

OPENING GREETINGS  
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY  
DOLLARS FOR DEMOCRATS CONFERENCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
AUGUST 24, 1966

One of the Vice President's jobs -- one which you won't find described in the Constitution -- is getting out and around the country, listening to all kinds of people, and looking over the many things in which they are involved.

And I am pleased by what I have been finding in my travels.

We've got a lot of problems in this land of ours. But we're working on them.

We hear some criticism. But that keeps us alert.

We get some suggestions. They often lead to new approaches to solving our problems.

And we meet a lot of Democrats who are eager to get going on the 1966 campaign.

That's the spirit I find around the country and that's the spirit I sense in this room today.

As the state and national leaders of the Dollars for Democrats Drive, you have responsibility second to none in our campaign this Fall.

Campaign managers are important. So are public relations managers, office staff, and all the volunteers. They all rate just below those who have the responsibility of providing what our chairman, John Bailey, calls the "sinews" of the campaign -- in other words, the cash.

And for some reason it seems to take more and more of that "sinew" every election.

I've done a little political fund raising in my time. So today I want to briefly share my ideas on the subject with you.

↳ In the first place, the whole idea of going out and getting contributions from the broad scope of the populace has about it a sense of high purpose.

↳ It gives the people an opportunity to more fully participate in the democratic -- as the President says, with a small "d" -- process. It's akin to doing some of the many volunteer tasks, creating a better understanding of how our process works.

It is, in a way, like being legitimately able to vote twice.

↳ Secondly, from a party viewpoint, I think in most instances the person who makes a contribution not only is more likely to get out and vote but will use that vote to back up his financial investment. And to further back up his investment, he's very likely to do some talking to convince others they should be with him and his candidate.

And, thirdly, I think this kind of political contribution helps both parties maintain a balance between the size of the donations.

There are few matters with which I'm concerned . . . that I feel more strongly about than the need for the kind of contribution -- the small contribution -- that is going to decide whether or not we're successful in this drive.

Recently there has been published a new book about one of the greatest Presidents of all time -- Harry S. Truman.

In this book the author tells a story about President Truman's preparations for the 1948 campaign. The Administration's fortunes were about as low at that time as they could be. The Chairman of the Democratic National Committee sent out a number of invitations to influential men in New York to attend a fund-raising dinner with the President.

Perhaps you recall what happened.

Only three people accepted the invitation.

I can tell you it was the little contributions from thousands of Democrats all across this land that brought us victory in 1948. And let us not forget it.

1. Broad base
  2. financial investment - back up your bets
  3. Turn Balance to 100% contribution
- Finally, I want to say that I think that broad participation

by Democrats everywhere is the only ingredient we lack in the successful formula for victory in 1966.

We have a great President, a strong and courageous leader.

*our President*  
There was a recent newspaper column in which the writer said our country had seen three kinds of Presidents:

Those who did nothing; those who inspired; and those who saw what had to be done and did it.

President Johnson is a man who clearly sees what has to be done both at home and abroad -- and he is doing it.

*89th Congress*  
L We have a great Democratic Congress, the best in history. I don't say this grudgingly, because I happened to be a member of several Congresses preceding this one. I say it with the utmost admiration.

Platform of 1964 - making it.  
If you are going to Pass the Buck, do it to the Dollars for Democrats.

Two years ago today in Atlantic City we put together a Democratic Platform that was a shining page in American history. It was particularly brilliant when contrasted to the one written by the other party a few weeks earlier in San Francisco.

This is the platform that Democrats campaigned on in the 1964 elections. The endorsement of the American people was overwhelming. And the 89th Congress has virtually enacted that platform into the law of the land.

Now, the time has come for us to back them up by getting out and providing the financial support they need and deserve in this campaign. And to give the same kind of support to Democrats right on down the line.

It's up to you. There are two weeks left to get ready before the September 7 kickoff, and ten hard days for the drive.

My final bit of advice is to just make sure the only buck you pass is one that is going into the Dollars for Democrats.

REMARKS OF  
HONORABLE LYNDON B. JOHNSON,  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
and  
HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY,  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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"DOLLARS FOR DEMOCRATS"

- - -

Washington, D. C.

August 24, 1966

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"DOLLARS FOR DEMOCRATS"

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August 24, 1966  
Shoreham Hotel,  
Washington, D. C.

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1 THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Foley, Chairman Bailey, Mrs.  
2 Price, Mr. Crimp, and fellow Democrats; thank you, Ed,  
3 for this opportunity to come here and have a brief visit with  
4 you today, as you undertake an assignment which is extremely  
5 important to all the members of the Democratic Party and all  
6 the Democratic candidates.

7 Someone has said that four words of the English  
8 language are more beautiful than all the others. These four  
9 words are "enclosed, please find check."

10 (Laughter.)

11 This may be quite materialistic. I hope and expect  
12 that, thanks to all of you, that we Democrats can see those  
13 words many times between now and election day in November.

