

NOTES

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
SENIOR CITIZENS RALLY
SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN
OCTOBER 23, 1966

There is vitality in America today.

There is the vitality of a people who are on the move . . .
who are doing what they want to do . . . who are getting
the job done.

It is a good time to be a young person in school: We have
more young people in high school and college than ever
before.

It is a good time to be a wage earner: Take-home pay
is at an all-time high and we are experiencing the longest
economic expansion in our history.

And it is a good time to be a senior citizen: Americans who
deserve the best of us are finally being given the respect
and consideration they have earned.

Our Medicare program is off to a wonderful start. And its
impact on the lives of more than 18 million Americans over
65 has brought joy and satisfaction undreamed of only a few
short years ago.

By mid-September -- 80 days after the start of the program --
over one million older persons had received hospital treatment
under Medicare. In addition, about 150,000 bills for physicians'
services had been paid under the medical insurance part of the
program, and some 45,000 persons had received home health services.

Medicare means dignity and security for those who are most
vulnerable to illness and who most need good care and medical
attention.

We have a commitment to our fathers and mothers. We are
keeping it.

^[past]
This past 89th Congress passed more historic legislation for
senior Americans than any other Congress in our history. And
your Congressman -- my good friend, John Race -- has contributed
to that record.

We have started a three-year program to create regional centers
to fight heart disease, cancer and stroke.

We have enacted the Older Americans Act of 1965 that provides grants for developing programs to help our senior citizens find the peace and comfort they seek.

We have passed new hospital insurance programs and a voluntary health insurance program. And we have increased our survivors and disability benefits payments by 7 per cent.

These are new programs that need to be bolstered and shepherded through the first years of operation. We are determined that each of them shall succeed.

President Johnson announced, just before leaving for Manila, a new proposal for an across-the-board boost of Social Security benefits of at least 10 per cent.

The 90th Congress will enact this proposal into law before this winter is over.

We now possess the means and the will to live up to the promise of America. Our people do not ask for a utopia or cradle-to-the-grave coddling.

They ask only for the opportunity to use their skills and talents, to live in decent neighborhoods, to send their children to good schools, and to find security in their later years.

These desires have been going out unfulfilled throughout most of the world's history. But this generation of Americans -- perhaps more than any other -- is living to see this age-old dream come true.

We now have the chance to solve the problems we have lived with for most of our lives.

We have created a better and stronger America than existed only a few years ago.

But we are only at the beginning.

I know you will vote "yes" to the future.

I know you will support John Race, whose maturity and sound leadership are vital to the goals we have set for America in the 1960's.

The poet tells us: "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be."

We shall make those words come true.

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Schryber
Milwaukee

NOTES

John Race
Mr. Lucey

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

SENIOR CITIZENS RALLY

SHEYBOYGAN, WISCONSIN

OCTOBER 23, 1966

Helen Hasech
Jim Magella
of Ford Du Lac
got John Race in
Petites

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(weekly Jung)
In house of
Lance Lamont

Shirley
Van
Trent

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John Race

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1st senior citizens center at Plymouth House

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Transcript

REMARKS OF THE HON. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
WITH INTRODUCTION BY THE HON. JOHN A. RACE
AT THE SHEBOYGAN ARMORY, OCT. 23, 1966

THE HON. JOHN A. RACE

Ladies and gentlemen, I am overwhelmed by this wonderful turnout, and I want to personally thank each and every one of you for taking this time out this weekend to honor our honored guest and myself.

It is often difficult to introduce a man of such stature -- a man who holds one of the highest offices in the land -- a man who is tonight the highest national official on United States soil.

But, the man I am here to present to you is a man who is easy to introduce. He is not only a close personal friend of mine, but he is also a close personal friend of the people of Wisconsin. He is our neighbor...he was once described as our third Wisconsin Senator...he rose to leadership of the Democratic Party in the United States Senate...and today he is the ranking member of the incumbent Democratic Administration.

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the Vice President of the United States, the Honorable Hubert Humphrey!

(Applause)

THE HON. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Well, thank you. Thank you for that wonderful reception, but it's on television. It costs money.

Congressman John Race...John...thank you very much for, first your invitation to me to visit your city -- this city of Sheboygan -- your district. Thank you for the warm welcome that your fellow citizens in this, your Congressional District, have extended to me.

