

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

B'NAI B'RITH

Washington, D. C.

September 7, 1976

I am honored to have the privilege of addressing the members of such a fine organization.

Tonight, I am among old and valued friends.

B'nai B'rith and Hubert Humphrey have been allies -- allies in the struggles for equal opportunity in a free society. And allies for a more humane and compassionate government.

Since the days when I was Mayor of Minneapolis working with B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League in drafting the nation's first municipal anti-discrimination legislation, we have had a long and warm relationship.

But I recognize that my association with you is but a small moment in the history of B'nai B'rith.

Since its founding in 1843 in New York City, this great organization has grown until it now reaches into the small towns and great urban centers of over 40 nations.

And this week you will dedicate a new building in the nation's capital, which is a symbol of the permanence of your tradition and dedication to future progress.

And through the seven generations of your existence, the message of B'nai B'rith has been clear. And that message is derived from the age-old traditions and heritage of the Jewish people: The struggle for political democracy cannot be won unless it is joined with the battle for social and economic justice.

This is the concept of freedom at the heart of Judaism.

And this is the fundamental driving force of America's liberty.

The Jewish people brought to the New World their age-old struggle to be free. It is here in America that the memories of tyranny -- of Pharaohs, Kings, Czars, Fuehrers and Commissars -- have kept alive the vigilance of the Jewish people to threats against freedom.

And it is here in America that the Jewish concept of social and economic justice was joined with the Jeffersonian and Jacksonian ideals of equality. Together, they form a potent force. A force capable of guaranteeing that we remain a free, vibrant, open society in which all men and women can make the most of their God-given potential.

This is the year of America's bicentennial.

And this bicentennial should provide us with an opportunity to explore our future as well as our past.

As we celebrate our bicentennial we must ask ourselves:

How will Americans insure that the freedoms of our first two centuries are preserved for America's third and fourth centuries?

We live in a world of rapid change. What took decades to accomplish in the past, now takes only weeks.

Years are compressed into milliseconds. Whole generations pass through eras and epochs at mind-boggling speed.

In an age when the world and time are shrinking the dimensions of our lives, at a moment when the power of private and public institutions is growing rapidly, the challenge of preserving democracy as we know it becomes formidable.

How do we go about this awesome task?

There are no easy answers to this challenge and no one should ever tell you that there are.

I would like to discuss four principles for our government and ourselves which I believe are fundamental to the preservation of American democracy.

We need to reaffirm these and other principles as we celebrate our bicentennial.

The first principle is perhaps the most important:

Government by consent of the governed cannot long endure if government does not respect the law.

The brilliant jurist, Mr. Justice Brandeis, said it best in one of his famous dissenting opinions:

"Decency, security and liberty alike demand that government officials shall be subjected to the same rules of conduct that are commands to the citizen. In a government of laws, existence of the government will be imperiled if it fails to observe the law scrupulously."

We have just passed through a tragic period of our history. Men and the institutions they led took the law unto themselves.

They eroded a people's trust and confidence in their government at all levels.

They damaged a people's belief in the viability of their political institutions.

We must never again let this happen.

Yes, it will take vigilance by the press, the Congress and the Courts.

But, even more, it will take greater respect for the law by all Americans.

There is no easy solution to the problem of growing and pervasive violent and white collar crime in America. But as Brandeis so eloquently stated:

"Our government is the potent, omnipresent teacher. For good or for evil it teaches the whole people by its example."

Yes, government must set the highest standards for its own conduct. Unless it does, our democracy will be endangered.

Let me turn to another important principle.

We cannot seek democracy and social justice at home and abandon these principles abroad.

The time has come for the United States of America to put a premium on the support of democratic governments as a central tenet of American foreign policy.

I have seen too many Presidents embrace dictators.

I have seen too many Presidents cozy up to juntas in the name of security and expediency. We must learn that there can be little security in the world if democratic government becomes an endangered species.

The United States must aid and support those people and nations who choose to form governments guided by democratic principles, whether they be in Israel, in Greece, in Portugal or in Africa.

We can look to the very recent past for a good example of how one of our great leaders cherished democracy beyond our shores.

The great American President who first recognized the state of Israel, Harry Truman, knew that Israel's rebirth was the creation of a democracy at a time when democracy was threatened.

