

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

DINNER HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

New York, New York

February 29, 1976

It is a pleasure to be in New York. I love this city, and I love your people.

It is especially nice to have been invited here by Shirley Chisholm -- my good friend and colleague in the Congress. Shirley is a very special person -- much respected by her adversaries and beloved by her friends and colleagues.

She has devoted her energy and her considerable influence to the struggle for equality and decency -- not only for those in the 12th District but for minority citizens -- and all citizens -- in all parts of the country.

She has been involved in efforts to:

- improve our education programs, including bi-lingual education;
- provide child nutrition, school lunch and day care;
- achieve full employment and national economic recovery;
- expand health care services;
- protect the environment; and
- promote fair and effective food stamp reforms.

Shirley has had a strong influence in the Congress on these vital issues.

Shirley Chisholm is a person whose greatest satisfaction comes from helping people -- people who very often are powerless to speak for themselves.

She knows and understands the special needs of her constituents, and she directs untiring effort toward assuring that these needs are met by workable, practical programs.

Shirley is a woman of insight, perseverance and courage -- a public figure whose reputation for spirit and integrity is known throughout the country.

The people of the 12th Congressional District have done a great service in sending Shirley Chisholm to Congress. I know that in November you will demonstrate your continued trust in her leadership. We need her back in Washington to speak and fight for you.

* * * *

We have serious business to consider this evening. This is a crucial year for the citizens of the 12th District and for all Americans.

In a scant eight months our people will elect a President and a new Congress. And the Democratic Party will face its ultimate battle. We will attempt to recapture the White House for the American people.

We must -- and we will -- end this reign of chaos and turmoil that has characterized our political leadership for seven years under the Nixon-Ford Administration.

In this Bicentennial year and beyond our people will be searching for a vision for America.

They are crying out for leadership which gives hope for a new day.

What vision can our people expect with four more years of Republican control?

They can expect four more years of stumbling incompetence and economic mismanagement:

- national unemployment rates of at least seven percent;
- a drop in purchasing power and a rise in consumer prices;
- more Americans on the poverty rolls;
- continued stagnation in the housing industry; and
- continued recession that will cost over \$1 trillion by the end of the decade -- in goods that never will be produced, services never provided, and lost income that won't show up in anyone's paycheck.

Republican government will continue to give us an unending cycle of joblessness, inflation, crime, and colossal waste of our nation's human and material resources. Our people will continue to grow away from each other and away from their government.

The Democratic imperative in 1976 is to give the American people hope for solid progress for the remainder of this decade. This is the Democratic alternative.

Our people do not buy the shoddy theory that "less is more." They will not tolerate timid national leadership.

Our people are not against government. They are against government that doesn't work. They will not support a policy of retrenchment and equivocation.

They know that "less government" is just a code phrase for neglect of the cities;

- for feeble and ineffective social programs;
- for retreat in civil rights;
- for acceptance of an unhealthy economy that takes its worst toll on the poor, the elderly, the handicapped, and children.

In short, the so-called "big government" argument is a cop-out.

The Democratic Party can offer Americans a vision of a White House that is involved with people.

President Johnson once said, "No nation can be more than the visions of its people. America cannot be more than we believe ourselves capable of becoming."

Central to our vision of America must be a commitment to halt the decay of our major urban centers and to make them into the vital, throbbing centers of commerce, communications and entertainment that have supported this nation and made us great.

We can make our cities liveable.

We can make them symbols of hope and opportunity, instead of despair and indifference.

Where they have been crumbling and dying, we can build and prosper.

Where there has been filth and infestation, we can make them clean and healthy.

Where our people are intimidated by crime and vandalism, we can build a sense of community and brotherhood.

We can accomplish these things. We can bring about economic recovery, urban recovery, and people recovery if we will adopt one simple policy -- that every American who is willing and able to work be given that chance.

The official unemployment rate nationwide today is 7.8 percent, over seven million people. When you include part-time workers who want full-time jobs and people who simply have given up looking for work, the real unemployment rates go to 11.1 percent, or 10.4 million Americans. During 1975 as many as 20 million workers were jobless at one time or another.

