

E X C E R P T S

Remarks Prepared for Delivery

by
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.)

Washington State Democratic Central Committee Luncheon
Wenatchee, Washington
Saturday, January 9, 1960

I have a little surprise for all of you loyal Democrats this evening. I am going to quote from an eminent Republican. He said:

"The legitimate object of government is to do for the people what needs to be done, but which they cannot by individual effort do at all or do so well themselves."

That was Abraham Lincoln 105 years ago -- and it seems that the Republican Party has been sliding, or galloping, downhill ever since. Now we have an Administration that actually takes pride in shirking its national and international responsibilities and brags about the "savings" in so doing.

You have only to look about you to see how much more faithful Democratic Administrations have been to Lincoln's sound doctrine. Private corporations - no matter how wealthy or powerful - could not have created the Grand Coulee Dam and all that goes with it.

Active, imaginative government - Democratic government - did build the Dam, and in so doing laid a solid economic foundation for this whole region. The Columbia River no longer rages in floods or dawdles in droughts. Its waters are harnessed to serve all of you, month in and month out.

On this secure basis, private initiative has flourished. Farmers, businessmen, workers - all have done their part in raising whole new communities out of the desert.

What Democratic Administrations have done for this region they have sought - by sound, forward-looking economic policies - to do for the nation as a whole. The stabilizing factors they built into our economy have saved us, so far, from devastating economic draughts like the Great Depression of the 1930's -- and if they had been used aggressively could have shortened the severe recession of 1958.

Indeed, they built in these stabilizers so solidly that the wrecking crew which moved in on the Treasury beginning in 1953 -- George "Trickle-Down" Humphrey and Robert "Guard Our Gold" Anderson -- have not been able to blast them out entirely.

We Democrats didn't solve all the economic problems. Our economists have not as yet equalled our engineers in the mastery of their craft. We still suffer from recessions; we still need to perfect the art of achieving economic growth without inflation.

We have a great advantage on our Republican friends, however. We do recognize that it is the responsibility of Twentieth Century government to lead in the solution of these problems, so that private enterprise can flourish in a government-stimulated climate of over-all economic growth.

Some growth - not enough - not nearly enough - has taken place in the past seven years, in spite of all the GOP efforts (such as the misguided "tight money" policy) to throttle it.

But it has been lop-sided, unbalanced. We have more swimming pools - but more slums. We have more skyscrapers - but more overcrowded schools. Automobiles multiply - but they are stalled bumper-to-bumper on inadequate streets and highways.

While our fiscal budget is balanced temporarily -- at the expense of our defense and to the detriment of the aged, the sick, and the poverty-stricken, our

moral budget is sadly askew. While the Russians have been looking on the dark side of the moon, we have not even been willing to look squarely at the dark side of our own glittering world.

Now, I am all for swimming pools and skyscrapers and streamlined automobiles. But what we really need are more schools, more public housing, more highways, and more hospitals -- and, above all, a defense second to none.

The reason that we don't get them is that government has been falling down on its legitimate responsibilities "to do for the people what needs to be done, but which they cannot by individual effort do at all or do so well themselves." So far as this Administration is concerned, Lincoln's words are lost to history.

Indeed, the Republicans act as if history came to an end -- as if America stopped growing and changing -- with the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Whatever can't be forced into that strait jacket is lopped off. And so we go into the ring with the Soviet Union with one arm strapped behind our back - and by ourselves, at that.

I believe that billions more in revenue can be obtained through an ever-expanding economy and by closing up the glaring loopholes in the 1954 Act.

And I believe that, if these billions do not meet our real needs, we must face up to collecting more taxes.

Steady and balanced growth -- growth in the starved public sector of our economy as well as in the private sector -- will require forward-looking thought and action. That is, it will require democratic, cooperative planning.

We must stop thinking of "planning" as a dirty word. It took planning -- the application of human intelligence to the solution of great problems - to build Grand Coulee.

It will take planning to build a greater America.

It will take planning to build a healthy and peaceful world.

It is high time we took planning out of the doghouse and put it in the White House.

The next president of the United States must make our fabulously productive economy our servant rather than our master. He must treat the Federal budget not as a golden calf to which everything else is sacrificed, but as the supreme instrument for giving effect to our national purposes and priorities.

Democratic planning cannot be carried out by dictation. The President must therefore be educator as well as administrator. He must place the problems frankly before the American people and build a democratic consensus behind the sort of national effort which the times require.

We need planning to compete effectively in the cold war. We shall need it even more to avoid a massive dislocation if - as I devoutly hope - peace finally breaks out.

Massive transformations will be needed in our war-gearred economy. They cannot be left to chance and to chaos. Twentieth Century man must learn to plan, or he will be buried under his own abundance - just as ancient civilizations vanished under their debris.

Here in the West you have asked for men to match your mountains. In Washington, we need men to match the problems - as high as Mt. Ranier and higher - of this crucial decade. I am confident that, in July, the Democratic Party can and will provide them.

✓ Food for Peace
✓ Y.C.C.

Human Resources, mental health
000233 Saturday
Soft Sea

Excerpts from remarks by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) before the Washington State Democratic Central Committee luncheon in Wenatchee, Washington, on Saturday noon, January 9, 1960.

I have a little surprise for all of you loyal Democrats ~~this~~ today,

~~evening~~. I am going to quote from an eminent Republican. He said:

L "The legitimate object of government is to do for the people what needs to be done, but which they cannot by individual effort do at all or do so well themselves."