I must say that today, as in 1948, America's support of a democratic Israel is vital to the security of that nation and the maintenance of peace in that troubled part of the world.

Our democratic heritage is shared by Israel. America's love for freedom is a cornerstone of Israel's independence. Whether here in America or in Israel, we must stand for the preservation and protection of democratic values.

The only effective way to combat the tyranny of Communism and the totalitarianism of the "Right" is to battle for human rights and democratic values abroad. The Jewish Community has always been aware of the need for a more sensitive approach to problems of international human rights.

The time has come for moral values to play a greater role in our foreign policy. Until they do, we will not gain the support of peoples around the world who are struggling for their freedom.

In the coming weeks during the course of an election campaign I want the candidates of both parties to tell the American people how they will restore our respect for international human rights.

Beyond the strength of our armies, beyond the wealth of our people, beyond the richness of our land, the multitudes around the world want to believe that we will support those who are struggling for basic human freedoms. An American foreign policy which does not convey this commitment is not only ineffective, it is bankrupt.

There is a third principle which I believe to be of critical importance to all Americans:

There can be no meaningful freedom in America without freedom from poverty, freedom from hunger and freedom from unemployment.

You and I have played a role in the unprecedented struggle of the past two decades to secure equal rights for all Americans. We have made gains in many areas: Equal access to public accommodations, equal job opportunity, non-discriminatory use of federal funds and protection of the right to vote.

Despite hard-won gains in Congress and the Courts, the struggle for eradication of prejudice and bigotry in America is not yet over.

As I have said in the past: It is not enough to allow a man or woman the right to sit at a lunch counter if they don't have the money in their pockets to pay for the meal.

The right to full participation in the economic life of our nation is the birthright of every American.

Until we guarantee this freedom to all Americans, we cannot call ourselves truly free.

I am disturbed that too many Americans are willing to accept growing poverty amidst affluence.

I am disturbed that we seem to be ready to accept large numbers of unemployed persons as a permanent part of the economic scene.

I am disturbed that urban decay increases as cities face rising costs and declining revenue sources.

I am disturbed that welfare rolls and food stamps become a way of life for ever-growing numbers of our fellow citizens.

An America divided between rich and poor and white and black is in trouble. Freedom for the comfortable cannot endure alongside of misery for over one quarter of the American population.

Americans are fast reaching the point when they can no longer run away from the horrible neglect of the poor and the underprivileged among us.

No suburb is safe from violent crime.

No household budget can escape the growing tax burden to support increased social costs.

Few children can long avoid being affected by an education system weighted against the poor.

The era of escape is over. The time has come to mobilize those in and out of government who want to eradicate poverty in America once and for all.

Let me turn to another final principle:

A free people who refuse to participate in their own political processes and government do so at their peril.

Democratic self-government will be threatened in the long run unless Americans take the time and effort to choose their leaders and work to make government a better protector of their rights and interests.

Just look at the alarming statistics of voter participation in our recent elections:

-- In 1972, with a clear ideological choice, only 55 percent of eligible voters went to the polls. This meant that sixty-eight million Americans eligible to vote did not do so.

-- In the Congressional elections of 1974, only 45 percent of the voting population bothered to go to the polls.

-- And, in 1974, among the critical group of young voters with still many elections ahead of them, 63.6 percent of 18 to 20-year-olds did not even bother to register.

If Americans think that they can fail to vote in such large numbers and still insure themselves of able and dedicated public servants they are dead wrong.

But this trend of non-participation extends all across the face of America -- from the PTA and the town council, to serving on the Federal bench and in the Executive branch.

It is time for Americans to change their attitude about their government and their role in it. Government is not some monster apart from and detached from our lives. It is us -- our values, our strengths and our weaknesses.

As a nation we are a community of people. Americans must participate in this community to achieve common goals.

It is our duty and responsibility as citizens. If we as Americans do not care about our collective political destiny, we must accept the consequences of our own irresponsibility.

I sincerely believe that democracy is severely weakened if the many are governed by the votes of the few.

I am confident that the task of preserving America's democracy can be accomplished with the hard work and dedication which are so plentiful in our nation.

We have the inner strength and moral courage to overcome momentary setbacks.

America is still a young country.

The American people are builders.

They are restless. They are energetic. They are idealists eager to put their ideals to the test.