14 So I am pleased that you would gather here today  
15 and that you would ask me to meet with you. I am happy to see  
16 many of you who have come from far-away places. I assure you  
17 that the Democratic Party has no more important work to offer  
18 than the assignment that we have asked you to undertake.

19 It was two years ago that the American people gave  
20 us one of the biggest mandates in electoral history. Now we  
21 are asking them to renew and continue that mandate in the  
22 congressional elections of 1966. Let them look at our record  
23 and ask the people to decide whether we have carried out what  
24 we promised, our pledge to build a better, more prosperous  
25 America.

1 I have not the slightest doubt what the voters will  
2 decide if we can give them the truth. And it is up to us, no  
3 one else, to make certain that they have the truth. The 89th  
4 Congress has passed more legislation to do more good for more  
5 people than any other Congress since the Republic was founded.  
6 That is a fact, and we want this Congress back here in January,  
7 to continue these programs.

8 Now, this is going to take work and it is going to  
9 cost money. Carrying our case to the people gets more expensive  
10 every year. To give you some idea, a single five-minute TV  
11 program on only one network costs us about \$30,000, paid in  
12 advance. All the other costs are going up, too, from campaign  
13 buttons to barbeques, advertising posters.

14 So I repeat, you are doing essential work for your  
15 party. You are making a contribution that extends far beyond  
16 your party. I think you are making democracy work.

17 I started out in life expecting to be a teacher and  
18 I haven't strayed too far, because a national political campaign  
19 is still the largest educational event that can occur in a  
20 democratic country. A political campaign brings to focus all  
21 the problems facing a nation. It gives the people a chance to  
22 hear all the proposed solutions. And then they cast their  
23 ballots for the candidates who are trying to lead our country  
24 in the direction that the people want to go.

25 Democracy means free choice. But there is no free

1 choice unless the voters hear all the alternatives. I believe  
2 that where this money comes from is also important to us. So  
3 I have asked the National Committee time and time again to  
4 launch a program of this type, a Dollars for Democrats Program,  
5 because I believe that politics should not be merely a  
6 spectators sport. I believe everyone should be as active in  
7 his party as is possible. I believe that even for members of  
8 the opposition party. I would really like to see every  
9 Republican participate in his party's activities, participate  
10 in his party's treasure. I think it would be good for the  
11 party and for the government. And I believe everyone who can  
12 should take a part in his party, work for his party, contribute  
13 to his party.

14 But because Democratic prosperity seems to create a  
15 good many rich Republicans --

16 (Laughter.)

17 -- we have to work a little harder to raise our funds. We  
18 Democrats are trying to represent all the people in this country.  
19 We are trying to help the underprivileged, while at the same  
20 time respecting the rights of the prosperous.

21 We should take the same attitude toward money. We  
22 appreciate a thousand-dollar contribution or any large con-  
23 tributors that desire to help. But those large contributions  
24 will not and cannot and should not support the Democratic Party.  
25 The real strength of the Democratic Party has always been the



1 small contributor.

2           The 1964 campaign cost over \$200 million, that is,  
3 for all the parties. More than seventy million Americans  
4 voted in that election, but only twelve million gave to some  
5 party committee or any candidate, and that is only 17 per cent  
6 of the total number that voted. It isn't good enough. We need  
7 more contributors and we need many, many more of them.

8           So it will be your jobs in the months ahead to bring  
9 in those small contributions. A dollar for Democrats may not  
10 go as far as a larger contribution, but you don't have to look  
11 so far to find a man who can afford a dollar. And when you  
12 get the dollar, or ten dollars, you are getting a personal  
13 commitment to our party and to our party's program. In the  
14 long run that commitment is as important as the money itself.

15           So my message to you today is this: You take the  
16 program of our party and the record of our Congress and you  
17 take it home with you and you try to talk to the voters about  
18 it and you try to get others to talk to the voters about it.  
19 Get them to help us broadcast the record of the last two years,  
20 broadcast it loud and understandable and clear. Convince them  
21 that one way is to give the party the resources it needs to  
22 operate.

23           We have a record, I think, to be proud of. Two  
24 years ago our platform said older Americans should have more  
25 decent health care. Today they have got Medicare.

1 Two years ago the platform said that every American  
2 boy and girl was entitled to education in the richest nation in  
3 the history. Today they have got the Elementary, the Secondary,  
4 the Higher Education Acts of 1965.

5 Two years ago the Democratic platform said the  
6 rights of all of our citizens should be protected. Today twenty  
7 million of our Negro fellow citizens have the power of the  
8 United States government behind their right to vote in the  
9 first voter's rights bill in history. And they are now voting  
10 in record numbers.

11 Two years ago the platform called for decent homes  
12 for Americans. Today rent supplements to the needy promise to  
13 take us closer to that goal than ever before. And the Senate,  
14 just this week, passed a demonstration cities bill by a vote  
15 of more than two-to-one, that is a measure that will inaugurate  
16 a program for the cities of America unlike any program we have  
17 ever dreamed of before.