I am very delighted to find my friend -- my young friend -- I have been looking for this afternoon...or, this evening, I should say, up to this hour...who is a young man who has a great political record already in the State of Wisconsin and carries an honored name in American politics, and has a tremendous reputation in his own right. Bronson LaFollette...how good it is to see him here.

(Applause)

We didn't bring along the (Lieutenant) Governor because he had another meeting he needed to take care of, but we decided we would bring along the soon-to-be Governor's wife, Jean Lucey. And we have her here with us tonight.

(Applause)

And I am happy to say we also have the outstanding young man -- one of your state senators -- who again brings with him not only his honored family name, but also his own great personal record. And he is the Democratic candidate, of course, for lieutenant governor, Martin Schreiber, who is here with you.

(Applause)

Mayor Browne, thank you for your courtesy as I come to Sheboygan. You know, the Mayor gave me the key to the city and I'm not going to stay long enough to use it. But I will remember that he extended it, and I want him to know, as long as the President of the United States, President Johnson, is out of Washington, if he will come to Washington, I will give him the key to that city.

(Applause)

Mayor Browne, you can get it from the top man, and there is no doubt about it.

My good friends of Wisconsin. My good friends of this, the Sixth Congressional District...this great heart of Wisconsin... Fox River Valley. This great area that includes such fine cities not only as Sheboygan, but as Fond du Lac and Oshkosh and many others.

This is the area...well, of course it's just a little ways away from here, in Fond du Lac, where you gave us Jimmie Megellas, one of the fine young men in public service today.

(Applause)

Many of you may not know him, but let me say to my young friends that are here, he is serving with great distinction your government and your country today in Panama. I consider him to be one of the outstanding members of our foreign service. And he was the former mayor of Fond du Lac, a hero in war and a patriot in peace, and the man that brought John Race into politics in Wisconsin. And how good it is that he had good judgement to do that.

(Applause)

Now, I want to talk to you tonight about your congressman. I want to talk to you a little bit tonight about your government in Washington and about our country -- and they are not separate. They are tied together, because your government -- and that means all of your governments, federal, state and local -- has great responsibilities today. And those who serve in that government, whatever their position may be, are not men and women that are afforded privilege, but men and women that are burdened with leadership and responsibility.

John Race..born in this district, a man that earned his own way, a gentleman that has a record in the Congress of the United States of which you can be proud -- and surely he has the right to be proud -- John Race, freshman congressman, who serves in the greatest Congress that America has ever known, the 89th Congress, a Congress that has done more good things for more people than any other Congress in the history of this Nation.

And this is not the judgement of the Vice President. It is the judgement of many of the men who write the news. It is the judgement of those who are historians of our time. And, as the President of the United States has said, it is a fabulous Congress with an incredibly good record.

And one of the men who helped make that record is the man we come here tonight to honor, and a man that I come here to ask you for your continued good support..not because of himself, but because of your needs and the needs of this Nation.

John Race, who went to Washington as your Representative in 1964.

I wonder how many people know just a few simply things about this very good man. I was talking to him on the plane as we were flying in here from Milwaukee, and I asked John...I said, "Have you been getting home to see your people?" Because, after all, a Congressman represents the people, and the House of Representatives is the body of the people.

— John said, "I have been home eighty-two times" -- eighty-two times! -- "In the two years I have served in the House of Representatives."

And yet, do you know that he has the outstanding record for attendance in the House of Representatives? Do you know that he has one of the best records for being on the job -- where he is supposed to be -- to attend to public business?

A man who comes home to be with you -- to listen to you..to get your advice and counsel..to hear your problems..to meet with your families..to go to your factories...to see the businessman..to go to the farm areas...that same man who gives of his life on Saturdays and Sundays, on the weekend, where he could be taking it easy or being with his loved ones -- and I bet Mrs. Race knows what I mean -- that

same man has come home here weekend after weekend to talk with you... to be with you.

But he's back on the job Mondays. He's voting. Voting for what? Voting for things that mean something to the farmers of this area...for a good farm program. Voting for a minimum wage bill... the best that this nation ever had. Voting to improve our cities. Voting for the education of our young people.

Sheboygan, just as Milwaukee...as Oshkosh and Fond du Lac... as Plymouth -- you name it, any one of the towns. I have been up around your district you know.