But these are national figures. And you and I both know that they do not begin to describe the problem.

Unemployment in Shirley's district and in some other areas of New York ranges from 20 to 40 percent! That means that hundreds of thousands of people have been directly affected by the despair of joblessness, the result of political indifference in the highest office in the land.

It means that governments no longer have the revenues necessary to provide vital services.

In 1975, Federal tax revenues were down \$54 billion, because the unemployed don't pay taxes. The recession meant a loss to State and local government of \$27 billion.

This means fewer services, more lay-offs, more crime and less law enforcement, more dirt and filth, and reduced sanitation services.

But this is only part of the story. The most devastating effects of unemployment don't get news coverage. They aren't talked about much by the so-called economic "experts."

Being without a job means more than a loss of income.

It means there is little, if any, health care.

It means substandard education and inferior housing.

It means there is no opportunity for recreation or cultural activity.

Being without a job means that society says, in effect, "We don't want you. We don't need you. There is no place for you."

With vision we can put this vast resource of human energy and potential to work to regenerate our cities and revitalize rural areas.

Today Americans are wondering why the man who holds the highest office in the land doesn't look out across the nation, at its cities in disrepair and its factories idle, at its jobless workers and its desperate young people, and say, "There is an enormous job to be done here, one of the biggest jobs we've ever faced! Let's get to work."

We can bring this country to life again, but only if we are committed to do it. Dante said, "The hottest places in Hell are reserved for those who, in a period of moral crisis, maintain their neutrality."

The Democratic Party is a party of commitment, not neutrality. And it is more important than ever, in this hour of crisis, that we put the party of the people back to work for all the people.

Rabbi Schrage
Rev. Barton

① Lucille Rose - Commissioner
Depty Employment

① Percy Sutton - President, Manhattan
Borough

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Congresswoman
① Shirley Chisholm - 12 Cong Dist

DINNER HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

① Howard Samuels
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Meade Esposito

Antonio Gallo FEBRUARY 29, 1976

Peter Otley - Pres. Hospital Workers

Mary Pinkett - City Councilwoman

Tom Meason - LA

Victor Gotbaum - Pres. Civil Service
Workers Dist 37

✓ Bella Abzug ✓ Fred Richmond
✓ Herman Badillo ✓ Charlie Rangel

L IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE IN NEW YORK, I LOVE THIS CITY,

AND I LOVE YOUR PEOPLE,

Shirley Chisholm
12th DIST

L IT IS ESPECIALLY NICE TO HAVE BEEN INVITED HERE BY

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM -- MY GOOD FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE IN THE

CONGRESS. L SHIRLEY IS A VERY SPECIAL PERSON -- ~~MUCH~~

Loved + Admired

RESPECTED BY HER ADVERSARIES AND ~~BE~~ LOVED BY HER FRIENDS

AND COLLEAGUES,

L SHE HAS DEVOTED HER ENERGY AND HER CONSIDERABLE

INFLUENCE TO THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY AND DECENCY -- NOT

ONLY FOR THOSE IN THE 12TH DISTRICT BUT FOR MINORITY CITIZENS --

AND ALL CITIZENS -- IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY,

L SHE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN EFFORTS TO:

L IMPROVE OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS, INCLUDING BI-LINGUAL

EDUCATION;

L -- PROVIDE CHILD NUTRITION, SCHOOL LUNCH AND DAY CARE;

L -- ACHIEVE FULL EMPLOYMENT AND NATIONAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY;

L -- EXPAND HEALTH CARE SERVICES;

L -- PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT; AND

L -- PROMOTE FAIR AND EFFECTIVE FOOD STAMP REFORMS.

