

Address by Hubert H. Humphrey, Jr., state campaign director for the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, prepared for delivery Friday, November 3, 1944, over KYSM, Mankato.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In this 1944 presidential campaign the nation has witnessed one of the most unusual political developments in the history of the nation.

The nation has witnessed a candidate for the highest office in the land presenting to the public as facts statements which every informed person knows to be nothing more than untruthful and unfounded assertions. *half truths*

As we enter the last hours of this campaign we find that the Republican party has based its campaign solely upon three falsehoods which it has repeated again...and again...and again.

These assertions are more than falsehoods. They are libels. They are libels upon the good and true citizens of America.

The first of these falsehoods is that President Roosevelt is the tool of the Communist party. This statement is almost beneath an answer, but it has been repeated so often and so loudly, that it is time that the falsehood be answered once and for all.

A communist, my friends, is a person who believes in ~~the destruction of the capitalist system in Russia first and the United States second~~ the destruction of the capitalist system. Now, in the name of common decency, let's be honest with ourselves.

Was President Roosevelt a communist when he saved the banks

of America-- the banks that are the very heart of our capitalistic system?

Was President Roosevelt a communist when he ~~saved small and large business-- and~~ gave to American business ^{large and small} a new lease ~~an~~ life ~~—~~ ^{when} and save American business from chaos and collapse?

Was President Roosevelt a communist when he saved the homes of America-- when he established the Home Owners Loan Corporation ~~in~~ which was aimed as much at saving the banks as the homes?

Was President Roosevelt a communist when he saved the farms of America, when he raised farm income to ~~parity~~ parity with city incomes, when he cut farm debts, interest rates, and farm taxes?

Was President Roosevelt a communist when he reclaimed millions of acres of fertile ~~land~~ land, when he reforested the nation, when he built new hard roads for the farmers?

Was President Roosevelt a communist when he established the Rural Electrification System which brought electrification to millions of American farms?

When Thomas Dewey makes such an outrageous charge against our commander-in-chief as he has done repeatedly during this campaign ~~he sinks~~ ^{he earns the} ~~every~~ ^{every} ~~beneath~~ contempt of ~~the~~ right-thinking American.

The second accusation that Thomas Dewey brings against the President is that the President is ~~attempting to~~ planning to keep our men and women in the armed services longer than is necessary.

Were it not for the continued repetition of this falsehood, it would be again unnecessary ~~to~~ to dignify it with any kind of statement in reply.

But it has been voiced so repeatedly that it is necessary ~~that~~

here again ^{to} set the record straight.

Before Thomas Dewey ever made this assertion it was announced by President Roosevelt that an orderly plan of demobilization based upon the most equitable possible terms had been worked out-- and that the plan of demobilization had been worked out with the co-operation and understanding of the men and women in service themselves.

On this score, ladies and gentlemen, one cannot be too severe in his condemnation of Thomas ~~Ex~~ Dewey for his campaign tactics.

This is the technique of the "big lie"-- the technique that ~~Hitler~~ Hitler so successfully used in his coming to power. But it is more than that; it is a cruel and inhuman device for planting fears and doubts in the minds of the mothers and fathers, wives and sweethearts of our fighting men.

Is it not enough that our men are fighting on distant lands without having their parents at home listening to a syrupy voice over the air-lanes telling them that their sons and daughters ~~are~~ will be ~~being~~ kept in the service longer than is necessary.

In this connection, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to mention only briefly what the defeat of President Roosevelt will mean to our fighting men and women.

Our armed forces today stand ready to vote for President Roosevelt by an overwhelming majority-- estimated as high as 70 per cent.

What a cruel blow to their morale should their commander-in-chief be defeated.

What aid and comfort to the enemy would his defeat be.

And who can say how many days, or weeks, or months, the defeat of President Roosevelt would prolong the final winning of this war.

And then there is a third falsehood-- so ~~xxx~~ blantly untrue, so colossally false that even ~~xxxx~~ the Republican press is shying away from too much emphasis on this point. This is the ~~xx~~ preposterous falsehood~~x~~ that President Roosevelt caused the depression.

If there is any ~~group~~ section of our population that should recognize this statement as the falsehood that it is, certainly that section is our farmers.

Because the farmers of America know ~~thatxxxx1929,xxx~~ what ~~theexpessxxxthe~~ their situation was ~~xxxx~~ in that disastrous year of ~~1929x~~ 1932.

Permit me to recite a few brief facts that tell the whole story and give the full lie to Thomas Dewey's absurd falsehood:

In 1929, at the peak of the Harding-Coolidge-Hoover "boom," the net income of American farmers was less than \$7,000,000,000.