And by the way, you did a whole lot better by John Race than you did by me...and I want to congratulate you.

(Applause)

But I know you have good judgement, and I will tell you why. You loved John Kennedy. And he was a great President.

(Applause)

And so did I, and I worked with him. Of course, I did have to train him up a little bit up here around this district.

But John Race came down to Washington to help carry out those commitments, of the platform of 1960 and 1964. I wouldn't come to you and say that you should vote for a man just because he comes home to see you. I wouldn't come to you and say vote for a man simply because he is there to cast a vote. Because I have seen some people in Washington that were there to cast votes against the people. I've seen them there every day to vote against the great legislation that has helped build America.

But, I come today to talk about a Congressman that has been working for the people. And this Congressman wouldn't want me to just take the time to talk about him. He would want me to remind you that government is a teamwork proposition. He would want me to remind you that, just as you need a Democratic Congress in the 90th Congress to support a Democratic President and Vice President in the effort to build a better America, so do you need a Democratic governor in Wisconsin to work with that Congress and that President. And you can have one if you vote for Pat. Lucey.

(Applause)

By the way, you have done pretty well. You know, I remember when I used to have to represent Wisconsin. You didn't have any Democratic Senators.

(Applause)

You remember when you used to say I was Wisconsin's third Senator. But now you have Gaylord Nelson and you have Bill Proxmire.

(Applause)

Let me say just a word about this nation of ours -- and I want you to know what John Race has done about making it a better country.

My theme for you tonight is a better America. Don't misunderstand me. The America we have is wonderful. There isn't anything that can equal it. It's a Nation of unbelievable wealth..of unequal power. It's a Nation that represents the hope -- as Abraham Lincoln well put it one time, "the last best hope on earth."

But I don't think that we have to be super-patriotic, even though good, old-fashioned patriotism has genuine merit. There are plenty of people today that speak out against our country. I think we need a few people who speak up for it. And I hope that I am in an audience that does it.

(Applause)

But this is a young country. This is a country that's restless. This is a country that reaches out. We have never been satisfied with yesterday. If we were, we wouldn't have a new car model each year, or we wouldn't constantly be trying to improve our neighborhoods in our cities and our farms. And you mothers and fathers wouldn't be asking your children to go on to school, if we were just content with the yesterdays.

This is an America of vitality, and there's a vitality of a people who are on the move, and a people who are doing things, and doing what they want to do, and who are getting the job done.

You know, it's a good time to be a young person in school. Why do I say it? Because we have more young people in good schools in America today than ever before. And we are broadening the basic education, which is the key to opportunity.

Mayor Browne gave me the key to this city. Well, Mayor let me tell you that the Federal government, in co-operation with your local schools -- public and parochial -- has given to the young people of America the key to their opportunity. And what is that? A better education! The base of education expanded, the quality of education improved, federal aid to education, higher education.

And John Race, Congressman from this Sixth District, of the State of Wisconsin, was in the forefront of that help to get assistance to our young people, so that they could get better education.

That's what I mean. A man of opportunity.

And it's a good time to be a wage earner, too. Do you know, our Republican friends like to remind us how good they were to everybody -- and I wouldn't want to say that they are not good people, because they are. We don't have to dislike the other fellow to disagree. Why we even have occasional disagreements in our own household, and that doesn't mean that one walks out, or that you have bitterness.

I do not speak of disrespect of our Republican friends. They're sort of like my dad once explained about my sweet mother. As a young man...I one time as a young boy, I sort of got a little sassy with mother, and my father called me in and said, "listen, young man, I want to tell you something about your mother. She's a wonderful woman. She happens to be your mother, and also happens to be my wife and my sweetheart. And I expect you to treat her with respect. Your mother has only one weakness. She's politically unreliable."

(Applause)

Now, my dear friends, that's about the only thing that I have ever seen wrong with our Republican friends. Just a little political unreliability. Other than that, could you ask for better neighbors? Could you ask for nicer people?

(Applause)

Well, let me say that they've been a little bit worried about some of the things going on in America. But, I think they ought to remember in those five years from 1956 to 1961, when they were in charge. The total take home pay of the workers' pay envelope went up three per cent. In the meantime, they had two economic recessions, and Sheboygan, and Fond du Lac, and Oshkosh -- I was here; I was here in the winter of 1959; I was here in the spring of 1960 -- there was unemployment. Factories were working at about 60 per cent of capacity.