That was Abraham Lincoln 105 years ago -- and it seems that

the Republican Party has been sliding, or galloping, downhill ever since. Now we have an Administration that actually takes pride in shirking its national and international responsibilities and brags about the "so-called" "savings" in so doing.

L You have only to look about you to see how much more faithful Democratic Administrations have been to Lincoln's sound doctrine. Private corporations - no matter how wealthy or powerful - could not have created the Grand Coulee Dam and all that goes with it.

Govts
People
in
Cooperation

Grand Coulee Dam

More needs to be Done

h Active, imaginative government - Democratic government -

did build the Dam, and in so doing laid a solid economic

foundation for this whole region. The Columbia River no longer

rages in floods or dawdles in droughts. Its waters are harnessed,

to serve all of you, month in and month out.

h On this secure basis, private initiative has flourished.

Farmers, businessmen, workers - all have done their part in

raising whole new communities out of the desert.

L What Democratic Administrations have done for this region

they have sought - by sound, forward-looking economic policies

- to do for the nation as a whole. The stabilizing factors they

built into our economy have saved us, so far, from devastating

economic draughts like the Great Depression of the 1930's -- and

if they had been used aggressively could have shortened the

severe recession of 1958.

L Indeed, they built in these stabilizers so solidly that the

Columbia
River

Do for
the
Nation!

Stabilizers

wrecking crew which moved in on the Treasury beginning in 1953

-- George "Trickle-Down" Humphrey and Robert "Guard Our Gold"

Anderson -- have not been able to blast them out entirely.

We Democrats didn't solve all the economic problems. Our

economists have not as yet equalled our engineers in the mastery

of their craft. We still suffer from recessions; we still need

to perfect the art of achieving economic growth without inflation.

We have a great advantage on our Republican friends, however.

We do recognize that it is the responsibility of Twentieth Century

government to lead in the solution of these problems, so that

private enterprise can flourish in a government-stimulated climate

of over-all economic growth.

Some growth - not enough - not nearly enough - has taken place

in the past seven years, in spite of all the GOP efforts (such as

the misguided "tight money" policy) to throttle it.

Trickle
Down
Geo.

Guard
our
Gold.
Bob

Growth
without
inflation

Scoundrel

cut

Tight Money!
West

Needs & Prosperity

000236

-4-

But it has been lop-sided, unbalanced. We have more ~~luxury hotels~~
swimming pools - but more slums. We have more skyscrapers -
but more overcrowded schools. Automobiles multiply - but they
are stalled bumper-to-bumper on inadequate streets and highways.

Budget Surplus
While our ~~proposed~~ fiscal budget is balanced temporarily -- at the
expense of our defense and to the detriment of the aged, the
sick, and the poverty-stricken, our moral budget is sadly askew.

While the Russians have been looking on the dark side of the moon,
we have not even been willing to look squarely at the dark side
of our own glittering world.

Now, I am all for swimming pools and skyscrapers and streamlined
automobiles. But what we really need are more schools, more ~~public~~
housing, more highways, and more hospitals -- and, above all, a
defense second to none.

Republican
The reason that we don't get them is that government has been
falling down on its legitimate responsibilities "to do for the people"

what needs to be done, but which they cannot by individual

effort do at all or do so well themselves." ~~So far as this~~

~~Administration is concerned~~, Lincoln's words are lost to history.

Indeed, the Republicans act as if history came to an end

-- as if America stopped growing and changing -- with the Internal

Revenue Code of 1954. Whatever can't be forced into ~~the~~ ^{their budget} straight-

jacket is lopped off. And so we go into the ring with the Soviet

Union with one arm strapped behind our back - and by ourselves,

at that.

I believe that billions more in revenue can be obtained through
an ever-expanding economy and by closing up the glaring loopholes

in the 1954 Act ~~or adjusting the~~

~~And I believe that, if these bills~~ ^{these} do not meet our real
needs, we must face up to ~~seeking~~ ^{seeking} more ~~revenues~~ ^{revenues}.

Steady and balanced growth -- growth in the starved public

sector of our economy as well as in the private sector -- will require

Fixed Budget

Revenue Needs

forward-looking thought and action. That is, it will require democratic, cooperative planning.

2 We must stop thinking of "planning" as a dirty word. It took planning -- the application of human intelligence to the solution of great problems - to build Grand Coulee.

Planning

L It will take planning to build a greater America.

L It will take planning to build a healthy and peaceful world.

It is high time we took planning out of the doghouse and put it in the White House.

L The next president of the United States must make our fabulously productive economy our servant rather than our master.

He must treat the Federal budget not as a golden calf to which everything else is sacrificed, but as the supreme instrument for giving effect to our national purposes and priorities.

L Democratic planning cannot be carried out by dictation.

Peace & Prosperity

000239

-7-

The President must therefore be educator as well as administrator.

He must place the problems frankly before the American people and

build a democratic consensus behind the sort of national effort

which the times require.

We need planning to compete effectively in the cold war.

We shall need it even more to avoid a massive dislocation if - as I devoutly hope - peace finally breaks out.

out Massive transformations will be needed in our war-gearred economy. They cannot be left to chance and to chaos. Twentieth Century man must learn to plan, or he will be buried under his own abundance - just as ancient civilizations vanished under their debris.

Here in the West you have asked for men to match your mountains.

In Washington, we need men to match the problems - as high as Mt.

Ranier and higher - of this crucial decade. I am confident that,

in July, the Democratic Party can and will provide them.

① Peace

Food, Health & Edu



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org