18 Two years ago the Democratic platform called for a  
19 restoration of those areas of America which have been bypassed  
20 by the march of progress. Today the greatest redevelopment  
21 program of all time is underway in Appalachia.

22 Two years ago the Democratic platform pledged to  
23 attack the filth in our rivers, the pollution in our streams,  
24 the pollution in our air. Today we have more water, more air  
25 pollution legislation than has ever been passed by all the

1 other Congresses put together and we are going to clean up our  
2 waters and we are going to clean up our air.

3 Two years ago the platform promised a fair deal for  
4 the men and women who grow our food. Today, the 1965 Food and  
5 Agricultural Act is putting more income to the farmers pocket  
6 than ever before, is reducing farm surpluses to the lowest  
7 level in modern history, and we are saving \$200 million in  
8 storage charges alone this year.

9 Two years ago the platform promised to erase the blot  
10 of the disgrace of discrimination in our immigration laws.  
11 Today we have an immigration law that no longer asks a man  
12 "where do you come from," but it asks him, "What can you do?"

13 Two years ago the Democratic platform called for  
14 more government participation and assistance in health and  
15 medical research. Today we are in the midst of government-  
16 sponsored nationwide research programs to conquer once and for  
17 all the nation's three leading destroyers of life -- heart  
18 disease and cancer and stroke.

19 So you take that message home with you. Find us  
20 the money to tell that story, to tell it to all Americans.  
21 And I don't think that then we will have to worry about what  
22 the voters will do in November.

23 I said to the ladies and gentlemen of the press a  
24 few moments ago, when they were talking to us about all of our  
25 concern with developments in our economy -- and that is



1 something that every American must be concerned with every day  
2 of the year. I have been here thirty-five years and our  
3 economy, our bread and our meat, where we eat and what we earn,  
4 is the thing that is always uppermost in our minds.

5 When I came here, the average take-home pay of the  
6 average factory workers was \$18 a week. In terms of present  
7 day dollars it was about \$30 a week. Today it is \$112 a week.

8 When I came here, the average per-capita farm income  
9 was about \$300 a year. In present earned dollars that is about  
10 \$800 a year. This year it is \$5,400.

11 Now, when farmer's income goes up and when our  
12 workers who make our products and who process our commodities  
13 goes up and when our profits go up, our prices go up. Now we  
14 would like for things to remain stable, the same, year after  
15 year, if we can, in relation to each other. But that is a  
16 difficult thing to do in a competitive system where every man  
17 has a free choice. He can work or not work. He can add a  
18 ten per cent profit or a five per cent profit. He can charge  
19 ten per cent interest or six per cent interest. So we have to  
20 try as best we can to call people to exercise restraint and  
21 self-discipline and keep these things reasonably well in line.

22 Since 1960, six years ago, our prices have gone up  
23 ten per cent. Now you have to pay ten per cent more for what  
24 you buy. Our wages have gone up seventeen per cent. You get  
25 that seventeen per cent to pay the ten per cent with.



1 Our profits have gone up 83 per cent during that  
2 same period of time. The average price index increase in  
3 America since World War II per year has been 2.6 per cent.  
4 It has been much more than that in most all of the other  
5 countries in the world. But we had a four per cent increase  
6 in the late fifties and -- almost four per cent -- and we have  
7 had only one per cent in the early sixties. But our average  
8 from World War II, every year down to now, has been 2.6. Our  
9 increase in the last twelve months has been 2.5. But this  
10 month we got a rather heavy increase. We have an increase in  
11 transportation costs -- not airlines, we will have reductions  
12 probably in there. But we have an increase in new bus fares  
13 and in your transportation costs. And we have another sub-  
14 stantial one in physicians' fees, doctors' fees and hospital  
15 costs.

16 So when you put transportation and medical costs  
17 together it gives us a rather substantial increase this month.  
18 But when you take even this month and put it with the other,  
19 our consumer price index increase is about the average for  
20 each year since World War II. Now we wish it didn't increase  
21 any but the worker wants an increase and insists on it and  
22 gets it sometimes. It is not always the increase I want him  
23 to get and I just can't point to him and say this is it. Some  
24 people think you can but you can't.

25 The profit man sometimes gets more profits than I

1 would allocate to him if I had that power. But in our free  
2 enterprise system one man may take a profit of five per cent  
3 and another one may take a profit of ten. But the profits  
4 have gone up 83 per cent in that period of time.

5 But we have more take-home pay today, our dollar  
6 will buy about twice as much food -- the fellow that works an  
7 hour today can buy about twice as much food with that hour's  
8 pay as he could twenty years ago. Our food bill is about 18  
9 cents out of every dollar today. Twenty years ago it was 26  
10 cents of every dollar. So while we have had problems and we  
11 will continue to have them, prices will continue to go up,  
12 commodities will cost more in this world in which we live.

13 I remember the day when Henry Ford paid a worker  
14 \$5 a day and our people were leaving home in goodly numbers to  
15 go to Detroit to get that job. Wages will go up, prices will  
16 go up, and profits will go up. And I trust that there will be  
17 a reasonable balance between them. If a man has to pay ten  
18 per cent more for his cost of living, I hope he can earn at  
19 least that much more and have something left over to take care  
20 of it.

