

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

MACHINISTS POLITICAL LEAGUE

Washington, D.C.

January 23, 1976

I am delighted to be with you again. I always have felt a special fondness for the National Planning Committee of the Machinists Political League because this Committee demonstrates the best in democratic unionism.

Since 1948 this Committee has led the way in bringing the voice of the rank and file membership into the political decision making of your union. Others have now followed your lead, but you can take great pride in having led the way.

Before I begin my brief remarks I want to get my candidacy on the record and out on the table.

I am a candidate.

I will run in 1976.

I intend to seek re-election to the United States Senate.

But I am not a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination.

This does not mean that I am going to go off in a cave and hibernate until the election is over. In this Bicentennial year I intend to be the "spirit of '76"; that is, the "free spirit of 1976."

I will call the shots honestly as I see them. I feel this is an important role and one that will make a contribution to the nation's election year debate.

I understand that you have been meeting for several days considering your union's political activities for this year. Nothing is more important to your members and to their families.

You cannot afford four more years of the stumbling incompetence and economic mismanagement of Republican Presidents. Working Americans need a friend in the White House for a change, and a change in the White House to gain a friend. The eight year drought in government for the working families of our nation must come to an end. You can make this happen.

Let me remind you of a few Republican campaign promises in the last two elections and what they delivered. It is time for an accounting -- time to check the books. And an honest accounting shows that the worst deficit in America today is the huge gap between Republican promises and Republican performance.

In 1968 the Republican Party pledged itself to full employment. In 1972 its platform said: "We stand for a job for everyone willing and able to work..."

That was the rhetoric. Let's look at the record.

The unemployment rate in 1968 was 3.6 percent, or about 3.2 million people. Today it has skyrocketed to 8.3 percent, and eight million Americans are idle.

And Gerald Ford has vetoed legislation to create nearly one million public service and public works jobs as well as a major initiative to increase production and employment in the construction industry.

In 1972, the Republican platform said the party "will continue to pursue sound economic policies that will eliminate inflation and provide jobs for all who are willing and able to work."

That was the rhetoric. Let's look at the record.

In 1968 the inflation rate was 4 1/2 percent. In 1974-75, double digit inflation has been the rule.

And since that promise was made four years ago, the real purchasing power of the average worker has fallen 5.4 percent. Consumer prices since 1972 have risen nearly 30 percent. And per capita income now is no higher than it was in 1972.

In 1968 the Republican platform promised "We must attack the root causes of poverty...In many areas poverty and its attendant ills affect large numbers of Americans... Our inner cities teem with poor, crowded slums."

That was the rhetoric. Let's look at the record.

Between 1960 and 1968 nearly 15 million Americans worked their way out of poverty. Since 1970 this progress not only has halted but has begun to move in the wrong direction. In 1974, for example, 1.3 million Americans actually were added to the poverty rolls.

The war against poverty was betrayed and sabotaged and our cities continue to decay from the neglect of eight years of Republican indifference.

In 1972, Richard Nixon's party promised that: "We will continue to promote steady expansion of the whole economy..."

That was the rhetoric. Let's look at the record.

By the end of the decade, the Republican recession will have cost America \$1.5 trillion in goods that never will be produced, services never provided, and income that never will be found in anyone's paycheck.

This represents a loss of \$7,000 for every man, woman and child in America; \$28,000 for a family of four. And add to this loss the fact that the real value of your take-home pay is just about where it was in the mid-1960's.

In 1972, the Republican platform stated: "We are determined to attain the goal of a decent home for every American."

That was the rhetoric. Let's look at the record.

The number of housing units constructed in 1975 was 45 percent below the level in 1972.

In the last two years we've been constructing 12 percent fewer homes than the average of 1961-1968, and one half of what is needed.

I could go on and on. The record of broken Republican promises is astounding and appalling.

When the true record is known, Americans will know they cannot afford another four years of Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan or any Republican.

Despite the Republican rhetoric, the record of mismanagement and indifference cannot be hidden.

To this poor record must be added a very sad and troubling assessment.

President Ford in his State of the Union Message and in his Budget, seems to be content with the least ambitious economic goals of any President in modern American history.

He proposes budgets and programs that will accept extraordinarily high levels of unemployment for years to come.

