

Assemblyman Sutton

REMARKS

Chr John Burns

Speaker Travis
Minority Leader Zaritski

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

Sen Kennedy

Cong Ted Dulski

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION

Mayor Wagner

Cong Richard McCarthy

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Gov Harriman

B. H. Leavitt - candidate for cong.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1966

Gov O'Connor

Comptroller Arthur Levitt

MAYOR SEDITA

My fellow Democrats, happy days are here again.

Members of the Figue

Victory is in the air -- victory this November, victory in New York state, victory for the Democratic party.

Our opposition will never understand the Democratic party. It's too lively - too active - too modern for them.

He old Republican Tories it is a mysterious contraption that

usually seems to be moving in a thousand directions. and imagine how confusing this is for a Republican that knows only 3 positions
But, What they don't know is what hurts them.

All that movement in the Democratic party is caused by the internal combustion of creative ferment, of ideas, of people vigorously committed to the proposition that change and social progress are not only to be desired.

- (1) Stand still
- (2) Spin counter clockwise
- (3) Go backward

But they are necessities of 20th century America.

Platform
(Democratic)

RFK. to min
H.H.H. to N.Y.

✓ But we are here on Serious business.

✓ The challenge to the Democratic party of New York is clear and compelling.

✓ It is to see to it that this Empire State regains the role of national leadership which it rightfully has held in the past -- and that it does so by moving forward to meet the challenges of the future while restoring the human values of the past.

✓ ~~This state of New York is more richly endowed than most of the new nations of the world, and many of the old ones as well.~~

New York is richly Blessed -

✓ It is endowed with abundant material resources. But far more important, it is endowed with valuable ~~rich~~ human resources.

✓ New York, throughout its history, has held its position of leadership because of its enterprise and its talented and imaginative people -- the builders of railroads and canals... the immigrants lifting themselves upward in the heart of the city... the founders of religious, educational and cultural institutions... yes, and its political leaders.

Now, again, the times call for enterprise, for talent, ~~for~~ ^{for} imagination -- and above all, for progressive political leadership.

The way is open ~~today~~ for New York to become a principal partner in the Great Society -- the initiator and the innovator, the trail-blazer for the rest of our nation.

New York state can be the showcase in our country ^{for what Political Scientists mean by} creative federalism. ^{Dynamic responsive government based on} Creative federalism means effective and

timely cooperation between all levels of government.

It means better state and local government.

It means generous federal aid where it is needed and effective local administration when it is required.

Creative federalism means programs, policies, and projects locally inspired, locally developed, locally administered -- but with a broader design that includes state and regional development, backed and supported by federal assistance and resources.

✓ ~~Creative federalism~~ means modernizing government,
strengthening the economy -- at all levels -- and doing it

in terms of modern needs and future requirements.

✓ New York has in the past given this nation great
leadership.

✓ It has been a laboratory of social experimentation.

✓ You have dared to try not only new concepts of
government, but new ideas for better living. —

✓ But the flood tide of change has overwhelmed many
of the political and social institutions designed for another day.

✓ Revolutions in science and technology have been
joined by a revolution of rising expectations among our own
people. —

and ✓ There is a human revolution underway—

✓ The tensions and pressures in our urban centers
are its symptoms.

*This is the
challenge to
this Party and
government*

↳ Poverty that was hidden in the hills and the rural areas of a half century ago has now accumulated and concentrated in our cities.

↳ Racial prejudice long endured in shame and pain now stands exposed before us.

↳ Poverty is not just the problem of the poor; it is the cancer of America.

↳ The slum is not merely the problem of the cities; it is the rot of a nation.

↳ Transportation and traffic congestion are no longer just the worry of the police department and the city fathers, but the costly clot in the arteries of our national economy.

↳ Pollution of water and air -- only a few years ago a subject of academic discussion -- is now a threat to the health and welfare of our entire people.

↳ These and many other problems are the tragic inheritance of failure and delay by public authority and private enterprise.

↳ Our system of democratic government and our free, competitive economy are challenged as never before.

