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

FOR RELEASE:

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Excerpts from Remarks

By Senator Hubert H. Humphrey,

California Democratic Council Convention,

Fresno, Calif., Saturday, Feb. 13, 1960

It is wonderful to be here again in California. You live in a state of remarkable contrast -- you have green valleys and arid desserts, you have beautiful sunshine and you have smog, you have Pat Brown and you have Dick Nixon.

The Vice President was in Milwaukee, Wisconsin the other night and he said: "There is no gap in our overall deterrent strength." Then he went on to say:

"Engaging in a 'numbers game' in which we compared the number of missiles, airplanes, submarines or carriers we have with that possessed by our potential opponents is a completely fallacious method of determining whether we have the strength we need."

Can you imagine, of all people, Richard Nixon coming out against a "numbers game?" This is a bit like riverboat gambler preaching against the evils of draw poker.

Who can ever forget those great Nixon speeches of the 1954 campaign when he went around the country saying: "We have driven the Communists, the fellow travelers, and the security risks out of government by the thousands."

Who can ever forget those purges of scientists, those loyalty oaths for students, those relentless investigations of government employees?

We would not perhaps be worrying today about the missile gap or the deterrent gap or the Russian lead in outer space if Mr. Nixon and his friends had spent less time playing the numbers game in the 1950's.

But, my friends, let us turn our minds to higher things. I am happy to talk before the California Democratic Council because the council movement has made a wonderful contribution to our party. What you have contributed is a new and inventive way to bring people into politics. You have demonstrated that the way to make a party come alive and grow is to bring the people in and get them talking and arguing among themselves on issues--basic public-policy-and making decisions democratically.

We Democrats are not afraid to have a good family fight nor are we terrified of a dissenting voice. It is too bad that the opposition party, in politics as in economics, is the party of monopoly and scarcity all the way. After seven years of administered prices, they give us the administered candidate.

The innovations you have made in politics and the initiative you have shown are critically important, however, not only as a big political fact in this state, but also as a symbol. For innovation is likely to be the master theme of the 1960's. These are new times and we have new problems. But we get no new starts from the Republican leadership - no new starts on reclamation projects, no new starts in education, no new starts in foreign policy, no new candidates.

During the 1930's we became familiar with combatting mass poverty and mass unemployment. Today, we live in what has been called an affluent society where many millions of us enjoy the highest standard of living in history,

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but in place of mass poverty we have pockets of poverty, small in the overall but stubborn and serious. There is the blighted textile town in southern Maine, the abandoned coal mine town in West Virginia, the decaying rural town in Iowa. In place of great masses of unemployed, we have the technologically displaced worker and the chronically unemployed. We cannot in good conscience enjoy our prosperity when three to four million of our fellow human beings walk the streets looking for work and know that special misery that comes with feeling one's talents are unwanted.

Let us make America a land where none is forgotten. Let us make our prosperity not the servant of our selfishness, but the instrument of our conscience. If we are to end the pockets of poverty and restore to usefulness the forgotten unemployed, we need new programs, new social devices, new ways of sharing. We need a spirit of inventiveness.

Let us stop gloating over the size of our national product and ask ourselves what we are doing with it.

For seven years we have seen the administration kick the so-called farm problem around. Agricultural science and technology have wrought a modern miracle. In place of scarcity, we have abundance. Surely, it is not beyond our powers of social inventiveness to make use of this abundance. Here as we stand on the rim of the great Pacific and look across to the hungry millions of India and Pakistan, we cannot in patience listen much longer to bhose who talk of "unmanageable surpluses." An administration that spends a million dollars a day storing grain in ships and warehouses when men languish for want of food is an administration self-indicted. And the indictment reads -lack of energy! lack of imagination! lack of inventiveness!

I say we can use our food for peace. We can rescue our own farmers from distress and our neighbors in Asia from hunger. We can as citizens be as creative and inventive at distributing our grain and fiber as our scientists are at multiplying it.

It was not long ago that schools were a purely local problem. But education is no longer just a local problem. Education is the indispensable foundation of our national greatness. The measure of our power in the future will be the development of human resources that we manage to achieve. This is where you get firepower and productive power -- from brainpower. If the real estate taxes in a school district have reached the breaking point, we cannot just let the students there do without. If the local teacher's college cannot afford funds for more laboratories, for new techniques in teaching languages, for better-qualified professors, we cannot ignore those shortages.

These new dimensions to the old problem of public education do not mean that the whole responsibility has to be transferred to Washington. We can work out new methods of sharing the financial burden, new ways of attacking the problem. What counts is that we have the desire to experiment and the determination to find a solution.

America today is engaged in the great adventure of making racial equality a complete reality. As this progress unfolds, there are those squeamish persons who find the occasional conflicts and disturbances distressing. I would remind them of Justice Holme's words: "Conflict is the core of life." We shall escape conflict only in the grave.

There are those who wish the Negro well, but who still regret that we have this problem to cope with. I have never shared this view. Because we have millions of Negro citizens and other minorities from every country in the world, we have the opportunity to demonstrate before the eyes of mankind that men of different races can live together, can communicate with one another, can treat one another with justice.

Civil rights are more than a domestic issue, more than just a problem between Northern and Southern Democrats. Civil rights are human rights -- and this is the world-wide issue between communism and democracy democracy honors them and communism denies them.

If we have to have an angry filibuster in the Senate or a student sitdown strike in a North Carolina lunchroom or an occasional showdown at the schoolroom door, these disturbances and conflicts are a small price to pay for

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the opportunity that is ours. We are bearing witness for the truth.

There are those who say that this is no way for a candidate to talk in a campaign year. Let me just say this: The cause of human rights for all men will endure and triumph! If the price of political success in 1960 is betrayal of this cause, you may look elsewhere for your candidate. No victories in a smoke-filled froom could ever compensate me for the sacrifice of my convictions.

The tides of change are sweeping the world. We shall master them and learn to ride them or we shall be carried swiftly to oblivion.

We have the brains and the material resources and the splendid liberal heritage to devise ways and means to carry out our tasks.

We can be as socially inventive as we are technologically inventive.

All we need is a new willingness of heart.

And here in the state where the United Nations was born, let us resolve to dedicate this willingness of heart to the pursuit of peace, the waging of peace as we have waged war.

We can use the U. N. much more productively than we have used it in the past. The U. N should serve as humanity's eyes and ears for peace. If we could give it these functions it would be a bold step forward, and strengthen the U. N., which I affirm is still the best hope for peace.

Most of all we must recover that mighty momentum, recapture that spirit of high adventure, which have characterized our nation in its finest hours.

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