He is willing to accept the slowest recovery of production and income from the worst recession since the Great Depression.

These Republican leaders:

Promise balanced budgets, but have given us the highest budget deficits in our history;

Promise jobs and sing the glories of the work ethic, but have given us the highest unemployment levels since the Great Depression;

Promise a stable dollar, but have given us the highest inflation rates in our 200 year history;

Promise free enterprise, but have given us more rules and regulations than ever before and have forced nearly 10,000 businesses to close their doors;

Promise prosperity, but have given us the longest and most costly recession since the Hoover Depression;

Promise good government, but are guilty of more mismanagement and outright corruption than at any time since Grant and Harding; and

Promise law and order, but preside over the highest crime record in our history.

The Democrats face many challenges in 1976. The road toward the White House and the return of majority government is not an easy one to travel.

We must not permit the divisions, dissensions and differences of the past to block our chances for victory. We must provide the nation with candidates who are willing to tackle problems with vigor, imagination, compassion and fairness.

We must dare to propose solutions to our problems which may require sacrifices on the part of many Americans.

We must grab the chance to carry out the Democratic program of rebuilding our nation's cities, providing homes at reasonable prices for our families, giving every boy and girl a top quality education, returning confidence to America, and putting all of our people back to work.

Your responsibility is great. You must look well to the job you have before you. You have heard from many who seek your support. They ask you to help them to the highest office in the land.

Don't be blinded by the glitter. We need character in our President more than charisma. We need proven performance and not PR.

As you make your decisions, I ask you to keep one question in mind: which candidate do you believe as the next President of the United States can reshape that Executive Branch of government and give leadership to the Congress, so that never again will government forget that it is the servant of the people and not their master?

That is your task and my challenge to you.

President Smith (Red)

John Harle (Minn)
REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Johnny Heidenick
NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

MACHINISTS POLITICAL LEAGUE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

JANUARY 23, 1976

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ON THE RECORD AND OUT ON THE TABLE.

I AM A CANDIDATE.

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I INTEND TO SEEK RE-ELECTION TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

BUT I AM NOT A CANDIDATE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL
NOMINATION.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT I AM GOING TO GO OFF IN A CAVE AND
HIBERNATE UNTIL THE ELECTION IS OVER. IN THIS BICENTENNIAL
YEAR I INTEND TO BE THE "SPIRIT OF '76"; THAT IS, THE "FREE
SPIRIT OF 1976."

I WILL CALL THE SHOTS HONESTLY AS I SEE THEM, I FEEL THIS
IS AN IMPORTANT ROLE AND ONE THAT WILL MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO
THE NATION'S ELECTION YEAR DEBATE.

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE BEEN MEETING FOR SEVERAL DAYS
CONSIDERING YOUR UNION'S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES FOR THIS YEAR.

NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT TO YOUR MEMBERS AND TO THEIR FAMILIES.
You + I know - the American people know that we
~~we~~ CANNOT AFFORD FOUR MORE YEARS OF THE STUMBLING INCOMPETENCE
AND ECONOMIC MISMANAGEMENT OF REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTS.

WORKING AMERICANS NEED A FRIEND IN THE WHITE HOUSE, ~~FOR A CHANGE,~~

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MUST COME TO AN END ^{and} YOU CAN MAKE THIS HAPPEN.

LET ME REMIND YOU OF A FEW REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN PROMISES IN

THE LAST TWO ELECTIONS AND WHAT THEY DELIVERED. IT IS TIME

FOR AN ACCOUNTING -- TIME TO CHECK THE BOOKS. AND AN HONEST

ACCOUNTING SHOWS THAT THE WORST DEFICIT IN AMERICA TODAY IS

THE HUGE GAP BETWEEN REPUBLICAN PROMISES AND REPUBLICAN

PERFORMANCE.

IN 1968 THE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLEDGED ITSELF TO FULL

EMPLOYMENT. IN 1972 ITS PLATFORM SAID: "WE STAND FOR A JOB

FOR EVERYONE WILLING AND ABLE TO WORK..."

