

REMARKS BY HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, STATE CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR OF THE DEMOCRATIC FARMER LABOR PARTY. POLITICAL RALLY, RED WING, MINNESOTA, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1944.

The American people are witnessing and being involved in a political campaign which for downright deception and political chicanery has had no equal since the critical election of 1864. Prominent commentators and political analysts have stated on many occasions that if one but substituted the name of Roosevelt for Lincoln, the same sort of partisan tirade which was levelled against the great emancipator is now being used against the great commander-in-chief.

Here in the First Congressional District you have been subjected to the double-talk and rubber words of a Chicago Tribune stooge and a Herbert Hoover Charlie McCarthy.---Your present congressman August H. Andresen. Let us examine the record of the incumbent congressman. Let's examine the words he has used in his frantic attempts to cover up his misrepresentation of this past decade. Climbing on the Dewey scooter, he has garbled the facts and so mis-stated the evidence that he has finally convinced himself that he, too, is the great prosecutor searching out new criminals and new clients.

Following the canned speech formula of the Republican orators, Congressman Andresen spreads a smoke screen of confusion and distortion typical of Herr Goebbels. I ask the congressman to prove his charge that the fabulous sum of \$35,000 has been pored into his opponent's campaign fund by the CIO Political Action Committee. The congressman knows this is a damnable lie. Andresen knows that not one cent of financial assistance has been received by Andrew Meldahl and the Democratic Farmer Labor Party of the First Congressional District from the Political Action Committee. Congressman Andresen knows that the issue in the First Congressional District is not Sidney Hillman but rather that the issue is the utter incompetency, the deplorable misrepresentation, the isolationism, the reactionaryism, and the defeatism of his own political record. Possibly we should turn the tables on the congressman. Where does he receive his money for campaign purposes? He has said that he himself has spent an amount

equal to that which he attributes to the P.A.C. as having spent in the First District. Yes, Mr. Andresen, you stated at Northfield, Minnesota, to a group of young students from Carlton College that the Political Action Committee simply must have put \$35,000 into this campaign since you had had to spend that much yourself. I ask you -- where did you get it? Could it be that you are the representative of the packing interests? Could it be that you represent the commercial dairy and big business interests in your district? Your votes would indicate such an allegiance. Your record in congress is one that would lead any person to believe that you are ~~XXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ not interested in the independent farmer or the small business man. Then, Mr. Andresen, who is it that has been conducting the smear campaign? Who is it that shouts communism and talks about personalities? Are you not the one that has instituted this sort of political attack?

The record of Congressman August Andresen is a sad page in American history. A studious examination of the voting record of the 435 congressmen in the United States Congress reveals that Mr. Andresen of the First Congressional District is second to none in his devotion to isolationism, in his adherence to reactionary economics, in his lack of concern for the future of American agriculture and in his refusal to grasp the great international realities of our time. No amount of double talk, no amount of misquotation, no barrage of confusion can erase the vile voting record of the congressman from this district. Out of 50 important bills for the American people since 1936, Congressman Andresen has voted right on only five. Yes, I say right on only five ~~xxx~~ -- using the term right in view of the pronouncements of his own chosen candidate for President, Thomas Dewey. What sort of a congressman does Minnesota have who voted wrong on all fifteen pieces of war legislation? Yes, he voted against arming our merchant ships when Hitlerite Germany was sinking them three miles from our shore line. He voted against conscription. He voted against extension of the draft but four months before Pearl Harbor. Andresen voted against Lend-Lease. He voted against price control. He tried to deny our soldiers the right of the use of



the ballot. He voted against soldier mustering-out payment provisions. He voted against adequate appropriations for the development of our air force. He voted against Guam Harbor improvements and in his love for big business and special privilege, he voted against the right of our government to seize the property of companies refusing to convert to arms production. Here is a bill that had been endorsed by the American Legion in all of its conventions since its organization, but Congressman Andresen saw fit to defy the wills and wishes of the servicemen of World War I.

I say quite candidly that had Goering himself been a congressman in the United States Congress, he could not have ~~xxx~~ aided Hitler more than the votes of Andresen. Had the jackal Mussolini held the seat in Congress, his record could not have been blacker than that of August Andresen. Had the American people had to rely on the votes of the congressman of this district, we would have lost this war. We would have been overrun by the barbarian hordes of Nazism and the militaristic fanatics of Japan.

Yes, Mr. Andresen, you may be able to do personal favors for your constituents. You may answer your volume of correspondence, but we are not sending people to congress to be errand boys or stenographers. The America of 1944 needs men of vision, men of courage and men of ability in the congressional halls. Congressman Andresen, you represent a rich and abundant and prosperous section of this great state of Minnesota. You come from an agricultural region, the bread basket of the middle west. You were elected to represent the interests of your constituents, rich and poor, business and labor, professional and unskilled. How do you justify your voting record against the farmer, against labor and against the general welfare of your district?

Your candidate for president, Thomas Dewey, says he believes in the agricultural adjustment program -- yet, you, on October 9, 1940 voted against it. You have voted against crop insurance. You have voted against incentive payments so necessary for stimulating agricultural production. You have voted to ruin our soil by your refusal to support the Soil Conservation Bill on June 23, 1943. You have voted against farm security legislation. The same farm security legislation which made possible an increase in our agricultural production of over 50% of all of the increased ~~farmers~~ farm production in this war effort. You voted against reciprocal trade agreements. Yes, the same trade agreements which many of your Republican colleagues praised and supported. You voted against the farm relief bill on December 10, 1937, a bill designed to save and re-establish thousands of independent farm owners. What sort of a farm record do you call this?

Yes, Mr. Andresen, if your votes on farm legislation had become the laws of this land, the farmers of the First District would have lost a total of \$3,981,680 in direct payments and \$3,060,000 in loans during only the last two years. If your votes had become laws, there would be no Federal Crop Insurance to guarantee against losses from natural causes on the war crops of wheat and cotton and other important farm products. If your votes had become laws, the dairy interests of southern Minnesota would have had to pay twice the amount for their feed and grain. You wanted government held wheat to lie idle and unused in government granaries. How do you justify this sort of action?

Mr. Andresen, do you know that there are thousands of members of organized labor in your district -- members of organizee labor who because of their income can purchase the agricultural products of the farmers? Your vote on labor legislation is typical of an 18th century reactionary. You have voted against the Wage and Hour Law, placing a ceiling under wages. You have voted to drastically amend the Wagner Act so as to deny labor the legitimate right of collective bargaining. You voted for legislation which would



classify unions and union members as racketeers and gangsters. You have harangued and maligned American labor not only by your votes but by your words and deeds. Your record in congress on labor legislation is one which brings shame to the Republican party and one which, if Mr. Dewey, your candidate, is sincere, he would repudiate and denounce.

In that great field of legislation which is designed for the general welfare, you have been as wrong and as thoughtless in the interests of your country as you were in foreign policy, in labor legislation and in farm programs. With problems of slums and delinquency upon us, with our cities over-crowded and with unemployment upon us, you voted against a program of Federal Housing. I Not only were you against Federal Housing, but you also voted to destroy the Home Owners Loan Corporation, a government agency that did more to salvage the equity and property rights of individual home owners than any single piece of Federal legislation. You have voted against the Civilian Conservation Corps. You would have denied our government the administrative efficiency that is so necessary in these modern times when you voted against the Re-Organization Act of 1937. And to top it all off, you lent your influence and you gave your vote to the continuation of the Dies Committee, a committee that has spent American taxpayers' money in hunting down Shirley Temples and Parlor Pinks.

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