

FROM:  
HUMPHREY FOR PRESIDENT COMMITTEE  
SUITE 740 ROOSEVELT HOTEL  
2101 16th STREET  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
ADAMS 2-3411

FOR RELEASE: SAT. AM APRIL 23, 1960

Excerpts of Remarks by  
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey  
Maine State Convention  
Portland, Maine

Friday, April 23, 1960

I thank you for your courtesy in inviting me to speak here - and for your infectious enthusiasm, from which I have already drawn fresh inspiration for our Democratic cause.

It is only geography that divides Maine and Minnesota Democrats. Both of us began by confronting Republicans entrenched - I might almost say, embalmed - in power. Both of us offered the voters live, alert, modern government. And both of us found that the voters welcomed what we had to offer.

As Minnesota went, so went Maine - and as Maine went, so the nation will go this November!

Now, it may be that some of you have read in the papers that I am in this campaign to stop somebody. Believe me, I am not. I'm in this campaign to help start the Democratic Party on the path to victory - I'm in this campaign to stop the Republican administration.

I am in this campaign to stop the waste of idle manpower and unused productive capacity. I am in it to stop the neglect of millions of our fellow-citizens and their urgent needs. I am in it to stop the alarming decline of our position in the world.

I want to pull out all these stops and set the signals for full speed ahead.

I am not against anyone - except the Eisenhower-Nixon Administration which has mismanaged the affairs of this nation for seven long years.

I hold them accountable for the opportunities for economic growth and for public investment which they have wasted.

I charge them with stultifying and strangling this buoyant economy with their high-interest tight-money policies. Yes, they are men of little vision, and they feel more comfortable with a little America.

Here's what, in dollars and cents, these little, picayunish Americans have already cost us as a people.

From 1953 through 1959, this off-and-on again, foot-dragging GOP economy has cost us more than 15 million man-years of job opportunities.

The average American family has suffered to the tune of almost \$3400 in potential buying power.

Wage and salary incomes have been almost \$130 billion dollars too low.

Idle - needlessly idle - plant and manpower have cost us almost \$200 billion dollars in national output.

These are dollars that could have - should have - been invested in America's future.

Some of them, for instance, should have been invested in the Passamaquoddy Tidak power project. All of you can remember how men of little vision ridiculed this bold and imaginative idea in FDR's day. All of you can imagine what benefits it would have brought your state in terms of abundant electric power at a reasonable price - and abundant power means prosperous and expanding industry.

Here we are over 20 years later, and still nothing has been done about it. This no-go- no-start, go-slow veto Administration has only nine months to run - and it looks as if we Democrats will have the job of doing in the 60's what should have been done in the 50's.

more.....

Some of these dollars could have been invested in the renewal of your cities - something on which you have already, with your own limited resources, made a commendable start.

These dollars could have meant more low-cost public housing - solving the painful problem of relocating the slum-dwellers displaced by urban renewal.

Yes, you can measure this waste in terms of unbuilt hospitals and highways, of overcrowded schools and under-financed public services.

I have charged this Eisenhower-Nixon Administration with waste - and I charge it with neglect as well.

They have neglected our children and their teachers. You know and I know that Federal aid to education is needed this year - not next year, sometime, or never.

Indeed, if it were not for the fact that millions of our children are educated at private schools, our public school system would long since have broken down altogether.

We want and we need excellence in our educational system. We cannot have it without excellent teachers and well-equipped classrooms, laboratories, and libraries.

We Democrats should say to the teachers of Maine and of America: "Stay in your classrooms - help is on the way."

This Administration neglects the old as well as the young. Our social security system is a wheezing Model T Ford in a Hydromatic V8 age.

The Government's own figures show that it costs at least \$2300 a year for a couple to live by themselves in modest fashion. Yet this same Government provides the average retired couple with only about \$1440 a year.

Talk about your missile gap! - here's a gap that's even harder to fill!

Even more desperate is the plight of the 1,300,000 aging widows who are existing - we can hardly call it living - on an average benefit of \$56 a month.

Yes, we need at least a 30% increase in minimum benefits, we need special housing for the elderly, and we need tax credits to encourage the hiring of older workers.

Above all, we need immediate action on the greatest dread of our senior citizens - the heart-chilling fear of sickness and its catastrophic cost.

We need the enactment of the Humphrey and Forand Bills for medical benefits for the aged.

This is a need so urgent that even the Administration has been compelled to take notice of it. The latest word is that they are "exploring" the problem. This is quite an adventure for the GOP.

