

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
NATIONAL CONVENTION ON YOUNG DEMOCRATS

Miami, Florida

July 28, 1977

I regret that due to the heavy legislative schedule of the Senate I am unable to be with you in person, tonight. However, I do welcome this opportunity and this means to at least be with you in spirit.

It is a pleasure to address my Democratic friends. I generally don't make much distinction between young, middle-aged and old Democrats. I don't pay much attention to age.

I am reminded of what my good friend Adlai Stevenson used to say:

"The Republican Party is the party which makes even its young men seem old. The Democratic Party is the party which makes even its old seem young."

1976 was an eventful year for this nation. We celebrated the 200th birthday of our nation and ended eight years of Republican reign in the White House.

Last year, we honored the daring, pioneering spirit of those early Americans who launched our bold experiment in democracy.

We expressed our praise and admiration for those who defied the established limits of their time, cast aside the comfortable rhetoric of the period, and risked creation of a new political order.

As a nation, we can be justly proud of our accomplishments; among them, the great contributions we have made in the struggle for social justice and human dignity.

And we are off to a good start as we launch into the first year of our third century as the world's oldest democracy. It is appropriate that we launch our third century with a Democrat in the White House.

Once again we are doing battle on behalf of progress for all Americans.

Once again we are on track and the Executive and Legislative branches of this government are working together for the benefit of all the people.

We no longer have government by veto. Oh, we have our disagreements with the President. But once again we are debating and discussing the issues. And when it is all over, we accept the decision of our system and move on to other things.

Yet, most important, confidence in our government has been restored. During the Nixon-Ford years there was a widespread belief among our people that this government wasn't functioning and wasn't responding to their concerns.

Now, there is hope once again in America. Now, there is a sense of challenge within us. Now, there is a feeling that the future provides tremendous opportunities for fulfilling the dreams of our founders.

We are Democrats because we all have certain traits in common.

We believe we can bring about a new day in America.

We believe we can give our people hope.

And we believe we can give them solid progress.

We care. We dare to pioneer. And we are willing to face the challenges and devise creative and workable solutions.

Democrats always have joined together because we share a vision of the future for America. Republicans have banded together in the hope that somehow, someday, they could prevent the future from arriving. It is this inherent philosophy that sets the two parties apart.

The words of Victor Hugo hold special meaning for us all as we celebrate this first year of our third century. He said:

"The future has several names. For the weak it is impossible. For the faint-hearted it is the unknown. For the thoughtful and valiant, it is ideal. The challenge is urgent. The task is large. The time is now."

And I would just add that with this new era of national leadership once again we will defy the established limits of our time, cast aside the comfortable rhetoric of a period just past, and get on with the work of completing the struggle for social justice and human dignity here and abroad.

I thank you and wish you the best as you gather at your national convention and begin addressing the tasks at hand.

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