↳ The times call for boldness, for experimentation -- yes, for daring at every level of government and in the private economy.

and, The answer to our ills is not just more help from Washington, but self-help ~~and~~

↳ We need a renaissance of state government, a revitalization of local government and private initiative.

↳ ~~Good Government~~ ~~No, creative federalism~~ ^{only a} strong, powerful federal government -- aiding, comforting, propping up weak, obsolete, ineffective state and local government.

↳ Modern American government requires a ^{genuine} partnership of efforts -- with each partner fulfilling his own duties and responsibilities pulling his own load.

Partnership

⌞ Federal aid, to be effective, must be managed and
used in a political and social environment that is conducive
to action and results, and not to procrastination.

That's why a Democratic administration
The truth is that most of our local and state
in Albany is needed
governments are the victims of constitutional and statutory
hardening of the arteries - old laws and institutions
law designed for a period long past and for a social and
economic structure that has little relationship to the present.

⌞ Now the people of New York have the chance for a
new constitution which can provide the framework needed
to cope with the problems of the next *future* generation.

⌞ You have the chance, through reapportionment,
for full and fair representation.

⌞ But what is more, the *you* people of New York have the
chance for political leadership *ready and able to*
able to put creative federalism

go to work, *in friendly partnership with*
every day in every part of their state.

local, State, and Federal
Government.

In Washington you are represented by liberal,
progressive Congressmen. ^{and} We need more ^{of such} Democrats in
the New York state delegation.

You are represented, too, by a ^{vigorous, effective} United States
Senator -- the honored son of a great family... the devoted
and trusted brother of our late beloved President... a gifted
and talented public servant Senator Robert Kennedy.

Now the people of New York have the chance for
new leadership in Albany -- leadership by a man who has
devoted his life to the service of the people of New York...

^{by} a man who possesses the qualities of integrity and
vision, of compassion and activism ^{much} so needed to make the
revolution of rising expectations a positive human ^{achievement} ~~revolution~~...

I mean leadership by Frank O'Connor, the next Governor of
the State of New York.

The people of New York, before this campaign is over,
will recognize in Frank O'Connor what the people of New York
City have already seen -- that Frank O'Connor is a ^{Constructive} liberal;

Practical *compassionate*
he is a progressive; he is a man who wants to help those
who need help; he is ^{an honest} a man whose whole record in public
life demonstrates that he means what he says. *Del. Frank O'Connor!*

↳ The Bible says: "If the trumpet give an uncertain
sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle."

↳ Let there be no uncertain sound. Let the call be
clear and loud. *and prepare yourself for the
political battle of your life.*

↳ I ask that you make this campaign a unified, all-out
effort to restore Democratic leadership in Albany. I ask you
to campaign, in unity, *and in high hopes*, not only for the next governor of
this state, but for the entire Democratic ticket.

↳ I ask you to return to Washington the Democratic
Congressmen who have helped so much to mould the
historic programs of the past five years, I ask you to win
new Democratic seats in the Congress.

↳ "Let us begin," was the challenge of President John
F. Kennedy.

"Let us continue, " was the charge to a grief-stricken nation of President Lyndon Johnson.

and We did begin. We moved this country forward out of the doldrums *of Republican Recession.*

L And we have continued. We have broken through with new ideas...we have broken through with new laws and programs...we have broken through with a depth of commitment that could not have been imagined a few short years ago.

L Yes, we have made an all-out national commitment to the education of our children. In the past three years we have more than doubled our federal investments in education.

L Yes, we have broken down old barriers of racial discrimination and injustice.

*enind Rti Act 7 1964
Voting Rti 7 1965*

L Yes, we have set to work to solve the enormous problems of our growing and sprawling metropolitan areas.

We have created a new federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. *We have provided rent supplements for our low income families.* We are mobilizing our resources, our best minds, the most advanced techniques to the task of finding integrated, systematic solutions to the encrusted problems of the metropolis.

Yes, we *are working* ~~have worked~~ toward eradication of the poverty that takes so high a toll *of* those afflicted by it and of those who must carry its burden.