Now, this Eisenhower-Nixon team often reminds me of Christopher Columbus - when he set forth he didn't know where he was going, and when he came back he didn't know where he had been.

But this time I believe they do know what they're exploring for.

I can tell you that they are not looking for the best and the soundest method of meeting the medical needs of older Americans.

They are playing politics and "exploring" for votes.

They are seeking the maximum political benefits for Mr. Nixon, rather than the maximum medical benefits for the aged.

Yes, my friends, it's all politics - cold-blooded Republican politics rather than warmhearted concern for people and their needs.

I have charged this Eisenhower-Nixon Administration with waste and with neglect and indict them also for the alarming decline of our influence in the world.

There was a time when free people everywhere looked to us for leadership - when great and stirring ventures like Lend-Lease, the Marshall Plan, and Point Four were launched from Washington.

Now we Americans - heirs to the most dynamic tradition in the western world - seem to have fallen into a slumber too deep even for dreams.

Like King Canute, we seem to feel that the tides of history will stop to suit our comfort and our status quo.

We brood paralyzed with fear over our stockpile of hydrogen bombs, and make only half-hearted and hesitant efforts to negotiate effective, enforced and inspected disarmament.

Our so-called "surplus" of food rots in warehouses as storage costs mount to staggering heights - while people go hungry in many parts of the world, yes and in these United States too.

We need to identify ourselves more with mankind's hopes than with its fears. We need less talk of massive retaliation, and more of massive reconciliation with and rehabilitation for the two-thirds of humanity that lives in poverty. We need less preoccupation with the works of war and more dedication to the works of peace - food for peace, health for peace, and education for peace.

It seems to me that we spoke out with more inner certainty and a surer command of mankind's respect in our early years as a nation.

Some 134 years ago the people of Washington were preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, and they invited its author, Thomas Jefferson, to be their guest of honor.

Jefferson replied that he could not come, that he was so 'worn down with age, infirmity, and pain' that he was 'scarcely able to walk from one room to another.' But his faith in the principles of 1776, and his conviction that they were valid not only for America but for the whole world, burned as bright as ever as he wrote these words to the people of Washington - the last that were to come from his immortal pen:

"All eyes are opening, or are opening, to the rights of man. The general spread of science has already laid open to every view the palpable truth that the mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs, nor a favored few, booted and spurred, ready to ride them."

What a transformation it would work in America's position in the world today if its living leaders had a fraction of the faith and the eloquence of the dying Jefferson!

Then mankind knew what America was for - as well as what it was against!

Then there was no talk of stopping, but only of starting. Then there was no waste or neglect of opportunities, but rather their eager and joyful acceptance.

Where our forefathers saw opportunities to grasp, the hesitant and timid Americans of today see only problems to evade. While the world changes, we stand still.

If we are unwilling to make history, others will write it for us - and, believe me, the pages and chapters they write will make sad reading for our children and our children's children.

Yet we have, as we have shown over and over again, the capacity for greatness. What we lack - and what we Democrats must provide in November - is the leadership to rally us for the challenges ahead.

Last September Chairman Khrushchev visited us. I had occasion to ask some of the most thoughtful observers of our national scene, the Washington correspondents of the great overseas newspapers, how they assessed the total significance of his words and his actions while he was among us. They gave me a short and simple answer, which I in turn give to you as the great theme for us Democrats in this Presidential campaign:

"Wake up, America."

for  
Conl { Mr Benoit & Arthur  
Committee Milton Wheeler  
Arthur Welch

Phil Erlich

Lt Foley

✓ Dick Dubord  
natl Comm

✓ ~~Mr Kiah~~ - ~~not answer~~

Rep Luci Cormier  
for U.S. Sen

Cong. Jim Oliver

Cong. Frank Coffey

Sen Paul Douglas  
Bo Winn all

Report  
Constitution

Devil  
Story

Will Rogers

Dem  
Party

Lynndon  
Johnson



✓ Senator <sup>Ed</sup> Muskie  
✓ Cong (Governor) Coffin  
Chairman Lessard

Congressman Oliver

MAINE STATE CONVENTION 200873  
Portland, Maine  
April 22, 1960

Al Lessard

I thank you for your courtesy in inviting me to

speak here - and for your infectious enthusiasm, from

which I have already drawn fresh inspiration for our

Democratic cause.

Minne Democrats  
lear

1948 H.F. Douglas  
1954 Muskie Fairman

1958 McCarthy

It is only geography that divides Maine and

Minnesota Democrats. Both of us began by confronting

Republicans entrenched - I might almost say, "embalmed"

in power. Both of us offered the voters live, alert,

modern government. And both of us found that the voters

welcomed what we had to offer.