21 Now, the Democratic Party has always, I think, been  
22 regarded as the party that leads in better wages, that believes  
23 in a better break for the average fellow, and has pretty well  
24 been identified with the progress of the average man. I hope  
25 I am not being too partisan when I ask you to look back over

1 the last thirty-five years and see what is on the statute  
2 books that you are proud of and that you think is helpful and  
3 that you think means something to people and see who is iden-  
4 tified with that legislation. We are not exclusively identi-  
5 fied with it. A lot of Republicans have sponsored good legis-  
6 lation and a lot of it has been signed by them.

7 I went up to New England this week at the invitation  
8 of Senator Aiken to make -- dedicate a project, the first  
9 project, rural farm project under the Rural Water Act, that  
10 Senator Aiken offered. He is a Republican Senator. Congress-  
11 man Poage, from my State, offered in the House -- it is a bill  
12 that will be almost as famous and as effective and as popular  
13 as the Rural Electrification Act. And we had both parties  
14 represented there.

15 One thing I am proud of is that a good many people  
16 of the other party have supported these measures that I have  
17 talked to you about. But I think if you will take the measur-  
18 ing stick and look at the last thirty-five years, that you  
19 will most of the legislation in behalf of the people has been  
20 sponsored and supported by the Democratic Party. Therefore, I  
21 hope that you can ask the people who recognize this to recip-  
22 rocate and support us. And they can support us to the extent  
23 of their ability. We don't want any intimidations and we  
24 don't want any threats and we don't want any improprieties.  
25 We don't want to do anything wrong. But we do want them to



1 exercise their right as American citizens to support their  
 2 party and support their leader and support their government.  
 3 And if you are effective with your message I think we can do  
 4 that. And if we are effective in the end results I have not  
 5 the slightest doubt but what we will have a resounding  
 6 Democratic victory in the congressional campaign this year.  
 7 And that is very, very important to us because there are  
 8 some people who are just against moving ahead on anything.  
 9 Unless we have a margin of difference, you can have an  
 10 Executive Branch of the government that is controlled by one  
 11 party, another branch of the government divided and all you  
 12 get is a deadlock and that is when the people suffer.

13 So we are going to depend on you to do your job  
 14 well so that we can have a Congress that will do their job  
 15 well. As the Congress does its job well, we will do the  
 16 best we can to carry out what they want done.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)  
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 20  
 21  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25

1 THE VICE PRESIDENT: Chairman Bailey, Margaret  
2 Price, Jean Kintner, and Ed Foley and Arthur Crimp, and one  
3 and all that are here today to do this good job for Dollars  
4 for Democrats.

5 I was very happy to be invited in on this meeting.  
6 I didn't want you to come to Washington without letting one  
7 of the pioneers in Dollars for Democrats have a chance to  
8 say a word to you about my experiences in this program.

9 This is a work session and you are here as community  
10 leaders, state leaders, as political leaders, to work out  
11 the details of a nationwide effort to improve the quality of  
12 American public life. That is what you are here about. This  
13 isn't just a fund-raising program. It relates to the general  
14 tone of public life, to the quality of public service, and  
15 indeed to the quality and the ethics and standards of political  
16 parties. And in this instance -- the Democratic Party.

17 I know that you are going to have a very active day.  
18 I looked over your campaign kit for Dollars for Democrats and  
19 I must say that it is the best job that I have seen thus far.  
20 I am glad to see Arthur Crimp sitting here because he has  
21 some worries on Dollars for Democrats and he needs lots of  
22 dollars for Democrats, dollars to clean up old debts, dollars  
23 to help pay some new ones that we undoubtedly will accumulate  
24 in the months ahead.

25 Let me just tell you a little bit about my

1 observations on the political scene. One of the Vice  
2 President's jobs which is not listed in the Constitution or  
3 even by statute is to get around this country, and I do. Not  
4 long ago in addressing a group in this very hotel I said that  
5 I felt somewhat like the beloved, illustrious, gifted Eleanor  
6 Roosevelt in the sense that I did a lot of traveling. And I  
7 quipped off some little quip -- which I don't know whether it  
8 got me in any trouble or not but at the moment it seemed all  
9 right -- when I said that I felt sort of like President's  
10 Johnson's Eleanor Roosevelt, getting around and seeing what  
11 is going on and in coming back to the President and giving him  
12 my observations. But I am of the opinion that I don't need to  
13 do that very much any more because the President is getting  
14 around a great deal these days.

15 Last weekend I was in Ohio and Kentucky and I didn't  
16 even mention it to the President because I would have felt so  
17 inferior knowing the schedule that he kept. But he is getting  
18 around and the Vice President is getting around this great  
19 Nation of ours. Senators and Congressmen are. Your national  
20 chairman and your party officers are. And we are making some  
21 observations which I think will stand us well.

