

From the Office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
1311 New Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.
CAptiol 4-3121, ex. 2424

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DEMOCRATS MUST 'STAND UP AND FIGHT' FOR CONVICTIONS -- SENATOR HUMPHREY

For the Democratic Party to "deserve to win" in 1960, it must be "ready and willing to stand up and fight for what it believes is right for our country and our people, at home and abroad", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) declared last night in an address before a banquet meeting of the Sullivan County Democratic Committee at the Concord Hotel at Kiamesha Lake, N.Y.

"It is not enough to settle for the expedient, or even just what appears more easily attainable under the handicap of Presidential veto threats," Senator Humphrey declared.

"The greatest mistake our Party could make is to be intimidated in any way or to any extent by the threatened vetoes of a stand-pat Republican Administration, and to water down our vital programs on the ground that it is all that is 'attainable'.

"If our nation or our party had ever been satisfied to strive only for what some timid people believed to be 'attainable,' we would be a much poorer people. We need leaders with courage and conviction, leadership with vision and imagination.

"History is filled with examples of people who bettered the lot of mankind by refusing to stop striving for what some other people thought could not possibly be achieved. We haven't always made the progress we needed overnight, but we have made more progress than would have otherwise been possible as long as our Party provided men of vision willing to stand up and speak out for what they believed was right, regardless of caution voiced by the hesitant and timid in our midst.

"If Christopher Columbus hadn't had the courage to dare, he never would have discovered the New World.

"If Thomas Jefferson had been satisfied to settle for what was then thought to be 'attainable', he never would have written the Declaration of Independence.

"The American colonists never would have fought the Revolution; Andrew Jackson never would have fought the Bank of the United States; the slaves never would have been freed; Woodrow Wilson would not have fought for a new economic freedom and pioneered international cooperation for peace and justice; Franklin Delano Roosevelt never would have enunciated the Economic Bill of Rights or the Four Freedoms; Harry Truman never would have proposed his program of human rights.

"The great genius of our Party has always been that we have shown the American people how, by their own efforts, they could attain the things previously thought to be unattainable.

"Ours has been a party which has always assumed it to be part of its task to educate the people to the facts, to elevate their sights and to lift their hearts to higher aspiration for a better life.

"Our Party still believes in these things today. Our course must be to remain firm but just in our determination to stand for the right as we see it. We must remain faithful to our pledges to the people. Our proper standard of judgement for our policies must never be what is the most expedient, nor what merely gives an appearance rather than a reality of action. Instead, it must be how fully our acts measure up to the real needs of our nation and our people.

"We must remain the party of principle, and the party with deep convictions. We must prove we are a party which recognizes our responsibility to work and fight for the achievement of those things which are vital to our national security and well-being."

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