THAT WAS THE RHETORIC. LET'S LOOK AT THE RECORD.

h THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN 1968 WAS 3.6 PERCENT, ~~OR ABOUT~~

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AND EIGHT MILLION AMERICANS ARE IDLE.

h AND GERALD FORD HAS VETOED LEGISLATION TO CREATE NEARLY
ONE MILLION PUBLIC SERVICE AND PUBLIC WORKS JOBS AS WELL AS
A MAJOR INITIATIVE TO INCREASE PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT IN
THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

h IN 1972, THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM SAID THE PARTY "WILL CONTINUE
TO PURSUE SOUND ECONOMIC POLICIES THAT WILL ELIMINATE INFLATION
AND PROVIDE JOBS FOR ALL WHO ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO WORK."

h THAT WAS THE RHETORIC. h LET'S LOOK AT THE RECORD.

IN 1968 THE INFLATION RATE WAS 4 1/2 PERCENT. IN 1974-75,
DOUBLE DIGIT INFLATION HAS BEEN THE RULE.

12% or more

h AND SINCE THAT PROMISE WAS MADE FOUR YEARS AGO, THE REAL
PURCHASING POWER OF THE AVERAGE WORKER HAS FALLEN 5.4 PERCENT.

h CONSUMER PRICES SINCE 1972 HAVE RISEN NEARLY 30 PERCENT. AND
PER CAPITA INCOME NOW IS NO HIGHER THAN IT WAS IN 1972.

h IN 1968 THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM PROMISED "WE MUST ATTACK THE
ROOT CAUSES OF POVERTY... ~~IN MANY AREAS POVERTY AND ITS ATTENDANT~~
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WITH POOR, CROWDED SLUMS."

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h BETWEEN 1960 AND 1968 NEARLY 15 MILLION AMERICANS WORKED
THEIR WAY OUT OF POVERTY. h SINCE 1970 THIS PROGRESS NOT ONLY
HAS HALTED BUT HAS BEGUN TO MOVE IN THE WRONG DIRECTION. IN
1974, FOR EXAMPLE, 1.3 MILLION AMERICANS ACTUALLY WERE ADDED
TO THE POVERTY ROLLS.

THE WAR AGAINST POVERTY WAS BETRAYED AND SABOTAGED AND OUR
CITIES CONTINUE TO DECAY FROM THE NEGLECT OF EIGHT YEARS OF
REPUBLICAN INDIFFERENCE.

IN 1972, RICHARD NIXON ~~2 P~~ PROMISED THAT: "WE WILL
CONTINUE TO PROMOTE STEADY EXPANSION OF THE WHOLE ECONOMY..."

h THAT WAS THE RHETORIC. LET'S LOOK AT THE RECORD.

h BY THE END OF THE DECADE, THE REPUBLICAN RECESSION WILL HAVE
COST AMERICA \$1.5 TRILLION IN GOODS THAT NEVER WILL BE PRODUCED,
SERVICES NEVER PROVIDED, AND INCOME THAT NEVER WILL BE FOUND
IN ANYONE'S PAYCHECK.

h THIS REPRESENTS A LOSS OF \$7,000 FOR EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND
CHILD IN AMERICA; \$28,000 FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR AND ADD TO THIS
LOSS THE FACT THAT THE REAL VALUE OF YOUR TAKE-HOME PAY IS JUST
ABOUT WHERE IT WAS IN THE MID-1960'S.

L IN 1972, THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM STATED: "WE ARE DETERMINED
TO ATTAIN THE GOAL OF A DECENT HOME FOR EVERY AMERICAN."

L THAT WAS THE RHETORIC. LET'S LOOK AT THE RECORD.

L THE NUMBER OF HOUSING UNITS CONSTRUCTED IN 1975 WAS
45 PERCENT BELOW THE LEVEL IN 1972.

*Housing
Depression*

IN THE LAST TWO YEARS WE'VE BEEN CONSTRUCTING 12 PERCENT
FEWER HOMES THAN THE AVERAGE OF 1961-1968, AND ONE HALF OF
WHAT IS NEEDED.

L I COULD GO ON AND ON. THE RECORD OF BROKEN REPUBLICAN
PROMISES IS ASTOUNDING AND APPALLING.

L WHEN THE TRUE RECORD IS KNOWN, AMERICANS WILL KNOW THEY
CANNOT AFFORD ANOTHER FOUR YEARS OF GERALD FORD, RONALD REAGAN
OR ANY REPUBLICAN.

