

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

ALFALFA CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

Washington, D.C.

December 9, 1975

Gentlemen of Alfalfa, I am honored to welcome you here to this annual meeting in these austere surroundings.

As your president, I am obliged to occupy the lonely pinnacle of power, where the rising tide of grass-roots sentiment is up against the wall of the winds of change. Struggle with that mixed metaphor while I continue.

I do a lot of brooding over the state of our nation, which as your president is my solemn obligation.

As I look out over the coming months, I can see some rough times ahead. Really tough. In fact, it reminds me of the story about Tarzan.

He comes swinging home through the vines one day and steps into the doorway of his tree-house. He walks over to Jane and says "make me a double martini." She does, and he sits and drinks it, and then he tells her to make him another one. And then another one.

Jane starts to look worried and says, "Tarzan, I've never known you to drink like this -- what's the matter?"

Tarzan says, "Jane, its a goddamn jungle out there."

Yes, its going to be rough next year, especially in the presidential race.

You know, they say that Americans love the underdog. And next year they'll have plenty to choose from. The voters are going to have more freedom of choice than at "Gino's."

Just look at the field of candidates. It's such an awe-inspiring spectacle that it's hard to tell who is best qualified.

Obviously, there are lots of underdogs to go around, and they all are going to have their troubles.

You take Mo Udall, for example. Everyone knows that he stands head and shoulders above the other candidates. But he does have a serious name recognition problem. People are going to think they're voting for John Dean's wife, and they may say no to Mo.

And you look at Lloyd Bentsen. He's almost unique -- the first man to run for the Presidency after only two years in the Senate... (pause)... since Richard Nixon.

And our perennial candidate, George Wallace, could be badly embarrassed if he has his supporters bused in for a demonstration.

Fred Harris has a real problem with those boots he wears. If they ever decide that they can show Ronald Reagan's old movies on television, then he could split the cowboy vote.

In fact, Reagan could sweep the nation with the slogan "Let's win this one for the Gipper" -- except that Notre Dame's football team hasn't done too well this year.

So it's going to be a scramble in the primaries. You know, there's been a lot of talk about each candidate getting a medical examination and making it public -- a sort of Marcus-Welby-type "full disclosure."

Well, I think we can do better than that, and streamline the primary contests at the same time. We'll put all the candidates on national television in a big, open alfalfa field. And we'll give them each a stick of chewing gum-to chew and tell them to start walking.

The last man left standing will be the front runner -- and a sure bet to beat Ford in the fall.

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GENTLEMEN OF ALFALFA, I AM HONORED TO WELCOME YOU HERE TO
THIS ANNUAL MEETING IN THESE AUSTERE SURROUNDINGS.

AS YOUR PRESIDENT, I AM OBLIGED TO OCCUPY THE LONELY
PINNACLE OF POWER, WHERE THE RISING TIDE OF GRASS-ROOTS SENTIMENT
IS UP AGAINST THE WALL OF THE WINDS OF CHANGE. ^{now,} STUGGLE WITH
THAT MIXED METAPHOR WHILE I CONTINUE.

I DO A LOT OF BROODING OVER THE STATE OF OUR NATION, WHICH
AS YOUR PRESIDENT IS MY SOLEMN OBLIGATION.

As I LOOK OUT OVER THE COMING MONTHS, I CAN SEE SOME ROUGH
TIMES AHEAD. REALLY ROUGH. IN FACT, IT REMINDS ME OF THE STORY
ABOUT TARZAN.

HE COMES SWINGING HOME THROUGH THE VINES ONE DAY AND STEPS INTO THE DOORWAY OF HIS TREE-HOUSE. HE WALKS OVER TO JANE AND SAYS "MAKE ME A DOUBLE MARTINI." SHE DOES, AND HE SITS AND DRINKS IT, AND THEN HE TELLS HER TO MAKE HIM ANOTHER ONE. AND THEN ANOTHER ONE.

