring America home to its founding principles, I believe him.

When he says he wants Americans to join together in the days ahead, I join with him.

Tonight I say that all of us can have a vision of tomorrow in America. Because this America is yet a young nation.

Carl Sandburg gave us our text for tonight:

"I see America, not in the setting sun of a black night of despair ahead of us. I see America in the crimson light of a rising sun fresh from the burning, creative hand of God. I see great days ahead, great days possible to men and women of will and vision. . ."

Tonight I have the high honor to present to you and to this nation the man who does have the will and the vision for a new day in America, the next president of the United States, George McGovern.

# # # # #

000624

INTRODUCTION OF SENATOR GEORGE McGOVERN

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

SHERATON PARK HOTEL

AUGUST 8, 1972

Sen Eagleton, Sarge Shriver, <sup>000625</sup> Sen McGovern

L TONIGHT WE BEGIN!

L TONIGHT WE START ~~TO~~ <sup>our march</sup> TO THE WHITE HOUSE!

L TONIGHT WE SERVE NOTICE THAT THE REPUBLICAN ~~INTERMISSION~~ <sup>detour</sup>  
on THE ~~ROAD~~ <sup>Road</sup> OF DEMOCRATIC ~~PROGRESS~~ PROGRESS IS OVER!

L TONIGHT WE ASK DEMOCRATS TO COME HOME!

L YES, MY FELLOW DEMOCRATS, COME HOME TO <sup>your</sup> ~~THE~~ PARTY.

L COME HOME TO THE PARTY THAT HAS GIVEN US THE PRESIDENTIAL  
LEADERSHIP TO LEAD THE BATTLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

L COME HOME TO THE PARTY THAT HAS CONSISTENTLY FOUGHT FOR  
FULL EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, AND SECURITY FOR AMERICAN  
WORKING FAMILIES.

L COME HOME TO THE PARTY THAT HAS GIVEN THIS NATION MEDICARE  
FOR THE ELDERLY, CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN,  
COMPASSION AND CARE FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE.

-2-

COME HOME TO THE PARTY THAT HAS GIVEN AMERICAN BUSINESS  
 AND AMERICAN LABOR MORE PROFITS, MORE JOBS, MORE OPPORTUNITY,  
 AND THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF LIVING THAT ANY ~~country~~ <sup>country</sup>  
 HAS EVER KNOWN.

COME HOME TO THE PARTY WHICH UNDERSTANDS THAT NATIONAL  
 SECURITY IS NOT ONLY A MATTER OF STRONG MILITARY DEFENSE, BUT  
 ALSO A STRONG ECONOMY AND A JUST SOCIETY.

MY FELLOW DEMOCRATS, ~~put aside your differences -~~  
 Join hands - come home

THE PRICE OF DISUNITY IS DEFEAT!

WE LEARNED THAT SAD LESSON IN 1968.

RICHARD NIXON IS IN THE WHITE HOUSE BECAUSE TOO MANY  
 DEMOCRATS

WOULDN'T COME HOME.

000627

This nation was conceived in ~~the~~  
faith and ~~trust~~ Trust in the People  
The first words of our constitution tell  
FROM JEFFERSON TO JACKSON TO WILSON AND THEN ON TO

the story  
of this  
Republic  
"With  
People"

ROOSEVELT, TRUMAN, KENNEDY AND JOHNSON -- OUR RECORD IS ONE

OF FAITH IN AND DEDICATION TO "WE THE PEOPLE. . . ."

THE REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION HAS FORGOTTEN "WE THE PEOPLE."

We are tired of an administration

~~IT HAS FAVORED THE SPECIAL INTERESTS WHILE DEMOCRATS HAVE~~

~~that repeats the litany of~~  
~~STOOD UP FOR THE RIGHTS AND NEEDS FOR AMERICAN WORKING FAMILIES~~

NO NO, GO SLOW, NOT NOW-VETO!

~~IT HAS SLIGHTED THE FAMILY FARM AND LABORER WHILE WE HAVE~~

~~BEEN THEIR SPOKESMAN.~~

① Democracy is restless, worried,

~~IT HAS BEEN THE VOICE OF THE POOR, WHILE WE RESPONDED~~

to their call.