DESPITE THE REPUBLICAN RHETORIC, THE RECORD OF MISMANAGEMENT
AND INDIFFERENCE CANNOT BE HIDDEN.

TO THIS POOR RECORD MUST BE ADDED A VERY SAD AND TROUBLING
ASSESSMENT.

PRESIDENT FORD IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE AND IN HIS
BUDGET, SEEMS TO BE CONTENT WITH THE LEAST AMBITIOUS ECONOMIC
GOALS OF ANY PRESIDENT IN MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY.

↳ HE PROPOSES BUDGETS AND PROGRAMS THAT WILL A ~~continue~~ *continue*
EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH LEVELS OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR YEARS TO COME.

↳ HE IS WILLING TO ACCEPT THE SLOWEST RECOVERY OF PRODUCTION
AND INCOME FROM THE WORST RECESSION SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION.

↳ THESE REPUBLICAN LEADERS: ~~—~~ *— Listen to this!*

PROMISE BALANCED BUDGETS, BUT HAVE GIVEN US THE HIGHEST
BUDGET DEFICITS IN OUR HISTORY;

They PROMISE JOBS AND SING THE GLORIES OF THE WORK ETHIC, BUT
HAVE GIVEN US THE HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS SINCE THE
GREAT DEPRESSION;

They PROMISE A STABLE DOLLAR, BUT HAVE GIVEN US THE HIGHEST
INFLATION RATES IN OUR 200 YEAR HISTORY;

they PROMISE FREE ENTERPRISE, BUT HAVE GIVEN US MORE RULES AND
REGULATIONS THAN EVER BEFORE AND HAVE FORCED NEARLY 10,000
BUSINESSES TO CLOSE THEIR DOORS;

they PROMISE PROSPERITY, BUT HAVE GIVEN US THE LONGEST AND MOST
COSTLY RECESSION SINCE THE HOOVER DEPRESSION;

they PROMISE GOOD GOVERNMENT, BUT ARE GUILTY OF MORE
MISMANAGEMENT AND OUTRIGHT CORRUPTION THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE
GRANT AND HARDING; AND

they

PROMISE LAW AND ORDER, BUT PRESIDE OVER THE HIGHEST CRIME

RECORD IN OUR HISTORY,

THE DEMOCRATS FACE MANY CHALLENGES IN 1976. THE ROAD TOWARD
THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE RETURN OF MAJORITY GOVERNMENT IS NOT
AN EASY ONE TO TRAVEL.

h

WE MUST NOT PERMIT THE DIVISIONS, DISSENTIONS AND

DIFFERENCES OF THE PAST TO BLOCK OUR CHANCES FOR VICTORY.

h

WE MUST PROVIDE THE NATION WITH CANDIDATES WHO ARE WILLING TO

TACKLE PROBLEMS WITH VIGOR, IMAGINATION, COMPASSION AND FAIRNESS.

h

WE MUST DARE TO PROPOSE SOLUTIONS TO OUR PROBLEMS WHICH

MAY REQUIRE SACRIFICES ON THE PART OF MANY AMERICANS.

h WE MUST GRAB THE CHANCE TO CARRY OUT THE DEMOCRATIC PROGRAM
OF REBUILDING OUR NATION'S CITIES, PROVIDING HOMES AT
REASONABLE PRICES FOR OUR FAMILIES, GIVING EVERY BOY AND GIRL
A TOP QUALITY EDUCATION, RETURNING CONFIDENCE TO AMERICA, AND
PUTTING ALL OF OUR PEOPLE BACK TO WORK.

h YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IS GREAT. YOU MUST LOOK WELL TO THE
JOB YOU HAVE BEFORE YOU. YOU HAVE HEARD FROM MANY WHO SEEK YOUR
SUPPORT. THEY ASK YOU TO HELP THEM TO THE HIGHEST OFFICE IN
THE LAND.

h DON'T BE BLINDED BY THE GLITTER. WE NEED CHARACTER IN OUR
PRESIDENT MORE THAN CHARISMA. WE NEED PROVEN PERFORMANCE AND
NOT PR.

As you make your decisions, I ask you to keep one question
in mind: which candidate do you believe as the next President
of the United States can reshape that Executive Branch of
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That is your task and my challenge to you.

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