22 First of all, we know that we are having problems in  
23 our land. But we also know that we have the know-how to over-  
24 come these problems. The American people are people filled  
25 with faith and confidence and not with gloom and doom. I feel



1 very much like others who have been in Washington and occupied  
2 high public office. When you become discouraged, when you feel  
3 that things are not going so well, that all you need to do is  
4 to go to the country, go see the people and you feel a new  
5 sense of optimism and of strength and of encouragement. This  
6 has been my experience. This was the experience of the late  
7 President Kennedy. I can remember many times when he would  
8 say that the longer you stay here the worse it seems, that once  
9 you get away you pick up new enthusiasm, new strength. And I  
10 have watched President Johnson work day after day in his job,  
11 worrking about the international scene, deeply concerned  
12 about domestic problems, working hard on the matters before  
13 the Congress of the United States. And then something gets  
14 ahold of him and he moves into the country. He goes to the  
15 cities and to the towns and the villages, in every part of this  
16 Nation.

17 He comes back renewed in strength, in vitality, and  
18 conviction. And this is what I have found. I find that our  
19 people are full of the desire to do a good job, not only for  
20 their Nation but for the world in which we live. And I find  
21 that our Democrats are ready and willing to listen to leader-  
22 ship and they are asking for it and they are ready and  
23 willing to undertake the burdens of this campaign of 1966,  
24 which is one of the most important congressional elections  
25 at state and congressional level that this Nation has ever



1 had.

2 Now let me tell you why I say that. Because we  
3 have entered into a new era of public life. The responsibili-  
4 ties upon government today are tremendous. The decisions  
5 which government must make affect the lives of not only the  
6 American people but the people throughout the world. Your  
7 America no longer is just an island unto itself. It is in the  
8 very real sense the moving force throughout the entire globe  
9 and therefore what we do, what we say, and how we act and  
10 how we respond to challenges affects the destiny of mankind.  
11 And that is why I think people are taking a greater interest  
12 today in politics than ever before. And this is true of our  
13 young people.

14 The American young people are a highly motivated  
15 group of individuals. They are idealistic, as young people  
16 generally are. They are filled with conviction. They are  
17 willing to do something about the problems that they see at  
18 hand in their cities and towns and the state and national  
19 level. They are anxious to come to grips with the things  
20 that they see affecting their lives or that have a potential  
21 effect upon their lives.

22 And I am going to ask every one of you to make it  
23 your business, as you go about the country on Dollars for  
24 Democrats, to contact in particular young people. Because  
25 this fund-raising drive ought to be more than just the

1 collection of money. It ought to be the opportunity to meet  
2 new people and to bring within the confines of the Democratic  
3 Party, or should I say within the broad area of the Democratic  
4 Party, the numbers of new young minds and spirits that are  
5 needed in American public life.

6 I have been reading in the press of late a little  
7 bit about politics out in Minnesota. And I am always inter-  
8 ested in the observations of people because as the great poet  
9 once said, a little learning or a little education is a  
10 dangerous thing. And the twenty-four hour wonders that comment  
11 upon politics that get this great perception of almost mystical  
12 knowledge and insight by just sweeping through a state and  
13 then coming out with great observations always have interested  
14 me. Those of us in public life, if we come away with those  
15 observations we are analyzed and scrutinized, others are not.

16 I will only say this: That two years ago we had  
17 6,000 people in our precinct causes. This last year we had  
18 46,000. 46,000. That is what I call political strength.  
19 And we got that out of the competition of candidates and we  
20 obtained that large number of new participants, 40,000 new  
21 active participants -- not all young but many of them --  
22 because we had people because were willing to go on out and  
23 organize, raise money, fight for their candidate, challenge  
24 leadership in their party, and seek new faces, new solutions  
25 to continuing and old problems. This is the kind of spirit

1 that it takes.

2 I helped build a political party. I know a little  
3 bit about it. Literally from ashes we built a structure and  
4 we started out some twenty years ago very much the same as  
5 we have again this year, in 1946 and '48, building of a party.  
6 And we then thought we were doing well when we had over 25,000  
7 active caucus and precinct workers. But we doubled it almost  
8 this year. And I have got news for you. I am just going to  
9 make a little prediction about the State of Minnesota on this  
10 platform. We will elect a Democratic Governor. We will  
11 maintain all the members of Congress that we have that are  
12 Democrats. We expect to pick up at least one or maybe two  
13 more. We will elect a majority in the State Legislature and  
14 we will get busy on Dollars for Democrats, too. I am here  
15 representing the State of Minnesota this morning as well as  
16 being Vice President of the United States.

17 (Applause.)

18 August they always say is the -- are the dog days.  
19 I don't know why they say that but this is a time when all of  
20 the pundits have all those that are in power looking like  
21 they are going out. And I just want you to get through the  
22 month of August. Now the French are smarter than we are.  
23 They take the month of August off.

24 (Laughter.)

25 And we do in a sense, only we hang around.



1 (Laughter.)

2 But we are going to use these few days between now  
3 and the seventh of September to put this program on the road.  
4 And the reason we are going to do it is because it needs to  
5 be done. Now comes my sermon of the morning.