Yes, we have transformed a cold and heartless immigration policy into one that is just, humane and progressive.

Yes, we *are providing* ~~have seen~~ to the adequate hospital, *nursing home, and* medical care *for* our fathers and mothers; we have resolved to defeat illness and disease which bring loss to our economy, *and our loved ones.* ~~which bring pain to our families.~~ In the past three years we have more than doubled our federal investments in health.

Yes, we have helped create an economy of growth
and justice -- an economy of more jobs, higher salaries
and wages, greater investment and profit...an economy able
to sustain our responsibilities both at home and for
peace and security in the world.

yes We have had five years of action, of growth, of
change, of social progress. Don't let a 90th Congress
take it away --
We began. We continued. And we have done well.

But we are a people, we are a party never satisfied... We are
restless in our search for the fulfillment of America's
promise. "Liberty and Justice for all"

and
Now we must march on. We have the means --
there is no doubt about it. Ours is the richest and most
powerful ~~society ever created~~ nation on earth. There is only the
question of our will...of our determination to wage our
peaceful revolution for the many, even though the few may
be satisfied today.

We can make the Promise
of "Equal opportunity for all" a
reality - Indeed, we must.

Life in our cities can be more than steaming asphalt and crowded tenements...more than filthy air and polluted water...more than clogged highways and congested streets...more than bursting schoolrooms and underpaid *and too few* teachers...more than violence and hopelessness and discrimination and hate and despair...more than temporary material satisfaction.

The way lies open to build a society in which the human values, above all, count uppermost.

The way lies open to cities filled with green and open space...to transportation that is safe, comfortable, and rapid...to neighborhoods once more filled with neighbors...to schools and universities that truly care about the future of our children...to rural areas, towns, cities, suburbs where people -- because they are citizens, because they are people -- can live together in harmony and cooperation, no matter what their age, the color of their skin, their religion, or their last name.

Some 21 years ago a great American President...
a former Governor of New York... a man who was true to
his party, his conscience and his country, sat at his desk
in Warm Springs, Georgia to write an address he was never
to deliver. That address was to have been given at a
~~the spring 7~~
Jefferson Day dinner in 1945.

Franklin Roosevelt wrote then, on the unfinished
page, the words that serve as our challenge today.

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow,"
Franklin Roosevelt wrote, "will be our doubts of today, Let
us move forward with strong and active faith."

Let us then -- as Democrats, as men and women who
believe in liberalism and social progress -- move forward,
with strong and active faith, to the victory that can be ours.

*To the Victory New York deserves
and needs.*

###

Transcript

New York
Democratic
State
Convention

Sept. 8, 1966
Buffalo

144

VICE-PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY: Thank you very much, Ambassador Harriman, Senator Kennedy, and your next Governor, Frank O'Connor. (Applause.)

Very Distinguished Comptroller, Arthur Levitt, (Applause.) Mayor Frank Sedita (Applause.) .

Your most abled and talented State Chairman, John Burns (Applause.), your distinguished Chairman of this Convention, Assemblyman Percy Sutton (Applause.),

Members of the -- that is Democratic Members of the New York Delegation to the Congress of the United States and Members of the New York Legislature.

First of all, may I express my thanks to each and every one of you for this very generous and warm welcome. I just said to my friend, Senator Kennedy, that we are saving all of those signs that say, "Welcome to Buffalo, Humphrey," and on the other side we are putting, "Welcome to Minnesota, Kennedy," for next week. (Applause.)

This is what we call the exchange program and it does a great deal to build understanding and friendship. Your distinguished Senator, Senator Robert Kennedy, will be the main speaker at one of our largest civic events in Minnesota a week from this coming Saturday. We call it turkey day out there and I want the Senator to know it is really Democratic Day and those turkeys

that he sees running down the street next week, those are just Republicans escaping the Democratic avalanche.

(Applause.)

I hope that Senator Kennedy brings to my State a spirit of unity and understanding just as this great Convention is bringing to its Democratic party in the State of New York, a new spirit of unity and understanding and on to victory. (Applause.)

