

From the Office of
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Changing trends in the nation's domestic policies are threatening our economic prosperity by "opening the doors to exploitation and greed", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D.-Minn.) warned today. Too little attention is being paid the way the Republican administration is "reversing itself since last fall" on domestic issues, Senator Humphrey said in an address before the quadrennial general convention of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees International Union in Atlantic City.

"The handwriting is on the wall," Senator Humphrey said. "The Republicans are once again gambling with our economic well-being. They seem to have forgotten lessons of the past. They are too willing to let the majority of our people assume unnecessary risks, in their concern over fulfilling past commitments for the special interests of the privileged few."

Senator Humphrey reviewed the Republican party's "pledges and hedges" -- pledges during the campaign, and what he termed their "hedges" ever since.

"The way the GOP Elephant has reversed itself since last fall, it's sometimes hard to tell which is the trunk and which is the tail", he said.

"During the campaign, Republicans loudly assailed the foreign policies of the Roosevelt-Truman administration, but quietly "adopted" most of the domestic policies of the same era under which so much of our social and economic progress has been achieved.

"Now that they're in power, they've done an about face.

"They are now enthusiastically 'adopting' the very foreign policies which they so bitterly attacked, but starting to undermine and scuttle the domestic policies to which they gave lip service in the campaign.

"I'm glad to see that on foreign policy, at least, President Eisenhower's good judgment is prevailing over the disgruntled hot-heads who are still trying to rock the boat.

"I wish I could feel as hopeful about the fate in store for our domestic economy under Republican leadership", Senator Humphrey said.

A good example, Senator Humphrey said, is the present status of efforts to get rid of the weaknesses of the Taft-Hartley Act that have interfered with rather than improved sound labor-management relations.

The country must stay alert to what is happening to our own economy while so much attention is focused on international problems, Senator Humphrey cautioned, asking these questions:

"While we are trying to calm the turbulent seas of international discord, can we permit our ship of state to be recklessly steered toward domestic reefs?

"While we are trying to strengthen the economy of other free nations, can we risk another era of boom and bust in our own country by opening the doors to exploitation and greed?

"While we are trying to show our concern for the less-privileged in underdeveloped areas of the world, can we put aside concern for the well-being of the great majority of our own people?"

"While we are trying to preserve freedom in the world, can we let our own freedom of thought and expression be jettisoned by self-seekers of power and glory?"

Senator Humphrey said he did not intend his expression of concern as any personal criticism of President Eisenhower.

"Perhaps he, too, is finding out what many of us believed all along -- the Republican party is not yet ready to live up to the President's fine promises, and his fine intentions", Senator Humphrey said.

"The Leopard hasn't changed its spots. The Old Guard is still in command, foolishly bent on pushing back the hands of the clock, trying to make progress stand still.

"They are promptly and generously 'paying off' political debts to the big financial interests that have picked up the tabs in their struggle to power.

"They have pushed up the country's interest rates, to assure greater profits for the country's money changers at your expense and mine.

"They have turned the country's housing program over to a foe of low-rent public housing.

"They are concurring with the give-away of billions in the nation's rich reserve of oil resources in offshore submerged lands, as other exploiters stand in line eager to push their own raids on the rest of our publicly-owned resources.

"They have assured the Commodity Exchange speculators, food processors, meat dealers, and other wholesale buyers that they will to their best to return the farmer to the mercy of the middleman by creating a new era of free markets -- free to deprive the producer and soak the consumer.

"Yes, they are paying off the campaign costs manyfold. For the big financial interests that kicked in, the return on their investment has been good -- very good."

But the Republicans, Senator Humphrey added, seem to be overlooking the fact that "they have another political debt -- the obligation of service in the interests of the majority of the American people by whose votes they gained their power."

"How are the people being repaid, for the confidence and trust they bestowed? How are you, as average American citizens, being repaid for the 'change' you sanctioned?" Senator Humphrey asked.

"I'll tell you how ...you're getting the 'change' all right, but I question how long you'll like it:

"You have been saddled with an additional burden of around a half billion dollars annually in higher interest rates on the national debt, as a result of the decision to give 'price support' to the big banks and life insurance companies.

"You have been saddled with the burden of an estimated $1\frac{1}{2}$ billion dollar annual increase in interest rates on your private debts, that will follow the government's interest-rate increase just as night follows day.

"You'll learn it is being made harder for you to get bank credit for your short-term needs, your installment financing, or your home mortgages -- and it's going to be more costly for you if you can get it.

"You are being told to expect deflationary adjustments -- those are nice sounding words, that mean the economy's going to start downhill.

"You are going to get less low-rent housing.

"You are going to feel the economic pinch of declining farm purchasing power as farm prices are permitted to sag, with little heed to the danger signals of farm-led depressions in the past.

"You are eventually going to have to dig up -- somewhere, somehow -- the three billion dollars for new school construction that would have been provided from the Oil-for-Education revenues of the Anderson-Hill bills, if the off-shore resources weren't being given away to pay off political debts.

"You are going to have the problems of organized labor considered in an atmosphere of general hostility and prejudice, an atmosphere increasingly biased in favor of interests directly opposed to your own.

"The Senate Labor Committee has been trying to make a serious effort at correcting obvious defects, defects which are not only unfair to organized labor but unsound for good labor-management relations.

"But in the House it's another story. A majority of the House Labor Committee is for the present Taft-Hartley Act, and doesn't want any changes. And in the pro-management, anti-labor atmosphere the Republicans have brought to Washington, there won't be any changes -- unless they are for the worse. The only proposal I have seen likely of passage by the Republicans is an attempt to make sure that whenever federal and state labor statutes or regulations differ, the most restrictive ones for labor and the most favorable ones for management are to take precedence."



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