



FOR RELEASE:

8 P.M. EDT
MAY 10, 1968

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

EXCERPTS OF REMARKS BY
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
TO THE JEFFERSON-JACKSON DAY DINNER
OMAHA, NEBRASKA - MAY 10, 1968

Vice President Hubert Humphrey today called for the full use of American agricultural abundance to eliminate hunger in this country within the next four years.

Addressing a Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner in Omaha, Nebraska, the Vice President said that we have a "viable Democratic framework" and public programs "that can be enlarged and improved" to achieve social progress in America.

"The task now" he said "is to mobilize all our resources, to fill in the gaps in our programs and to start living up to our potential."

The Vice President then proposed eight areas of action:

- "--redesigning our welfare system so that it helps people onto their own two feet rather than encouraging generations of dependency;
- "--further modernizing our social security system to insure that it serves as an adequate floor of protection but not a ceiling on opportunity;
- "--capturing the resources of energy and commitment in our young people through a system of national service which not only distributes the burdens of military service fairly, but offers incentives and opportunities for contributing to our domestic needs;
- "--modernizing our state and local government structures to keep democratic participation alive in an age of bigness;

"--further developing the role of the private sector --
and its partnership with government -- in rebuilding
cities and reclaiming lives;

"--guaranteeing an educational minimum wage which will
assure every child full educational opportunity from
the age of four onward;

"--increasing farm bargaining power so that America's
farm families may finally achieve full parity in our
economy and so that part of America which I consider
best may flourish.

"--And using our agricultural abundance, with fair prices
to our farmers, to eradicate the shame of hunger in
America within the next four years.

The Vice President said "I believe we can do all of
that and more -- if we remember who we are and what America
is supposed to stand for. And I intend to take the case
for America to America every day from now to November and
beyond," he said.

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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

8:00 p.m. EDT
May 10, 1968

REMARKS
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
JEFFERSON-JACKSON DAY DINNER
OMAHA, NEBRASKA
MAY 10, 1968

Part of the point of a Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner is to take stock: Of what it means to be a Democrat...and what more we want it to mean...and how to do it.

A better way of asking, though, is what we want to make it mean to be an American -- for there is no difference between a good American and a good Democrat, in that order.

We claim no monopoly on squaring politics with patriotism.

We do claim, though, some patents on how to make patriotism work to human advantage.

Those patents were originally filed, in the name of the people, by Jefferson, by Jackson, by Wilson -- and in our time by four great social inventors: Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, John Kennedy, and Lyndon Johnson.

Those patents have from time to time been infringed -- thank heaven -- by our Republican friends.

But this is the fact -- and the pardon for our pride: That every major step forward this nation has taken in the past 50 years...every achievement bold enough that it comes now to people's minds, has been taken under the leadership of a Democratic President.

Social Security...minimum wage...farm parity...free collective bargaining...the United Nations...the Marshall Plan...the war on poverty...civil rights...a whole new education program...Medicare...and 10 more for every one of these.

These are America's achievements -- not any President's alone or any party's.

But the Presidents who proposed those actions -- and the majorities in the Congress who took them -- were Democrats.

A lot of what it means to be a Democrat is to be willing and able to do something for the first time.

So in a way all we have done so far is important mainly as our credentials for the future.

We start from today.

And with all of the gains that have been made, we recognize squarely that this is a seriously troubled time in America's history.

There is tragic disturbance of all we mean by peace -- both in some parts of our country and in some parts of the world.

History will not ~~speak~~ speak well of America if we do not use this year of decision to exert the most powerful initiative for peace -- here and everywhere.

It is, to me, the most essential part of the meaning of being a Democrat that we assert this initiative -- not from fear, or fear of fear -- but from the firmest command and the fullest use of our strength.

This means reliance on reason, not on anger. The strength I speak of is the strength of our spirit, our ideals, our wisdom, our resources.

It means the exercise of restraint -- self-restraint in the use of our power, yes -- and restraint, equally against any who use force of violence to deny the authority of reason.

I reject flatly the view of those who equate or even compare rioting in this country -- in the slums or on the campuses -- with the attack on freedom in Vietnam.

They are totally different.

"Law and order," furthermore, is too easy a catch-phrase -- too easily made an excuse for not looking to the root causes of protest that goes too far.

But where a free society -- which depends basically on some measure of individual self-restraint -- encounters a situation in which the whole idea of self-restraint is totally abandoned and violence is chosen instead, then the required course is to put down that violence.

The firm command and the full use of our strength as a democracy means response -- to whatever needs to be done.

It means, summing all these up, the exercise of responsibility -- by each of us as individuals, and acting together as a community in those things we cannot do alone.