It is good to be here. It is good to be in the State that had the judgment in 1964 to give Lyndon Johnson a majority of over 1 1/2-million votes. That is good judgment. (Applause.)

It is good to be in Erie County where you gave him a 200-thousand majority. (Applause.)

It is good to be in the State where every County saw the light and voted for the Democratic ticket in 1964. (Applause.)

It is good to be in the State that had the good judgment to send to the United States Senate one of its most effective spokesmen and one of the most articulate leaders, Robert Kennedy. (Applause.)

If my arithmetic is right, twenty-seven hard-hitting, hard-working progressing Democratic Congressmen. (Applause.)

I come to New York somewhat over-awed by the

fantastic political history of this, the Empire State. I come to you with good Democratic credentials. I am a son of a Democratic father who led the fight in the State of South Dakota in 1928 for Alvin Smith for President of the United States. (Applause.)

I cast my first vote for Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1932 and I cast four of them for him and I would have cast five, if he needed it. (Applause.)

I am an Al Smith, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Adlai Stevenson, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson Democrat. (Applause.)

Now, you may have other labels for your kind of Democrats but I will tell you one thing, I found out that if you want to have progressive leadership in this country, the odds are a hundred to one that you will find it in the Democratic Party. (Applause.)

So in the spirit of this great State and in the memorable words of the great song, "Happy Days Are Here Again," (Applause.)

I can feel it and I can smell it, victory, victory is in the air. (Applause.)

Victory is forever, victory is in New York State for your Governor and your State ticket and victory throughout the nation for President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society programs and its many supporters. (Applause.)

Now, I would like to have just a few moments of silent meditation and vocal reference to the opposition party. (Laughter.)

I want to take a moment out of respect for those that have passed on or for those that are close to it. (Laughter.)

Our opposition party has many troubles. Time does not permit me to list those manifold difficulties. It will never, never understand either America or the Democratic Party.

It can't understand our party because the Democratic Party is just too lively, too active, it wants to be where the action is and it is too modern for them. For the old Republican Party, the Democratic Party is the mysterious contraption that usually seems to them to be moving in a thousand directions.

Now, imagine how confusing that must be for a Republican that knows only three positions and directions, standing still, spinning counter-clockwise or moving backwards. (Applause.)

In this instance it is what they don't know that hurts them because all of this movement in the Democratic Party and you have plenty of it here, is caused by the internal combustion of creative firmament of new ideas, of vigorous people who committed to the

opposition that change and social progress are not only to be desired but they are the necessities, the inevitable necessities of the 20th century.

I am here today to talk serious business with you. This could be a moment of laughter and levity but I believe that the politics of the people is the most serious business that confronts a free nation. The challenge to the Democratic Party of New York is clear and compelling. You know it, I know it and the Nation knows it. The Nation wonders what it is that a State that gave huge majorities to a Democratic President, that sends distinguished representatives to the Congress that are Democrats and that can elect a majority of the Assembly, the Nation wants to know why don't you elect a Democratic Governor and I think they are going to get the answer this year. (Applause.)

The challenge is to see through it that this, the Empire State, once again regains the role of national leadership which it rightfully has held in the past and that it does so by moving forward to meet the challenges of the future while at the same time restoring the human values of the past. (Applause.)

Your State of New York is richly blessed, moreso than many nations. It is endowed with abundant material resources, magnificent land, forest, water, but far more

important, it is endowed with invaluable human resources.

New York, throughout its history, has held its position of leadership because of its enterprise, because of its talented and imaginative people, the builders of industry, of railroad and canals and the immigrants lifting themselves upward in the heart of the City and the founders of religious, educational and cultural institutions that are the envy of the world.

Yes, New York has held its position of leadership, because of its gifted political leaders, too.

Now, again in this year 1966, the time is called for enterprise, for talent, for imagination and above all, progressive, and I underscore the word progressive leadership that happened today on this platform. (Applause.)

The way is open for New York to become a principal factor in the Great Society, the initiator, the innovator, the trail blazer for the rest of the nation.

New York State can become the showcase, yes, the great governmental, political private showcase in our country.

