

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY AT THE
MIDWESTERN DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE, BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
OCTOBER 25, 1965

This is a time of harvest and hope here in the Midwest -- an appropriate time for democrats to get together.

We Democrats had a harvest last fall, too . . . a harvest of votes that carried all 14 Midwest states.

The last Democratic Vice President who could make this statement was John Nance Garner in 1936.

In his State of the Union Message earlier this year, President Johnson said: "We do not intend to live -- in the midst of abundance -- isolated from neighbors and nature, confined by blighted cities and bleak suburbs, stunted by a poverty of learning and an emptiness of leisure."

And then the President's thoughts turned back to the land where he was born: "It was a barren land. The angular hills were covered with scrub cedar and a few large live oaks. Little would grow in that harsh caliche soil of my country. And each spring the Perdenales River would flood our valley. But the men came and they worked and they endured and they built."

As I listened to the words of our President, my mind turned to the people of the Midwest.

We too, came and worked and endured and built. And our aspirations -- like our President's -- are a fuller and better life for ourselves and our neighbors.

Like the people of Texas, the people who settled in the Middle West were a hardy lot. They came here from Sweden and Norway, from Germany and Denmark, from Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

They came here to build their homes, to work their land, and to raise their children in freedom.

They worked hard, but hard work alone sometimes seemed not enough.

How well we remember the droughts of a generation ago when the winds blew away the precious top soil, leaving dreams and hopes and ambitions buried under layers of dust.

Cattle died by the thousands . . . corn withered in the fields . . . farms were foreclosed and small business bankrupted.

We, like the people of Texas, remember how the New Deal and President Roosevelt turned inaction into action . . . how the government came to the aid of the farmer and the worker, the young and the aged . . . how a new spirit invigorated those who had come to doubt this nation's promise and strength.

There were many who argued then -- as there are some who argue today -- that when the federal government takes any action it inevitably leads to a loss of freedom . . . that Washington is the enemy of the people and the next election will be the last.

But the people of the depression years knew better. And we know better today.

We have learned much during these past thirty years about the relationship of the federal government to its citizens. We have demonstrated that depressions can be averted, poverty reduced, and the rate of economic growth kept high.

We have demonstrated that the federal government can work cooperatively with state and local governments as well as with public and private non-governmental agencies -- with business and labor -- to fully develop America's human, material and natural resources.

We Democrats have built upon a philosophy of government that has evolved from Thomas Jefferson to Lyndon Johnson. We embrace Jefferson's belief that "the care of human life and happiness is the first and only legitimate object of good government. "

And, we accept the challenge of President Johnson's inaugural address that "our fate as a nation and our future as a people rest not upon one citizen but upon all citizens."

Human progress is a slow, tortuous process -- and mankind's struggle with its own environment is as old as recorded history.

Yet the world has changed -- and remarkably -- in the past generation. Our greatest challenge today is not the enormity of the problems confronting us, but the very real possibility for solving them.

This Administration is embarked on one of the great adventures in our history -- to shape a Great Society that will expand the horizons of freedom and opportunity.

We see the Great Society not as a welfare state, but as a state of opportunity.

While the majority of Americans are making the most of their abilities -- enjoying the highest standard of living in man's history -- there are still far too many Americans living without that opportunity.

The President has proposed -- and Congress has enacted -- programs that will provide a base for our American growth and expansion.

To meet the needs of rural America, Congress has enacted the 1965 farm bill -- a strong and substantial farm bill. This bill provides for a four-year farm program -- the longest in the history of farm legislation -- to bring stability to the farm economy. This bill will increase income for feed grain farmers, wheat farmers, livestock and dairy farmers. It will enable farmers to arrange less expensive long-term credit for the purchase of needed equipment.

To meet the needs of 137 million Americans living in our cities, this Congress has passed the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965, establishing at the Cabinet level a voice for the city and a focus for federal programs. It has passed an important Omnibus Housing Bill. This

legislation meets the challenge of 30 million people who will be added to our overcrowded cities in the next fifteen years.

To meet the needs of 47 million youngsters now in elementary and secondary schools, this Congress has passed important and far-reaching legislation. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Vocational Education Amendments, the Manpower Training and Development Act, the Higher Education Act, the Teaching - Professions Act -- this legislation is a bold and creative effort to give our children the best possible start-in-life.

To meet the needs of our 19 million senior citizens, this Congress has passed Medicare. And we have extended Social Security benefits to provide a seven per cent increase, averaging four dollars a month, in old age and survivors benefits.

We have also passed the Heart Disease, Cancer and Stroke Amendment, creating a five-year program of grants to medical centers for research against these killer diseases.

To meet the needs of 27 million Americans living in depressed areas, Congress has passed laws to meet the problem of fully realizing our nation's economic potential.

We now have on the books the Appalachia Regional Development Act to help 15 million persons in a region long suffering and long neglected . . . a three-year extension of the Manpower Development and Training program to teach new job skills to a half million jobless workers . . . and the Public Works and Economic Development Act to provide economic and technical assistance to depressed communities.

Congress has also approved a doubling of the Economic Opportunity program to help hundreds of communities to organize their own wars on poverty and encourage the poor to mobilize for their own help. And the State Technical Services Act will help the states -- and private enterprises in the states -- to use all the tools of science and technology to meet their growing needs.

