

REMARKS BY

SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

APPRECIATION VICTORY DINNER

HOSTED BY

RED LAKE BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL

HOBSON MEMORIAL HALL
BEMIDJI STATE COLLEGE, MINNESOTA

DECEMBER 13, 1972

THERE IS ONE PHRASE IN AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT IN
 OUR NATION'S HISTORY, THAT SUMS UP THE MEANING OF TONIGHT'S
 CELEBRATION.

THE PHRASE READS: "THE UTMOST GOOD FAITH SHALL
ALWAYS BE OBSERVED TOWARDS THE INDIANS."

TONIGHT WE ARE REAFFIRMING THAT PLEDGE OF GOOD
FAITH -- A PLEDGE MADE BY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS IN 1787,
 EVEN BEFORE WE HAD A UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, WHEN THE
NORTHWEST ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED FOR THE GOVERNING OF THIS
GREAT LAND OF PROMISE WEST OF NEW YORK AND NORTH OF THE
OHIO RIVER.

TONIGHT WE HONOR THE DESCENDANTS OF THE BANDS OF
THE GREAT LAKES AND THE MISSISSIPPI FOR HAVING KEPT GOOD

FAITH WITH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON,

L YOU HAVE HELPED SEND FRITZ MONDALE AND

BOB BERGLAND BACK TO CONGRESS WITH THE LARGEST MARGIN

OF VICTORY THAT THEY HAVE EVER RECEIVED -- FRITZ GETTING

ALMOST 57 PERCENT OF THE STATEWIDE VOTE, AND BOB RECEIVING

59 PERCENT IN THE SEVENTH DISTRICT.

L THAT'S A TREMENDOUS ACCOMPLISHMENT, IN A YEAR
WHEN THE PROFESSIONAL TRAIL-MARKERS, "THE POLLSTERS," SAID

YOU SHOULD BE GOING IN THE OTHER DIRECTION. WE MIXED A

GOOD BLAST OF COLD, SHARP MINNESOTA AIR WITH THE BALMY

BREEZES AT KEY BISCAYNE.

2 AND YOU CAN BE VERY SURE THAT YOUR CONGRESSMAN
AND SENATORS KNOW THAT A GREAT DEAL OF THE CREDIT FOR THIS

VICTORY GOES TO THE SOLID DFL ^{that} VOTE YOU TURNUED OUT ON
ELECTION DAY.

I DID NOT TAKE MY ADOPTION INTO THE RED LAKE
BAND OF CHIPPEWAS LIGHTLY ^{or} AS A POLITICAL GESTURE.

IT HAS A DEEP MEANING FOR ME, AND I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT
THE TIES THAT BIND BROTHERS TOGETHER; ~~AND~~ THAT IS WHY I

AM ESPECIALLY GRATIFIED AT THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE YOU CAST
ON NOVEMBER 7TH. YOU HAVE SHOWN YOUR TRUST IN THE GOOD
FAITH OF TWO VERY FINE MEN.

WE HAD TO ACCOMPLISH TWO THINGS IN THIS ELECTION.

FIRST, WE HAD TO ^{remove from} ~~RUN~~ THE SEVENTH DISTRICT'S ^{its} REPUTATION
AS A "MARGINAL" DISTRICT; ^{at cross up!} ~~WHERE A WINNING CANDIDATE~~

~~CANNOT HOPE FOR MORE THAN 55 PERCENT OF THE VOTE.~~

SECOND, WE NEEDED TO BE SURE THAT BOB BERGLAND'S LOVELY

WIFE, HELEN, WOULD NOT CALL HIM HOME TO ROSEAU TO MIND THE

HOUSEHOLD. I AM PLEASED TO REPORT OVERWHELMING SUCCESS

IN ACCOMPLISHING BOTH THESE OBJECTIVES.

YOU WHO ARE HERE TONIGHT SHOW WHERE THE FUTURE

OF THE DEMOCRATIC FARMER LABOR PARTY OF MINNESOTA LIES,

IT LIES IN MAINTAINING THE TRUST AND CLOSE WORKING

RELATIONS OF THOSE WHO HAVE STOOD BY IT THROUGHOUT THE

YEARS -- THE HARD YEARS OF STRUGGLE AS WELL AS THE GOOD

YEARS OF SUCCESS.