Being a Democrat means, to me, realizing and accepting fully the idea and the reality of the human competence to perfect the human experience -- far beyond any present sense of it.

* * * *

What are the ways and means to this end?

We know, on the basis of our experience over the last few years, that the basic tools of our free society -- a vital free enterprise system...a renewed and changing federal structure...active participation in public affairs by private groups -- are a viable democratic framework.

Seven years of Democratic leadership have given us many of the public programs we need -- programs that can be enlarged and improved.

We know we can train the unskilled...we can put them to work...we can give disadvantaged children a headstart...we can offer people the dignity of adequate health care -- and we know how.

The task now is to mobilize all our resources, to fill in the gaps in our programs, and to start living up to our potential.

That means, for instance:

- redesigning our welfare system so that it helps people onto their own two feet rather than encouraging generations of dependency;
- further modernizing our Social Security system to insure that it serves as an adequate floor of protection but not a ceiling on opportunity;
- capturing the resources of energy and commitment in our young people through a system of national service which not only distributes the burdens of military service fairly, but offers incentives and opportunities for contributing to our domestic needs;
- modernizing our state and local government structures to keep democratic participation alive in an age of bigness;
- further developing the role of the private sector -- and its partnership with government -- in rebuilding cities and reclaiming lives;
- guaranteeing an educational minimum wage which will assure every child full educational opportunity from the age of four onward;
- increasing farm bargaining power so that America's farm families may finally achieve full parity in our economy and so that part of America which I consider best may flourish;
- And using our agricultural abundance, with fair prices to our farmers, to eradicate the shame of hunger in America within the next four years.

I believe we can do all of that and more -- if we remember who we are and what America is supposed to stand for.

And I intend to take the case for America to America every day from now to November and beyond.

Because I believe this nation and people can finally break across the threshold of what no previous society has ever achieved -- the building of a social order of both freedom and compassion, of both enterprise and peace.

I believe we can finally create a nation where human equality and human opportunity not only exist side-by-side, but nourish and reinforce each other...where every citizen may participate, on equal terms, in every aspect of being and doing that relates to self-respect.

I believe we can make law and order not only compatible with justice and human progress -- but their unflinching guardians.

I believe we can build cities and neighborhoods where all our citizens may walk together in safety and in pride... and in a spirit of true community.

I believe, too, in the practical possibilities of peace.

I believe that free men, through the exercise of their own will, can narrow the dangerous gap between the rich nations and the poor...can end the scourge of hunger...can slow down and halt the spiraling arms race...can treat and reduce the basic causes of tension and conflict in the world.

I believe that, through our leadership, we can strengthen the United Nations and other international institutions and make them real, everyday forces for peace.

And I believe that this strong, rich, idealistic nation can help to create a broader world society in which human values may one day rule supreme.

Let this be our goal:

On the 200th anniversary of our nation's Independence -- on July 4, 1776 -- that every American citizen shall stand free and equal beside his neighbor -- that every American child shall know the full meaning of opportunity...that America shall stand unchallenged in the world as the symbol

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of justice, brotherhood and peace.

This is our work as Democrats.

This is the message I bring to the American people.

I ask your help.

#

POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION

JEFFERSON - JACKSON DAY DINNER

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

MAY 10, 1968

(Recognition of dais dignitaries later, See below)

2 Telegrams

I have just sent this wire to Thomas Jefferson and

Andrew Jackson -- collect:

"Guess who came to your dinner" !

~~(Or: "You'll never guess who came to your dinner.")~~

And another wire to Senator McCarthy -- prepaid:

Dear Gene: Understand Bobby has declined your offer
to debate public issues. ~~Reappraisal that position~~

~~now apparent~~ Feel you, as only other Democratic candidate
in Nebraska primary, entitled equal time tonight. Please
advise whether in your interests I speak for you or
against you. !

P.S. Understand from press you consider other jobs more
important than Vice President. Agree completely. *HHH*

Signed: Hubert Humphrey,
Vice President pro tem.

You know, I just don't understand some people being
Republicans when it's so much fun being Democrats.

I guess it's because an elephant has such a hard time
laughing. But it's easy for a donkey -- even when the joke's
on him.

Part of the fun is coming here tonight because I said
I would -- quite awhile ago.

Part of the fun is seeing again old friends like _____,
_____, _____, et. al.

(Grand Island)

✓ Gov. Morrison
✓ Ch. John Mitchell
✓ Marvin W. W.

① V.P. Seal arrow
Eagle thin with!
one

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

JEFFERSON -- JACKSON DAY DINNER

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

MAY 10, 1968

3 hours
Dinner

what it means to
be a Dem.

Part of the point of a Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner

is to take stock: Of what it means to be a Democrat... and

what more we want it to mean... and how to do it.