6 I listen to people talk about clean government. And  
7 there will be a speech an hour in the Congress about it and  
8 there will be an editorial a day about it and there will be  
9 a column a day about it and all the pundits and all of those  
10 that are the self-appointed guardians of our moral values and  
11 our ethical standards, they will talk to us about keeping  
12 politics clean, keeping corruption out of politics, and keep-  
13 ing the big money under control so it doesn't dominate  
14 politics.

15 Well, now let me tell you what every newspaper in  
16 America ought to be advertising tomorrow morning -- Dollars  
17 for Democrats. And if they want to have Dollars for  
18 Republicans, if they want to go that far, well that is their  
19 privilege, too.

20 (Laughter.)

21 This nation supposedly believes in volunteerism. Now  
22 I know we have legislative proposals before the Congress that  
23 I support, for the purposes of trying to bring about better  
24 funding of our political parties. But I want to say from  
25 this platform that the best way to fund a political party is

1 through voluntary participation. And what we ought to be  
2 having throughout America is a ground swell in all the organs  
3 of public opinion, on radio and television, calling upon the  
4 American people to support their political party like they do  
5 their Community Chest or their United Fund or their church or  
6 their PTA or whatever it may be.

7 The way to clean up politics is to get yourself a  
8 dollar bar of Ivory Soap, so to speak, and get in and so some-  
9 thing about it. And it can be done. Instead of waiting for  
10 legislation -- legislation, yes, I don't want to be misunder-  
11 stood and I have a bit of problem on that on occasion.

12 (Laughter.)

13 I do not want to be misunderstood. We do need legis-  
14 lation. But we need more than that. We need popular people  
15 participation. And we need to have the people that are con-  
16 stantly calling us to task about matters of political and  
17 public life to back us, to back those of us that are calling  
18 upon the American people to help us to finance political par-  
19 ties and political campaigns on an individual door-to-door,  
20 man-to-man, woman-to-woman, voter-to-voter basis. Now that  
21 is good copy for the morning editorial.

22 (Laughter.)

23 It is good copy for the front page. Because I know  
24 of no better way to make politics responsible to the people  
25 than to get the people involved in politics. And politics is

1 not just casting your vote. Casting the vote is a privilege.  
2 Supporting a political party is a responsibility. And with  
3 every privilege comes a duty. With every privilege comes a  
4 responsibility. And I want you to take this message out to  
5 the people and knock at every door. And I will go even so  
6 far as to say that if you find somebody that wants to con-  
7 tribute a dollar to the Republican Party, collect that too  
8 and give it to the Republican Party.

9 I hope you will forgive me for that, John.

10 (Laughter.)

11 But I have come to the point where I think plain  
12 talk is necessary. One of the reasons I have always loved  
13 Harry Truman is because he just got right down and took the  
14 bark off and got right down to the heart of the thing and  
15 talked plain, and talked lots of common sense.

16 Now Washington is filled up with fluff. You have  
17 just got to scrape off the jelly and the cream and the fluff  
18 before you can really get right down to the meat of the thing.  
19 Now the meat of this meeting is that we need people to take  
20 an interest in people's politics which is democratic politics  
21 -- with a small "d" -- and Democratic politics with a capital  
22 "D." And we need people that have a sense of mission going  
23 out and being the leaders to get people interested in the  
24 political life of their community.

25 And when I hear all this talk about good government,



1 I just want to say that I have been in government a long time.  
2 I helped reorganize the city administration and they had good  
3 government. They had clean government. They had honest  
4 government. And I have said the way you get good government  
5 is when enough good people are willing to stand up and be  
6 counted and not only be counted but are also willing to stand  
7 up and make a donation, hopefully a donation of their money.  
8 If not a donation of their money, then of their service. If  
9 not a donation of their money and their service, then at  
10 least a donation of their willingness to be an active regis-  
11 tered voter. But we need all three, the registered voter  
12 that casts his or her vote, the political participant that is  
13 a volunteer in a political campaign, and the political par-  
14 ticipant that is the donor or giver in the political campaign.

15 Now this great program of Dollars for Democrats is  
16 divided up so that it helps the whole political structure of  
17 a political party -- a third for your county, a third for your  
18 state, a third for the Democratic National Committee.

19 The Democratic National Committee cannot be sup-  
20 ported by just the large contributors. And every time we get  
21 a large contributor somebody wants to prove that somehow or  
22 other there was a fix on. And I am going to let you in on a  
23 secret in politics. I have never had a large contributor  
24 that ever asked me to do a thing. I have had somebody --  
25 I regret that one of the dangers about a dollar is that they



1 may ask you to do something.

2 (Laughter.)

3 The large contributor is so frightened that he will  
4 be exposed that he doesn't even want hardly anyone to know he  
5 gave you any money.