The political scientists have a term today that they use to define what they call the new concept of government. They call it creative federalism. What

it really means is dynamic, responsive, responsible government based on effective, timely cooperation between all levels of government. It means better state and local government. It means, yes, generous federal aid where it is needed and effective local administration when it is required.

It means programs, policies, and projects locally inspired, locally developed, locally administered but with a broader design that includes state and regional development, backed and supported by generous federal assistance and resources.

That is the kind of dynamic government that this party is talking about and offers to the people of New York and to the people of this nation. It means modernizing your government, strengthening the economy at every level and doing it in terms of modern day means and future requirements.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Democrats old and young, this is the challenge facing this party and unless the Democratic Party bestirs itself, unless this party rises to that challenge to make government responsible and responsive to make it progressive and meaningful to serve the people and to give tangible results, and unless it does so, it can't win. If it does so, it will inevitably win. (Applause.)

There is a great history in this State. It's given to this nation great leadership, as I said.

You have been a laboratory of social experimentation.

You have dared to try not only new concepts of government but more importantly, new ideas for better living.

My fellow Americans, let's face it, things have changed. The flood-tide of change has overwhelmed many of the political and social institutions of this State and others designed for another day.

State Constitutions, state laws, even state offices are oftentimes totally outstepped with the requirements of the modern age. Revolutions in science and technology have been joined by revolution of rising expectations among our own people. Every public office holder and anyone that seeks to be a public office holder needs to know there is a human revolution under way. People want to have their own way of life. People want self-identity, people want a sense of self-respect and human dignity and it is the responsibility of a political party such as ours to help provide that help. (Applause.)

The tensions and pressures in our urban centers that we all know so well are symptoms of what I speak of.

Poverty that was hidden in the hills and the rural areas of a half-a-century ago has slipped away from its corners and has now accumulated and concentrated in our cities.

Racial prejudice long endured in shame and pain now stands exposed in its ugliness before us. The poverty is not just the problem of the poor, it is the cancer, the malignancy of America. The slum is not merely the problem of the cities, it is the rot of a nation.

Transportation and traffic congestion are no longer just the worry of the Mayor or the Police Department, the City Fathers, but it is the costly clot, yes, the dangerous clot in the arteries of our national economy.

Pollution of water and air only a few years ago a subject of academic discussion is now a threat to the health and welfare of our entire people. These and many other problems are the tragic inheritance of failure and delay by public authority and private enterprise. The truth is that our entire system of Democratic Government and free enterprise are challenged as never before.

The times call for boldness. The times call for experimentation - yes, for daring at every level of government and in the private economy.

Let me be manifestly clear that the answer to

all of our ills is not just more help from Washington but also includes self-help.

We need a renaissance, a rebirth of state government, a revitalization of open government and private initiative. You see - a good government does not mean a strong, powerful federal government aiding, comforting, propping up weak, obsolete, ineffective state and local government.

Modern American government requires a partnership of efforts with each partner fulfilling his own duties and responsibilities and each partner to be equipped to bear his own share of the load and that is what Frank O'Connor wants New York State to be able to do. (Applause.)

Yes, Mr. O'Connor knows that federal aid to be effective must be managed and used and applied in a political and social environment that is productive of action and results and not to the procrastination and that is why a Democratic Administration in Albany, New York, is needed to work with a Democratic Administration in Washington, D. C.. (Applause.)

You people here in New York have a great opportunity. You have the chance for a new constitution which can provide the framework needed to cope with these problems.

You have a chance through reapportionment for full and fair representation at long last.

But what is more and what is most important is you have the chance for political leadership, ready and able to go to work in friendly partnership with local, state and federal government, and that is what it takes to get a nation on the move.

In Washington you are represented by liberal, progressive Congressmen - by the way, we can use a few more such Democrats in the New York State Delegation.
(Applause.)

And as I told you on this platform you are represented, too, by a United States Senator, the honored son of a great family, the devoted and trusted brother of our late beloved President, a gifted and talented public servant, Senator Robert Kennedy.
(Applause.)

