

From the Office of:  
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
1313 New Senate Office Building  
Washington 25, D. C.  
Capitol 4-3121, Ext. 2424

FOR RELEASE: FRIDAY A.M.  
JUNE 29, 1962

### HUMPHREY HITS 'OBSTRUCTIONISM'

#### IN CONGRESS

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) predicted last night that the 87th Congress will have built a "solid legislative record by the end of the year."

But he warned that "any major parts of the Administration program blocked by obstructionism will be up for political decision at the ballot box."

The Senate Majority Whip spoke at a meeting of the District of Columbia Young Democrats in Washington.

"Delay of action on the major Administration programs to get the country moving ahead is due to petty obstructionism, unreasoned obstinacy and willful partisanship," Humphrey said.

"Republican members of Congress still carry the banner of VETO. The GOP has shifted the policy of veto from the White House to the Congress.

"Internationally, the greatest barrier to progress is the obstinacy of the Soviet Union. Domestically, it is the obstructionism of the Republican Party in Congress.

"Let's contrast the record. In the 1950's, the Democrats in Congress---a majority---followed a policy of cooperation with President Eisenhower.

"Now, a Republican minority in Congress turns its back on good government and decides to follow a policy of solid opposition to President Kennedy's program.

"They will learn in November that the President and his programs are supported by the American people.

"The GOP has spread the myth that President Kennedy is personally popular in the country, but that his programs and proposals are not.

"There would be as much logic to say that people like a particular make of automobile, but do not like its engine, design,

M O R E

body, workmanship and wheels.

"The American people support and want such Kennedy programs as health and hospital care, tax reform, trade expansion and aid to education. If they do not get those programs, they will make their feelings distinctly and overwhelmingly known in November.

"The American people want action, not reaction. They want construction, not obstruction. They want responsibility, not irresponsibility. They want to go forward, not backward."

Humphrey renewed his plea for Home Rule for the District of Columbia, and for District representation in Congress.

"All of us are turning our back on good government when we allow the District of Columbia to remain as a sort of colonialistic holding," the Senator said.

"The United States takes pride in its representative government. We boast of it. We tell other nations that they should strive for representative governments.

"But the people of this city---the Nation's capitol--- have no representation, no voice and no standing in this representative government we claim.

"The lack of representative government for the District of Columbia is one of the most shocking and shameful conditions in America.

"This condition must be corrected at once."

"The contrast the record. In the 1950's, the Democrats in Congress---a majority---followed--30--policy of cooperation with President Eisenhower. Now, a Republican minority in Congress turns its back on good government and decides to follow a policy of solid opposition to President Kennedy's program. They will learn in November that the President and his programs are supported by the American people. The GOP has spread the myth that President Kennedy is personally popular in the country, but that his programs and proposals are not. There would be as much logic to say that people like a particular make of automobile, but do not like its engine, design,

President Bernstein

① Fellow Campaigners

② Bkfst at White House

Excerpts of Remarks By  
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

D.C. Young Democrats  
Washington, D.C.  
June 28, 1962

✓ Gordon Graham  
✓ Frank Reeves

Comm. John Duncan  
Allan Howe  
President YDCA

The 87th Congress will have built a  
solid legislative record by the end of  
the year. The record of the first session  
was excellent. This second session has over 2 months  
~~long time~~ to run.

and. Any major parts of the Administration  
program blocked by obstructionism will be  
up for political decision at the ballot box.

Decide  
at  
Ballot  
Box

Delay ~~of action~~ on the major Administration  
programs to get the country moving ~~ahead~~ is  
due to petty obstructionism, unreasoned

#

obstinacy and willful partisanship.

Republican Members of Congress still carry the banner of VETO. ~~The GOP has shifted the policy of veto from the White House to the Congress.~~

Internationally, the greatest barrier to progress is the obstinacy of the Soviet Union. Domestically, it is the obstructionism of the Republican Party in Congress. The Soviets say "NYET." The GOP says "Not yet!"

Let's contrast the record. In the 1950's, the Democrats in Congress -- a majority -- followed a policy of cooperation

*Solid  
Republican  
opposition*

*Republican  
Triple Play  
Not Now,  
Go Slow  
Veto  
Agree, Tax*

*Constructive*

# Action and responsibility

~~with President Eisenhower.~~

Now, a Republican minority in  
Congress turns its back on ~~good government~~ *Constructive Action*  
and ~~decides to follow~~ *pursues* a policy of solid  
opposition to President Kennedy's program.

They will learn in November that the  
President and his programs are supported  
by the American people.

Kennedy  
Johnson  
better than  
Eisenhower  
Charley!

The GOP has spread the myth that  
President Kennedy is personally popular  
in the country, but that his programs and  
proposals are not.

There would be as much logic to say  
that people like a particular make of

automobile, but do not like its engine,  
design, body, workmanship and wheels.

The American people support and want  
Democratic such ~~Kennedy~~ programs as health and

hospital care, tax reform, trade expansion,  
and aid to education. If they do not get  
new those programs, they will make their

feelings distinctly and overwhelmingly  
known in November.

