

From the Office of  
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey  
140 Senate Office Building  
Washington 25, D.C.  
National 8-3120, Ext. 881

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SENATOR HUMPHREY RAPS REPUBLICANS FOR 'POLITICAL MASQUERADE'

Republicans know they will again be repudiated at the polls, "unless they can confuse the people with a political masquerade," Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) declared in a Jefferson-Jackson Day address last night at a statewide Democratic Dinner Meeting in Omaha, Nebraska.

"As a result, there has been a careful and well-planned attempt to substitute President Eisenhower for the Party he represents," Senator Humphrey said. "But America's voting public will not again be fooled by the same old Republicanism wrapped up in fancier trappings and tied with a bow saying 'We Like Ike!'"

"You do not renovate and modernize an old and tottering building by just putting on an attractive, appealing front porch. It takes more than face-lifting to bring the spirit of youth into an old and tired body. Republicans have had some long-needed face-washing, to be sure, but there has been no brain washing -- the same old ideas prevail. It is just a new smile that has glorified the countenance.

"The GOP is still the Old Guard. To be sure, it has been dressed up a little by the public relations experts, but when the people give the Republican anatomy a careful examination, removing the outer garments of Madison Avenue hucksterism, they find the same old profile, the same old spirit, and the same old habits.

"It takes more than TV make-up and a prepared script to change the true nature of the modern political elephant," Senator Humphrey declared.

President Eisenhower is "far from invincible", he added.

"He is a Republican, and Republicans are never invincible when the American people open their eyes. In fact, prospects for a Democratic victory in 1956 are genuine and within our ability to achieve."

But victory, he declared, "will not come to those who are timid, uncertain, bewildered or dazzled by the steady flow of carefully conceived propaganda and buildup."

"Elections are won by people who want to win, who are organized to win, who are confident that they can win, who know the issues, and who take those issues to the people," Senator Humphrey said, adding that the Democratic party was making such progress "on every front".

The American people already have paid "too big a price for a Republican Administration", he said.

"You can always tell when the Republicans are in power. The stock market in New York City goes up, but the wheat and hog market in the Midwest goes down. How much lower do farm prices have to go before farmers, laboring people and merchants realize that the GOP is not their friend?

"The Eisenhower Administration believes in price supports for bond brokers and investment bankers -- but not for farmers. They hiked the interest rate at the expense of the public and for the benefit of the big banker, as part of fiscal and tax policies representing rank favoritism to big business, big finance, and big special privilege.

"In fact, they seem to like everything big -- except a big heart.

"We have the issues for 1956; just tell the people the facts.

"When it comes to conservation, the Republican record is miserable -- almost one of betrayal of public trust. When it comes to public power, the Eisenhower Administration has been the tried and true friend of the private utility combine. The welfare of the people has been sacrificed for the special privilege of the few."

M O R E

Calling attention to collapsing farm income, Senator Humphrey declared the "midwest has everything to lose, and nothing to gain" by letting Republicans remain in power in Washington.

"The Administration's farm policies have resulted in lower prices, reduced farm income, and fewer farmers on the land. Let me give you just one example of the Eisenhower-Benson attitude toward agriculture. How do they justify raising interest rates from three to five percent on emergency loans for farmers in disaster areas? How do they justify taking money made available to them at less than 2% interest and trying to make a profit out of disaster by loaning it out with the banker's profit spirit at 5%?. Senator Humphrey asked.

Senator Humphrey said Democrats have a "responsibility" to point out shortcomings of the Administration, but cautioned against "irresponsibility -- particularly in foreign policy."

"We are a responsible political party", he declared. "We can and must win elections without being irresponsible.

"Let us not forget that our nation occupies a strategic position in a world that is threatened by Communist aggression. Reckless talk by political leaders of either party is unpardonable in a period of crisis. We Democrats know what this means. Two great Presidents -- Roosevelt and Truman -- suffered many indignities heaped upon them by an irresponsible political opposition. But the danger and the injury was not so much to them, as to America's prestige and to the hopes and aspirations of freedom-loving people everywhere.

"We can debate the issues with the Republicans, without becoming personal and without abusing our President, whoever he may be. Honest differences of opinion are the right and privilege of free men. Demagoguery, outright distortion of fact, is not only cheap and wrong but dangerous to free institutions. Let us show our own responsibility, rather than copy irresponsibility so often exemplified by our political opponents in the past.

"We can and must point up the shortcomings of the Administration's foreign policy and defense policy, but do so only with the firm desire to strengthen that foreign policy and to provide more adequate defense.

"The world seeks peace, and we must give guidance and direction in the honorable pursuit of peace, regardless of partisan politics."

