

001748

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Kay Zolowsky

Address By
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner
Racine, Wisconsin
October 3, 1959

① Fred Cutrell
Que Trull
② Mildred Bindl

Bill Tressler
Chr of Cape 1. & Humphrey Ch

Democrats must provide the vigorous and

③ Bill Cornwell
Pres AFL

liberal leadership urgently needed to arouse

a real sense of purpose among the American

Leo Lethbrun
(animator)

people.

Those in power who are content to

Ray Mar - Ref Key
mar - Ref Key
Sect AFL

have our nation rest on its laurels, to

coast, relax, level off, are condemning

us to stagnation and defeat.

Indeed, if we persist in the fearful ,

timid policies of the past six years, we are

not going to ~~have to have~~ ^{need} Mr. Khrushchev's

help in burying us -- we are going to dig

HARVEY
KITZMAN
Red Newton

ourselves right into the ground.

"Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered"

is no marching song for America, even if

it serves as the Republican theme song

these days. And the new Republican slogan

-- "No-go, Go-slow, Veto!" -- is hardly

a Pop Rally Cheer
~~the needed challenge~~ for a great nation

in the Twentieth Century.

It is a difficult task to pass

legislation which requires not a simple

majority, but a two-thirds majority. But

that was the situation time after time this

past session when Congress sent to the

President legislation which was meaningful,

construcitve and sufficient to the task.

No Go
Veto!

need
2/3 majority

*Yardstick
of
this year's
Budget*

When every proposal is measured by
one yardstick only -- the fiscal year's
budget -- obviously there is little hope
for the survival of proposals which require
sustained investments, some of which begin
to return interest only after the passage of
several years.

*Threat
of
veto*

Yet this preposterous yardstick was used
to turn back time and time again legislation
which would have given impetus and momentum to
our economy and prepared us for the long haul
competition with the Communist world. By
veto and the threat of veto, legislation was
driven back and even stillborn.

The truth is that the policies of
the Republican Administration have
condemned us to an on-and-off again, start-
and stop, foot-dragging economy.

The casualties of this government-by-
veto run into the millions.

From 1953 through the end of 1958,
this halting economy has cost us more than
10 million man-years of job opportunity.

The average American family has suffered
to the tune of almost \$3,000 in potential
real buying power.

Net farm income has been about \$31 billion
less than it should have been, and wage and

*Supreme
Republican!*

*Gout by
Veto!!*

salary income almost \$100 billion too low.

Private business investment opportunity has been approximately \$40 billion dollars too low. The excessive idleness of plant and manpower from 1953 through 1958 caused us to lose more than \$150 billion in national output.

The Republicans have not only failed to come up with policies to deal with the new problems of the era; they have strangled the Democratic policies designed to deal with the old problems of our society; and they have frustrated and blunted the proposals which we Democrats have been making in an attempt to get some vitality and drive into our economy.

GOP failed to come up with Policies to deal!

What's Not Goals
What Does GOP Stand for?

-6-

[We have had too many Kremlin vetoes
in the U.N. -- and too many White House
vetoes in Washington!

Kremlin
vetoes
in U.N.

+ U.S. vetoes
in Wash

Some groups have done well out of
this laggard economy -- the bankers with
high interest rates, the big businessmen
who have learned how to jack up prices
while production lags, the moneyed men
and speculators who have plunged in the
soaring stock market.

Some
areas
of Economy
Done Well!

[But here and there, throughout our
country, stagnant pools of economic
trouble are spreading.

Some are obvious -- like the slums which

Unemployment
3 1/2 million
but Substantial
Felt that on
Hard money &
tightened

-7-

Khrushchev's entourage busily
photographed as their cavalcade was rolling
up to Blair House.

Others, fortunately, they cannot
catch in a snapshot. Here and there
in the crowd are older men -- I won't say
elderly men because you can all too easily
go on the scrapheap nowadays at 50.

These are men who lost their jobs in
the recent recession. But for them the
recession has not ended -- they are still,
in growing desperation and despair, looking
for a new job.

Human Casualties!