Take Stock

A better way of asking, though, is what we want to

make it mean to be an American -- for there is no difference

between a good American and a good Democrat, in that order.

✓ We claim no monopoly on squaring politics with
patriotism.

NonPartisan
Dinner!

John
Mrs. Beegert

② Dinner for a
family party
know baby had
big family -

Copyrighted
We do claim, though, some patents on how to make patriotism work to human advantage.

Those patents were originally filed, in the name of the people, by Jefferson, Jackson, Wilson -- and in our time by four great social inventors: Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, John Kennedy, and Lyndon Johnson.

and Those patents have from time to time been infringed upon thank heaven -- by our Republican friends.

But this is the fact -- and the pardon for our pride: That every major step forward this nation has taken in the past 50 years... every achievement bold enough to be remembered, has been taken under the leadership of a Democratic President.

X
Every
Step
a
Dem

Social Security... minimum wage... farm parity... free collective bargaining... the United Nations... the Marshall Plan... the war on poverty... civil rights... a whole new education program... Medicare... and 10 more for every one of these.

These are America's achievements ~~not any~~

~~President's alone or any party's~~

But the Presidents who proposed those actions --
and the majorities in the Congress who took them -- were
Democrats. ~~#~~

A lot of what it means to be a Democrat is to be willing
and able to do something for the first time. ~~Daring~~

So in a way all we have done so far is important mainly
as our credentials for the future. ~~future!~~

We start from today.

And with all of the gains that have been made, we
recognize squarely that this is a seriously troubled time in
America's history.

There is tragic disturbance of all we mean by peace --
both in some parts of our country and in some parts of the world.

Belmond
of
your
Party -
I am!

Threat
to
Peace

History will not treat well of America if we do not
use this year of decision to exert the most powerful initiative
+ understanding
for peace -- here and everywhere.

It is, to me, the most essential part of the meaning of
being a Democrat that we assert this initiative -- not from
fear, or fear of fear -- but from the firmest command and the
fullest use of our strength.

all we have to fear is fear itself
~~This means reliance on reason, not on anger.~~
strength I speak of is the strength of our spirit, our ideals,
our wisdom, our resources. *This means reliance on Reason not anger*

Restraint
It means the exercise of restraint -- self-restraint
in the use of our power, yes -- and restraint, equally against
any who use force of violence to deny the authority of reason.

I reject flatly the view of those who equate or even
compare rioting in this country -- in the slums or on the
campuses -- with the attack on freedom in Vietnam.

They are totally different.

"Law and order," furthermore, is too easy a catch-phrase -- too easily made an excuse for not looking to the root causes of protest that goes too far.

But where a free society -- which depends basically on some measure of individual self-restraint -- encounters a situation in which the whole idea of self-restraint is totally abandoned and violence is chosen instead, then the required course is to put down that violence.

Response *action*
The firm command and the full use of our strength as a democracy means response -- to whatever needs to be done.

responsibility - yes
It means, ~~summing all this up~~ the exercise of responsibility -- by each of us as individuals, and acting together as a community ~~in these things we cannot do alone.~~

Reason, Restraint, Response, & Responsibility

Being a Democrat means, to me, realizing and accepting fully the idea and the reality of the human competence to perfect the human experience -- far beyond any present sense of it.

* * * We have the Means!

~~What are the ways and means to this end?~~

We know ~~on the basis of~~ ^{from} our experience over the last few years, that the basic tools of our free society -- a vital free enterprise system... a renewed and changing federal structure...

active participation in public affairs by private groups -- are ^{state} our Democracy work a viable democratic framework.

2 Seven years of Democratic leadership have given us many of the ~~basic~~ programs we need -- programs that can be enlarged and improved.

We Can Do It!

-7-

We know we can train the unskilled... we can put them to work... we can give disadvantaged children a headstart... we can offer people the dignity of adequate health care -- and we know how.

*Omaha
Exp. program*

↳ The task now is to mobilize all our resources, to fill in the gaps in our programs, and to start living up to our potential.

That means, for instance:

↳ -- redesigning our welfare system so that it helps people onto their own two feet rather than ~~creating~~ ^{*new*} generations

on relief
of dependency

↳ -- further modernizing our Social Security system to insure that it serves as an adequate floor of protection but not a ceiling on opportunity;

-- capturing the resources of energy and commitment in
our young people through a^{new}system of national service which
not only distributes the burdens of military service fairly,
but offers incentives and opportunities for contributing
to our domestic needs;

Give our Young People
a chance -

Responsibility requires
Responsibility

Local Govt

-- modernizing our state and local government structures

to keep democratic participation alive in an age of bigness;

Govt
& Business

-- further developing the role of the private enterprise

and its partnership with government -- in rebuilding cities and
reclaiming lives;

Educ

-- guaranteeing an educational minimum wage which

will assure every child full educational opportunity from

the age of four onward;

Farmers

-- increasing farm bargaining power so that America's

farm families may finally achieve full parity in our economy

and so that part of America which I consider best may

flourish;

Food
&
Hunger

-- And using our agricultural abundance, with fair

prices to our farmers, to eradicate the shame of hunger in

America within the next four years.