MESSAGE DELIVERED BY  
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

TO

OMAHA DEMOCRATS

June 20, 1955

It is always good news in any state when the Democrats assemble. It is a five-star extra when the Democrats get together in Nebraska. Your state needs the message of liberal democracy. It needs the clear voice, the imagination and the intelligent perception of young men and women in the field of politics. The Nebraska Democrats have all of these qualities and are bringing about a revitalized spirit in the Democratic ranks of Nebraska.

How well I remember the 1930's. Those were good days. Our party was winning elections and our ranks were growing. There is no state which benefited more from the New Deal and the great leadership of Franklin D. Roosevelt than Nebraska. It is with a note of sadness and regret that I must observe that a majority of Nebraskans have forgotten all that was done in their hour of need.

It does us no good, however, to speak of the past. We are men and women of the present. Our problems are many and complex, but our challenges and opportunities

are unlimited. There has been no more reassuring note in the political scene as to the future success of the Democratic Party than the steady growth of the Democratic ranks, and in particular the Democratic ranks of Nebraska.

1956 is an all-important year of political decision. The Republican Party will have had four years of control in the Executive Branch of the government, two years at the Congressional level. It took the American people only two years to discover that the GOP was the same old organization of conservatives and reactionaries once the people had the opportunity to see them in action in the Congress.

President Eisenhower is said to be much more popular than the Republican Party. I ask you a frank question--who isn't? The GOP is still the Old Guard. To be sure, it has been dressed up a little by the public relations experts, but when the people give the Republican anatomy a careful examination, removing the outer garments of Madison Avenue hucksterism, they find the same old profile, the same old spirit, and the same old habits. It takes more than TV make-up and a prepared script to change the true nature of the modern political elephant.

There has been a careful and well-planned program of substituting President Eisenhower for the party he represents, and which he so recently joined. You do not renovate and modernize an old building by just putting on an attractive, appealing front porch. It takes more than face-lifting to bring the spirit of youth into an old and tired body. I realize that the Republicans have had some face washing, but there has been no brain washing--the same old ideas prevail. It is just a new smile that has glorified the countenance.

Eisenhower is not invincible; in fact, the prospects for victory in 1956 are genuine and within our ability to achieve. But victory will not come to those who are timid, uncertain, bewildered or dazzled by the steady flow of carefully conceived propaganda and build-up. Elections are won by people who want to win; who are organized to win; who are confident that they can win; who know the issues; and who take those issues to the people.

Now, let's see if we can qualify for the prospect of victory under these criteria.

Surely we ought to want to win. How much lower do farm prices have to go before farmers, laboring people and merchants realize that the GOP is not their friend.

You can always tell when the Republicans are in power. The stock market in New York City goes up, but the wheat and hog market in the Midwest goes down. The American people already have paid too big a price for a Republican Administration.

We can and are organized to win. Democratic Party functions are being attended by overflow crowds. The party organization is stronger today by far than it was in 1952. We won significant elections in 1954. Remember that the base of political power is at the state level, and today the Democrats have governors--able, aggressive, intelligent, and honorable governors--in many states where only a few years ago we had no governors. There is Maine, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Minnesota, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona--and let's not forget Michigan and the border states, such as Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Just add up these states and their electoral votes, and then add the South

Our southern friends left their political home, seduced by the charm, the promises and the glory of General Eisenhower. They now know President Eisenhower, and President Eisenhower, head of the Republican Party, is not the same popular man in the South as General Eisenhower, appointee of Presidents Roosevelt and Truman.



As much as President Eisenhower hesitates to make decisions, he has been compelled to make a few, and those decisions have not been pleasing to the South. The Democratic Party in 1956 will carry the South, and surely it will carry key northern and western states. This is the outlook I see. It is possible to win in 1956, and it is our job to make that possibility come true.

We have the issues. The fiscal and tax policy of the Eisenhower administration represents rank favoritism to big business, to big finance, and to special privilege. The record of the Democratic party in the Congress is in sharp contrast to the special privilege tax program of the Eisenhower Administration. We have the agricultural issue. The Eisenhower Administration believes in price supports for bond brokers, and investment bankers--but not for farmers. This Administration hiked the interest rate at the expense of the public and for the benefit of the big banker. This Republican Administration reduced the farm price supports, reducing agricultural income to the detriment of the farmers. This is the number one issue in the Midwest, and it needs to be brought home to the people. When it comes to conservation, the Republican record is miserable and almost one of betrayal of public trust. When it comes to public power, the Eisenhower Administration has been the true and tried friend of the

private utility combine. The welfare of the people has been sacrificed for the special privilege of the few.

I could go on and name more issues, but I ask you to fight for the issues which mean most to the people of your state and develop the true story, and tell that story in straight-forward, honest words.





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