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Cong. Tom. Mc Math

Sam Harris

Commissioner Ellen
Winston
President

This Auditorium
Aug 1964

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WELFARE
ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY

Ⓚ Whitney Young
Pres-Elect

May 28, 1965

It is not only a high privilege to be with you today,
but a great pleasure as well. The work you do - - on a
national level, and in your own communities - - is a
labor of love. And it is work of the greatest social
significance. (Social Workers - Soldiers of Justice
+ Compassion)

You deal daily with complex financial and
organizational problems. But you also deal ~~with the~~
daily ^{work the} problems of human beings. The intensely personal
aspects of human motivation and conduct . . . the
reaction of man to the stresses and pressures of his
environment . . . the response of man to his family,
and his neighbor and his God - - these are matters
which comprise human existence itself.

You have much to offer a nation which is deeply concerned today about the underside of our affluence, our Prosperity

It is thus wholly fitting that your National Conference has the theme, "Social Change Through Social Welfare and the Law." You know the powerful stresses which change exerts upon the individual, upon our institutions, and upon our society.

No generation in history has lived amid such change as we have seen in our lives. Yesterday's science fiction is today's reality.

Today we are the strongest and most advanced nation in the history of the world. But our favored existence is not guaranteed by either experience or theology.

~~Social workers~~
~~Soldiers in the same~~
~~A Justice~~
Dignity

John Stuart Mill said a century ago: "Great economic and social forces flow like a tide over half-conscious people. The wise are those who foresee the coming events and seek to shape their institutions and mold the thinking of the people in accordance with the most constructive change. The unwise are those who add nothing constructive to the process either because of ignorance on the one hand or ignorant opposition on the other."

My message to you ^{today} ~~this evening~~ is simply this:
What we do today will determine the course America will follow tomorrow.

/ The American dream was never conceived in the conscience of conservatives but in the hearts of visionaries. And it has been the energy, creativity, and innovation brought by Americans to the task of democratic government which has preserved this nation as a beacon of hope in a weary and struggling world.

/ In meeting this challenge of constructive change, we must understand that life is pragmatic. Ideas and institutions that work are those which survive. But ideas and institutions do not emerge full-blown - nor do they function unaided. They must be patiently shaped and refined by men - - wise, courageous and just men.

When the times demanded such men, America has always been fortunate. Three decades ago, Franklin D. Roosevelt captured the imagination of a tired and frightened people with a boundless confidence in our capacity to conquer the Great Depression. He said:

"The country needs . . . bold, persistent experimentation. It is common sense to take a method and try it: if it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something."

Franklin Roosevelt, in his Presidency, preserved the precious tree of democracy, with its old trunk and new branches, in face of some who would have cut the tree down and others who would have let it rot.

↳ The pragmatic leadership of Franklin Roosevelt saw us through a period when the future of our democratic political system itself was in danger.

↳ Why has the American system - - above all others - - possessed its remarkable capacity to bend, to accommodate, to accept change?

↳ The relative youth of our nation? Perhaps.
The lack of a ruling class, or the presence of a flourishing middle class? Perhaps. The pluralistic *-the diverse* nature of our population? Perhaps.

But I suggest this: The principal reason for our adaptability has been our unwavering commitment to moderation.

↳ From the earliest days of this Republic, we have deplored extremes.

∠ We have developed a lively, partisan political system - - but one which recognizes that all significant national decisions must ultimately be based on a pooling of individual consent - - based, in a word, upon consensus.

∠ President Lyndon Johnson has faithfully preserved and implemented the belief that a creative consensus is the most valued instrument in the pursuit of justice and freedom through the democratic process.

The notion of consensus implies neither inaction nor sterility. And bold and beneficial governmental action to effect social change need not have its origin in blind partisan warfare.

Indeed, this Administration is responding to our age with this affirmation: That all Americans shall share

in and contribute to the fruits of our progress... We seek not a welfare state - but a State of opportunity for all - a society in which ~~human~~ the well-being - yes the

Welfare of people is our top priority.
We know that our most precious resource
is the human resource - We seek to conserve
and develop these human resources.
and We are undertaking specific programs to make this

affirmation a full reality:

-- The broad spectrum of anti-poverty programs --
the Job Corps, Community Action programs, Project Head
Start, the Neighborhood Youth Corps, and others -- which
are providing new opportunity to the deprived and revitalizing
our local communities at the same time.

↳ -- The Elementary and Secondary School Act,
which recognizes the urgent need for federal assistance
in helping our states and localities meet the educational
needs of our youth, especially those who are poor.

↳ -- A comprehensive program of health care --
including hospital insurance for the aged; regional
medical centers; better health services for children, the
mentally retarded, and the elderly -- and vastly expanded
resources for health research.

-- A pioneering effort to conserve the natural beauty of this great land and to eliminate health hazards in our every-day lives.

-- A long-overdue reform of our immigration system, stressing what a man can do -- and not where he comes from.

-- A total commitment by the federal government to implement the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other related legislation as part of our effort to banish discrimination, prejudice and segregation from our national life.

◀ We have abiding faith in the future of progressive government in America.

X All of these efforts require an active partnership between all levels of government and the Private and Voluntary sector. Public + private - Governmental and Voluntary agencies must work together if we are to erase or reduce the ~~the~~

Tragic waste of Human resources that comes from illiteracy, poverty, disease, and fear discrimination. But we know we can

win the war over mans ancient enemies.

→ Alexis de Tocqueville captured this spirit over a century ago: "... America is a land of wonders, in which everything is in constant motion and every change seems an improvement... no natural boundary seems to be set to the efforts of man -- and in his eyes what is not yet done is only what he has not yet attempted to do." - We can do what we will to do!

(We have no intention of resting on our oars -- or on our laurels.

① Our Economy Expansion }

② The Great Society, as President Johnson has noted, "is not a safe harbor, a resting place, a final objective, a finished work. It is a challenge constantly renewed, beckoning us toward a destiny where the meaning of our lives matches the marvelous products of our labor."

- For Aid - Econ + Tech Aid
- Food for Peace
- Peace Corps
- Health -



Indeed, ours is the most exhilarating task of all: to preserve America as the place for renewal of the human spirit and liberation of human potentiality.

So let us retain compassion in the midst of indifference -- ideals in the midst of cynicism -- and belief in the midst of despair.

and Let us not fear change. Let us seek it as our ally in creating a more perfect society.

Let us look forward to the time when, in the words of Isaiah: "Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain."

Let us exemplify at home and abroad that noble philosophy of Lincoln - with malice toward none, with charity for all, but with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right. - America - last best hope on Earth.

INFORMATION

FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE
-ON-
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Washington 25, D. C.

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