

From the Office of:

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HUMPHREY LABELS RIGHTIST LEADERS

"KNIGHTS OF NEGATIVISM"

PITTSBURGH, PA., March 9 -- Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) tonight dubbed the leaders of the ultra-right wing as "silver-plated Knights of Noisy Negativism."

The Senate Majority Whip challenged right-wing leaders to present "some positive, constructive proposals for a change."

Humphrey addressed a Roosevelt Day dinner of the Pittsburgh Americans for Democratic Action.

"Though the armor of the Knights of Negativism shines brightly," he said, "I suspect it is like one of those old suits of armor seen in museums or found in attics: Quite rusty at the joints from lack of movement."

"And I have an even stronger suspicion that if we lifted the face hood of that suit of armor and pointed a flashlight through the dust, we would find inside exactly nothing -- except perhaps a few mouldy echoes from the past."

"The Rightist Knights of Negativism are against everything," Humphrey said. "They seek to destroy programs now proven and successful. They seek to tear down, to destroy, to negate."

"And they suggest nothing positive or constructive to replace all they would obliterate with their slogans and 19th Century cliches."

Humphrey said that the "spears of the Knights of Negativism have been blunted by the solid wall of achievement of liberal programs and progressive policies."

He scoffed at "rightist boasts that a conservative tide is dominating the country," and added:

"Noisy rallies and frequent headlines do not truly reflect the mood of the American people."

"One clue to that mood is the record of the New Frontier

M O R E

Administration in Congress. The First Session of the 87th Congress passed more solid, liberal legislation than any session since the 1930's."

"This is a liberal era for America," Humphrey concluded. "If anyone wants to see a Conservative tide, he will have to lean low. For it will be little more than a trickle of tears from the Knights of Negativism who will witness continuing, positive achievements and progress in the United States."

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M O R E

Goldwater  
Nixon  
Rockefeller  
Romney

intro Run <sup>em</sup> all

unemployment

EXCERPTS OF REMARKS BY  
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
ROOSEVELT DAY DINNER  
AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

Pittsburgh, Pa.  
March 9, 1962

- ✓ CIVIL RIGHTS
- ✓ Aid to Discharge of unemployed
- ✓ Unemploy camp
- ✓ Medical Bureau
- ✓ U. H.

*Joe Clark*  
*Dick Dilworth*

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I am honored to be with you tonight.

I am proud of the record of Americans  
for Democratic Action, and of my  
association with this organization.

And let me add that I am not afraid  
that this big, surging wave of conservatism  
we read so much about will crush me if I  
express my respect for the ADA publicly.

Just yesterday, in Washington, a  
reporter for the Associated Press called

my office to explain that he was writing a story on ADA and wanted a quote from Humphrey.

I suspect that the ~~ADA~~ reporter expected a timid, fence-straddling statement from the Assistant Majority Leader of the United States Senate. He did not get it. This is what I told him:

"The Americans for Democratic Action has a constructive influence on the general community and on the government. Its principle role is political education. It performs that function conscientiously, *effectively*, and responsibly. The mission of the ADA is to promote progressive democracy, and



at the same time to expose the political  
hypocrisy of the radical left <sup>Communist</sup> and <sup>Radical</sup> Right"

I hope every news media in the Nation  
uses that A.P. story, and my quote with it.

H  
This has been a busy week for me. On

Wednesday night, I was in New York to

deliver two addresses. I sort of hoped

that a third meeting in New York -- of the

Young Americans for Freedom -- would find

a spot for me to speak between Senator

Goldwater and Senator Tower of Texas.

But they didn't invite me. I suppose  
there was not enough time on the program.

This could, perhaps, be explained by two

ADA in  
the frontline  
of the battle  
for a free,  
just, a  
prosperous,  
and peaceful  
world

conservation  
restoration

paragraphs in a New York Times report on  
their meeting the next day. I quote from  
the <sup>N.Y.</sup> Times' story:

"The Young Americans had organized a  
meticulous timetable. This allowed, among  
other things, for a three minute 'demonstration'  
for Senator Tower and a ten minute 'demonstration'  
for Senator Goldwater on their introductions.

"A 'second demonstration' for Senator  
Goldwater after his speech was scheduled

for four minutes. <sup>"</sup> ~~A spokesman said the~~

~~scheduling aimed to fit into the radio time~~

~~and was based on past experience."~~

L I have just one comment: I would rather

receive two-seconds of applause from a

natural and uncontrolled ADA audience than

two hours of a planned "demonstration" from

*Renegades of the*  
a Rally of the Right.