Dynamic Apathy  
modern Republicanism  
new antigas

As Minnesota went, so went Maine - and as Maine

went, so the nation will go this November!

Democ Victory  
1960

Now, it may be that some of you have read in the

papers that I am in this campaign to stop somebody.

Believe me, I am not.

(Lyndon Story)

Done  
Muskie

(Entrenched)

(Embalmcd)

Live-alert  
modern  
Govt

X  
Only  
Geography  
divides

Dynamic  
Apathy

newbody

Long as  
Doesnt  
cost  
anything

Start

Like to Start the Party  
-2-

000874

I'm in this campaign to help start the Democratic Party  
on the path to victory - I'm in this campaign to stop the  
Republican administration.

*Stop Cold Dead  
Now!*

I am in this campaign to stop the waste of idle  
manpower and unused productive capacity. I am in it to  
stop the neglect of millions of our fellow-citizens and  
their urgent needs. I am in it to stop the alarming  
*prestige*  
decline of our position in the world.

I want to pull out all these stops and set the  
signals for full speed ahead.

I am not against anyone - except the Eisenhower-  
*Republican*  
Nixon Administration which has mismanaged the affairs  
of this nation for *over* seven long years.

*neglected*  
I hold them accountable for *wasted* ~~the~~ opportunities for  
economic growth and ~~for~~ public investment ~~which they~~  
~~have wasted.~~

I charge them with stultifying and strangling this  
buoyant economy with their high-interest tight-money  
policies. ~~Yes~~, they are men of little vision, and they  
feel more comfortable with a little America.

One they know  
how to run!

Let's Look At The Record!

Here's what, in dollars and cents, these little,  
picayunish Americans have already cost us as a people.

From 1953 through 1959, this off-and-on again,  
foot-dragging GOP economy has cost us more than 15  
million man-years of job opportunities.

15 million  
Job yrs  
unemp

The average American family has suffered to the  
tune of almost \$3400 in potential buying power.

\$  
3400  
in Buying  
Power

Wage and salary incomes have been almost \$130  
billion dollars too low.

\$ wage  
150  
Billion  
too low

Idle - needlessly idle - plant and manpower have  
cost us almost \$200 billion dollars in national output.

Idle  
Plant  
\$200  
Billion

These Dollars Should have been invested  
in America's Future.

Some of these dollars could have been invested in the renewal of your cities - something on which you have already, with your own limited resources, made a commendable start.

Cities

Rebuild our cities

These dollars could have meant more lowcost public housing - solving the painful problem of relocating the slum-dwellers displaced by urban renewal. — Urban Develop

Yes, you can measure this waste in terms of unbuilt hospitals and highways, of overcrowded schools and under-financed public services.

Polluted Streams, neglected forests

I have charged this Eisenhower-Nixon Administration with waste - and I charge it with neglect as well.

Waste Neglect

The Rep Administ has (main downy like waste) They have neglected our children and their teachers.

- Neglect of our
- Education
- Health
- Elderly
- Resources
- Cities
- Farms
- Rivers
- YOUTH
- Defenses

You know and I know that Federal aid to education is needed this year - not next year, or sometime, or never.

Waste of Unemployment  
Waste of Depressed Areas

Waste of food  
Waste of Dollars



-2-  
next President a Democrat

000877

He is going to take office after eight years of

do-nothing government - government that has swept

one problem after another under the rug.

NO GO, GO SLOW

NO START, NOT NOW

VETO

These have been eight years of neglect -

neglect of cities, neglect of farms, neglect of

labor, neglect of schools, neglect of resources,

neglect of housing, neglect of finances, and

neglect of people.

waste

This is a government which knows the cost of

everything, but the value of nothing.

This is an Administration that has told the

people that we can't afford to spend more on defense

or education or housing or health or social security -

but which, on the other hand, doesn't realize that

there are things we really cannot afford.

neglect  
waste

What are the things America cannot afford?

000878

America cannot afford to be second-best in

defense - certainly not second-best to Communism.

America cannot afford over-crowded class-rooms,

or squalid slums, or polluted waterways, or cities

clogged with traffic and cloaked with smog.

Amer. Cant Afford Unemployment, low farm income.

Depressed Areas

It is time we had government with a clear

head and a warm heart. We need a 1960 Bill of Rights

for Americans, and here it is:

1. A truly adequate social security system,

including medical benefits for the aged, so that

our senior citizens can live in dignity and comfort.