Let us not forget that we are the most heterogeneous mixture of races, religions and nationalities ever to coexist peacefully under the tent of democracy. And we are now the world's largest democracy celebrating two centuries of freedom.

There is every reason to believe that our third century can be one of freedom and prosperity for all Americans.

There is every reason to believe that Americans can make great contributions in the struggle to eradicate injustice, hunger and poverty wherever they are found.

America's future is a bright one. As the poet and scholar, Carl Sandburg, so eloquently spoke:

"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..."

I know that the men and women of will and vision here this evening are ready to join hands for the kind of America which is in our hopes and dreams.

#

2 years ago. Susan Jerusalem
for your computer

Photos with

- Color Guard
- Marine Band
- Rabbi Stanley Rabensewitz

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

amb. Sivitz

B'NAI B'RITH

Tommaso Prudenti
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Honorary President

SEPTEMBER 7, 1976

Dr. Wm Wepler

-- Burt Joseph - ADL

- David Blumberg + Mrs

Phil Klutznick - Honorary
President

Mrs Louis Fish

Israeli Brethren
Woman

I AM HONORED TO HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF ADDRESSING THE ~~OFFICERS~~
MEMBERS OF B'nai B'rith ~~THIS A FINE ORGANIZATION.~~

2 yrs Ago in Jerusalem with you

TONIGHT, I AM AMONG OLD AND VALUED FRIENDS.

B'NAI B'RITH AND HUBERT HUMPHREY HAVE BEEN ALLIES -- ALLIES
IN THE STRUGGLES FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN A FREE SOCIETY. AND
ALLIES FOR MORE HUMANE AND COMPASSIONATE GOVERNMENT.

SINCE THE DAYS WHEN I WAS MAYOR OF MINNEAPOLIS WORKING WITH
THE B'NAI B'RITH IN DRAFTING THE NATION'S FIRST MUNICIPAL
ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION, WE HAVE HAD A LONG AND
WARM RELATIONSHIP.

BUT I RECOGNIZE THAT MY ASSOCIATION WITH YOU IS BUT A
SMALL MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF B'NAI B'RITH.

L SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1843 IN NEW YORK CITY, THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION HAS GROWN UNTIL IT NOW REACHES INTO THE SMALL TOWNS AND GREAT URBAN CENTERS OF OVER 40 NATIONS.

L AND THIS WEEK YOU WILL DEDICATE A NEW BUILDING IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL, WHICH IS A SYMBOL OF THE PERMANENCE OF YOUR TRADITION AND DEDICATION TO FUTURE PROGRESS.

(I want to be there but President's schedule)

L AND THROUGH THE SEVEN GENERATIONS OF YOUR EXISTENCE, THE MESSAGE OF B'NAI B'RITH HAS BEEN CLEAR, AND THAT MESSAGE IS DERIVED FROM THE AGE-OLD TRADITIONS AND HERITAGE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE; THE STRUGGLE FOR POLITICAL DEMOCRACY CANNOT BE WON UNLESS IT IS JOINED WITH THE BATTLE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE.

L THIS IS THE CONCEPT OF FREEDOM AT THE HEART OF JUDAISM.

Liberty Bell - Deuteronomy

-3-

AND THIS IS THE FUNDAMENTAL DRIVING FORCE OF AMERICA'S

LIBERTY.

"Proclaim liberty throughout the land
and to all the inhabitants thereof!"

THE JEWISH PEOPLE BROUGHT TO THE NEW WORLD THEIR AGE-OLD

STRUGGLE TO BE FREE. IT IS HERE IN AMERICA THAT THE MEMORIES

OF TYRANNY -- OF PHARAOKHS, KINGS, CZARS, FUEHRERS AND COMMISSARS --

HAVE KEPT ALIVE THE VIGILANCE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO THREATS

AGAINST FREEDOM.

AND IT IS HERE IN AMERICA THAT THE JEWISH CONCEPT OF
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE WAS JOINED WITH THE JEFFERSONIAN

AND JACKSONIAN IDEALS OF EQUALITY. TOGETHER, THEY FORM A

POTENT FORCE A FORCE CAPABLE OF GUARANTEEING THAT WE REMAIN

A FREE, VIBRANT, OPEN SOCIETY IN WHICH ALL MEN AND WOMEN CAN

MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR GOD-GIVEN POTENTIAL.