*1 = pretty*  
~~I think~~ it is obvious by now that the

leaders of the radical right present

themselves as knights in shining armor, *emotionally,*

eager to save the American people from the

dragons of progress and liberal achievement.

I am willing to admit that they are

knights. ~~I dub them:~~ Knights of Noisy

Negativism.

*Nights -  
Dark*

And they are, indeed, suited in

shining armor. Their armor shines ~~because~~



*"Gold watered" - John Birchard*

it is silver-plated and well-heeled. It  
is polished to a high gloss with liberal  
doses of oil from Texas and Southern  
California.

Though the armor of the Knights of  
Negativism shines brightly, I suspect it  
is like one of those old suits of armor  
seen in museums or found in attics: <sup>le</sup> Quite  
rusty at the joints from lack of movement. <sup>le</sup>

And I have an even stronger suspicion  
that if <sup>we</sup> ~~one of us~~ lifted the face hood of  
that armor and <sup>took a good look</sup> ~~pointed a flashlight through~~  
~~the dust~~, we would find inside exactly,  
nothing -- except perhaps a few mouldy

Spooks of Suspicion  
Friends of Fear

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echoes from the past. —

2 The Rightist Knights of Negativism

carry heavy spears for their attacks.

They are against everything. They seek

to destroy programs now proven and

successful. They seek to tear down, to

destroy, to negate. ~~And~~ they suggest

nothing positive or constructive ~~to~~

they chant  
~~replace all they would obliterate with~~

their slogans and 19th Century cliches.

Victims of  
frustration  
and  
defeat.

But if you look closely, you will

notice that the spears of the ~~radical~~

right wingers are blunt, <sup>and worn</sup>. Indeed, they

are worn almost to the handle. They have

been blunted and worn down by <sup>charging at</sup> the solid

wall of ~~achievement~~ of liberal programs

and progressive policies. ~~It~~

*and those* ~~The Rightist~~ Knights of Negativism

speaking jubilantly about a "conservative

tide of the future." They gleefully

boast that a majority of Americans are

turning away from liberal <sup>+Progressive</sup> traditions and

policies. They claim that conservatism

is becoming the dominant factor in

American thought and policy.

Nonsense. — ~~It's the backwash~~

I disagree, and not because I am a  
dedicated liberal.

It is true that conservative groups

are making noise and  
getting headlines - but  
noise & headlines do not reflect  
the mood of the country

*Backwash  
and Sludge  
of the Past*

and right-wing organizations have been making more noise in recent months. It is true that they have captured more news headlines during the past year.

Difference is  
Caroline  
77% Kennedy  
26% Democ

But noise and headlines do not truly reflect the mood of the country.

Kennedy a better  
measure of  
the mood.

and ~~one~~ <sup>another</sup> guide to that mood is the action of Congress, <sup>and the Executive Branch</sup> A brief look at the First year of the new administration and the first Session of the 87th Congress last year is

enough to negate all the boasts about a "conservative tide."

A Nation of  
Confidence

The liberal policies and programs of Pres. Kennedy and the New Frontier were given solid backing in the public and in Congress -- sometimes by overwhelming majorities.



majorities.

The Congress approved the Area  
Redevelopment Act, to help economically  
distressed areas of the country back to  
health. — Approved Unemploy Compens  
aid to Depend Children of Unemploy

We boosted the minimum wage standard  
to \$1.25 an hour and extended coverage  
under this law to an additional 3.6  
million workers. — Food Stamps —

We approved the Housing Act to give  
the country the most progressive and  
sweeping housing program in its history.

We added a new, liberal dimension to  
our foreign aid program with the "Alliance

Recession  
to  
Growing  
Prosperity

Double  
Food for Peace  
Program  
\$1 Billion  
up

Civil  
Rights  
Justice



(Good Neighbor  
FDR)

for Progress" in Latin America to

encourage economic, social and political

reform.

- Reorganized For Aid -

And we launched two liberal programs

for which I had worked for years: The

United States Peace Corps, and the United

States Arms Control and Disarmament

Agency.

~~Reorganized Foreign Aid~~

Joe Clark

All of these are facts, not boasts.