L SHIRLEY HAS HAD A STRONG INFLUENCE IN THE CONGRESS ON

THESE VITAL ISSUES *and many others.*

Congresswoman

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM *is* ~~FOR A PERSON WHOSE~~ GREATEST SATISFACTION

COMES FROM HELPING PEOPLE -- PEOPLE WHO VERY OFTEN ARE POWERLESS

TO SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

*and that is being
a true Democrat -*

*77R - Duty of Govt is not ~~to~~ to tell that
cases who have to mend*

SHE KNOWS AND UNDERSTANDS THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF HER
CONSTITUENTS, AND SHE DIRECTS UNTIRING EFFORT TOWARD ASSURING
THAT THESE NEEDS ARE MET BY WORKABLE, PRACTICAL PROGRAMS. !

SHIRLEY IS A WOMAN OF INSIGHT, PERSEVERANCE AND COURAGE --
A PUBLIC FIGURE WHOSE REPUTATION FOR SPIRIT AND INTEGRITY IS
KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY,

*Shirley to
Congress!*

THE PEOPLE OF THE 12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT HAVE DONE
A GREAT SERVICE IN SENDING SHIRLEY CHISHOLM TO CONGRESS,

KNOW THAT IN NOVEMBER YOU WILL DEMONSTRATE YOUR CONTINUED
TRUST IN HER LEADERSHIP. WE NEED HER BACK IN WASHINGTON TO
SPEAK AND FIGHT FOR YOU.

WE HAVE SERIOUS BUSINESS TO CONSIDER THIS EVENING.

THIS IS A CRUCIAL YEAR FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE 12TH DISTRICT
AND FOR ALL AMERICANS.

IN A SCANT EIGHT MONTHS OUR PEOPLE WILL ELECT A PRESIDENT
AND A NEW CONGRESS AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WILL FACE ITS
ULTIMATE BATTLE. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO RECAPTURE THE WHITE HOUSE
FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

Back to the White House!

WE MUST -- AND WE WILL -- END THIS period of Confusion
REIGN OF CHAOS AND
TURMOIL THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED OUR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP FOR
SEVEN YEARS UNDER THE NIXON-FORD ADMINISTRATION.

*U.S. Tar, no-no-
No Slave, Not New
U.S. Tar.*

IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR AND BEYOND OUR PEOPLE WILL BE
SEARCHING FOR A VISION FOR AMERICA.

Hope

THEY ARE CRYING OUT FOR LEADERSHIP WHICH GIVES HOPE FOR
A NEW DAY.

*Not negative, but Positive -
Leadership that sees every Problem
as a Challenge - Every difficulty an
opportunity*

Prosperity - Recession
Balanced Budget - Deficit
Stable Dollar - Inflation
Full Employment - Bankrupt
Work Ethic - unemployment
Good Government - corruption

But

Here is what is in store
for America with

WHAT VISION CAN OUR PEOPLE EXPECT WITH FOUR MORE YEARS

4 more years of Republican

OF REPUBLICAN CONTROL?

THEY CAN EXPECT FOUR MORE YEARS OF STUMBLING INCOMPETENCE

AND ECONOMIC MISMANAGEMENT:

- NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES OF AT LEAST SEVEN PERCENT;
- A DROP IN PURCHASING POWER AND A RISE IN CONSUMER PRICES;
- MORE AMERICANS ON THE POVERTY ROLLS;
- CONTINUED STAGNATION IN THE HOUSING INDUSTRY; AND
- CONTINUED RECESSION THAT WILL COST OVER \$1 TRILLION BY

1 1/2 Trillion

continued deterioration of our cities

THE END OF THE DECADE -- IN GOODS THAT NEVER WILL BE PRODUCED,

SERVICES NEVER PROVIDED, AND LOST INCOME THAT WON'T SHOW UP

IN ANYONE'S PAYCHECK.

~~But~~

Ford + GOP.
act as if they just
earned Power

REPUBLICAN ~~GOVERNMENT~~ WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE US AN UNENDING
 CYCLE OF JOBLESSNESS, INFLATION, CRIME, AND COLOSSAL WASTE
 OF OUR NATION'S HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES. OUR PEOPLE
 WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AWAY FROM EACH OTHER AND AWAY FROM THEIR
 GOVERNMENT.

