

001985

Partial Text of Remarks of
THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Rapid City, S.D.
November 11, 1959

What are the three challenges before the nation?

The three challenges before any political party, and
particularly the one that I am privileged to represent

today are:

No. 1. the first challenge is to fulfill our true
and wholehearted economic potential.

No. 2. Achievement of full dignity, freedom and
justice for every American.

And No. 3: The winning of just and enduring peace.

These are the three great challenges before America
and its political leadership in the months to come.

Now, No. 1: you can't fulfill your economic
potential if you have a government that is wedded to
economic and monetary policies that act like a brake on
the economy.

No Go
Go Slow

Agree
to
Regulatory
Interest

Sandler Indian Labor!!

Interest!

No Go - Go Slow - Veto

America's economy has lagged. It has been designed
this way by the economic architects of this Administration.
You can't realize your full economic potential when you
have in Washington an Administration that is symbolized
by these words: No-go, go slow, not now, veto, injunction,
administration. It can't be done. We can't realize our
full economic potential when people are being conditioned
by public leaders to accept three and a half million to
four million unemployed as a "normal cushion" in the work
force.

An Administration that ~~that~~ shows so little concern
about the waste of manpower, the waste of talent and skill,
~~as this Administration does~~ is indeed a no-go, go-slow
Administration.

And you can't have full employment by just indulging
in scare words, trying to frighten the American people out
of their mission of the fulfillment of our economic potential.

I do not have the time to tell you the toll that this Administration has taken from this economy. Ten million man years of lost work! Billions of dollars of lost production! Billions of dollars of lost public revenue! Why? Because it seems to be more afraid of so-called inflation (which it generates by its own policies) than it is courageous and fearless in meeting the challenge of economic competition from the Soviet Union and from other nations abroad.

#

Cost

I said the second objective must be to achieve full dignity, freedom and justice for every American, and I mean just that. The best thing that we can do in America today to really protect our strength in this world, the greatest thing that we could do for freedom and peace, is to set an example of social and economic and political conduct that would be the envy of the world.

Set Example!

The way we treat each other is more impressive than the words we say to others. The way we treat our own minorities, the way we regard our old people, is the real test

of American leadership and American morale.

When I say to you that we need to achieve full dignity, freedom and justice for every American, I have some specifics in mind. Let me say this to you: You can just about tell the kind of a government you have, and what its philosophy is, by the way it treats three groups in our society -- the young, the children who are in the dawn of life; the elderly who are in the shadows of life, or the twilight of life; and the handicapped, the disabled and the sick who are in the storm clouds of life.

young
old
Handicapped

I say to you that this Administration is guilty of callous neglect of all three.

It refuses to balance the moral budget as it worships the fiscal budget.

Moral Budget

Federal aid to schools? The Administration says:

"We can't afford it." When every mother and father and every citizen in this nation knows that the lack of proper education in America is one of our weaknesses. It may be the Achilles heel in the struggle to come.

Brannan

What about our elderly people? The same Administration that says you can't expect to get bonds sold unless you raise interest is the same Administration that says to every grandmother and grandfather in America: " You will have to wait."

A million two hundred thousand widows in this country under social security getting less than \$56 a month, and this Administration has the unmitigated gall to say that \$56 is adequate and that an increase in inflationary.

Now, then, that other area of human dignity, Civil Rights. Civil Rights is nothing more than citizenship rights. That is all. It is on civil rights, constitutional rights and American rights and natural rights and God-given rights, that we either nobly win or lose the moral and spiritual battle being waged in this world today.

Civil
Rts

I hope that every person in this hall will heed my words: even if the so-called subject of civil rights was not morally and politically right -- and it is -- and even if one didn't want to justify this on the basis of ethics and morality, I remind this audience that the population centers of the world that represent power, represent victory represent survival for us, that those population centers are people of so-called color.

Peace!!!

Now, in conclusion, the final of our great challenges - and I believe this is the greatest of them all -- is the winning of a just and enduring peace. Peace is not passive. Peace is active. Peace is not appeasement. Peace is strength.

It has become impossible, literally, for a conservative government to understand people and the social forces that are at work in this world.

They can't understand this revolution of rising expectations in Asia, Africa and Latin-America. The

Peace!!!

Conservative Govt

Conservative Govt

001991

conservatives understand things, not people. ⁰⁰¹⁹⁹¹ They never
 were able to identify themselves with the hopes and
 aspirations of people ~~even~~ here in America.

There can be no doubt about it that the number one
 problem is the securing of a just and enduring peace. I
 remind you; that it is not easy and it is going to require
 an understanding of the world in which we live. It is
 going to require a liberal program at home so that we have
 a sensible foreign policy abroad. You cannot treat Americans
 one way and expect the people abroad to think they are
 going to be treated another way.

So I lay down to you what I think are certain
 effective measures to be taken. First of all, high on the
 agenda should be with American initiative the seeking of a
 responsible program of disarmament under international
inspection. Yes, so that we can convert our tools into
 the instruments of peace, so that we can release the energies
 of man-kind in constructive work.

DISARM

Nuclear

Stgth UN - World Court!
Econ Develop

Charter
 of
 Hope!

I have the feeling that this audience senses
with me some of the things that we might do instead of
crying about this God-given abundance of food and fiber.
My friends, in a world where half of humanity is hungry,
let's translate food and fiber surpluses into food and
fiber power for peace and for people and for progress
throughout the world.

Food

Food

And it can be done: food for peace and freedom.
Imagine what old Khrushchev would be doing if he had
enough wheat today for 60 billion loaves of bread.
We have that much! And the Biblical stories of the
loaves and fishes can be applied today throughout all
this world. There are people yearning for one good
meal as America wallows in its so-called surpluses.

60
Billion
Loaves
Milk

001993
I tell you, my friends, there can be no peace

in a world of the hungry. There can be no peace in a world of the sick -- and there are more people today that are sick than are well. And here is America, blessed with the greatest medical science that the world has ever known, failing to demonstrate what we mean by our kind of democracy by mobilizing the health resources, the medical research, by expanding our programs of medical care not only here but abroad in conjunction and cooperation with others, in a mighty attack upon man's ancient enemy of disease.

Medicine!

We should proclaim to the world that we are prepared to launch a mighty war against poverty wherever it may be, against disease and destitution, and that we are prepared to do our level best to give to mankind enlightenment, to obliterate from the face of this earth illiteracy, that we are prepared to be our brother's keeper.

Edna



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org