That is your Washington beat.

Now, the people of New York have a chance for new leadership in Albany, leadership by a man who has devoted his entire life to the service of the people of New York, by a gentleman who possesses the qualities of integrity and vision of compassion and action so much needed to make the revolution of rising expectations a possible human achievement here in your State and I mean

none other than leadership by Frank O'Connor, the next Governor of the State of New York. (Applause.)

Make no mistake about it. The people of New York before this campaign is over will recognize in Frank O'Connor what the people of New York City have already seen for many years. They will see that Frank O'Connor is a constructive liberal, he is a progressive, he is a man who wants to help those who need help and he is a man whose whole record in public life demonstrates that he means what he says. He keeps his word. (Applause.)

I think by now you have caught the idea. I like Frank O'Connor and I am sure that the people of New York like him, too. (Applause.)

Let me pause for a moment to add a little scriptural admonition. The Bible says, "If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle."

My fellow Democrats, you write that down on your coat sleeve, in your notebooks, on the back of your hand, put it someplace so that every day you can read it, because the answer to victory is: Let there be no uncertain sound. Let the call be clear and loud and my fellow Democrats, prepare yourself for the political battle of your life, because you are going to have one. (Applause.)

I come here as a friend, a fellow citizen, a fellow Democrat, a representative of your administration in Washington, your Vice-President, and I come here to ask you that you make this campaign a unified, all-out effort to restore Democratic leadership in Albany, New York. (Applause.)

Unity doesn't mean that you have to have unanimity. You don't have to agree on everything. If we did, we would all have the same coats and the same wife. (Laughter.)

Unity needs room for differences but it imposes a responsibility for the achievement of common objectives. We are not asking the Democratic Party to march in goose-step in unanimity. I am asking the Democratic Party to act like Democrats, to get out and speak up and get out and fight to win in November. (Applause.)

I am asking you to campaign in unity and in high hopes, not only for the next Governor of this State, but for the entire Democratic ticket, when you have set on that ticket, and go to work.

I want to tell you right now if you will spend as much time working as you do discussing what ought to be done, the Republicans won't have a chance in this State. (Applause.)

I am asking you once again to return to Washington these good Democratic Congressmen who have helped so much to mold the historic programs of the past five years.

I ask you to win new Democratic seats in the Congress.

"Let us begin," was the challenge of President John F. Kennedy.

"Let us continue," was the charge to a grief-stricken nation of President Lyndon Johnson.

My fellow Americans, we did begin. We did get this country moving forward out of the doldrums of Republican recession.

We have continued. We have not failed in our responsibilities. We have broken through with new ideas. We have broken through with new laws and programs.

We have broken through with a depth of commitment that could not have been imagined a few short years ago.

May I say this, my liberal friends, we have passed more liberal legislation in the past five years than in the preceding fifty. (Applause.)

Yes, we have made an all-out national commitment to the education of our children. In the past three years we have more than doubled our federal investments

in education.

Yes, we have broken down old barriers of racial discrimination and injustice and land-mark legislation has been adopted. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and with your help the Civil Rights Act of 1966. (Applause.)

Yes, we have set to work to solve the enormous problems of our growing and sprawling metropolitan areas. We have created a new federal department of housing and urban development.

We have cast and provided great supplements for our low-income families. We are now mobilizing our resources, our best minds, the most advanced techniques to the task of finding integrated, systematic solutions to the encrusted problems of metropolis, the great metropolitan area.

We are not running away from responsibility. We are seizing it. We are welcoming the opportunity to face up to responsibility.

Yes, we have worked toward eradication of a disease as old as mankind, poverty, that takes so high a toll on those afflicted by it and of those who must carry its burden.

Yes, we have transformed a cold and heartless immigration policy into one that is just, humane and

progressive.

Yes, we are providing hospital and nursing home and medical care under Social Security for our fathers and our mothers.

We resolve to defeat illness and disease which brings tragic loss to our economy and unbelievable pain to our loved ones.

In the past three years this administration has more than doubled its investments in health care, in health protection.