THE DEMOCRATIC ^{Challenge} ~~ALTERNATIVE~~ IN 1976 IS TO GIVE THE AMERICAN
 PEOPLE HOPE FOR SOLID PROGRESS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS DECADE.
 THIS IS THE DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE.

OUR PEOPLE DO NOT BUY THE SHODDY THEORY THAT "LESS IS MORE."
 THEY WILL NOT TOLERATE TIMID NATIONAL LEADERSHIP.

OUR PEOPLE ARE NOT AGAINST GOVERNMENT. THEY ARE AGAINST
 GOVERNMENT THAT DOESN'T WORK. THEY WILL NOT SUPPORT A POLICY

~~OF RETRENCHMENT AND EQUIVOCATION.~~
 of retreat & neglect!

Less Govt - What it means!

L THEY KNOW THAT "LESS GOVERNMENT" IS JUST A CODE PHRASE

FOR NEGLECT OF THE CITIES;

-- FOR FEEBLE AND INEFFECTIVE SOCIAL PROGRAMS;

-- FOR RETREAT IN CIVIL RIGHTS;

-- ~~FOR~~ ACCEPTANCE OF AN UNHEALTHY ECONOMY THAT TAKES ITS

WORST TOLL ON THE POOR, THE ELDERLY, THE HANDICAPPED, AND CHILDREN.

L IN SHORT, THE SO-CALLED "BIG GOVERNMENT" ARGUMENT IS A

COP-OUT

L THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY ~~GETS~~ ^{must offer} AMERICANS A VISION OF A

WHITE HOUSE THAT IS INVOLVED WITH PEOPLE.

L PRESIDENT JOHNSON ONCE SAID, "NO NATION CAN BE MORE THAN

THE VISIONS OF ITS PEOPLE. AMERICA CANNOT BE MORE THAN WE

BELIEVE OURSELVES CAPABLE OF BECOMING."

*Halt the Decay of
our cities -*

CENTRAL TO OUR VISION OF AMERICA MUST BE A COMMITMENT TO

HALT THE DECAY OF OUR MAJOR URBAN CENTERS AND TO MAKE THEM

INTO THE VITAL, THROBING CENTERS OF COMMERCE, COMMUNICATIONS

AND ENTERTAINMENT THAT HAVE SUPPORTED THIS NATION AND MADE

US GREAT.

*(Neglect your cities -) veto
new Racism
Reason
Back to the
states + local
govt.*

WE CAN MAKE OUR CITIES LIVEABLE.

WE CAN MAKE THEM SYMBOLS OF HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY, INSTEAD

OF DESPAIR AND INDIFFERENCE.

WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN CRUMBLING AND DYING, WE CAN BUILD

AND PROSPER.

WHERE THERE HAS BEEN FILTH AND INFESTATION, WE CAN

MAKE THEM CLEAN AND HEALTHY.

h WHERE OUR PEOPLE ARE INTIMIDATED BY CRIME AND VANDALISM,
WE CAN BUILD A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND BROTHERHOOD.

h WE CAN ACCOMPLISH THESE THINGS WE CAN BRING ABOUT
ECONOMIC RECOVERY, URBAN RECOVERY, AND PEOPLE RECOVERY IF WE
WILL ADOPT ONE SIMPLE POLICY -- THAT EVERY AMERICAN WHO IS
WILLING AND ABLE TO WORK BE GIVEN THAT CHANCE.

Jobs

Jobs

h THE OFFICIAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE NATIONWIDE TODAY IS
7.8 PERCENT, OVER SEVEN MILLION PEOPLE

Unemp
Rate

WHEN YOU INCLUDE
PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WANT FULL-TIME JOBS AND PEOPLE WHO
SIMPLY HAVE GIVEN UP LOOKING FOR WORK, THE REAL UNEMPLOYMENT
RATES GO TO 11.1 PERCENT, OR 10.4 MILLION AMERICANS.

h DURING 1975 AS MANY AS 20 MILLION WORKERS WERE JOBLESS AT
ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.