They are achievements, not claims. They

are practical steps forward, not pleas to

move backward.

and

The job is not finished. The First

Session of the 87th Congress produced more

~~and~~

substantial, liberal legislation than in  
any year since the early thirties, but  
much remains to be done.

and, Much will be done in this Second

Session of the 87th Congress.

But, Liberals in the Senate and the House

of Representatives do not fool themselves

about the efforts needed for a record of

achievement. We are well aware of the

strength of conservative forces in Congress.

We know that we face some hard fights and

~~some~~ long battles to enact the programs

we believe are necessary to keep the Nation

moving forward.

Like  
- Bill Morehead  
Joe Clark

But we are confident, ~~The number of~~  
~~liberals in the Congress has increased~~  
~~substantially in recent years. And they~~  
~~have learned to work together -- and to~~  
~~work more effectively -- for the policies~~  
~~and programs in which they believe.~~

~~With the leadership and support of~~  
~~President Kennedy, we have embarked on a~~  
~~new decade of progress and achievement.~~

~~I have no doubt that the record of success~~  
~~in the First Session of the 87th Congress~~  
~~will be continued this year.~~

Let me use as an example the program  
of medical care for elderly citizens under

*of what I mean by progress -*

the Social Security system. )

*my first bill  
in the 81st Congress*

A tremendous propaganda offensive has been conducted against it. Vast sums of money have been spent in an effort to convince the public that the Administration's medical care plan is a form of "socialized medicine."

The facts tell another story.

It is a fact that millions of elderly  
Americans today face frequent health problems -- at a time when their incomes are reduced.

It is a fact that millions of elderly  
Americans cannot afford the high premiums

of private medical care plans, and that the private plans at best provide limited coverage.

It is a fact that the program advanced by the Administration and liberal Congressional leaders includes a guarantee and emphasis that patients under the program would have free choice of doctor and hospital.

It is a fact that the medical care program under Social Security would be soundly-financed.

Under the Administration program, a citizen would pay into a fund for medical insurance over a lifetime of earnings --



instead of facing staggering hospital and medical costs at an advanced age when he is least able to pay. ~~it~~

This liberal program would be an example of "government with a heart" -- it is morally sound and it would be fiscally sound.

It would not require any form of a humiliating "means test" or declaration of need.

We face a stiff fight to ~~establish~~ <sup>pass</sup> this program, but I predict it will be approved. The American people -- young and old -- want it. The President has given it high priority. And the liberal

leaders of Congress will push hard for  
its enactment.

Medical Care for the Elderly under  
the Social Security system is just one  
of many goals of the liberal New Frontier.

Higher Educa  
For Retraining  
Clark Bell

They will be reached soon -- no matter  
how many rallies the Knights of Negativism  
organize and no matter how much noise the  
Radical Rightists make.

Unemployment  
Key Issue

Issue  
U.N. - Bonds  
Attack on  
U.N.

This is a liberal year, a liberal  
decade, a liberal era for America. If  
anyone wants to see the Conservative tide,  
he will have to lean low.

For it will be  
little more than a trickle of tears from

*[Handwritten scribbles]*

U.N.  
Bonds

~~the Knights of Negativism who see~~  
~~continuing, positive achievements in the~~  
~~United States.~~

The liberal of today does see one  
tide -- the tide of change. It is sweeping  
the world. The liberal knows that the  
millions of people who have suffered  
hunger, poverty and social injustice all  
of their lives are not willing to wait  
for promises of gradual change. He knows  
that unless the United States attempts to  
help and guide this revolution for change,  
we ~~it~~ could be crushed by it.

That is why our Nation must do

everything possible to encourage social  
and political reform, in the struggling  
nations and areas of the world. We must  
help the growth of the <sup>free</sup> trade union movement,  
the development of cooperatives and  
progressive policies by business and  
government leaders of every nation.

Conservative policies will not work  
in an era of rapid change and demands for  
progress by the people. Human beings who  
suffer poverty, injustice, illiteracy and  
hunger are no longer patient to "conserve"  
the old conditions of the past.

Above all, we need to develop effective

plans for both domestic and international programs. Liberals believe in planning.

They are impatient with those who say that planning is "good practice" for business" but "socialism" in government.

L Liberals in the Congress, in *the Democratic Party*,  
*in our* communities, in organizations such as ADA  
must work together for their common goal --  
a Nation and world of continuing progress,  
of justice for all men, of secure peace  
and freedom.

(END)

Over





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