(Food for Peace
Food Stamp
School lunch .

~~I believe we can do all of that and more -- if we remember who we are and what America is supposed to stand for.~~

And I intend to take the case 'for America' to America every day from now to November and beyond.

I believe ~~I believe this nation and people can finally break across the threshold of what no previous society has ever achieved~~ building society ~~the building of~~ of both freedom and compassion, of both enterprise and peace.

I believe we can ~~finally~~ create a nation where human equality and human opportunity not only exist side-by-side, but nourish and reinforce each other... where every citizen may participate, on equal terms, in every aspect of being and doing that relates to self-respect.

I believe we can make law and order not only compatible with justice and human progress -- but their unflinching guardians.

↳ I believe we can build cities and neighborhoods where
all our citizens may walk together in safety and in pride...
and in a spirit of true community.

↳ I believe, too, in the practical possibilities of peace. !

↳ I believe that free men, through the exercise of their
own will, can narrow the dangerous gap between the rich nations
and the poor... can end the scourge of hunger... can slow
down and halt the spiraling arms race... can treat and
reduce the basic causes of tension and conflict in the world.

↳ I believe that, through our leadership, we can strengthen
the United Nations and other international institutions
and make them real, everyday forces for peace.

↳ And I believe that this strong, rich, idealistic nation
can help to create a broader world society in which human
values may one day rule supreme.

-II-
Here is our goal -
~~Let this be our goal.~~

On the 200th anniversary of our nation's Independence --
on July 4, 1776 -- that every American citizen shall stand
free and equal beside his neighbor -- that every American
child shall know the full meaning of opportunity... that
America shall stand unchallenged in the world as the symbol
of justice, brotherhood and peace.

↳ This is our work as Democrats.

This is the message I bring to the American people.

↳ I ask your help.

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Transcript

by

Peggy Casper
Official Court Reporter
Douglas County Courthouse
Omaha, Nebraska

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

JEFFERSON - JACKSON DAY DINNER

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

MAY 10, 1968

Thank you very much, Chairman Mitchell. Thank you for your invitation to attend here. It is very good to come to this non-partisan dinner as a non-candidate.

I am exceedingly happy that we can join all of the good Democrats together for one solemn and noble purpose, namely the defeat of any Republican that dares to challenge us.

Permit me to pay my respects to the former governor of this state, Governor Morrison, your National Committeeman, Mr Werve, and your National Committeewoman, Mrs Biegert, and all the officers of this Party and to the candidates that are aspiring to these offices, important offices in this state, for Congress or legislative posts, and I believe there are some other candidates on the ticket, their names for the moment have escaped me but they will come back.

I can say that this was supposed to be a three-course dinner. One of them was to be the entre or the hors d'oeuvres

one was to be the main course, and I was supposed to come in for dessert. Now you will just have to figure out which one you missed. But I am glad that our friend, Senator McCarthy, at least sent along his greetings.

I want to read a couple of telegrams to you tonight. Chairman Mitchell has already read one and I have sent this wire to Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson, collect, "Guess who came to your dinner."

And I sent another wire to Senator McCarthy, pre-paid. It says, "Dear Gene: Understand Bobby has declined your offer to debate public issues. Feel you as only other Democratic candidate in the Nebraska primary are entitled to equal time tonight. Please advise whether it's in your interest I speak for you or against you. Signed Hubert Humphrey."

I put a P.S. on that telegram, a P.S. that reads, "Understand from the press and television that you consider other jobs more important than being Vice President. I agree completely and have applied."

Now the real truth is that John Mitchell told me

that if I would come out here, we would have a little family get-together. By golly, I never knew Bobby's family was this big.

But it is a fine gathering and I am happy to be a part of it, and I come here tonight as your Vice President, I come here tonight as another Democrat. I come here tonight as a neighbor and as a friend, and I come here tonight to salute the candidates of the Democratic Party, to ask each and every one of you to bend every effort, to make every effort to make this primary election in your state a very significant one. There are two fine men that are contesting for your attention and your votes, and if you have any trouble deciding which one to vote for, call me up and I may give you some advice.

John, I notice that they put my Vice Presidential Seal out in front here. My aides that travel with me are always very very attentive to details and most of you in that audience can't see that seal. It is maybe too far away except for those of you that have 20/20 vision, but let me just describe it for you.