(Deut 5:1) electing God Given Nat. Rights

THIS IS THE YEAR OF AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL.

AND THIS BICENTENNIAL SHOULD PROVIDE US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY
TO EXPLORE OUR FUTURE AS WELL AS OUR PAST.

AS WE CELEBRATE OUR BICENTENNIAL WE MUST ASK OURSELVES:

HOW WILL AMERICANS INSURE THAT THE FREEDOMS OF OUR FIRST
TWO CENTURIES ARE PRESERVED FOR AMERICA'S THIRD AND FOURTH
CENTURIES?

WE LIVE IN A WORLD OF RAPID CHANGE. WHAT TOOK DECADES TO
ACCOMPLISH IN THE PAST, NOW TAKES ONLY ~~WEEKS~~ ^{MONTHS}.

↳ YEARS ARE COMPRESSED INTO ~~MILLISECONDS~~ ^{DAYS}. ↳ WHOLE GENERATIONS

PASS THROUGH ERAS AND EPOCHS AT MIND-BOGGLING SPEED.
= = —————

h IN AN AGE WHEN THE WORLD AND TIME ARE SHRINKING THE
 DIMENSIONS OF OUR LIVES, AT A MOMENT WHEN THE POWER OF PRIVATE
 AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IS GROWING RAPIDLY, THE CHALLENGE OF
 PRESERVING DEMOCRACY AS WE KNOW IT BECOMES FORMIDABLE.

so/ How DO WE GO ABOUT THIS AWESOME TASK?

h THERE ARE NO EASY ANSWERS ~~TO THIS CHALLENGE, AND NO ONE~~
~~SHOULD EVER TELL YOU THAT THERE ARE.~~

But, here are, at least
~~FOUR~~ FOUR PRINCIPLES FOR OUR GOVERNMENT

AND OURSELVES WHICH I BELIEVE ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO THE
 PRESERVATION OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY.

and WE NEED TO REAFFIRM THESE AND OTHER ^{basic} PRINCIPLES AS WE
 CELEBRATE OUR BICENTENNIAL.

h THE FIRST PRINCIPLE IS PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT:

GOVERNMENT BY CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED CANNOT LONG ENDURE

IF GOVERNMENT DOES NOT RESPECT THE LAW.

L THE BRILLIANT JURIST, MR. JUSTICE BRANDEIS, SAID IT BEST

IN ONE OF HIS FAMOUS DISSENTING OPINIONS:

"DECENCY, SECURITY AND LIBERTY ALIKE DEMAND THAT

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SHALL BE SUBJECTED TO THE SAME

RULES OF CONDUCT THAT ARE COMMANDS TO THE CITIZEN.

IN A GOVERNMENT OF LAWS, EXISTENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT

WILL BE IMPERILED IF IT FAILS TO OBSERVE THE LAW

SCRUPULOUSLY."

WE HAVE JUST PASSED THROUGH A TRAGIC PERIOD OF OUR HISTORY.

L MEN AND THE INSTITUTIONS THEY LED TOOK THE LAW UNTO THEMSELVES.

h THEY ERODED A PEOPLE'S TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THEIR
GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS.

h THEY DAMAGED A PEOPLE'S BELIEF IN THE ~~PROPERTY~~ ^{WORTH} OF THEIR
POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS.

h WE MUST NEVER AGAIN LET THIS HAPPEN.

h YES, IT WILL TAKE VIGILANCE BY THE PRESS, THE CONGRESS AND
THE COURTS.

h BUT, EVEN MORE, IT WILL TAKE GREATER RESPECT FOR THE LAW
BY ALL AMERICANS.

THERE IS NO EASY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF GROWING AND
PERVASIVE VIOLENT AND WHITE COLLAR CRIME IN AMERICA. h BUT *again*
AS BRANDEIS SO ELOQUENTLY STATED:

L "OUR GOVERNMENT IS THE POTENT, OMNIPRESENT TEACHER.

L FOR GOOD OR FOR EVIL IT TEACHES THE WHOLE PEOPLE BY
ITS EXAMPLE!"

L YES, GOVERNMENT MUST SET THE HIGHEST STANDARDS FOR ITS

OWN CONDUCT. UNLESS IT DOES, OUR DEMOCRACY WILL BE ENDANGERED.

Presidency - T. Roosevelt + Wilson

LET ME TURN TO ANOTHER IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE.