2. A national urban renewal program, including

slum clearance, public housing, and housing for

middle income groups.

See See

Housing

Amer Cannot afford to neglect her older people

3. A fair and equitable tax program, that encourages independent business, closes tax loopholes, and promotes economic growth.

Tax

4. A fair break for labor in our Federal law, so that equality of bargaining power will be restored.

Fair  
Break  
for  
Labor

5. Federal aid to education, to end the chronic scandal of over-crowded schools and underpaid teachers.

Aid to  
Educ.

6. A \$1.25 minimum wage, extended to cover the many millions of Americans now denied its protection.

min  
wage

7. Full civil rights for all Americans - North or South, Negro or white.

8. An agricultural program that keeps families on their farms, and makes them good customers for our industries.

000880

9. A real drive against inflation, to give  
protection to Americans living on relatively fixed  
incomes.

10. Protection for independent business  
against the unfair competition of monopoly and  
big business.

\* \* \*

*yes* [ The job of the next President of the United  
States is to take off the chains that have bound  
America in the past seven years - to liberate our  
energies and resources from the stranglehold of  
Eisenhower-Nixon tight-money and high interest  
policies.

One of the first domestic tasks of a Democratic  
President must be to restore America to her full  
economic growth -- to make her reach her full  
economic potential.

000881  
America cannot afford to move ahead at half

pace. I have been to the Soviet Union, and I can  
tell you that they are moving ahead full speed.

America has shown in times past that, when  
summoned to the heights, she can rise to the heights.

She will not be summoned by men who everywhere  
see problems to be avoided, rather than opportunities  
to be grasped.

*run 7 fear*

She will not be summoned by men for whom good  
intentions are a substitute for action.

The world cries out for leaders who seek and  
enjoy endeavor, who will achievement, and point the  
way to it.



000882

Neither America nor the world will find such  
leaders in the Republican Party.

They must look to the Democratic Party, the  
party of people and progress.

\* \* \*

They are seeking the maximum political benefits  
for Mr. Nixon, rather than the maximum medical benefits  
for the aged.

Maximum  
Pol Benefits  
for Nixon!

*election*  
~~Yes, my friends,~~ it's all politics - coldblooded  
Republican politics rather than warmhearted concern for  
people and their needs.

Good For PEACE ADM  
DISARM-AGENCY

*Sail*  
I have charged this Eisenhower-Nixon Administration  
with waste and with neglect - and indict them also for  
the alarming decline of our influence in the world.

There was a time when free people everywhere looked  
to us for leadership - when great and stirring ventures  
like Lend-Lease, the Marshall Plan, and Point Four were  
launched from Washington.

Now we Americans - heirs to the most dynamic tradition  
in the western world - seem to have fallen into a slumber  
too deep even for dreams.

000884

L Like King Canute, we seem to feel that the tides  
of history will stop to suit our comfort and our status  
quo.

L We brood paralyzed with fear over our stockpile  
of hydrogen bombs, and make only half-hearted and  
hesitant efforts to negotiate effective, enforced and  
inspected disarmament.

L Our so-called "surplus" of food rots in warehouses  
as storage costs mount to staggering heights - while  
people go hungry in many parts of the world, yes and in  
these United States too.

L We need to identify ourselves more with mankind's  
hopes than with its fears. We need less talk of massive  
retaliation, and more of massive reconciliation with and  
rehabilitation for the two-thirds of humanity that lives  
in poverty.

↖ We need less preoccupation with the works of war and  
more dedication to the works of peace - food for peace,  
health for peace, and education for peace. *(X) where*

*yes, L* It seems to me that we spoke out with more inner  
certainty and a surer command of mankind's respect in  
our early years as a nation.

*(Pause)*

↖ Some 134 years ago the people of Washington were  
preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the  
Declaration of Independence, and they invited its author,  
Thomas Jefferson, to be their guest of honor.

↖ Jefferson replied that he could not come, that he  
was so "worn down with age, infirmity, and pain" that he  
was "scarcely able to walk from one room to another."

But his faith in the principles of 1776, and his  
conviction that they were valid not only for America but  
for the whole world, burned as bright as ever as he wrote

000886

Where our forefathers saw opportunities to grasp,  
the hesitant and timid <sup>Republicans</sup> ~~Americans~~ of today see only  
problems to evade. While the world changes, we stand  
still.

If we are unwilling to make history, others will  
write it for us - and, believe me, the pages and  
chapters they write will make sad reading for our  
children and our children's children.