The American people want action, not  
reaction. They want construction, not  
obstruction. They want responsibility,  
not irresponsibility. They want to go  
forward, not backward.

Housing

Agriculture,  
Youth Employ  
opportunities

Here is  
what we  
want!

Economic Progress

Shift Gears

Now, let me shift gears for a  
moment  
~~little bit~~ and talk for a few moments

on an obstructionism no less important  
and much closer to home.

Books

As most of you no doubt know, I  
have been waging a sort of one-man  
crusade against the shameful and disgraceful  
textbook and library book situation in  
Washington's schools.

I have been heartened by the  
encouragement and support my campaign has  
received from many of our Washington  
young people and parents, and, indeed,  
many of my colleagues.

But just when I begin to think we  
are making progress, out of the bushes  
pop the same <sup>old</sup> ~~old bush league ambushers.~~

You know what they are going to say  
before they say it: "Abe Lincoln didn't  
have very many textbooks given to him.  
And if the students want books, let them  
buy their own."

A member of Congress actually said  
this on the floor the other day. <sup>now,</sup> What  
would happen if he went to his home district  
and urged the same thing for his constituents  
there? He would be tossed out of office  
in short order, I'm sure. The tragedy is



that the people of Washington are this  
gentleman's constituents, <sup>too.</sup> Congress is the  
City Council here.

~~Yes, Abe Lincoln did not have many  
textbooks and maybe they were not the  
best. But that generation didn't produce  
many Abe Lincolns, and few have since.  
What it produced was a group of people  
who found a way to embroil our country in  
a bloody and near disastrous civil war.~~

Let me quote to you another ~~recent~~  
comment from a Member of Congress:

"The District of Columbia, the Capital,  
belongs to all the people of the 50 United

States. It does not belong to the  
people of the District of Columbia.

They just happen to be here."

Well, greetings fellow aliens!

It is high time that all Members  
of Congress begin paying constructive,  
rather than obstructive attention to  
the District of Columbia.

Home Rule

But you know the obstructionist's  
logic here:

We the Congress, (and don't you  
ever forget it), govern Washington, and  
why are you people who live here doing  
such a ~~lousy~~ <sup>poor</sup> job of governing your city?

Why do you have such dilapidated schools,  
old, battered, tattered and torn textbooks,  
a shortage of teachers and rundown,  
inadequate libraries?

Oh, brother.

And you know what the solution of  
the obstructionist is: More police and  
more police dogs.

The House has just passed a bill  
giving the police department all the men  
and dogs it wanted, but giving the schools  
100 fewer teachers than they need.

That is their approach to the problem,  
and let me make it clear, this approach was

Police

seconded heartily by quite a few supposedly good Democrats.

One legislator even went so far as to say: "I would like to see the time come when we have a dog on every block and a dog in every scout car."

*what a goal!*

My friends, I believe a good book in every child's hand is far more urgent than a snarling dog in every block.

Police dogs don't cure problems, only human beings can.

~~I, too, am concerned about crime in Washington. There are muggers and yokers and street robbers in Washington.~~

*here and there*  
D.C. - Developments - + How others  
*see us!*

(1) Human Rts, (2) Cultural Activities,  
(3) Housing - Educ - Health, -

AID - PEACE Corps -

There are also poverty and squalor,  
illiteracy and decrepit housing, intolerance  
and bad schools, and little opportunity for  
an unskilled human being. Police dogs  
can't cure them. *problems*

~~My young friends~~, I can be as hard-nosed  
and hard-headed as anyone, but I am  
convinced of one thing:

When a despised, kicked-about, whipped,  
illiterate, badly-trained, unskilled, hapless,  
poor, hungry people is driven by intolerable  
conditions to the promise of a better life  
in another city, and then finds nearly the  
same frustrating circumstances, something's

bound to give.

Why won't our hard-nosed obstructionists  
lend us their support to work on the  
causes as well as the effects?

You know what they reply: Do-gooder,  
bleeding heart, and worse.

In fact, these are the same people  
who are now up there in the forefront  
calling our Supreme Court communists,  
fellow travelers and pals of the Kremlin.

I for one have always found that the  
person who knows how to use the blackball,  
is the one who knows how to red-ball a  
person or an idea, too.

What they would like is a Supreme Court of men, their men, instead of a Supreme Court of law. A court of men who wouldn't decide the law on the basis of the Constitution, but on the basis of their party line.

What they want, too, is a segregated second-class citizenry they can always find like peasants beneath their feet, and if they can't get their way and it means violence, okay with them. This is the communist's best weapon against us, better than any nuclear bomb in their war to pull the rest of the second-class citizens of

the world into their camp. The communists wouldn't like to lose that weapon. And the obstructionist hater, the obstructionist racist is doing his very best to make sure the communists aren't disarmed of that weapon.

Well, young Democrats, this is what you are up against, and what you are going to be up against for some time to come, and welcome aboard.

Yes, indeed, like our conservative obstructionists, I would like to see our country become more conservative -- but conservative about truth, and honor and



human dignity.

But let us never -- any one of us  
ever stop being liberal -- liberal about  
justice, and tolerance and fair play.

(END)



# 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)