It is the American Eagle, and it has the American

Eagle in sort of full flight, but in this instance instead of being like the Presidential Seal where the wings of the eagle are high and spread out, soaring to new horizons and on to the vastness of space, this poor little eagle for the Vice President looks like he's just about ready to make a crash landing out here on the air base.

But there is some similarity. There is some similarity. You will note that in the claws, in one set of the claws of this eagle like with the Presidential eagle is the, is the olive branch. Now that olive branch is being used by the Vice President now to keep peace in the Democratic Party.

And in the other set of claws you will notice that there is an arrow, and I read a sign when I came into this town that reminded me what that arrow is for. That sign said, "Nixon is the one." And I plan on using it on him.

Well, dear friends, I want to talk to you about our Party. I want to talk to you about our country. I want to talk to you about what we are going to do about both.

I suppose that it's fair to say that every time you have a J - J Dinner, a Jefferson - Jackson Day Dinner it is time to take inventory, or as we put it, to take stock of what it means to be a Democrat and also what it means to be an American and what more we mean to do about being a Democrat and what more we mean about being a better American and how to do it.

A better way of asking, though, is what we want to make it mean to be an American, for there is no difference in my mind between being a good American and a good Democrat, and they come in that order by the way -- first, a good American and then a good Democrat.

Now, we don't lay any claim to a monopoly on either virtue or wisdom and surely no man has a right to claim any special monopoly on politics and patriotism. Both parties are filled with patriots, but we do claim somehow, we do claim that we have some copyrights and some patents on how to make patriotism, this good old fashioned American patriotism, how to make it work for human advantage in this country and those patents were originally filed by men like Jefferson and Jackson and Wilson and

in our time those patents were put on file in this government in this country by great social inventors like Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. These are the great social inventors of our time.

And our Republican friends infringe on those patents every once in a while. You know, you mustn't be too critical of the Republicans. They are not really against what we are doing. They just don't catch on in a hurry -- that's all. It takes a long time. I think this fact we can state and I hope that I can state it with pardonable pride -- that every major forward step that this nation has taken in the past fifty years, every important achievement bold enough to be remembered has been taken under the leadership of a Democratic President and a Democratic Congress.

My fellow Democrats, we are not going to win any elections by tearing at each other. We are not going to prove to the American people that we are capable of uniting our country if we can't even unite our own forces and I don't think that you have to try to build

yourself up by tearing this Party down and I don't think you have to tear down America in order to build yourself up either.

I said to a group, to a group in Wyoming earlier today that I'm one that wants to speak out for America. I want to talk about our country and the roll of our party in it.

I talked about these social inventors and we don't need to run down the list except occasionally to remind ourselves -- Social Security and minimum wage, farm parity and collective bargaining, the United Nations, the Marshall Plan, the war on poverty, civil rights, a whole new education program, Medicare -- you name it, you name it and if your children can remember it, that child can put down on her history book and on her test paper that it was designed and prepared and delivered by a Democrat and she will get "A".

These are our party's achievements and the party that has had the responsibility for governing this nation.

You know, I couldn't help but think as I came here to Omaha of ten, twenty years ago. I am sure that there

are people in this audience that remember when Harry Truman came to Omaha in the summer of 1948. I'll never forget the picture that appeared in the front page of every paper across this land and that photograph showed an auditorium that was practically empty according to the interpretation that was made in our press. And then the political pundit said, "Truman's visit to Omaha shows he can't win." Well, let me put it on the record right now that the Democrats that have visited Omaha this time are giving you proof that we can win just like Truman won.

And how I remember that President, how I remember his taking his fight to the people, and that is what you have to do.

My fellow Democrats, let me tell you something, you are not going to win this election because you think you ought to. You are not going to win it because somebody said that you are good for this country. You are going to win it because we get on out there at the precinct level, the county level, the town level, the township level, every level of government in this state

and in this nation, and talk about our programs, our platform, our candidates and rally the people behind them.

This is just another way of me telling you what I have always felt and what I say again tonight, that I grew up under the politics of Franklin Roosevelt. I grew up and came to the Senate under the politics of Harry Truman. I fought alongside of Adlai Stevenson. I was the majority whip and the deputy leader in the Senate for John Kennedy and I have been the Vice President, and the loyal Vice President with Lyndon Johnson, and I am proud of every step of that journey.

And what is the one thing that has characterized these men -- daring, adventure, willing to try something. As Franklin Roosevelt said, "We will try and if it doesn't work, we will try again. We'll keep at it." And that is what we are going to do from here on out.