Three per cent increase in take-home pay; two economic recessions; and unemployment at the rate of 8.79 per cent.

1961 to 1966... John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. What happened? Democratic Congress..take home pay after taxes, adjusted for price increases for the wage earner -- up 22 per cent and no recessions.

Oh, I hear that Republican argument coming back right now. They say, "inflation."

Ah, gracious, they know more scare words, let me say, than Dracula. They really will...when they run out of solid arguments, they try to frighten you.

Well, let's take a look -- '56 to '61...five years. The cost of living went up 11 per cent and you still had two recessions. And part of your people in this audience were working part-time, half-time, or losing your job. And many a factory in this community was in the same situation.

In over-all wages, without any adjustments for prices, those wages went up 27 per...29 per cent. I want to give them all the advantage they can get -- 29 per cent. Eleven per cent rise in the cost of living; 29 per cent rise wages.

1961 to 1966 -- John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. Cost of living gone up nine per cent; wages 47 per cent. I'm not saying that things don't cost a little more. I'm simply saying they cost a little less than they did under the five years of Republicanism. And I say, without shadow of doubt or fear of contradiction, that the workers' take-home pay today is a good deal better -- 22 per cent net -- than it was under the five years of Republicanism.

(Applause)

And John Race -- take a look at him right over here -- helped make it that way. Because he voted for the right things.

(Applause)

He voted for the tax reduction, Mr. Businessman, that gave you a corporate tax reduction. He voted for the individual income tax reduction -- everyone of the tax payers in this community. He voted to release the energies of private enterprise to go to work. Let his opponents criticize him, if they can. I judge a man by his record -- Ye shall know them by their deeds, not their propaganda. And John Race's deeds look good.

(Applause)

And it's a good time to be a senior citizen. And this rally is sponsored tonight by senior citizens. And isn't it the way it should be -- sponsored by the senior citizens. But look all around me -- young people all around. All young people...sons and daughters; grandsons and granddaughters. Great! Great! Let me tell you, I have three sons and a daughter and I'm going strong... I have four granddaughters.

(Applause)

I want to say to these young people I'm worried about the kind of a country we're going to have later on because you're going to have to be in charge. You're going to have to provide for our national security and my Medicare. So I want to know what's going to happen. And in the meantime, I simply ought to have good leadership at the helm of this government.

I said good times for Senior Citizens, and these are the Americans that deserve the best...the best of us. And they're finally being given the kind of respect that they're due from a government of the people, by the people and for the people, to act that way and to legislate that way. And that's what we did.

(Applause)

Somebody asked me today "What do you think is the most important piece of legislation passed by the 89th Congress?"

I don't think you can tell. It depends on what your interests are. Education is tremendously important. Conservation measures; aid to our cities, minimum wage, voting rights -- there are oh so many pieces of legislation. But let me concentrate on one.

For better than 20 years we tried to get a program called Medicare. I stand before you tonight, my dear friends, as the first senator to introduce legislation to provide hospital and nursing home care under the terms of Social Security. I introduced it in the month of May, 1949, in my first year as senator. Boy, what they called me!

(Applause)

I was called every mean name in the book and we kept at it. We kept at it. And it was my privilege to be a co-sponsor of that legislation. I helped pass it on the floor of the Senate two times. Two times it was defeated in the other body.

And then came the election of 1964. And then we elected 38 new Members of Congress, known as the "freshman class" -- and one of them's on this platform tonight -- and we settled down to the business of doing something about the 19 million elderly in this country, most of whom, if you please, have incomes of under \$1,100 a year, most of whom were being forgotten. The victims of...of a new period of life in which costs were higher; in which everything was moving faster.

To put it quickly to you, we passed Medicare. We passed it in both Houses and signed it in the presence of the former President of the United States, Harry S. Truman, out in Independence, Missouri.

And what did it do? Well, it provided for hospital and nursing home medical care for between 18 and 19 million Americans over 65 and brought them new joy, satisfaction and security, the likes of which they never had before in their lives. I think that's one of the great pieces of legislation.