6 But, believe me, we need to broaden the base of our  
7 financial structure for our political party. And I hope that  
8 we don't have to compel people by statute, out of tax monies,  
9 to pay for a political party, even though there is such a  
10 recommendation in Congress. In my state, in the state law,  
11 if you make a contribution to a state candidate you are able  
12 to, up to a certain amount -- I think \$10 -- take a deduction  
13 in your tax -- on the payment of your state income tax. And  
14 I think there is great merit to that.

15 But the best way to do it is just to get out and do  
16 it. Now you ought not to be in politics if you don't enjoy  
17 it because there are so many other ways to use your time. I  
18 have always been of the opinion that whatever you do you  
19 ought to like to do. You don't live very long. You don't  
20 have too many years and days on this earth. I think the good  
21 Lord expected us to try to make the most of each day that we  
22 have. I have tried to do that.

23 Many people many times have asked me, they said,  
24 "You sort of look like you feel good, you seem to be happy."  
25 I say, "Why not? You have a choice. You can either be

1 miserable or happy. I vote for happiness."

2 (Laughter, Applause.)

3 You can either have confidence or you can be a  
4 doubter. I vote for confidence. You can either be optimistic  
5 or pessimistic. I am optimistic. I think that is the better  
6 choice and I believe in freedom of choice. The other party  
7 can have the other if they wish.

8 (Laughter.)

9 But in all humor and all good sense I want to say  
10 that politics ought to be fun -- f-u-n. You ought to love it.  
11 John Adams spoke of the spirit of public happiness. And he  
12 said -- it was John Adams that said that the American  
13 Revolution was won before it was ever fought because the  
14 people believed in popular political participation. And he  
15 was asked what is this spirit of public happiness. And he  
16 said it is when people participate in public affairs. And I  
17 just think we must go out and ask people to participate, knock  
18 on the door and ask them to become an active citizen. Ask  
19 them to become a contributing citizen. Ask them to become  
20 the participating citizen. Ask them to become a Democrat if  
21 they are not one. Show them why they ought to be one. If  
22 they are a Democrat tell them that they could -- tell them  
23 to make a recommitment because believe me you need to recommit  
24 your life on many things from time to time.

25 So I hope that you will go out and try to make --

1 make it a fun program. I don't know how you plan on doing  
2 your organizing but when I was getting my first days in public  
3 life, so to speak, sharpening my teeth on the hard fiber of  
4 politics, we used to have these get-togethers, social oc-  
5 casions, and we would sent the troops out, so to speak, after  
6 we had them all charged up with the spirit of the occasion.  
7 We would ask them to go on out and cover a precinct. I don't  
8 know, I am sure many of you have done what I have done. I  
9 have gone from door to door and in apartment houses as a  
10 candidate for office when I ran for Mayor of Minneapolis, and  
11 that is when you really learn how to be in politics, is when  
12 you are at those local jobs. You don't give them just the  
13 broad brush where you run through a city but you go door to  
14 door, block to block, apartment house to apartment house,  
15 home to home, factory to factory, hand to hand.

16 And when you do that you have an opportunity to make  
17 it an enjoyable experience. And get your youngsters in on  
18 it. Bring your families in on it. The most fun that the  
19 Humphrey family had as boys and our daughter -- and now we  
20 are expanding the family and getting a new daughter-in-law,  
21 and we have another daughter-in-law and we have a son-in-law,  
22 we have only one to go and we will have another campaigner.  
23 And they are producing new campaigners.

24 (Laughter.)

25 Bring the family in on it. If you don't have a big



1 organization in your county, if you have got a big family,  
2 make that the organization.

3 (Laughter.)

4 There is no reason you shouldn't. Politics ought  
5 to be a family affair as well as just an organized operation.

6 You know, I always hear about these big organiza-  
7 tions we have. You know what most of the organization is?  
8 Spirit. You give me ten people in a community that really  
9 want to get something done and you can have a checklist of  
10 a thousand names that are apathetic and I will take my ten.  
11 Just give us a few.

12 Well, John -- let me see here. Oh, yes, I had one  
13 other thing I wanted to say before I go. Is that all right  
14 with you, John?

15 All right, that's good. Well, I want to say a word  
16 about this 89th Congress. It soon is to come to its conclud-  
17 ing days and we are looking ahead to the 90th Congress. This  
18 89th Congress has been nothing short of phenomenal. In 1964  
19 some of you right in this room today helped write a platform  
20 in Atlantic City. That was a great platform and the President  
21 of the United States and the Vice President of the United  
22 States took that platform seriously, took it seriously when  
23 we went to the country as candidates. And we have taken it  
24 seriously every day since.

25 I talked to the President last night about that

1 very platform. And our insistence to keep our commitments --  
2 I think the American people are entitled to fidelity. I  
3 think they are entitled to a full measure of public service.  
4 And I don't think we ought to make false promises. And we  
5 haven't.