- over 70 million affected
by unemployment

But city figures + youth unemp

-10-

L BUT THESE ARE NATIONAL FIGURES. AND YOU AND I BOTH
KNOW THAT THEY DO NOT BEGIN TO DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM.

L UNEMPLOYMENT IN ~~SHIRLEY'S~~ DISTRICT AND IN SOME OTHER
AREAS OF NEW YORK RANGES FROM 20 TO 40 PERCENT. THAT MEANS

THAT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY

AFFECTED BY THE DESPAIR OF JOBLESSNESS, THE RESULT OF

POLITICAL INDIFFERENCE IN THE HIGHEST OFFICE IN THE LAND.

L IT MEANS THAT GOVERNMENTS NO LONGER HAVE THE REVENUES
NECESSARY TO PROVIDE VITAL SERVICES.

L IN 1975, FEDERAL TAX REVENUES WERE DOWN \$54 BILLION,
BECAUSE THE UNEMPLOYED DON'T PAY TAXES. THE RECESSION MEANT
A LOSS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF \$27 BILLION.

L THIS MEANS FEWER SERVICES, MORE LAY-OFFS, MORE CRIME

AND LESS LAW ENFORCEMENT, MORE DIRT AND FILTH, AND REDUCED

SANITATION SERVICES.

meaning of unemployment

L BUT THIS IS ONLY PART OF THE STORY. L THE MOST

DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT DON'T GET NEWS COVERAGE.

THEY AREN'T TALKED ABOUT MUCH BY THE SO-CALLED ECONOMIC "EXPERTS."

L BEING WITHOUT A JOB MEANS MORE THAN A LOSS OF INCOME.!

L IT MEANS THERE IS LITTLE, IF ANY, HEALTH CARE.!

L IT MEANS SUBSTANDARD EDUCATION AND INFERIOR HOUSING.!

L IT MEANS THERE IS NO OPPORTUNITY FOR RECREATION OR CULTURAL ACTIVITY. *It means trouble!*

L BEING WITHOUT A JOB MEANS THAT SOCIETY SAYS, IN EFFECT, "WE DON'T WANT YOU. WE DON'T NEED YOU. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR YOU."

WITH VISION WE CAN PUT THIS VAST RESOURCE OF HUMAN ENERGY AND POTENTIAL TO WORK TO REGENERATE OUR CITIES AND REVITALIZE RURAL AREAS.

✓ vision } FDR, HST, JFK-LBJ

TODAY AMERICANS ARE WONDERING WHY THE MAN WHO HOLDS THE HIGHEST OFFICE IN THE LAND DOESN'T LOOK OUT ACROSS THE NATION, AT ITS CITIES IN DISREPAIR AND ITS FACTORIES IDLE, AT ITS JOBLESS WORKERS AND ITS DESPERATE YOUNG PEOPLE, AND SAY, "THERE IS AN ENORMOUS JOB TO BE DONE HERE, ONE OF THE BIGGEST JOBS WE'VE EVER FACED! LET'S GET TO WORK."

*Final
Good Guy*

all we have to fear, is fear itself

WE CAN BRING THIS COUNTRY TO LIFE AGAIN, BUT ONLY IF WE ARE COMMITTED TO DO IT. DANTE SAID, "THE HOTTEST PLACES IN HELL ARE RESERVED FOR THOSE WHO, IN A PERIOD OF MORAL CRISIS, MAINTAIN THEIR NEUTRALITY."

*Money in the banks
- 25% Plant Idle, Millions Unemployed*

L THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS A PARTY OF COMMITMENT, NOT

NEUTRALITY. L AND IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER, IN THIS HOUR

OF CRISIS, THAT WE PUT THE PARTY OF THE PEOPLE BACK TO WORK FOR

ALL THE PEOPLE. — We will win

because we care!

#####

We Dare!

We Try!

We believe!

Preamble "We the People"



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