~~THE VOICE OF THE POOR.~~

Democracy

Opportunity

WE ARE THE PARTY THAT HAS PROVIDED HOPE FOR THE YOUNG

AND CARE AND DIGNITY FOR THE ELDERLY.

WHAT IS IT AMERICANS WANT! - "We the People"

" WE THE PEOPLE WANT A NATION ~~OF~~ <sup>AT</sup> PEACE AND AN END TO THE

WAR A REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT PROMISED HE WOULD END.

" WE THE PEOPLE WANT JOBS AND A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE.

WE THE PEOPLE WANT OUR FAMILIES TO BE SAFE FROM CRIME.

WE THE POEPL E WANT THE BEST EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN.

WE THE PEOPLE WANT TO BE TREATED FAIRLY.

" WE THE PEOPLE WANT TO END HUNGER IN THE LAND OF PLENTY.

WE THE PEOPLE WANT A GOVERNMENT WE CAN BELIEVE IN.

~~WHAT GEORGE MCGOVERN AND SARGENT SHRIVER WANT IS WHAT ALL DEMOCRATS WANT FOR OUR PARTY AND OUR COUNTRY.~~

L WE WANT A PRESIDENT WHO REACHES OUT TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE  
OF AMERICA AND SAYS: THE WHITE HOUSE IS YOUR HOUSE! YOU CAN COME  
HOME AGAIN -- THERE IS A FRIEND HERE, <sup>and friend</sup> THAT ~~THE~~ IS GEORGE MCGOVERN.

L WE WANT A PRESIDENT WHOSE HEART GOES OUT TO OUR ELDERLY,  
THE SICK, AND THE NEEDY AND WHO SAYS TO THEM THAT AMERICA IS  
THEIR HOME. THAT MAN IS GEORGE MCGOVERN.

L WE WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL TURN THE POPULAR CALL FOR  
TAX <sup>reform</sup> ~~REDUCE~~ INTO ACTION FOR TAX <sup>Justice</sup> ~~REDUCE~~ THAT MAN IS GEORGE MCGOVERN.

L WE WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL TURN THE BATTLE FOR CIVIL  
RIGHTS FOR "SOME" INTO <sup>fulfillment of</sup> ~~THE~~ HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL. THAT  
MAN IS GEORGE MCGOVERN.

L WE WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL MAKE THE RIGHT FOR A JOB  
INTO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REWARDING WORK. THAT MAN IS GEORGE MCGOVERN.

↳ WE WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL TURN THE PROMISE OF PEACE  
INTO PEACE ITSELF. THAT MAN IS GEORGE MCGOVERN.

↳ GEORGE MCGOVERN IS MY FRIEND, OUR FRIENDSHIP HAS BEEN  
TESTED AND STRENGTHENED BY THE FIRES OF POLITICAL COMPETITION

↳ WHEN GEORGE MCGOVERN TELLS ME HE WANTS TO LEAD OUR NATION  
OUT OF THE SHADOW OF THE LONG LINES OF THE UNEMPLOYED AND INTO  
THE SUNLIGHT OF ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND PROSPERITY, I BELIEVE HIM.

↳ WHEN HE SAYS HE WANTS TO BRING AMERICA HOME TO ITS FOUNDING  
PRINCIPLES, I BELIEVE HIM!

↳ WHEN HE SAYS HE WANTS AMERICANS TO JOIN HANDS AND TO WORK  
TOGETHER IN THE DAYS AHEAD, I JOIN WITH HIM!

-7-

TOGETHER LET US ALL HAVE A VISION OF TOMORROW IN AMERICA.

AS CARL SANDBURG WROTE:

"I SEE AMERICA, NOT IN THE SETTING SUN OF A BLACK NIGHT OF  
 DESPAIR AHEAD OF US. I SEE AMERICA IN THE CRIMSON LIGHT OF A  
RIISING SUN FRESH FROM THE BURNING, CREATIVE HAND OF GOD. I SEE  
GREAT DAYS AHEAD, GREAT DAYS POSSIBLE TO MEN AND WOMEN OF WILL  
 AND VISION. . . ."

I PRESENT TO YOU THE MAN WHO DOES HAVE THE VISION *will and the force*  
 NEW DAY IN AMERICA ~~AND BETTER TOMORROWS FOR OUR CHILDREN.~~

THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, SENATOR GEORGE  
 McGOVERN.

#####



# 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)