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AM PAPERS

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BRIEF OF SPEECH BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY AT JEFFERSON-JACKSON DAY
DINNER, DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

In his first inaugural address, Thomas Jefferson listed the vital principle of republics as "Absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority." Thomas Jefferson was a true democrat. He recognized the crucial necessity of majority rule, at the same time that he would protect minorities in their rights.

Andrew Jackson cherished the principle of never compromising vital issues. One lost friends, ~~z~~ he thought, and never appeased enemies.

Our great Presidents of the past -- Jefferson, Jackson, Wilson, and Franklin Roosevelt were driven by a fundamental belief in the rights of the common man, the people. Each of them confronted and solved situations of crisis, for which we pay homage to them today. Each of them drew strength from his closeness to the people. Each of them achieved greatness from his ability to interpret the people's will and his ability to withstand a stubborn minority seeking to obstruct the people's will.

President Truman has already joined that list of great men. Our great President confronted one crisis in November. He went to the people and drew strength and confidence from them.

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A few weeks ago it was evident that a minority of the United States Senate stubbornly resolved to obstruct the program of our Party and our President. That challenge, the challenge to the ideals of a man whose heritage was Jackson's equalitarianism and Jefferson's American dream, only invoked the wrath of President Truman. He stood firmly. He brooked no compromise. Our President will go down in history with Jackson and Jefferson, with Wilson and Roosevelt as a man who rose to the challenge of events, who understood the people, and who instinctively responded to their will.

We are met with a critical situation today in the Senate of the United States. Our program, the Fair Deal program of the Democratic Party, is in danger of being aborted. A minority of Southern Democrats has again combined with the core of the Republican Party to defeat the civil rights for which the people voted overwhelmingly on November 2. This unholy alliance has already defied the President and the people on several counts. It has voted to weaken rent control. It is attempting to bind the President's hands in his appointments. It has filibustered and choked human rights. Where will it stop its encroachment?

To Jefferson it was axiomatic that where the citizens have no right to control the government the result is a society of wolves ruling over sheep.

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Our citizens have a right to control their government, but the control is wrested from them, I tell you frankly the wolves are at our door. They are ready to devour the Fair Deal. The majority of Republicans in the Senate of the United States who thrust upon us a compromise of no honor have scarcely taken a sidelong glance at the platform they passed in convention last June. They will not be held to campaign pledges. They will not honor their promise that civil rights would be passed in the 81st Congress. There are a few, yess, who issue Cassandra-like warnings, to their party, but they go unheard. Their colleagues unashamedly compromise themselves and revise the Senate rules so that it will be almost impossible to get a semblance of civil rights passed in the Congress of the United States.

There is an order of events that must take place. The civil rights of every citizen in the South need to be established before we can rid ourselves of the southern protagonists of white supremacy. Only when every adult person in the South can go to the polls and vote can we work in the United States Senate with the real representatives of the South. Then how do we get civil rights first? By replacing those Republicans of the north, who would sell out a nation for a mess of political pottage!

We met one crisis in November, 1948 by going to the people and listening to them and talking to them. And we will do it again!

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*{Democratic Rally}
{Enthusiastic}*

*A - Republicans so stuffy -
✓ We have Fun -*

We will ask the American people to unseat those who are responsible for the debacle in the Senate today!

*Party
organization*

The Democratic Party organization in every state needs to be alerted and organized for the job. The Democratic Party organization in every state must bring to the people the story of the 81st Congress, the story of a coalition that works to defeat majority rule in the Senate of the United States, while it plunders the right of minorities throughout the country. I have faith in the people. I am confident that if the truth is told them, they will vote for the principles of Jackson and Jefferson, Wilson and Roosevelt, and Truman!

Your work in Michigan has already begun. The Little Fair Deal for which Michigan citizens voted when they cast their ballot for Governor Williams needs to be brought to the people along with the national issue. You are faced with ^{creating} ~~an~~ ~~extension~~ of your Little Fair Deal unless you elect Democrats to office in your April elections. Your situation in this state is analogous to the national stalemate. You need more Democratic votes to put your program through. It calls for greater organizational effort, an indomitable drive to put the truth to the people. It calls for cooperation of like-minded people throughout the state, the kind

of cooperation we have in Americans for Democratic Action, the cooperation of labor, liberals, and farm people. I know my good friend George Edwards is working day and night to enhance that cooperation. Every person needs to know that a vote for Jack McCarthy for Highway Commissioner helps Governor Williams' program to enactment, and that program in turn affects the national scene. Here, in the localities, is where the people can turn the tide of events.

American people can be aroused to action. All they need know is the facts. We have the facts. And we can bring them to the people. Every one of us can take a personal responsibility for doing it. We cannot allow ourselves to be dejected by the threat to the little Fair Deal in Michigan, and the threat to the Fair Deal in the Senate of the United States. Jackson would not have bowed his head in defeat. Jefferson wouldn't have done it. Certainly Franklin Roosevelt would not accept defeat. And Harry Truman will not allow his program to fall before the Republican-Dixiecrat coalition either! We're not going to sleep on this defeat. We are going to the root of the matter, to the people in the cities and towns thro ghout the country, and we are going to tell them why the victory of November 2nd was not consummated. I belong to the category of men described by Thomas Jefferson as "those who identify themselves with the people, have confidence in them, cherish and consider them as the most honest and safe...depository of the public interest."

I am ready to take ^{our} ~~my~~ case to the people. I am ready to tell them that ~~W~~ will not allow 32 Senators out of 96 keep me from voting on an issue. I am going to tell them that there is not one single requirement in the Constitution of the United States that calls for two-thirds of all Senators elected to vote on a single issue. There is not a single require-

ment in the Constitution that necessitates a vote of two-thirds of all Senators in order to conduct the business of the Senate. I am going to tell them that a minority of men cannot keep me from discussing civil rights, cannot push me to cover. I am going to tell them of the move backward in the amending of the Senate rules, under the disguise of an advance.

I am willing to rest my case with the people. If every one of us in our Party will pledge himself to do the same, we will be able to break the stalemate in the national government, and in the state government of Michigan, and in the government of every state of these United States.



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