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FROM SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY (D., MINN.)

140 Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.  
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June 17/52

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) in the keynote speech to the Connecticut Democratic Party Convention today at Hartford, called for a "coalition of liberal Democrats from the North to the South, the East to the West to embrace the liberal principles of the New Deal and the Fair Deal and to join the issue with the conservative or reactionary opposition whether it be of the Dixiecrat or the Republican variety."

He called upon the Connecticut delegation to the Democratic National Convention to join with liberal delegates to the Convention from throughout the nation behind a forward-looking party platform which looks to tomorrow and not to yesterday. "In this enterprise Minnesota will stand with you. There can be no retreat", he said, "on the crucial issues of civil rights, the development of our natural resources and public power, fair and honorable labor legislation, adequate farm price supports, the extension and expansion of social security, and a foreign policy that includes both strength at home and abroad -- a strength based not merely upon military power but upon the strength of the democratic spirit and the philosophy of the good neighbor."

Senator Humphrey paid tribute to Connecticut Democrats for having given to the nation three of our country's outstanding public

servants --Senator Brien McMahon, Senator William Benton, and Ambassador Chester Bowles. Senator Humphrey said, "In Senators McMahon and Benton and in Chester Bowles, the Democratic Party has three men who truly symbolize 20th century Democratic liberalism."

Humphrey said, "These three great Americans represent the spirit of a free, courageous, humane, generous, and understanding America."

Senator Brien McMahon was praised by Humphrey as "one who by his record of performance in the Senate represents the best in the New Deal and the Fair Deal. There is no one among the candidates for President of the United States who more closely symbolizes the objectives of the Democratic Party both at home and abroad. Brien McMahon is a great public servant and a great American."

Senator Humphrey called for the re-election of his friend Senator Benton and praised him as "one of the most courageous, energetic and dedicated members of the United States Senate. We need more men of vision and experience like Bill Benton who bring to their government a spirit of unselfish and devoted public service, business experience, combined with human understanding and human compassion. Bill Benton is one of the most effective champions for real government economy in the Congress. His constructive approach toward this problem is respected by all who are concerned about problems of government reorganization and efficiency." Senator Humphrey referred to Benton's leadership in behalf of the Hoover Commission recommendations and his sponsorship of the Economy Act of 1952.

Ambassador Bowles was praised by the Minnesota Senator for "his outstanding record of progressive and far-seeing leadership. In Chester Bowles as Price Administrator, as Governor, and as Ambassador, America has been privileged to have a man who has symbolized a government with a great heart as well as a great intellect. Chester Bowles proved to friends and foes alike that he possesses the qualities of idealism and practical politics. He further proved that these were not incompatible but rather were complimentary. In Chester Bowles the Democratic Party has a great leader and one who is destined to do even greater things for his Party and his country. The record of Chester Bowles as Governor of Connecticut has set a new standard in American government. We as Democrats are proud of him. We expect even greater things in the days to come."

Humphrey referred to the fact that Bowles as Ambassador of India was "Cementing the bonds of friendship between the United States and India." He said that Chester Bowles "as the representative of our people and our nation in India stood as a living example of the true American spirit and the American faith to the peoples of Asia."

Addressing himself to the national campaign, Senator Humphrey urged the need for the Democratic Party to be "consistently liberal, forthright, and courageous." He said, "Democratic victories have only been when we had candidates in whom the people could place their trust and in whom they felt they had a friend. Democratic victories have been gained when we took the issues to the people, when we moved ahead, when we dared to propose new programs and new ideas. The

strength of the Democratic Party is in its idealism, in its principles, in its willingness to take the issues directly to the people and discuss them frankly. It is the duty of the Democratic Party to give the people a choice between liberal democracy that understands the problems of today and has a program for tomorrow as compared with the Republican Party which consistently worships yesterdays and yearns to return to some so-called period of normalcy which has never existed."

Speaking of the Democratic Party Humphrey said, "Ours is the Party of faith in the American people, of confidence in our economic system, of a willingness to accept responsibility for world leadership. There is no room in our ranks for those of timid spirit and negative ideas. We must be creative, imaginative, and constructive. Our Party must recognize that the world in which we live today is not the world of yesterdays. We must be prepared to meet new problems with new answers."

Speaking of the program of the Democratic Party, Senator Humphreysaid, "We must present a program to the American people that is understandable and meaningful in terms of their economic and political well-being. This means that we start with the policies of the New Deal and the Fair Deal and move forward and not backward. This means that we must direct our program to those very people who have given us a majority in every election since 1932. These people are the working people, the farmers, those who need the help and the protection, of social insurance, the teachers, the small independent businessmen, and the minority groups who ask for fair and equitable treatment. It is to these people our



program and policy must direct its appeal. It is to their welfare that we must dedicate our efforts, because they represent the real America -- its strength, its hope, its future."

Senator Humphrey took note of the fact that there were those in the "councils of the Democratic Party that were talking about compromises." He took issue with the compromisers by saying if "the American people want compromisers in public office and compromises in a platform, they have a Party that represents this strategy, the Republican Party. It is an old hand, a past master, at the art of double-talk and compromising away fundamental principles. If the American people want this kind of politics, they will turn to the Republicans, but the American people have not done this. They have repudiated the compromisers in 5 successive elections and they will repudiate the compromisers in 1952. What the American people want is a political party that tells the public where it stands and then goes out and fights for the principles it has proclaimed. There can be no compromise if we want victory. To those who ask for harmony at the expense of principles, I say that to achieve that kind of harmony will properly limit the Democratic Party to the position of being one of the most harmonious minority parties in American history. Let's remember our success stories and not be deluded into believing that we can gain the confidence of the American people by retreating from our record or from our commitments.

"We licked the Dixiecrats in Philadelphia in July, 1948, and we defeated Tom Dewey in November. We can do it again no matter what respectability the Dixiecrats may coat themselves with and no

matter what uniform the Republican candidate may wear. Just don't forget the Republican Party is the Party of Hoover and Taft. It has never permitted liberalism to gain the upper hand either in the past or in the present. The Republican Party had no room for a Teddy Roosevelt. He had to leave it. It has no room for a Bob LaFollette. He had to leave it. It had no room for George Norris. He had to leave it. The Republican Party slams the door on any liberal that seeks to lead it and to represent it.

"Make no mistake about it whether it is behind General MacArthur, General Eisenhower, General Motors, or General Electric, it is always the same old Republican Party".



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