

NOTES

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

CONGRESSIONAL DINNER

WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAY 12, 1966

B. Partisan

The term of office of a Republican President is only four years, just like A Democratic President. But
it doesn't feel that way.

It reminds me of the time a teetotaler was holding
forth in the British Parliament.

"People who don't drink," he said, "live longer."

To which a voice from the back benches responded:

"Sir, it only seems longer!"

* * * *

Mike Hansen

NOTES

Joe Farrow
Mr Speaker

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAY 12, 1966

Sen Mansfield
Carl Albert
Warren Magnuson

At City Convention

My fellow Democrats, tomorrow is our anniversary.

On May 13, 1792 Thomas Jefferson wrote a letter to

George Washington informing him that he and some

like-minded friends proposed to work together as a new

political party. — The Democratic

So, 174 years later, here we are.

From the time of Thomas Jefferson, ours has been

the party of the future . . . of looking-forward . . . of

hope . . . and, ~~not least~~, of action.

The Party of Wilson's New Freedom

{ Roosevelt's New Deal

{ Truman's Fair Deal

{ Kennedy's New Frontier

{ Johnson's Great Society

Our has been, and is, the party with an untarnished belief that tomorrow can be better, and that men and women of determination can build a world in which peace, and freedom, and justice are shining realities.

That spirit has been expressed by ^{John} three American Presidents of our time: - Harry S. Truman - who asked America to declare war on the ancient enemies of man and When John F. Kennedy assumed leadership of a nation seeking, above all, leadership, he outlined his vision of 'a new world of law, where the strong are just and the weak secure and the peace preserved.' ^{Disease ignorance Poverty Hunger}

He called our people to tasks, he said, which might not be completed in our lifetime on this planet.

But, he said: "Let us begin." ^{Begin}

^{The computer} Only three years later Lyndon B. Johnson stood before us in time of tragedy and crisis - He challenged us - not with any lament or

message of defeat, but with a ringing call to unity and to greatness.

President Johnson said: "Let us continue."

And we have continued -- magnificently -- Victoriously!

↳ We have continued, under President Johnson's
leadership, our struggle to complete the unfinished tasks
of America.

yes We have continued, ~~at the height of our wealth~~
~~and power~~, our struggle to create the kind of society --
both at home and in the world -- in which even the
humblest of men might be free to live without coercion
and with hope for the day ahead.

↳ Yes, the spirit of our party remains the same
restless spirit expressed by yet another American President
in a speech he never lived to deliver.

↳ Franklin Delano Roosevelt, preparing his Jefferson
Day address for April, 1945, sat at his desk in Warm Springs,
Georgia to write these parting words:

Indeed, during the '64 campaign, one of his admirers rushed up to a Goldwater staffer in wild alarm.

"You gotta do something quick!," he said. "There's someone taking down every word he says!"

* * * *

The Republicans are always saying that they love the people. But I can't make out what people they are talking about.

It can't be the children, because they opposed Federal aid to education.

It can't be our older citizens, because they denounced Medicare.

It can't be the poor, because they are always sniping against the War on Poverty.

It can't be slum dwellers, because they oppose rent supplements.

It can't be city people generally, because they fought the establishment of the Housing and Urban Development Department

Albert Goodale
Birthday
Newford mass

Bill Brown to
See John St.
on West Broadway

Leo James
20th wedding
Anniversary

6:30 on
Sat.

4215 Yuma

“The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will
be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with a
strong and active faith.” — *We move forward*

My fellow Democrats -- my fellow Americans --
in Educ, in health, in
let us move forward *opportunity for all -*

We live in a time when man possesses the power to finally
destroy himself.

Yet, at the same time, we possess -- for the first
time in human history -- the means to create fullness and
richness of life in the place of emptiness and despair.

Let us move forward with a strong and active faith.

Let us move forward with laws and policies and actions which
say to America and to the world: We are not afraid to dream
. . . we are not afraid to lead . . . we are not afraid to
challenge what has gone unchallenged before.

- 5 -

Our responsibility is great. Our opportunity is greater still.

Let us seize that opportunity.

Let us move forward.

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* * * *

The Republicans have been discussing their future as a party, or whether they have a future. Recently a voice from the remote past -- I mean 1964 -- made itself heard. Barry Goldwater wrote the WALL STREET JOURNAL and said:

"I really believe that there is apprehension in this country and I feel almost a frustration in not being able to put my finger squarely on it or come up with answers but I intend to keep trying in the hope that either I or others working with me can spell out the future of the Republican Party . . . "

* * * *

I recall one American politician who complained that he never got prominent enough to have his speeches garbled. Barry took no chances on that -- He garbled his own.

Indeed, during the '64 campaign, one of his admirers rushed up to a Goldwater staffer in wild alarm.

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It can't be city people generally, because they fought the establishment of the Housing and Urban Development Department

It can't be farmers or workers, because they have consistently resisted legislation on their behalf.

Maybe they do really love the people. But what comes to my mind is two lines of an old poem:

"Perhaps it was right to dissemble your love,
But why did you kick me downstairs?"

* * * *

Most Republicans have been compelled at some time or another to effect a strategic withdrawal from the 19th Century. But they don't like to admit it. They remind me of the Greek warrior Ajax as Homer describes him:

"Ajax retreated, but so slowly and with such a firm and savage visage that the Trojans thought he was advancing."

There are some Republicans who describe themselves as "advanced." But I find that they usually define the word as the poet Alexander Pope did:

"Not to go back is somewhat to advance."

Some go so far as to admit that they actually believe in progress, but insist that it must be gradual.

I asked one of them if he believed in slow but noticeable progress. He turned that down flat. "How about progress that's barely perceptible?"

"That's a little too rapid for me," he said.

* * * *

I'll wager very few of you know what tomorrow is.

It's not just Friday, the 13th. It's May 13, the 174th anniversary of the appearance of the Democratic Party on the American political scene.

It was in a letter dated May 13, 1792, that Thomas Jefferson informed George Washington that he and some like-minded friends proposed to work together as a party.

And we have been working together ever since, and to good effect.

Yes, the Democratic Party has a longer continuous history than any other political party in the world.

Yet in spirit it is the youngest. Certainly, as you have shown again this evening, it is the liveliest!

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