YOU TURNED OUT A RECORD VOTE FOR FRITZ MONDALE

AND BOB BERGLAND, AND I KNOW THEY ARE GOING TO CONTINUE A

SOLID RECORD OF WORK ON BEHALF OF AMERICA'S "FIRST"

CITIZENS. I KNOW THEY SHARE MY DEEP CONCERN THAT INDIAN

PEOPLE NO LONGER BE FORCED TO FOLLOW A TRAIL OF BROKEN

TREATIES. IT IS ONLY IN RECENT YEARS THAT WE HAVE BEEN

ABLE TO TAKE SOME VERY IMPORTANT STEPS IN TURNING ASIDE

FROM THAT TRAIL, AND TAKE A NEW PATH TOWARD ESTABLISHING

FULL RECOGNITION OF THE HUMAN DIGNITY OF ALL OUR PEOPLE,

THE RESTORATION OF SELF-RESPECT LIES AT THE

HEART OF ALL THE LIMITED BUT HOPEFUL BEGINNINGS THAT

HAVE RECENTLY BEEN MADE ON THE LANDS OF THE RED LAKE BAND

AND THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE, INCLUDING WHITE EARTH

AND LEECH LAKE, ON BEHALF OF SOME 8,300 PEOPLE IN THIS

DISTRICT ALONE.

REFLECTING A DEEP SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE,

MUTUAL-HELP HOUSING PROGRAMS WERE PIONEERED ON RED LAKE,
WITH EMPLOYMENT GENERATED THROUGH ITS COOPERATIVE FISHERY,
SAWMILL OPERATION, AND FENCEPOST FACTORY. HUD, BIA, SBA,
AND EDA ASSISTANCE ALL PLAYED A ROLE HERE. ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION AID HAS ALSO HELPED SPUR THE
TOURISM PROJECT AT LEECH LAKE, AND COMBINED WITH SBA
LOANS, HAS ENABLED THE RELOCATION OF WATERBURY FURNACE
COMPANY TO THE WHITE EARTH RESERVATION. FURTHER SBA
FINANCIAL AID AT WHITE EARTH HAS LED TO THE MANUFACTURE
OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES.

THESE ARE BUT A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE COOPERATIVE
ROLE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO BE TAKING IN
ASSISTING THE TRIBES TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN LAND RESOURCES

AND ECONOMIC BASE. BUT IT IS A LESSON THAT YOUR

REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON HAVE HAD TO KEEP DRILLING

INTO THIS ADMINISTRATION MONTH AFTER MONTH. THE MOST

RECENT EXAMPLE OF THIS, ~~OF COURSE~~ IS THE PRESSURE THAT

FRITZ AND I AND BOB HAVE EXERTED ON THE DEPARTMENT OF

AGRICULTURE TO SUSTAIN WILD RICE RESEARCH, FOR WHICH THE

STATE LEGISLATURE HAS APPROPRIATED \$75,000, WELL

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE TO MINNESOTA OF PRODUCING

60 PERCENT OF ALL NATURAL WILD RICE HARVESTED IN THE WORLD

OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS.

AND LET ME JUST UNDERSCORE THE COMMITMENT OF OUR

STATE GOVERNMENT, BEING CARRIED OUT BY WENDY ANDERSON AND

RUDY PERPICH, TO MEETING THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT,

COMMUNITY ACTION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THE

TRIBES. THEY'RE ESTABLISHING A FINE RECORD. TO CITE

ONLY ONE EXAMPLE OF THEIR SENSE OF PRIORITIES: IN THE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS BEING ASSISTED THROUGH THE

UPPER GREAT LAKES REGIONAL COMMISSION, MINNESOTA HAS BEEN

THE ONLY STATE WITH INDIAN PROJECTS.!

BUT APPARENTLY THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS

STILL DETERMINED TO DO THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT IT PROMISES.