I am not going to list out for you tonight all the problems of this nation. Good grief, you know them. You don't have to have a college education. You don't need to get yourself a special degree to know that we

have some difficulties. You are reminded of them on every day of your life but I think it would be a good idea for your own self-confidence if occasionally you would start to take an inventory of the strengths of this nation, of its assets, of its possibilities and of its record, and I think it would be a good idea, my fellow Democrats, if you take a look at the record of your party. As old Al Smith said, "Let's take a look at the record," and when you do you will have some confidence for the future.

We live in troubled times and my dear friends they are apt to be that way for the rest of our lives. We live in times of change, fantastic change, and I gather that there will be more change in the next thirty years than in the past three hundred. So this is all the more reason that we need firm and steady leadership, all the more reason that we need this party to know what it is doing and to chart the course of action because it is perfectly obvious that a Republican Party that can't even keep up with the past is totally incapable of coming to grips with the future.

Our nation is troubled at home and it is troubled abroad. We seek peace at home and we seek peace abroad and I doubt that history will treat this beloved country of ours very well if we do not use this year of decision this November 5th, 1968, to exert the most powerful initiative for peace and understanding here and everywhere. It is to me the essential part of the meaning of being a Democrat that we assert this initiative, not from fear or fear of fear, but from the firmest command and the fullest use of our strength.

I wish to say to this audience what a great president said to a nation, as I listen to people frighten us by their immense problems that seem to face us, as I read the headlines, as I hear those who commentate, I want to say to this audience tonight what Franklin Roosevelt said to America, "All we have to fear is fear itself." And remember it.

We do not gain our strength from fear. We gain our strength from our spirit, our ideals, our wisdom, our experience, and our resources and every problem that we have today is manageable. Every one we have today

is subject to solution. This means that we must place reliance on reason, not on anger, to solve our problems.

It means the exercise of restraint, self-restraint, in the use of our power, yes, and restraint, equally against any who use force or violence to deny the authority of reason. The firm command and the full use of our strength as a democracy means that we must respond to human need, that we must come to grips with the tough issues of our times -- in other words, response and act to whatever needs to be done. And all of this boils down into one word -- responsibility. Yes, responsibility by each and everyone of us as individuals and responsibility as a party, responsibility as a community and responsibility as a nation.

We are the governing party of this nation. We are the majority party of this nation and party of ours must act responsibly. It must come to grips with the ordeal of responsibility and it must be willing to exercise these four great qualities of reason, restraint, response and responsibility.

I do not think that the American people want this nation-

in a frenzy. I do not think the American people will respond to leadership, will respond to leadership that either ignores the difficulties that we have or spends all of its time exaggerating those difficulties and thereby terrifying the public. I think the American people want leadership that is mature, experienced, that has confidence in the resources and the people of this country, and above all, I think the American people want a political party that expresses the politics of hope for every American and the politics of hope for every human being on this earth. That's our party.

And I am happy to tell you we have the means. We have the means. We know from our experience over the last few years that the basic tools of a free society are here -- a vital free enterprise system, a renewed and changing federal structure, and active participation in public affairs by private groups. All of this makes our democracy work.

Ladies and gentlemen, there is a new democracy in America today. It is being fashioned even as we talk to each other tonight. That new democracy is being

fashioned here in Omaha as it is in Minneapolis and Washington. It's the new democracy of bringing into the decision-making process people from every walk of life. It's the new democracy, if you please, of government and business working together to find jobs for the unemployed, just as you are doing right here in Nebraska and in Omaha. It's the new democracy of the poor having something to say about what is going to happen to them.

All we are building as we always should here in America is a new and a better America. Never destroy what we have, adding onto that which we have, building a new dimension, a new dimension of our freedom and that new dimension can be described in one word -- opportunity. Opportunity. Opportunity for every child and every man. Opportunity for every ethnic group and every other group. This is the way that you build what we talk about -- this one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. That's the way you build it.

I know that in recent days it hasn't been popular for some Democrats to talk kindly of our President.

Well, you have a Democrat here tonight that is going to talk kindly about our President, Lyndon Baines Johnson, a president that has helped fashion this new concept of partnership, a president that has brought into the councils of government labor and capital and private citizens, church groups, civil rights groups, youth, everyone, to consult with, to advise with so that we could move America forward.

Ladies and gentlemen, think of the things that have happened these last seven years under Democratic leadership. Think of the tremendous programs that we have had. Think of what we have been able to do in education and health. Think of what we have been able to do in starting programs in our cities. Think of what we have been able to do in America to offer people that felt helpless and despairing and bitter. Think of what we have been able to do together to help them live a better life and to make a new life.

I submit that the administration of President Lyndon Johnson has accomplished more in the past four years than in any comparable period of American history.

And there isn't a Democrat that is going to run this fall that will not have to run on that record. So my suggestion to every Democrat is that you better start building that record rather than tearing it down if you want to win this election.