History

Yet we have, as we have shown over and over again,  
the capacity for greatness. What we lack - and what we  
Democrats must provide in November - is the leadership  
to rally us for the challenges ahead.

Capacity  
for  
Greatness

Last September Chairman Khrushchev visited us.



NEW JERSEY STATE CONVENTION  
Newark, New Jersey

Saturday, April 23, 1960

L This Presidential election is far more vital  
to the future of America than defeating Richard  
Nixon, important as that is.

L This campaign is about issues far bigger than  
Mr. Nixon. It is about war or peace, progress or  
stagnation, justice or injustice.

L This campaign is about whether or not the  
United States is going to slip back and become a  
second-class power, or whether she is going to rise  
to the challenge of world Communism and to the  
challenge of her own greatness.

L The next Democratic President is going to  
have his work cut out for him.

Last Sept Chr Krusch visited us -

000888

I had occasion to ask some of the most thoughtful  
observers of our national scene, the Washington  
correspondents of the great overseas newspapers,  
how they assessed the total significance of his words  
and his actions while he was among us. They gave me  
a short and simple answer, which I in turn give to you  
as the great theme for us Democrats in this Presidential  
campaign:

"Wake up, America."

(or)  
The Shasta  
is over

\* \* \*

these words to the people of Washington - the last that were to come from his immortal pen:

"All eyes are opening, or are opening, to the rights of man. The general spread of science has already laid open to every view the palpable truth that the mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs, nor a favored few, booted and spurred, ready to ride them."

11

What a transformation it would work in America's position in the world today if its <sup>living</sup> living leaders had a fraction of the faith and the eloquence of the dying Jefferson!

Then mankind knew what America was for - as well as what it was against!

For  
Against

Then there was no talk of stopping, but only of starting. Then there was no waste or neglect of opportunities, but rather their eager and joyful acceptance.

# Education

000890

Indeed, if it were not for the fact that millions of our children are educated at private <sup>parochial</sup> schools, our public school system would long since have broken down altogether.

We want and we need excellence in our educational system. We cannot have it without excellent teachers and well-equipped classrooms, laboratories, and libraries.

Educ  
our  
Standard!

We Democrats should say to the teachers of Maine and of America: "Stay in your classrooms - help is on the way."

<sup>Republican</sup> This Administration neglects the old as well as the young. Our social security system is a wheezing Model T Ford in a Hydromatic-V8 age.

~~SSOC Security~~

neglects  
the  
old

The Government's own figures show that it costs at least \$2300 a year for a couple to live ~~by themselves~~ in modest fashion.

-7- Through Soc Security

Yet this same Government provides the average retired couple with only about \$1440 a year.

GOOP say - enuff!!

Talk about your missile gap! - here's a gap that's even harder to fill!

GAPS in Economics  
our Schools  
our Elderly

Even more desperate is the plight of the 1,300,000 aging widows who are existing - we can hardly call it living - on an average benefit of \$56 a month.

Yes, we need at least a 30% increase in minimum benefits, we need special housing for the elderly, and we need tax credits to encourage the hiring of older workers.

Elderly  
Program

Above all, we need immediate action on the greatest dread of our senior citizens - the heart-chilling fear of sickness and its catastrophic cost.

Health  
Care

We need the enactment of the Humphrey and Forand Bills for medical benefits for the aged.



000892

These are dollars that could have - should have -  
been invested in America's future.

Some of them, for instance, should have been  
invested in the Passamaquoddy ~~Tidal~~ power project. All  
of you can remember how men of little vision ridiculed  
this bold and imaginative idea in FDR's day. All of you  
can imagine what benefits it would have brought your  
state in terms of abundant electric power at a reasonable  
price - and abundant power means prosperous and expanding  
industry.

Here we are over 20 years later, and still nothing  
has been done about it. This no-go, no-start, go-slow  
Veto Administration has only nine months to run - and  
it looks as if we Democrats will have the job of doing  
in the <sup>1960's</sup> 60's what should have been done in the <sup>1950's</sup> 50's.

000894

This is a need so urgent that even the Administration has been compelled to take notice of it. The latest word is that they are "exploring" the problem. This is quite an adventure for the GOP.

*Exploring*

Now, this <sup>Republican</sup> ~~Eisenhower-Nixon~~ team often reminds me of, Christopher Columbus, - when he set forth he didn't know where he was going, and when he came back he didn't know where he had been.

But this time I believe they do know what they're exploring for. //

I can tell you that they are not looking for the best and the soundest method of meeting the medical needs of older Americans.

They are playing politics and "exploring" for votes.



# 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](http://www.mnhs.org)