#2 L WE CANNOT SEEK DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AT HOME AND

ABANDON THESE PRINCIPLES ABROAD.

L THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO

PUT A PREMIUM ON THE SUPPORT OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS AS

A CENTRAL TENET OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

L I HAVE SEEN TOO MANY PRESIDENTS EMBRACE DICTATORS.

I HAVE SEEN TOO MANY PRESIDENTS COZY UP TO JUNTAS IN THE NAME
OF SECURITY AND EXPEDIENCY. [WE MUST LEARN THAT THERE CAN BE LITTLE
SECURITY IN THE WORLD IF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT BECOMES AN
ENDANGERED SPECIES. (*Less than 30*)

h THE UNITED STATES MUST AID AND SUPPORT THOSE PEOPLE AND NATIONS
WHO CHOOSE TO FORM GOVERNMENTS GUIDED BY DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES,
WHETHER THEY BE IN ISRAEL, IN GREECE, IN PORTUGAL OR IN AFRICA.

h WE CAN LOOK TO THE VERY RECENT PAST FOR A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW
ONE OF OUR GREAT LEADERS CHERISHED DEMOCRACY BEYOND OUR SHORES.

h THE GREAT AMERICAN PRESIDENT WHO FIRST RECOGNIZED THE STATE
OF ISRAEL, HARRY TRUMAN, KNEW THAT ISRAEL'S REBIRTH WAS THE
CREATION OF A DEMOCRACY AT A TIME WHEN DEMOCRACY WAS THREATENED.

~~JUST SAY THAT~~ TODAY, AS IN 1948, AMERICA'S SUPPORT OF
A DEMOCRATIC ISRAEL IS VITAL TO THE SECURITY OF THAT NATION
AND THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE IN THAT TROUBLED PART OF THE
WORLD.

OUR DEMOCRATIC HERITAGE IS SHARED BY ISRAEL. AMERICA'S
LOVE FOR FREEDOM IS A CORNERSTONE OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE.

WHETHER HERE IN AMERICA OR IN ISRAEL, WE MUST STAND FOR THE
PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF DEMOCRATIC VALUES.

THE ONLY EFFECTIVE WAY TO COMBAT THE TYRANNY OF COMMUNISM
AND THE TOTALITARIANISM OF THE "RIGHT" IS TO BATTLE FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES ABROAD. THE JEWISH COMMUNITY
HAS ALWAYS BEEN AWARE OF THE NEED FOR A MORE SENSITIVE APPROACH
TO PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

*Speak out on Intern moral Issues -
Repression in Soviet Union, Chile, India
-11- Korea and other dictatorial
States*

THE TIME HAS COME FOR MORAL VALUES TO PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN
OUR FOREIGN POLICY. UNTIL ^{we} THEY DO, WE WILL NOT GAIN THE SUPPORT

OF PEOPLES AROUND THE WORLD WHO ARE STRUGGLING FOR THEIR FREEDOM.

IN THE COMING WEEKS DURING THE COURSE OF AN ELECTION
CAMPAIGN I WANT THE CANDIDATES OF BOTH PARTIES TO TELL THE

AMERICAN PEOPLE HOW THEY WILL RESTORE OUR RESPECT FOR

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

*Speak up on the U.S.
Speak out against terrorism
Speak up for Soviet Jewry
Military*

BEYOND THE STRENGTH OF OUR ~~ARMIES~~, BEYOND THE WEALTH OF

OUR PEOPLE, BEYOND THE RICHNESS OF OUR LAND, THE MULTITUDES

AROUND THE WORLD WANT TO BELIEVE THAT WE WILL SUPPORT THOSE WHO

ARE STRUGGLING FOR BASIC HUMAN FREEDOMS. AN AMERICAN FOREIGN

POLICY WHICH DOES NOT CONVEY THIS COMMITMENT IS NOT ONLY

INEFFECTIVE, IT IS BANKRUPT.

h THERE IS A THIRD PRINCIPLE WHICH I BELIEVE TO BE OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO ALL AMERICANS:

#3 THERE CAN BE NO MEANINGFUL FREEDOM IN AMERICA WITHOUT FREEDOM FROM POVERTY, FREEDOM FROM HUNGER AND FREEDOM FROM UNEMPLOYMENT.