These are the human casualties of
government-by-veto, of government by slogans
and public relations which has replaced action

and public welfare.

But there are other casualties, less

dramatic but no less deplorable --

L The underpaid teacher, in overcrowded schools.

The small farmer, caught in the pincers

of higher costs and the Bensonite blight

of farm income.

L Our Negro fellow-citizens, too often

denied the rights and privileges of

their American citizenship.

L Young men and women, doomed to blind-

alley jobs or soul-destroying idleness.

L Small businessmen, waging an uphill

struggle against monopoly, tight credit,

and high interest rates.

L unemployed -

Old-age pensioners, leading a dreary
and cramped existence with inadequate
income, diet, housing and medical care.

There are solutions. There is a
framework of liberal, progressive thought
within which these problems can be solved
-- the Democratic Platform of 1956 and the
one we shall write in 1960.

It was on this platform that we ran
a splendid Presidential candidate and on
this same platform we campaigned and
we elected an overwhelming Democratic
majority in the Congress in 1958.

Democratic
Platform

This great liberal document was passed practically unanimously by a great assemblage in Chicago. It reflects the finest traditions of our Party. It gives us the guidelines and the inspiration to enact -- or at least try to enact, strong, vigorous, affirmative legislation in the face of blunt Republican negativism in the White House.

* * *

Peace is possible, but peace is not passive.

Let us by all means exhaust every possible means to find a way to spare humanity the total disaster of nuclear warfare. Let us strive without ceasing to rid the nations of the crushing burden of the arms race.

-11-

But I for one am not content to drop into the easy chair and turn over to the Communists the task of ordering the world society.

Yes, co-existence is possible. But -- like it or not -- co-existence is going to be mighty competitive.

The American people have seen on television and in the newspapers one of the greatest competitors in the world -- a fierce and driving competitor at the head of a nation in headlong career. Mr. Khrushchev is not about to settle for a 'you-mind-your-business-and-I'll-mind-mine' deal. He may say he will settle for that Proposition. But he will not. And I would not.

I believe in competition. I believe in progress, and I believe that it is the duty of free men and women to work ceaselessly to enlarge the areas of freedom and opportunity in the world. You are either on the way up or on the way down. The one certainty in this world is change, and growth and decay.

In the rush for profits, we have lost momentum. In the stampede of the great financial interests to the public trough -- under the spurious slogan of 'sound money' -- the economy has been throttled down to a walk.

As Democrats, it is our challenge to keep the Democratic Party on the only rational and logical road there is to victory -- along the road of Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Harry Truman, and Adlai Stevenson -- along the road of genuine, responsible, humanitarian liberalism.

Our Party does see the road it must travel -- I am convinced of it. And we will gather our forces during t^{he} coming year to ensure that the Democratic Party present to the voters not only a strong liberal platform, but a strong liberal candidate to head our ticket and to carry with him into the White House the highest ideals and hopes of our Party.

Make no mistake about it -- the Republican Party will put up a candidate who will be plausible, well-financed, and tough to beat. We are not going to wind back the White House by default. And it is surely no foregone conclusion that a Democrat will be President in 1961.

But we can win, and we should win.

And when we win, we will have the spirit and the ideas to lead our people boldly into the future.

We can do all these things:

If we fully marshall our economic potential, we can in the next five years lift our 460 billion dollar economy to much

better than a 600 billion dollar
economy.

We can increase the average annual
income of American families, measured in
real buying power, by about \$2,000.

We can liquidate most of the private
poverty, which still bears down upon
millions of our people.

We can have prosperous farmers as
well as prosperous industry; small business
can thrive alongside the corporate giants.
In short, we can lift those at the bottom
without penalizing those at the top.

We can combine the American system of different rewards for different abilities and efforts with the American system of equal opportunity for all and social justice.

And on the productive foundation of this private economic progress, we can check the impoverishment of our vital public services, and put an end to the neglect of our greatest national and worldwide priorities of need.

We can, in a word, fulfill our economic potential and realize our dream of abundance. We can attain full dignity and liberty for every man, woman and child within our borders. We can work tirelessly toward the elimination of



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