I am going to run on the record, on the record of Democratic presidents that I have served with, and I am going to particularly run on the record of these last seven years, on the record of the Kennedy-Johnson Administration and on the record of the Johnson-Humphrey Administration. I am going to run on that record but I am not going to rest on it. I am going to build on it and I am going to ask your help to build on it.

These two great presidents that I have mentioned in recent years they were the pioneers as great Democrats always are. They dared to try. They were adventurous. They probed into the unknown. Things have happened in this country that nobody ever dreamed possible -- the passage of basic and fundamental legislation, open housing, civil rights, the guaranteed right to vote, model cities, the War on Poverty, why, my dear friends

and fellow Americans, we have had milestones that have been established here that our children will look back upon as great chapters in the history of progressive democracy.

And we know what we can do now. We have tried it. The scientists say that there is a difference of fifteen years from a successful experiment in a laboratory until it becomes a commercial possibility or commercially feasible. It takes fifteen years to develop a product the prototype in a laboratory before you can make it a commercial or a regularly usable product. That's why the Republicans are always fifteen years behind -- always.

They are just about ready to agree to the laboratory experiment when we are ready to market the product and then we are ready to start another experiment just about the time they are ready to use the product that we have already developed. That's their history, but it is not ours. We dare to try. We dare to even make mistakes. We dare to do what needs to be done and we know that we can train the unskilled. We know that now. We know that we can wage successful war on poverty. We know that we

can put the unskilled to work, one city above all knows it, right here in Omaha, Nebraska, where private enterprise alone with little or no government help under Project Yes literally put hundreds and hundreds of young boys and girls and men and women that were the hard core unemployed to work in your shops and factories. They proved that it could be done here.

The Metropolitan Coordinator of the National Alliance of Businessmen is at this table tonight, our National Committeeman, Mr. Marvin Werve, and he leads the nation, his region leads the nation in finding jobs for the hard core unemployed, government and private business working together right here in the midwest with the finest record in America.

We know that we can give disadvantaged children a head start. Who was it that thought up the head start program? I will tell you. It was the Johnson Administration. To give the little child, the disadvantaged child, a chance for a beginning in life on equal terms. And mothers, we now know that the learning span between the ages of four and seven is the most critical learning

period in the child's life. We now know that the food that that child receives between the ages of four and seven does more to condition that child's body and mind than any other time in life. So we know that we can give disadvantaged children a head start. And we can, my friends, offer people the dignity of adequate housing, of adequate medical and hospital care. We have been doing it under Medicare. We know how to do it and it was a Democratic program.

Just think what Medicare means. Think of what it means to the better than twenty million senior citizens in this land of ours. For the first time they do not have to suffer the indignity of claiming that they are paupers in order to have the best of the healing arts. Today -- because a president like Harry Truman was willing to pioneer, and if you will permit me to be a little immodest, because a senator like Hubert Humphrey was willing to introduce a bill, and because a president like Lyndon Johnson was willing to fight for it -- today we have hospital and nursing home and medical care prepaid insurance for every senior citizen in this land.

And, by the way, it helps the young folks, too, who no longer have to worry what will happen to their beloved parents.

Well, now then, what is the task then ahead of us? Build on them -- prenatal care, child health care, a head start program that is only an experiment, make it a living fact in America. The task before us then is to mobilize all our resources, to fill in the gaps in the programs. I know you can't do it overnight but I know that we can do it and we need to start living up to our potential, and I will just list out for you quickly what this means. It means what you have already heard - - that our present welfare system is really not welfare at all. What it does is to promote generations of people on relief, ingraining in them not self-respect, not self-reliance, but making them supplicants. We don't want a welfare state in this country. America is too good for that. America wants a state of opportunity in this country where every able bodied person can make something out of his life. That is what we seek.

And we don't want a Social Security system that puts a ceiling on security. We want it to be a floor of protection, not a ceiling on opportunity.

And we need to capture the resources of energy and commitment in our young people today through a new system of national service which not only distributes the burdens of military service fairly but offers incentives and opportunities for our young people to contribute to our domestic needs.

Our young Americans want a change. They want to be something and the only way that I know to make a young man responsible is to give him responsibility and this generation can take responsibility as no other if you will give it a chance.

And we need to modernize our local and state governments. We need the further development of the role of free enterprise and its partnership with government, to clean up our cities, and to bring the benefits of modern living to rural America.

Everybody talks about the urban crisis. Ladies and gentlemen, the urban crisis is in part due to the rural crisis. The way you stop a flood is upstream.