YOU AND I HAVE PLAYED A ROLE IN THE UNPRECEDENTED STRUGGLE OF THE PAST TWO DECADES TO SECURE EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL AMERICANS.

h WE HAVE MADE GAINS IN MANY AREAS; EQUAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS, EQUAL JOB OPPORTUNITY, NON-DISCRIMINATORY USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

h DESPITE HARD-WON GAINS IN CONGRESS AND THE COURTS, THE STRUGGLE FOR ERADICATION OF PREJUDICE AND BIGOTRY IN AMERICA IS NOT YET OVER.

As I HAVE SAID IN THE PAST: IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO ALLOW A
MAN OR WOMAN THE RIGHT TO SIT AT A LUNCH COUNTER IF THEY DON'T
HAVE THE MONEY IN THEIR POCKETS TO PAY FOR THE MEAL.

THE RIGHT TO FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF
OUR NATION IS THE BIRTHRIGHT OF EVERY AMERICAN. *- Good Morals
- Good Economics*

UNTIL WE GUARANTEE THIS FREEDOM ^{TO} OF ALL AMERICANS, WE CANNOT
CALL OURSELVES TRULY FREE.

I AM DISTURBED THAT TOO MANY AMERICANS ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT
GROWING POVERTY AMIDST AFFLUENCE.

I AM DISTURBED THAT WE SEEM TO BE READY TO ACCEPT LARGE
NUMBERS OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS AS A PERMANENT PART OF THE
ECONOMIC SCENE. - *youth unemployment*

h I AM DISTURBED THAT URBAN DECAY INCREASES AS CITIES FACE
RISING COSTS AND DECLINING REVENUE SOURCES.

h I AM DISTURBED THAT WELFARE ROLLS AND FOOD STAMPS BECOME
A WAY OF LIFE FOR EVER-GROWING NUMBERS OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS.

h AN AMERICA DIVIDED BETWEEN RICH AND POOR AND WHITE AND BLACK

IS IN TROUBLE h FREEDOM FOR THE COMFORTABLE CANNOT ENDURE

ALONGSIDE OF MISERY FOR OVER ONE QUARTER OF THE AMERICAN

POPULATION.

There is the lesson to be learned

h AMERICANS ARE FAST REACHING THE POINT WHEN THEY CAN NO

LONGER RUN AWAY FROM THE HORRIBLE NEGLECT OF THE POOR AND

THE UNDERPRIVILEGED AMONG US.

h NO SUBURB IS SAFE FROM VIOLENT CRIME.

↳ NO HOUSEHOLD BUDGET CAN ESCAPE THE GROWING TAX BURDEN TO
SUPPORT INCREASED SOCIAL COSTS.

↳ FEW CHILDREN CAN LONG AVOID BEING AFFECTED BY AN EDUCATION
SYSTEM WEIGHTED AGAINST THE POOR.

↳ THE ERA OF ESCAPE IS OVER ↳ THE TIME HAS COME TO MOBILIZE
THOSE IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT WHO WANT TO ERADICATE POVERTY
IN AMERICA ONCE AND FOR ALL.

↳ LET ME TURN TO ANOTHER FINAL PRINCIPLE:

#4 A FREE PEOPLE WHO REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR OWN
POLITICAL PROCESSES AND GOVERNMENT DO SO AT THEIR PERIL.

↳ DEMOCRATIC SELF-GOVERNMENT WILL BE THREATENED IN THE LONG RUN
UNLESS AMERICANS TAKE THE TIME AND EFFORT TO CHOOSE THEIR LEADERS
AND WORK TO MAKE GOVERNMENT A BETTER PROTECTOR OF THEIR RIGHTS AND
INTERESTS.

JUST LOOK AT THE ALARMING STATISTICS OF VOTER PARTICIPATION

IN OUR RECENT ELECTIONS:

-- In 1972, ~~WITH A CLEAR DIFFERENTIAL CHOICE~~, ONLY 55 PERCENT
OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS WENT TO THE POLLS. ⁶⁸ THIS MEANT THAT SIXTY-EIGHT
MILLION AMERICANS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE DID NOT DO SO.

-- IN THE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS OF 1974, ONLY 45 PERCENT
OF THE VOTING POPULATION BOTHERED TO GO TO THE POLLS.