By 1932, Hoover policies-- or want of policies-- had cut it down to \$2 billion dollars.

Between 1932 and 1939--- even before the war--- our farm income doubled under the Democratic Recovery Program.

By 1943, the Democratic Recovery program, and program for winning the war, boosted farm income to \$14,000,000,000.

What kind of nonsense is this-- the Roosevelt depression.

Thomas Dewey is ~~xxx~~ one of two things: He is either the most colossally ignorant man who ever ran for President or he is the most unscrupulous.~~xxx~~

~~Andxxxxxxx~~ And then there is ~~x~~ another falsehood-- equal to if not ~~great~~ greater than these other falsehoods-- and this is the ~~xxx~~ falsehood repeated again and again and again that President Roosevelt did not prepare our nation for war.

Let's examine that for a moment.

So it was Roosevelt who didn't take steps to ^{protect} ~~prevent~~ our country.

Here is what happened in Congress when President Roosevelt submitted legislation aimed at defending our country.

In 1938 he recommended the building of ^{the} aircraft carrier Hornet, and the cruisers Cleveland and Columbia. ^{Democratic} The vote was ~~Democrats~~ in the Senate ~~52 to 9 for~~; ~~the Republicans~~ in the house, 252 to 35. And on the Republican side, they were 75 per cent against.

In 1939 the President recommended the fortification of Guam. Again the Democrats were overwhelmingly in favor of it, and the Republicans voted 90 per cent against.

In 1939 the President recommended the lifting of the arms embargo. Again the story was the same. In the House of Representatives Democrats voted 222 to 29 for it, and Republicans were 85% against.

In 1940 the President recommended establishment of Selective Service. Again the Democrats ~~were overwhelmingly in favor~~ voted 211 to 33 ^{in favor} in the House of Representatives, and the ^{Republicans} ~~Democrats~~ voted 112 to 52 against it.

Then a year later the President recommended extension of Selective Service. The vote in the house was: Democrats-- 182 to 65 in favor; Republicans-- 21 to 133 against.

In 1941 the President recommended lend-lease. Lend-lease was voted by Congress as followed: Democrats-- 236 to 25 for; Republicans-- 135 to 24 ~~against~~.

And, ladies and gentlemen, mark this following statement well.

When lend-lease was under consideration in Congress a young man, then aspiring to become governor of the state of New York, made a very interesting public statement-- and I might say one of very few he ever made.

This young man-- the same man who today aspires to become president and who today ~~yells~~ cries so loudly that President Roosevelt did not prepare our nation-- said in 1941, as follows:

"The passage of lend-lease will mean the end of democratic government in America."

Now, ladies and gentlemen, ^{-ask again} what kind of nonsense is this, ~~I ask again.~~

We in America expect our candidates for President to speak at least the truth. They can be, as Thomas Dewey is, unimaginative and without the necessary qualities of leadership, and the American people can forgive. They can be wholly unsuitable for the job of President, and they ~~we~~ should still be entitled to be heard.

But when a candidate for the highest office in the land repeats ~~sa~~ again and again and again statements that he ~~a~~ knows to be ~~saxskandax~~ outright falsehoods, then we are in real danger of weakening our democratic system.

I wish to say to the farmers who may be listening to me that they should take another look at the Republican farm record.

No matter how you turn it, it's the same sordid picture.

Republicans let farmers debts pile up...and did nothing about it.

Three republican administrations let farm prices and farm incomes fall out of sight--- and did nothing about it.

Three republican administrations let millions of acres of soil go to waste and did nothing about it.

Three republican administrations let farmers go bankrupt... and did nothing about it.

That's ~~xx~~ the record of ~~x~~ republican administration.

And who ~~xxxxxx~~ says that it cannot happen again, if the Republicans have their way.

What's the Democratic record?

The war-time production records are the answer.

All The American farmer wanted was help from the government to get back on his feet.

Under the Democratic administration, he has had his farm income restored. Now he is producing all the food and materials demanded of him to meet the war effort.

Three Republican administrations bungled the farm program. That is not political talk. Just turn back and ~~xxxx~~ look over your own farm.

The American farmer must have his government working for him, not against him. So his choice is clear. American farmers must choose between:

A republican administration that ~~looks after xxx~~ believes depressions are an act of providence and does nothing about them.

Or a democratic administration that believes in prosperity for all, that believes in the American farmer, and that has proved it knows how to protect the farmer's every interest.

On November 7 the farmers of America, and, yes, the people of America, will vote to re-elect ~~Frank~~ as President of

The United States - Franklin D. Roosevelt



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