We have helped create an economy of growth and justice and opportunity, an economy of more jobs, higher salaries and wages, greater investment and profit, an economy able to sustain our responsibilities at home and an economy able to sustain our commitments for peace and security abroad. We can do both, we Americans. (Applause.)

It adds up to this: You ask for action and you have action, five years of action, of growth, changes and social progress and I ask this great Convention using this platform to remind this nation, don't let the 90th Congress become in our time what the 80th Congress was in its time.

Let's not let anything interrupt this forward progress this nation has made and that means a Democratic

Congress elected in 1966 and a Democratic Administration across this land in the State Houses of America.

(Applause.)

We accomplished many things and we have been true to the fate. We began with John F. Kennedy and we have continued with Lyndon Johnson.

We have done well but we are a people, we are a party never satisfied with yesterday's goals. We are restless in our search for fulfillment of America's promises and America's promise is simple and direct: "Liberty and justice for all." That is our promise.

Now, we must march on and we have the means of resources. There is no doubt about it.

Ours is the richest and most powerful nation on the face of this earth. There is only one question that needs to be answered. The question of our will, of our determination to wage our peaceful revolution for the many, even though few may be satisfied today.

I come to this great assembly to tell you that we can make the promise of equal opportunity for all, with liberty and justice for all a reality in our lifetime and indeed, we must do so, and we need to start it right here in New York State. (Applause.)

Life in our Cities can be more than steaming asphalt and crowded tenements. It can be more than

filthy air and polluted water, more than clogged highways and congested streets, more than bursting schoolrooms and underpaid and too few teachers, more than violence and hopelessness and discrimination and hate and despair. It can be a lot more than temporary material satisfaction.

The way lies open to Americans all to build a society, America the beautiful, in which human values above all count most.

The way lies open to cities alive with industry and economic progress filled with green and open space, to transportation that is safe, comfortable, rapid; to neighborhoods once more filled with neighbors; to schools and universities that truly care about the future of our children; to rural areas, towns, cities, suburbs where people, good people, because they are citizens, because they are people who can live together in harmony and cooperation, no matter what their age, the color of their skin, their religion, or their last name.

This is what New York means to America. This is what America means to the world.

This is what Lincoln meant when he said, "America is the last, best hope on earth," and let's maintain that high hope for ourselves and for our country.

(Applause.)

I leave you today with a historic reference to a great President, a great New Yorker, a great Governor of this State, a great humanitarian and a great Democrat, always a Democrat. (Applause.)

A Democrat who fought out his problems and wishes and filled it in his party. (Applause.)

Some twenty-one years ago a great American President, a former Governor of New York, a man who as I said was true to his party, his conscience and his country, sat at his desk in Warm Springs, Georgia, seeking to recover some of the health and vitality that he so richly deserved and he sat at that desk to write an address he was never to deliver, because he was taken from us and it appears that the pen literally fell from his hand as he was writing that address which was to be given at a Jefferson Day dinner to the Democrats in the Spring of 1945.

The great and beloved Franklin Roosevelt wrote then on the unfinished page, the words that serve as our challenge and our charge today.

Listen to these prophetic words, let them sear into your soul and mind and into your heart. Make them your creed as citizens, partisans and as Americans.

Franklin Roosevelt even at the moment of his

1 death called on Americans to understand "The only limit
2 to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of
3 today. Let us move forward with strong and active
4 faith."

5 My fellow Americans, a President who was surely
6 a casualty of conflict and overwork, if he could have
7 that fondest faith in America, if he could call upon
8 us to erase our doubts, if he could call upon us to
9 have active and strong faith in those difficult hours
10 of war, why should we not have that same faith in this
11 hour upon hour of wealth and responsibility, so let us
12 then as Democrats, as men and women who believe in
13 liberalism and social progress, let us move forward,
14 move forward with President Lyndon Johnson and move
15 forward with Frank O'Connor with a strong and active
16 faith to bring the victory that we justly deserve from
17 the record that we have established in public service.

18 Thank you. (Applause, cheering and
19 demonstration.)

20 C
21
22
23
24
25



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