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"YOUTH WANTS 'BOLD LEADERSHIP', NOT JUST 'MODERNIZED' JALOPY": HUMPHREY

Young America is looking for "bold and imaginative" political leadership, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) declared last night in an address before the National Young Democratic 29th Anniversary Dinner at the Mayflower Hotel.

"Youth knows that hesitant leadership, unable to cope with problems of the present, is a weak foundation upon which to face challenges of the future", he declared.

"They want courage, instead of fear - they want decisions based upon faith, instead of confusion.

✓ "They know so-called 'Modern' Republicanism is a sham and a delusion, a hackster's shabby paint job trying to disguise the same old chassis.

"Youth knows something about jalopies. They know that just knocking the running boards off a 1922 Ford doesn't make it a 1957 sport model. They know it just changes the outward appearance, without in any way changing the power that makes the old thing go...

"Perhaps it wouldn't be so bad, if these 'modern' Republicans even knew where they were going..

"They proudly claim full right to the middle of the road, but they are stalled there quarreling with backseat drivers over whether to inch cautiously ahead, or put'er in reverse.

"They remind me of Sunday drivers, satisfied with themselves and unconcerned about blocking progress for everybody else...

"They seem unaware that the world is moving on around them..

"What other conclusions can we draw, from Republicanism professing to be 'modern' while gasking in its boots over a budget that in terms of today's dollars provides something over 2½ billion less purchasing power for non-military expenditures than the budget of 1949 -- while our population has increased 16%, and our gross national production has gone up 29%?

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"What hope can youth see in 'modern' Republicanism providing for our expanded needs of 25-years from now, when it is afraid to keep pace with our needs of today for schools, for hospitals, for housing, and for slum clearance and urban renewal?

"But the feeble vision of 'modern' Republicanism on domestic policy is of even less concern to young America than its blindness in international policy.

"What hope can youth see for safeguarding peace in a 'modern' Republican internationalism that only now, belatedly, recognizes there are complex problems like resettlement of Arab refugees to be solved before tensions can be eased -- and that it might take more than talk to do it?

✓ "What pride can American youth take in our role as a leader toward freedom in the world, when we so irresponsibly dump every problem on someone else, refuse to take a stand ourselves, then loudly complain when everything doesn't go to our liking? Rightly or wrongly, the Baghdad Pact was our creation -- then we walked out on it. Now, belatedly, we are apparently convinced that we should at least creep, via the back door, into the alliance we proposed then almost let founder.

ⓔ "What pride can youth hold in a country preaching great principles of democracy, justice, and compassion, yet shying away from ever making our own decision between right and wrong in the Middle East or elsewhere in the world on the basis of those very principles?

✓ "What pride can any of us take in other nations quite justifiably pointing the finger at our inconsistency ~~or~~ how it ill-becomes a powerful nation like ours to ~~always~~ be straddling the fence on the specifics of international conflict, when we so brazenly condemn struggling, newly independent nations who for sheer survival choose a course of neutrality in the world? In view of our shameful record of hesitating and hedging, of backing down, and of continually passing the buck, how can we expect others to stand always firmly on our side -- when they never can be quite sure where our side is, or how long it will stay there?

"Fortunately for America, its youth has courage and convictions -- and wants our nation to have the same.

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"Young people must look ahead instead of back, and understandably have little patience with complacency blocking decisions between right and wrong -- whether on domestic issues, or international policy.

"That's why youth has always found such an outlet for its own aspirations in the Democratic Party, for it has always been and always will be a party of the present and the future, a party of boldness and courage and vision, instead of a timid party of the past.

"As proud as we are of our heritage, our tradition, and our achievements, we know our hope lies in focusing the sights of our party to the future ... to the frontiers that still must be conquered. Wisely, we seek to profit from experiences of the past -- but the knowledge of experience is only useful when applied to the future.

"Youth's challenge, in our ranks, is to keep our eyes focused on the future -- for you are the ones that must live in what we create."



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