

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
TO THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION
NOMINATING SENATOR WALTER F. MONDALE
FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
NEW YORK CITY, JULY 15, 1976

Madame Chairman, fellow Delegates, fellow Democrats and fellow citizens: I am privileged to address this Convention for a second time.

Tuesday night I said to you that "America looks to new leaders who can make our country both dynamic and just, who have a sense of compassion, but also a dedication to individual initiative -- leaders who can inspire and are inspired by our history, who sense that our greatness lies in the future."

Last night this Convention nominated, for the office of President, Governor Jimmy Carter -- a new leader who fulfills these standards.

This evening I am privileged -- and I am most happy, I am very happy -- to place in nomination for the office of Vice President of the United States another new leader with compassion, initiative and inspiration: my colleague in the Senate, my personal friend, and a truly good and great American -- Senator Walter Mondale of Minnesota.

I want to tell you about this man. You know his public record. You know that he has served in the U. S. Senate for 12 years, and that he served as Attorney General of Minnesota for four years. He was a brilliant student and a respected lawyer. All of this you know -- it is in the printed record.

But let me tell you about the man behind the record.

He is a family man, blessed with a gifted and charming wife and three children. He was reared in rural Minnesota. He received his education in the public schools, at Macalester College and at the University of Minnesota. He served his country in the U. S. Army.

Twenty-eight years ago, a young college student volunteered to help me with my first Senate campaign. He told me that he wanted to be involved in public life. Then, as now, he had a deep concern for the needs of people -- and he went to work and demonstrated those qualities of leadership which have become so evident in recent years.

His name was Walter Mondale.

Since 1948, Walter Mondale has used his talents and his energy, and has gained the wisdom and experience which have produced a truly great American.

Muriel and I have a special relationship with Fritz and Joan Mondale. We share a friendship which has spanned our political lives. And it is only in the intimacy of friendship that you discover the real qualities of another's character.

I discovered that Fritz Mondale is a man of compassion and concern, sensitive to people and their needs, brilliant of mind and warm of heart. He is fair and firm, yet tempered by a sense of humor and purpose.

He has been determined, throughout his life, to make a difference in the life of others. And he has translated that concern and compassion into social and political action.

That is why his name is identified with family life, child care, education, health, human rights, a clean environment, jobs and income, aid to the handicapped and care and concern for the elderly.

To Senator Walter Mondale, politics is not a job. It is a public service. He did not learn his politics only in the classroom. He learned it from a wonderful father and mother, from his friends, and from his own life's experiences.

Fritz Mondale has a broad understanding of our nation's character. He knows what the family farmer has to face, and he understands the importance of American agriculture, because he comes from rural America.

He knows the problems and the promise of urban America, because during his years in higher education, in law practice and State government, he lived and worked in a major urban area.

And later on, in the Senate, he served with distinction on the committee concerned with urban life.

He knows America and its people. He has traveled throughout this nation, visiting Native Americans on Indian reservations, black families in urban ghettos, workers in factories and in their neighborhoods, Mexican Americans in migrant camps and fields, the individual businessman on Main Street and the corporate leaders of industry and finance.

Walter Mondale is not a man of limited perspective. He sees all of America. And I know this man as one who will give of himself -- body, mind and heart -- to the common good.

I know that he is a good Democrat -- and, even more significantly, a good citizen. And I know that he will add strength to the Democratic ticket in 1976.

But I also know that he will give strength to our beloved America. And that he will be a source of strength to our next President, Jimmy Carter. He will be loyal and he will be frank. He will be true to himself and his convictions. He will dedicate himself to the protection of people's rights and liberties.

As a young Attorney General, he fought for the consumers. As a U. S. Senator, he has fearlessly and vigorously investigated the abuses and violations of law by the Federal government intelligence and police agencies.

And yet he is a man of the law who believes in fair and vigorous law enforcement and the protection of people's rights and property.

Fritz Mondale is a man who is good and fair, decent and honorable. I know him as a man who has the courage of his convictions. I know that he has a gift for separating what will work from what won't. He is not only anxious to persuade, but he is willing to learn. He is blessed with energy, vitality and creativity, a man of ideals and practicality.

I know that you will join me in thanking and congratulating Governor Carter for recommending to this Convention, as our candidate for Vice President, Senator Walter Mondale of Minnesota.

The American people are looking for leaders who will once again restore their faith and trust in their institutions.

Our country suffers from a distrust of government, brought about by corruption, deception, and the abuse of power, and it needs healing and cleansing.

This Convention will give to the American people two men who can heal and cleanse this nation -- who are decent, moral and honest, but who are also qualified to govern in the public interest and for the common good.

The offices of President and Vice President must set a moral and ethical standard for the nation. And before we can move on all the tasks that we face, we must restore the confidence of the people in the institutions of government.

No set of economic policies and no legislative program will be effective until the people once again believe that those who govern and those who lead are people of honesty and integrity.

Then, and only then, will we be able to put our people back to work, care for the sick and needy, revitalize our cities and take care of our country.

Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale -- by their character, experience and ability -- can bring our nation once again to that sense of trust and confidence, of faith and hope, which are so essential for the success of representative government.

And finally, let me say that a Carter-Mondale ticket has a very special meaning for America.

This ticket means more than the vital, new leadership which it offers the nation.

It means more than the joining of two young men of high principle and great promise.

And it means even more than giving the American people a government of compassion and courage.

A Carter-Mondale ticket marks a significant turning-point in the political and social history of our Republic.

A little more than one hundred years ago, the Union was torn asunder by a tragic, violent conflict -- a conflict whose scars still remain in our national life.

But a Carter-Mondale ticket, under the Democratic banner, represents the final unification of the North and South. It represents the end of an epoch which, all too often, has set one region of this great nation against another.

But with this ticket, the Democratic Party is saying to America: let us end the bitterness and antagonism between North and South which has been aggravated by the forces of history.

And let us unite this nation -- from the Canadian border to the Rio Grande, from the Golden Gate to the banks of the Potomac -- in the firm belief that we can build a better America for all of our people.

I am, therefore, proud to nominate Senator Walter F. Mondale to be the Democratic candidate -- and the next Vice President of the United States.



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