L JANE STARTS TO LOOK WORRIED AND SAYS, "TARZAN, I'VE NEVER KNOWN YOU TO DRINK LIKE THIS -- WHAT'S THE MATTER?"

L TARZAN SAYS, "JANE, ITS A GODDAMN JUNGLE OUT THERE."

L YES, ITS GOING TO BE ROUGH NEXT YEAR, ESPECIALLY IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE.

L YOU KNOW, THEY SAY THAT AMERICANS LOVE THE UNDERDOG. AND NEXT YEAR THEY'LL HAVE PLENTY TO CHOOSE FROM. L THE VOTERS ARE GOING TO HAVE MORE FREEDOM OF CHOICE THAN AT "GINO'S."

JUST LOOK AT THE FIELD OF CANDIDATES. IT'S SUCH AN
AWE-INSPIRING SPECTACLE THAT IT'S HARD TO TELL WHO IS BEST QUALIFIED.

L OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE ^{Plenty} ~~LOTS~~ OF UNDERDOGS TO GO AROUND, AND
THEY ALL ARE GOING TO HAVE THEIR TROUBLES.

L YOU TAKE MO UDALL, FOR EXAMPLE. L EVERYONE KNOWS THAT HE STANDS
HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THE OTHER CANDIDATES. L BUT HE DOES HAVE
A SERIOUS NAME RECOGNITION PROBLEM. PEOPLE ARE GOING TO THINK
THEY'RE VOTING FOR JOHN DEAN'S WIFE, AND THEY MAY SAY NO TO MO.

L AND YOU LOOK AT LLOYD BENTSEN. HE'S ALMOST UNIQUE -- THE
FIRST MAN TO RUN FOR THE PRESIDENCY AFTER ONLY TWO YEARS IN THE
SENATE... (PAUSE)... SINCE RICHARD NIXON.

L AND OUR PERENNIAL CANDIDATE, GEORGE WALLACE, COULD BE BADLY
EMBARRASSED IF HE HAS HIS SUPPORTERS BUSED IN FOR A DEMONSTRATION.

FRED HARRIS HAS A REAL PROBLEM WITH THOSE BOOTS HE WEARS.

↳ IF THEY EVER DECIDE THAT THEY CAN SHOW RONALD REAGAN'S OLD MOVIES ON TELEVISION, THEN HE COULD SPLIT THE COWBOY VOTE.

↳ IN FACT, REAGAN COULD SWEEP THE NATION WITH THE SLOGAN "LET'S WIN THIS ONE FOR THE GIPPER" -- EXCEPT THAT NOTRE DAME'S FOOTBALL TEAM HASN'T DONE TOO WELL THIS YEAR.

↳ SO IT'S GOING TO BE A SCRAMBLE IN THE PRIMARIES. ↳ YOU KNOW, THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TALK ABOUT EACH CANDIDATE GETTING A MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND MAKING IT PUBLIC -- A SORT OF MARCUS-WELBY-TYPE "FULL DISCLOSURE."

WELL, I THINK WE CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT, AND STREAMLINE THE PRIMARY CONTESTS AT THE SAME TIME. WE'LL PUT ALL THE CANDIDATES ON NATIONAL TELEVISION IN A BIG, OPEN ALFALFA FIELD.

AND WE'LL GIVE THEM EACH A STICK OF CHEWING GUM TO CHEW AND TELL
THEM TO START WALKING.

THE LAST MAN LEFT STANDING WILL BE THE FRONT RUNNER -- AND
A SURE BET TO BEAT FORD IN THE FALL.

Alfalpa - Solvent - Alfalpa United

(CLOSE REMARKS WITH COMMENT WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS,
APPLAUDING ALFALFA'S SOLVENCY, AND INVITING ALL TO THE
"INAUGURATION" ON JANUARY 24TH.)

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W
Welcome new members.
I invite you all to the
inauguration on Jan 24.
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