6 We promised this country five years ago -- six  
7 years ago -- to get this country moving again. We got it  
8 moving. We promised to do something about education and we  
9 have. We promised to do something for our farm people and we  
10 have. We promised to do something about our natural re-  
11 sources and we have. We promised to move ahead in our space  
12 program and we have. We promised to see to it that jobs were  
13 available to those that wanted to work and we have kept that  
14 promise. We said we would amend and change our tax laws to  
15 release the dynamic forces of private enterprise and we have.  
16 We said we would try to create a better partnership, a  
17 creative federalism between federal, state, and local govern-  
18 ment and we have. We have more than doubled in these last  
19 two or three years, more than doubled our aid to education, as  
20 your President said, from \$4.5 billion to up over \$10.5  
21 billion.

22 We have more than doubled our work in the field of  
23 health and health care, from around \$4.3 billion to \$10.5  
24 billion. We have more than doubled in the last two years our  
25 aid to cities, up from \$4 billion up to \$9 billion. And I

1 might add that I have been mighty close to the cities. I  
2 have met with more mayors, more councilmen, more county com-  
3 missioners, more city managers than any man in the government  
4 of the United States, before or since. This is my job. The  
5 President of the United States asked me to be his liaison  
6 with these people. I have met with them by the thousands,  
7 not by the dozens, and not just for fifteen minutes but for  
8 two-day seminars, time after time. We have had fifteen of  
9 them, as some of you here at this table know.

10 And we have learned a great deal. But more im-  
11 portantly, we have brought these good, fine local public  
12 officials, regardless of their party, in closer contact with  
13 their federal government so that today they have a working  
14 knowledge of the programs and there is an intimate relation-  
15 ship between the officialdom. We are making progress.

16 One of the most encouraging signs of the times, my  
17 friend, is the fact that people expect more, rising expecta-  
18 tions. Not just in Africa and Asia or Latin America, but  
19 here at home. And that spirit of rising expectation comes  
20 because we have begun to find answers to old programs. We  
21 know that our programs are beginning to take hold, beginning  
22 to work. We know that the war on poverty has fundamentally  
23 affected and helped the lives of five million people in the  
24 last two years. I know, it should have been thirty-five  
25 million. But you and I are wise enough to know that you



1 can't do everything at once. And it isn't very good politics  
2 to go to the American people and tell them that you have in-  
3 stant cures for age-old problems that will provide a cure in  
4 the next twenty-four hours. They are smarter than that. And  
5 if they think that you really mean what you are saying, then  
6 you are just not sufficiently intelligent to be in public  
7 office.

8 We know that we have to work at these problems but  
9 we must work at them systematically, energetically, with  
10 full commitment, using our resources. And that is what the  
11 89th Congress has done. We want to get those good Democratic  
12 members of that Congress re-elected. And don't go around  
13 buying this old soft -- that well, "on every off-year election  
14 the party in power loses."

15 Well, I want to tell you something. If you are  
16 going to buy that then you can say that we never ever would  
17 take a picture of the moon because up until the last few  
18 years nobody ever took a picture of the moon. Of you could  
19 have said that no one will ever travel in space because until  
20 the last ten years no one had ever traveled in space. You  
21 could say many other things.

22 The fact that things used to be a way doesn't mean  
23 that they continue that way, not if people resolve to change.  
24 And I don't think the American people are going to try to  
25 cure some of the limited difficulties of our economy by



1 turning it over to the Republican Party that generally has  
2 mismanaged it to the distress and to the injury of millions  
3 and millions of people. I don't think the American people  
4 are going to throw out of office those who have worked dili-  
5 gently and hopefully effectively to try to remedy some of  
6 the injustices and then to bring into office people who didn't  
7 even recognize the injustices, much less have a solution for  
8 them. I don't think so.

9 Well, we have got three kinds of Presidents. We  
10 have some Presidents who do nothing or little or nothing.  
11 We have a President who can inspire or you have a President  
12 that can get things done. He can see what needs to be done  
13 and he moves to get it done.

14 I am here to represent a President who gets things  
15 done, who as he said throughout his public life is a can-do  
16 man. I am here representing President Johnson, a man who  
17 recognized the problems that this Nation faces, domestic and  
18 foreign, a man who has had the courage to come to grips with  
19 every single one of these tough problems, from civil rights  
20 to economics, from agriculture to business, and from the  
21 most difficult assignments of them all -- in the field of  
22 foreign relations and national security throughout the world.

23 President Johnson needs your help and he not only  
24 needs your help in Dollars for Democrats. He not only needs  
25 your help in this 1966 campaign, he needs you to stand up

1 and speak up. You helped elect this President. He is yours.  
2 He is mine. He is a good President. He is a great President.  
3 He needs people today who are not trying to out-guess the  
4 critics. He needs people today who will answer the critics.  
5 We claim no perfection. We know that we are not without  
6 stain. We recognize the fact of human fallibility. We under-  
7 stand full well that there are problems that we haven't been  
8 able to deal with effectively as we would like.

9 But I will say this, that I keep reading the list  
10 of names of those that might succeed him and all I can say is  
11 thank goodness that we have President Lyndon Johnson as  
12 President of the United States. I hope we have him for years  
13 to come.

14 Thank you very much.

15 (Applause.)  
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