Remarks of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) at the Democratic Dinner Meeting in the Tri-City Area, Washington, on Monday, April 20, 1959.

Here in this Tri-City Area you not only stand at the confluence of two great rivers, the Snake and the Columbia, but also at the crossroads of two great historical achievements in man's quest for energy. In Power Laboratory of the power of

created by falling water from the multi-purpose Grand Coulee

Dam on the great Columbia River.

And here you are helping to bring about the most

phenomenal of the long line of achievements in the power

field -- the development of electricity created by atomic

power.

One of our greatest needs in America today is energy

and more energy -- energy to fulfill the infinite needs of

man and his environment -- energy for abundance.

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We need an ever-increasing supply of power to support our defense establishment.

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But under our form of government, with its division of powers, the Congress -- even when the Democrats have a majority -- cannot govern the country. And the results of the great battle over the atomic energy program have not been heartening.

Year after year the Democrats in Congress have fought to get the money and executive support necessary to carry out a crash program on atomic energy. We have been met with a numbers game on what was being accomplished, or planned, or day-dreamed, or hoped for, ad infinitum. So that today we are lagging behind England and the Soviet Union in the development

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Taken as a whole, our power system is too much like Some of you can remember our highway system 40 years ago. the days when our highway system was largely a county and Even the paved roads -- and there weren't very city affair. / many of them -- looked like something kids in the first these early retads grade had drawn for fun. / They were a few feet wide; they climbed any hill a team and wagon could climb; they zigzagged around each farm or other obstruction, real or political. Adequate for a team and wagon, they were a challenge to even the model T and a positive threat to the odcasional fool-hardy spirit who wanted to push a White Steamer down them at 20 miles per hour. We just could not have gotten very far into the 20th century with that kind of a highway system. So we did something about it loday the nation's power grid is planned about

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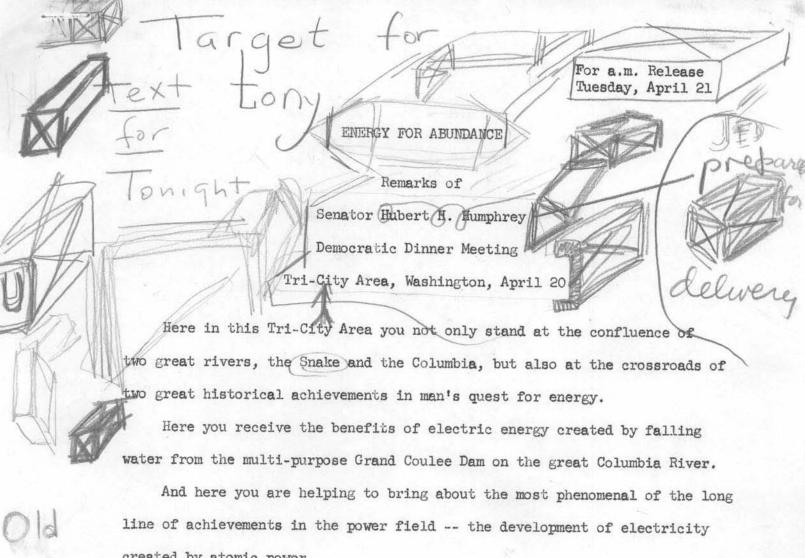
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The highest wisdom, it has been said, is to dare.

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April 17, 1959



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The generating capacity of the USSR jumped from 10.7 million KW in 1945 to 48.3 million in 1957 -- more than a four-fold increase. Output there rose from 43.3 billion KWH to 210 billion -- almost five-fold. According to Allen Dulles of the CIA, their output by 1965 will rise to 460 billion KWH -- more than double in about eight years -- more than ten times as much as twenty years earlier. In the cold war and the threatened competition in the economic field it is slight comfort to be assured that in 1965 our capacity will still be more than twice that of Russia -- when we have quadrupled our capacity while they have multiplied theirs by ten.

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I am not the imaginary "whole hog" straw man at which Mr. Eisenhower shoots somewhat more than imaginary darts in the form of scarewords. But I have no doubts whatsoever as to the benefits which would be lost should private monopoly in the power industry be freed from competition by public and cooperative electric systems.

I have no reservations whatsoever about the continued desirability of construction of public generation and transmission facilities and the marketing of Federal power under the preference clause. I say to my friends in the private utility industry: In an economy of abundance, particularly here in the Northwest with your tremendous power potential, if Federal development went forward as rapidly as it should, there would be an abundance of low-cost power for all -- from the smallest little cooperative to the largest private power company.

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You have witnessed years of inaction in the authorization of vitallyneeded projects.

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