

From the Office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
1311 Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.
Capitol 4-3121, Ext. 2424

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'BACK SEAT DRIVERS' APPLYING BRAKES TO ECONOMY, SENATOR HUMPHREY WARNS

Before the Republican Administration can "move ahead to adequately cope with domestic economic problems crying out for attention," it will have to rid itself of "reactionary back-seat drivers, still exerting a too powerful influence in high councils of our government," Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) declared last night in an address before a Democratic dinner at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

"For example, while the physical presence of George Humphrey is gone as Secretary of the Treasury, his spirit still survives within the Administration -- and is being used to apply the brakes when the country needs to move ahead. Latest evidence of the continuing influence of the former treasury secretary has been selection of his hand-picked choice, Wall Street banker Lewis Strauss, as new Secretary of Commerce," Senator Humphrey declared.

Senator Humphrey warned that Strauss was a disciple of the same Mark Hanna philosophy of "feed the rich, and there'll be enough left-overs for the poor."

The Minnesota Democrat said he didn't want anyone to get him mixed up with "that other Humphrey."

"He's trickle-down George . . . and I'm percolate up Hubert," he explained.

Senator Humphrey criticized Eisenhower's appointment of Admiral Strauss as "scraping the bottom of the barrel."

"It is regrettable that the Republican Administration has not been able to come up with someone more qualified to serve the public's interest than this Wall Street banker whose record in other positions of trust have been far less than distinguished," he declared.

"Choice of a cabinet is the President's prerogative, and the Senate seldom refuses to confirm an appointment. Yet the President must share with the Congress the responsibility, for the sake of the country, of seeking good working relations between the Executive and Legislative branches. His appointment of a man who has so frequently and so flagrantly ignored or even defied the Congress will hardly serve to improve such relations."

Senator Humphrey commended Tennessee's Senators -- Estes Kefauver and Albert Gore -- for helping to expose the Strauss role in the Dixon-Yates scandal and in the neglect of atomic power development.

Senator Humphrey said appointment of Strauss despite "his known fetish for secrecy to cover his own errors, his distortion of facts to misdirect public policy, and his abuse of power to harass other public officials who might not agree with him," reflected the extent of power which "reactionary economic royalists" still assert in the present Administration.

"Perhaps some Republicans better think about 1960, and remember that the public-interest-be-damned arrogance exemplified by Admiral Strauss is the kind of attitude that has brought Republican Administrations into disrepute in the past," Senator Humphrey warned.



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