WE'VE MANAGED TO BRING IN VITAL INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES AND

GET IMPORTANT NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR INDIAN CHILDREN

STARTED BUT SUBSTANDARD HOUSING REMAINS A CRITICAL

PROBLEM. YET WHAT DO WE HEAR FROM THE WHITE HOUSE?

"ECONOMIZE"; "CUT BACK" -- WHAT A DRAMATIC CALL TO ACTION

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THAT WILL BE FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS!

L WELL, YOU HAVE THREE MEN HERE WHO DO NOT INTEND
TO SIT BACK AND TAKE "NO" FOR AN ANSWER. THE NIXON
ADMINISTRATION IS GOING TO LEARN THAT EVERY TIME IT STARTS
THAT LINE, IT IS GOING TO CONFRONT A TRIPLE-THREAT RESPONSE
FROM MINNESOTA.

L WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT FOR ADEQUATE FUNDING OF
RECENTLY ENACTED INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

L WE'RE GOING TO TELL THIS ADMINISTRATION THAT
NO ONE WILL BE DECEIVED IF IT PROPOSES A BUREAU OF INDIAN
AFFAIRS BUDGET THAT IS, AT BEST, AT THE SAME LEVEL AS THE
CURRENT FISCAL YEAR -- BECAUSE SUCH A BUDGET WOULD FAIL TO
ALLOW FOR RISING COSTS, INCREASED SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS, A

RISE IN FAMILIES RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, OR THE

CRITICAL NEED FOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS, SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION,

AND THE PROTECTION OF INDIAN LAND AND WATER RESOURCES.

↳ I DO NOT INTEND TO LET THIS ADMINISTRATION HALT
THE HOPEFUL START MADE IN PRESCHOOL AND SPECIAL EDUCATION
PROGRAMS FOR INDIAN CHILDREN, WITHOUT A FIGHT.

↳ I DO NOT INTEND TO LET THIS ADMINISTRATION
CONTINUE TO CANCEL INDIAN HOUSING PROJECTS, EMPLOYMENT
TRAINING, TRIBAL WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS, AND OTHER VITAL
NEW DIRECTIONS TAKEN BY CONGRESS TO ASSIST AMERICAN INDIAN
HUMAN AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.

↳ I HAD THOUGHT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD GET THE
MESSAGE WHEN THE SENATE IN THE 92D CONGRESS ENACTED A

MAJOR EXPANSION OF INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AND
 PASSED THE INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION ACT AS WELL AS
 SEVERAL MEASURES TO ASSURE THE EFFECTIVE USE OF TRIBAL
RESOURCES, SUCH AS THE TRANSFER OF FEDERALLY-OWNED
SUBMARGINAL LAND ON THE WHITE EARTH RESERVATION TO
THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE.

↳ BUT APPARENTLY WE IN CONGRESS ARE GOING TO HAVE
 TO SPELL IT OUT LOUD AND CLEAR NEXT YEAR, THAT THE TIME
HAS COME TO RESTORE PRIDE AND PROMISE TO INDIAN PEOPLE.

Jerry Buckman → THE CONDITION OF POVERTY AFFLICTING 80 PERCENT OF RESERVATION
INDIANS ACROSS AMERICA IS A NATIONAL DISGRACE. ↳ THERE CAN
 BE NO FURTHER DELAY IN ADDRESSING THE CRITICAL PROBLEMS
OF RESERVATION INDIANS, THE INDIAN FAMILY ISOLATED IN

RURAL POVERTY, AND THE INDIAN CONFRONTING AN ALIEN
CULTURE IN THE CITY.

↳ LET US JOIN TOGETHER TONIGHT IN MAKING A
FIRM COMMITMENT THAT THE 1970'S MUST BE THE DECADE OF
DECISIVE ADVANCES IN INDIAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SELF-
DEVELOPMENT.

↳ LET US PLEDGE TO CARRY OUT THE DECLARATION OF
INDIAN PURPOSE ADOPTED BY THE AMERICAN INDIAN CHICAGO
CONFERENCE TWELVE YEARS AGO IN THESE WORDS:

“WE BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE OF A GREATER AMERICA,
AN AMERICA WHICH WE WERE THE FIRST TO LOVE,
WHERE LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF
HAPPINESS WILL BE A REALITY....”

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