This Congress will also be remembered for the voting rights law. President Johnson has said that "all Americans must have the privileges of citizenship regardless of race."

The Voting Rights Act passed during this session keeps promises made one hundred years ago.

This Congress is also working to keep the American countryside unspoiled. Last year, 178,000 acres were protected against wetland destruction . . . nine million acres of National Forest wilderness have been set aside to preserve its natural state for public enjoyment . . . and nine new wildlife refuges have been activated.

We are winning the battle against blight.

We are going to make our cities more liveable by bringing new housing, eliminating air pollution, and creating better transportation systems.

We are going to clean up our rivers, lakes and streams, restore beauty to areas scarred by heavy industrialization, and create more accessible tourist and recreation areas in heavily populated sections of our country.

This Congress has passed one hundred pieces of major legislation. Jefferson once called Congress "the great commanding theatre of this nation." The description is true today.

We are moving in this country. We are doing the things that must be done to meet our responsibilities at home and in the world.

We are building an America strong, prosperous and free.

And we can be nothing less in a world that lives with the possibility of total destruction.

But the promise of the nuclear age outweighs even its dangers.

We now have it in our means -- for the first time in human history -- to extend mankind's benefits to all men.

Our choice is clear: We must resist aggression. We must help those in the world -- the

disinherited, the hungry, the humble and the weak -- who need our help.

We must pursue peace to the ends of the earth or face the end of the earth.

We have the genius to reach for the stars -- to soar free of this planet into the limitless reaches of space. But we also have the chance to reach for the human heart -- to do what we must to preserve life and make it full and free, happy and useful.

This, then, is what the Great Society is all about.

It is the recognition that we can create in America our state of opportunity. We can right old wrongs. We can offer each person -- and each place -- in our country the chance to be better tomorrow than today.

We can lead by example, and by act, the real revolution in the world today: the revolution toward human freedom and human happiness.

Let us move forward.

✓ ^{Bill} Gov. Guy and Jean
✓ Sen. Burdick
✓ Rep. Redlin - Rolland Redlin

② 11. Ph - 50th Birthday
last night

Usher Burdick -
to P.

Bill Hanger

✓ Mrs. Lir Bjorlie

REMARKS
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

✓ Nat. Commissioner

MIDWESTERN DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE

✓ Dr. S. B. Hocking
Nat. Com. Man

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

OCTOBER 25, 1965

conference Chr.
Lex Hawkins

② Lloyd Omdahl
State Commissioner
too happy!!

Matt
Laskowitz

✓ We have just finished the fall
~~This is a time of harvest and hope~~

here in the upper
Midwest -- an appropriate time for Democrats to get
together.

✓ We Democrats had a harvest last fall, too . . . a
harvest of votes that carried all 14 Midwest states.

14
States

and

✓ The last Democratic Vice President who could make
this statement was John Nance Garner in 1936.

✓ In his State of the Union Message earlier this year,
President Johnson said: "We do not intend to live --

These Midwestern States -
This is the battle ground for 1966

in the midst of abundance -- isolated from neighbors and
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And then the President's thoughts turned back to
the land where he was born: "It was a barren land.
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And our aspirations -- like our President's -- are a fuller and better life for ourselves and our neighbors.

Like the people of Texas, the people who settled in the Middle West were a hardy lot. They came here from

Sweden and Norway, from ^{Ireland} Germany and Denmark, from Ireland

^{scattered} England from Eastern Europe and the Balkans. *yes, everywhere*

They came here to build their homes, to work their land, and to raise their children in freedom.

They worked hard, but hard work alone sometimes seemed not enough.

How well we remember the droughts of ^{30+35 years} a generation ago when the winds blew away the precious top soil, leaving dreams and hopes and ambitions buried under layers of dust.

↳ Cattle died by the thousands . . . corn withered in the fields . . . farms were foreclosed and small business ^{+ big} ~~business~~ ^{like} closed their doors ~~bankrupted~~.

↳ We, like the people of Texas, remember how the New Deal and President Roosevelt turned inaction into action . . . how the government came to the aid of the farmer and the worker, the young and the aged ^{yes business too,} . . . how a new spirit invigorated those who had come to doubt this nation's promise and strength.

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And we know better today.

✓ We have learned much during these past thirty
years about the relationship of the federal government to
its citizens. We have demonstrated that depressions can
be averted, poverty reduced, and the rate of economic
growth kept high. — *There is a "new economics"*
for a new age.

✓ We have demonstrated that the federal government
can work cooperatively with state and local governments
as well as with public and private non-governmental
agencies -- with business and labor -- to fully develop
America's human, material and natural resources.

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government that has evolved from Thomas Jefferson to
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"the care of human life and happiness is the first and
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Jefferson

And, we accept the challenge of President Johnson's inaugural address that "our fate as a nation and our future as a people rest not upon one citizen but upon all citizens."

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Opportunity for ABL

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Garrison Diversion Project - A promised here last Sept signed sealed & delivered
It provides for modern rural living - Water, Sanitation - Recreation and Conservation.

Cities

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Educ

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Elderly

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Health

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AID to Med
Schools
LIBRARY
Medical Health
Center on
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War on
Poverty

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State
Tech Service
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(X)

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89th Cong - written an Historic Record -
greatest in Amer History
But more to do - no distinction on our
laurels - (what have you done for
me lately) Albin Tarkenton

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ⓧ

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