AND, IN 1974, AMONG THE CRITICAL GROUP OF YOUNG VOTERS
WITH STILL MANY ELECTIONS AHEAD OF THEM, 63.6 PERCENT OF
18 TO 20-YEAR-OLDS DID NOT EVEN BOTHER TO REGISTER.

1976
Survey

~~IF AMERICANS THINK THAT THEY CAN FAIL TO VOTE IN SUCH LARGE~~
~~NUMBERS AND STILL INSURE THEMSELVES OF ABLE AND DEDICATED PUBLIC~~
~~SERVANTS THEY ARE DEAD WRONG.~~

↳ BUT THIS TREND OF NON-PARTICIPATION EXTENDS ALL ACROSS THE
FACE OF AMERICA -- FROM THE PTA AND THE TOWN COUNCIL, TO SERVING
ON THE FEDERAL BENCH AND IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

↳ IT IS TIME FOR AMERICANS TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE ABOUT
THEIR GOVERNMENT AND THEIR ROLE IN IT. ↳ GOVERNMENT IS NOT SOME
MONSTER APART FROM AND DETACHED FROM OUR LIVES. IT IS US --
OUR VALUES, OUR STRENGTHS AND OUR WEAKNESSES. !

↳ AS A NATION WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE. ↳ AMERICANS MUST
PARTICIPATE IN THIS COMMUNITY TO ACHIEVE COMMON GOALS.

IT IS OUR DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY AS CITIZENS. IF WE AS
AMERICANS DO NOT CARE ABOUT OUR COLLECTIVE POLITICAL DESTINY,
WE MUST ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR OWN IRRESPONSIBILITY.

I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT DEMOCRACY IS SEVERELY WEAKENED
IF THE MANY ARE GOVERNED BY THE VOTES OF THE FEW.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE TASK OF PRESERVING AMERICA'S
DEMOCRACY CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION
WHICH ARE SO PLENTIFUL IN OUR NATION.

WE HAVE THE INNER STRENGTH AND MORAL COURAGE TO OVERCOME
MOMENTARY SETBACKS.

AMERICA IS STILL A YOUNG COUNTRY.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE BUILDERS.

THEY ARE RESTLESS. THEY ARE ENERGETIC. THEY ARE IDEALISTS
EAGER TO PUT THEIR IDEALS TO THE TEST.

LET US NOT FORGET THAT WE ARE THE MOST HETEROGENEOUS MIXTURE
OF RACES, RELIGIONS AND NATIONALITIES EVER TO COEXIST PEACEFULLY
UNDER THE TENT OF DEMOCRACY.

*a difficult task
a challenge of spirit*

AND WE ARE NOW THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY CELEBRATING TWO
CENTURES OF FREEDOM.

THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT OUR THIRD CENTURY
CAN BE ONE OF freedom AND prosperity FOR ALL AMERICANS. *expanded a better life*

*Promised
-
Performance*

THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT AMERICANS CAN MAKE
GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE STRUGGLE TO ERADICATE INJUSTICE,
HUNGER AND POVERTY WHEREVER THEY ARE FOUND.

I believe -
AMERICA'S FUTURE IS A BRIGHT ONE. AS THE POET AND SCHOLAR,
CARL SANDBURG, SO ELOQUENTLY SPOKE:

"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..."

[Hand-drawn wavy line]

I KNOW THAT THE MEN AND WOMEN OF WILL AND VISION HERE THIS
EVENING ARE READY TO JOIN HANDS FOR THE KIND OF AMERICA
WHICH IS IN OUR HOPES AND DREAMS.

#

7 September 1976

MEMORANDUM

FOR: SENATOR

FROM: DAN

You are to deliver the keynote address at the B'nai B'rith convention. Ford was to have delivered this speech but is appearing tomorrow. Jimmy Carter is also speaking at the Convention.

You will be introduced by Phil Klutznick from Chicago, a past president of B'nai B'rith. The present President of the organization is David Blumberg from Knoxville, Tenn. Dr. William Wexler is the immediate past president.

A large segment of your speech was drawn from a speech that was never delivered in New York on May 6. I found it by accident when I was looking for material. It is the type of speech which weaves together both domestic material and international issues of interest to this audience, i.e., Israel and human rights. I understand that Carter is going to talk exclusively on human rights. I don't believe that your speech and his will overlap seriously.



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