

REMARKS
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
DEMOCRATIC FUND-RAISING DINNER
FORSGATE FARMS, NEW JERSEY
SEPTEMBER 22, 1966

What a wonderful evening and what a wonderful bargain. Where else can you get dinner and entertainment for the whole family for as little as a thousand dollars? Tonight we've gotten together to raise some money, to elect some Democrats, and to have some fun with the opposition.

Speaking of the opposition, I'm reminded of what the Roman historian Tacitus wrote about a ruler of the day -- an early Republican.

"Had he never been emperor, no one would have doubted his ability to reign."

There are few people in America today who doubt the ability of President Johnson, and of the Democratic Party, to lead this country.

We Democrats are accustomed to responsibility, and to the exercise of it both at home and in the world.

We have shown responsibility in economic policy.

When the American economy needed healthy growth as it did when we came to office, in the depths of the third recession in eight years - we provided it.

We have maintained continuous economic expansion for the past five and a half years - and in the past two and a half have led the free world in our rate of economic growth.

Now that our economy needs restraint, we are acting responsibly to provide that with the measures taken at the beginning of this year, and those recently proposed by the President.

All the productive elements in our economy have shared in our prosperity - the businessman in profits, the worker in wages, and the farmer in income. And these have been real gains in real money, for we have held inflation in closer check than any other major industrial country.

As we have built a better and more prosperous America today, we have been investing as well in tomorrow -- in the education of our children. In the past three years, we have more than doubled our federal expenditures in education.

These new federal funds have not been scattered broadside. They have been pinpointed on the two areas of most urgent need -- to help children sorely handicapped by backgrounds of poverty and to spark a revolution of innovation in our schools.

Our goal is to assure to every child all the education he is capable of absorbing -- so that he can achieve the maximum of self-fulfilment and service to his country. For the Great Society is not the welfare state -- it is the opportunity state.

It is not only classroom doors we are opening. We are opening, too, the doors of opportunity to two large groups of Americans hitherto largely excluded from full participation in our society and economy -- Negro Americans and the poor.

Today more Negro Americans are voting than ever before. More enjoy equal access to places of public accomodation, receive a better education in integrated schools, and get jobs and promotions. And we are pledged to move forward with our Negro fellow citizens until they have the full and real benefits of citizenship.

We have launched an all-out war on the poverty which persists in our urban slums and depressed rural areas. We are using a wide array of weapons -- knowing that there are no precedents to guide us. We must learn from experience as we go along - as, indeed, Americans have always learned.

As we succeed in bringing more Negro Americans and poverty-stricken Americans into the mainstream of life, all of us will benefit. For, when these wasted Americans become producing, consuming, and taxpaying Americans, our whole economy will gain fresh strength.

We have opened doors to the outside as well as within our country. We have purged our immigration laws of the ethnic discrimination which so long and so deeply stained them. No longer are we in the false position of professing the equality of all men - while treating some of them, those of Northwest European origin, as more equal than others.

Our parents deserve dignity in their older years.

Since July 1st, Medicare has lifted from the shoulders of our senior citizens one of the cruelest burdens they have borne. And, incidentally, it is already

evident that the waste and abuse which the opponents of this program predicted has not materialized. As so often, they under-estimated the responsibility of the American people.

We have also stepped up our efforts to roll back the ravages of disease, more than doubling our expenditures for health in the past three years. And we have enlarged social security benefits across-the-board.

We are working to make our cities places where people can live in comfort and safety -- and our countryside more beautiful to the eye and refreshing to the spirit. We are moving to make our air more fit to breathe and our waters more fit to drink.

And -- despite the anguished cries of our backward friends -- all these things are being done without imposing upon citizens and taxpayers the costly burden of a huge

new bureaucracy. The deficit in the federal budget has been cut from its all-time peak of over 12 billion dollars in 1959 to 2.3 billion dollars in the past fiscal year.

Today, the people of the United States are more prosperous, more free, more hopeful, and more confident of the future than ever before.

And, since our real strength is in our people, that means we are better able to bear the burdens of responsible world leadership.

These past few years have been filled with challenge after burden after trial around the world. But we have not repeated the tragic errors of the past and turned inward on ourselves. We have met ^{the} test of leadership.

During these years of leadership, not a single nation has been lost to Communist aggression or subversion.

The tides of change have been the tides of self-determination, not of totalitarianism. It is not the stale dogmas of Karl Marx that move mankind today. It is the fresh principles of Thomas Jefferson and our own Declaration of Independence.

Only in Asia does communism still show its primitive and irrational militancy. And there we shall firmly resist aggression while we tirelessly seek the peace.

Our goal is the kind of a world envisaged in the United Nations Charter = a world in which large and small nations can thrive in their natural diversity, but in ever-broadening cooperation for peace and progress.

We cannot expect instant peace or the instant rule of law, any more than we can expect instant prosperity or instant democracy. But we are on the way, and we are making progress day by day, month by month, and year by year.

We have a record of social and economic progress at home and active, responsible leadership abroad - and I say that is a winning record to stand on.

Two years ago many responsible Republicans voted Democratic for the first time. They showed they would rather switch than fight their better judgment.

They have made one break with past voting habits , and they can make more, if they are persuaded that ours is on the whole the more responsible party - as, indeed, it is.

And, in this election, we are not voting just for individuals - we are voting for a team, in the Senate and the House of Representatives and at the State and local level too. We have a Senate seat to gain; we have 10 House seats to hold and others to gain.

I ask your support for the Democratic ticket. And I ask you to help keep those Republicans-voting-Democratic on the right track.

We've said for a long time that what the party in power needs is a responsible opposition. I believe the Republicans are just the responsible opposition we need. And I think the Democratic party is the right party to be in power.

This November we have a chance to hold the gains we've made. We have the chance to keep up our momentum on the road to a freer and more prosperous nation, to a more secure and peaceful world.

We have made our commitment to the course ahead. I ask your help.

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