(Applause)

I have report -- and listen to this -- by mid-September... 80 days after the start of this program...over one million older persons have received hospital treatment under Medicare, and the cost paid for under Social Security. In addition, 150,00 doctor bills have been paid under the medical insurance part of Medicare, and some 45,00 persons have received home medical services in their own homes under Social Security prepaid insurance. And it works. And all the prophets of doom and gloom to the contrary.

You know what the Republican friends did about it? You know what John Race had to face in the House of Representatives? They voted to recommit it. They voted to kill it. They voted to bury it. John Race voted to give it life and today millions of Americans feel a sense of security in their health because the government of the United States is a government of the people, by the people and for the people -- the older people, if you please.

(Applause)

Then we passed another law called the Older Americans Act, which provided grants for developing programs and facilities to help our elderly citizens live a more meaningful life. And do you know that because of John Race, that the first Senior Citizens Center in the United States was established right near-by in Plymouth, Wisconsin? That's what your Congressman did for you.

(Applause)

And we went ahead and we increased old age and survivors benefits on disability seven per cent. And now what do you think. The President has appointed a whole new body to study Social Security. And he announced just a week ago that coming this next year there will be a new proposal for an across the board increase in Social Security benefits of a minimum of 10 per cent. This is the kind of administration you have. Not one that's content with yesterday's accomplishments. Not one that says, "Just because we did something last year, nothing should be done next year." Indeed we know that the people on Social Security are also penalized by high costs and high prices, and we are making our Social Security program humane and fair - extending its benefits--and next year, with Johnson-Humphrey Administration and a Democratic 90th Congress, Social Security benefits will go up at a minimum of 10 per cent, if you give us men like John Race to help us.

(Applause)

(Garbled tape) but let me just summarize it for you. Your government isn't one for any particular group. This isn't a government of only labor or only business or only agriculture or only professional people. Its a government, if you please, it must have its concern for all people, and for every person, regardless of his political faith or his political allegiance. And I beleive that I can come before this audience tonight and tell you that we have tried to serve the public interest well. We have tried to protect our great natural resources, with great programs of conservation. We have sought to do something at long last by even such problems as the purification or the pollution,

I should say, of our air. The pollution of our waters. Knowing full well that man was intended to have fresh water and to breathe clean air.

And here we are along side one of the Great Lakes -- Lake Michigan. Ladies and gentlemen, do you realize the largest fresh water body in the world, known as the Great Lakes, today faces the danger of pollution that can contaminate these water for generations yet to come. And yet the Congressman, along with others, and the President of the United States had the foresight to say, "Let's get at it. Let's do something about it."

And we're moving. Not only, my friends, to clean the waters and the streams that are contaminated. Not only to help clean the air that we breathe. But to clean our cities to make them livable. To improve our rural countryside so that young people will want to live there. To expand our schools, to improve higher education, which is the best investment that America can make.

My fellow Americans, there's never been a nation that ever went bankrupt by investing in its youth. The resource of America that is most valuable is its young people. And we intend to see to it not that young people have it easy, but that young people have an opportunity.

This is the "Opportunity Administration." This is the Democratic Opportunity Administration. To open up those gates so that people of every walk of life; of every race, creed and nationality; people of every age group, can live their life to the fullest. Not only in pleasure and luxury, but in citizenship responsibilities. I think Americans are tough-minded people, but I think they also are warm-hearted. They don't want a hand-out. They don't want to be treated easily. But what they want is a fair break in life, and the Johnson-Humphrey Democratic Administration is dedicated to the proposition that if you place the faith in the American people they'll return their confidence to you with interest and dividends. They'll return a better America. Better homes, better schools.

(Applause)

They'll return that investment of faith in a stronger America. Not only stronger in terms of its finances, not only stronger in terms of its military, but stronger in terms of its total social fabric. My friends of Sheboygan, of this great Sixth Congressional District, I am not here to tell you that the Democratic Party has a monopoly on virtue and wisdom because to do so would be to insult your intelligence. I'm not to tell you that every candidate we have is one that cannot be equalled to do so would be ridiculous.

But what I am going to tell you is that the record of this party and the record of the leadership that you have in Washington, and the record of those who seek to be elected in this state of Wisconsin, is one when compared to that of the opposition, gives you a good choice. And what is that choice?

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On NOVEMBER 8, get out to vote and vote Democratic. Elect JOHN RACE and the Democratic ticket.

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