HUNPHREY FOR PRESIDENT COMMITTEE Suite 740 Roosevelt Hotel Washington 9, D.C. ADams 2-3411

FOR RELEASE: Saturday, Jan. 30, 1960

Excerpts of Remarks
by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey at
Testimonial Dinner for Councilman George Ritter
Hartford, Conn.,
Friday night, Jan. 29, 1960

"Some speakers take their texts from the Scriptures.

"Others rely on Shakespeare, or the Constitution of the United States.

"Tonight I take my text from the Hartford Courant, edition of January 19, 1960. In an editorial headed, "The President Submits His Final Budget," the Courant concluded:

'This message reflects a program based on the fiscal philosophy of the President's first Secretary of the Treasury, George Humphrey. It is a prudent, orthodox program of the old school. As such it could hardly be sounder. The question is whether, in its provisions for such things as defense, foreign aid, education, and other investments in the national future, it calls for enough sacrifices from a people whose way of life Mr. K. threatens to bury.'

"Now, nobody has ever accused the Hartford Courant of serving as an organ of Democratic propaganda. I take the word of the Iditor and Publisher Yearbook that the newspaper is Republican with a capital R.

"I commend the <u>Courant</u> for giving voice to the same concern many of us have -- that this country is putting itself into a fiscal straitjacket. When a responsible Republican newspaper says it, no one can brush it aside as propaganda from a Democratic partisan such as myself or the other contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination.

"The fact is that this newspaper has touched upon an issue which is the most important one we face as Americans. Because we cannot continue any longer to confine solutions to national problems within rigid, artificial budgetary walls.

"1953 marked the beginning of an era in which programs and solutions were not measured against the size of the problems to be solved, but were tailored to fit the economic straitjacket we had fashioned for ourselves.

"Because the budget has come first -- because slogans have been substituted for programs -- because public relations replaced public service -- the next President of the United States will inherit a whole series of problems that have been swept under the rug. The next President must be more than an executive. He must in a very real sense be an educator. He will lead successfully only by building a consensus behind a total national effort -- embodying the national will and expressing the nation's priorities.

"The next President must tell the people that if the age of complacency continues, America will soon become a second-class power.

"He must tell them that we have already been surpassed in a number of military and scientific fields, and that a vast effort will be needed to regain the posture of strength necessary to negotiate with the Soviets in any field including disarmament.

"He must tell them that America needs strengthening inside, that she has been starved for the public and social services, the research and discovery, that must undergird a growing nation.

"He must tell them that these programs will cost money and will have to be paid for.

"They can be paid for if we can stimulate our economy to the growth rate America achieved before the 1950's and that it can and must have in the 1960's. They can also be met, in part, by closing tax loopholes.

"But if the needs should prove larger, then the American people should be asked to face up to that prospect and pay the bill.

"We can afford to do what needs to be done. America has shown that when summoned to the heights, she can rise to the heights.

"There are some things we <u>cannot</u> afford -- such as a second-best defense, inadequate schools, underpaid teachers, or second-class citizenship for anyone. We cannot afford cities clogged with traffic, cloaked in smog and riddled with slums. We cannot afford prolonged recessions and unemployment.

"Above all, we can no longer afford complacency, smugness and stagnation.

"That is the challenge of the Sixties: to put America back in the mainstream, to resume the forward march toward peace, freedom and opportunity."

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