There hasn't been a major flood on the Missouri for some time because we have held back the water upstream. And, my fellow Americans, when we plan in our country, government and private industry together, to see to it that the rural communities, the Grand Islands and the Alliances and the other cities of Nebraska and the Dakotas and Minnesota and Kansas, this great hinterland, when we see to it that these cities have everything that a young man or young woman could want, that they have job opportunities, hospitals, good schools, colleges, cultural centers, when we make modern, when we make rural America a modern living society, it will do a great deal to eliminate the urban, metropolitan crisis.

And then, friends, we need to guarantee an educational minimum wage, to put it in a phrase, to assure every child a full educational opportunity from the age of four onward. This great nation can afford that. There has never been a country that went bankrupt supporting its schools, unheard of, and we need to increase the bargaining power of our farmers so that our farm families can have some equity in the market place and it needs to be done quickly.

I think I have a little interest in that. I sort of grew up on these prairies and the time is at hand now to modernize our agricultural policy and then finally we need to use that agricultural abundance that we have here to eliminate once and for all from this land any charge that any child or any adult goes hungry. This need not be.

We pioneered in the school lunch and the food stamp and the food distribution program. We pioneered in the food for peace program abroad. This man who stands for the office of the Presidency tells you that American can afford to see that every man, woman and child in this country has a good meal and good food and good nutrition every day of their lives.

I intend to take this case for America to America because it is for America. I believe this nation of ours can build in a society both of freedom and compassion and of enterprise and peace.

I believe that we can create a nation where human equality and human opportunity not only exist side by side but nourish and strengthen each other, where every

citizen may participate on equal terms in every aspect of doing that which relates to self-respect.

And I believe that we can make law and order not only compatible with justice and human progress but we can make them their unflinching allies and guardians.

I believe that we can build rural America and modern cities and neighborhoods where all of our citizens may walk together in safety and in pride, not as strangers, not as enemies but as members of a community.

Yes, I believe in this and I believe that a nation that can do what we have done at home can make the peace, and the possibilities of peace are the greatest demands upon our ingenuity.

I believe that we can help narrow the gap between the rich and the poor.

I believe that we can slow down the arms race that threatens us, and I believe that we can end the scourge of hunger and reduce the tensions between nations and peoples. I know it is not easy but if it were easy we wouldn't need to talk about it. The story of America is the story of

doing the impossible. Anybody can do what is possible. It's this government and this land of the free and the home of the brave, as they put it, that does what is impossible. That's the hallmark of America, doing what other people couldn't do. That's what has made this country a great nation and I think it is time that we called it once again to its full greatness and we are going to do it in this year and in the years ahead.

Yes, my friends, that's what it's all about. We are going to mark our 200th anniversary as a nation in the year 1976. It is just around the corner. And that year of 1976 should leave America with such achievements that the world will stand in amazement the power of precept and example, America's power is not in its military alone. America's power is not in its economy alone. America's power is not in its industry alone. America's power is in its ideals. It's in its confidence. It's in its hope that it expresses.

As I have said to many a young student in college

audience, age and youth is not a time of life. It's an attitude of mind. I have seen some young people age twenty that should have been getting Geritol and Medicare. Most of them are in the other party.

But I repeat this is a young nation but mature and wise and responsible. I repeat youth is not a time of life it is an attitude of mind. We are as young as our ideals and as old as our despair. We are as young as our hope and as old as our doubt. We are as young as our faiths and as old as our fear.

My fellow Democrats and my fellow Americans, don't be ashamed to have ideals. Be proud of it. Never be ashamed to be filled with the lesson of hope. Be proud of it. And never be ashamed to be a man or a woman of deep faith. Be proud of it. I want you to go from this meeting tonight not so much as fighting Democrats as dedicated Americans. We need each other as never before. And the world needs us as never before. We cannot renounce our responsibilities to one another or to the world without catastrophe. All of us speak up for a united America.

What I want of America is a new commitment. With our vast power and resources, with our know-how and our

science and our technology, with our capacity, everything to do anything with, what we now need to have is the will and the commitment to do it. I have that will. I think you have that will. And I ask you to join me in a mighty effort in this nation and to arouse this American people to do what needs to be done for ourselves and our posterity. It can be done. Now go on out and go to work, my fellow Democrats, and thank you.

NOT IN RELEASE

(Recognition of dais dignitaries later. See below)

I have just sent this wire to Thomas Jefferson
and Andrew Jackson -- collect:

"Guess who came to your dinner"

(Or: "You'll never guess who came to your
dinner.")

And another wire to Senator McCarthy -- prepaid:

"Dear Gene: Understand Bobbie has declined
your offer debate public issues. Reappraisal
that position now apparent. Feel you, as
only other Democratic candidate in Nebraska
primary, entitled equal time tonight. Please
advise whether in your interests I speak
for you or against you.

P. S. Understand from press you consider
other jobs more important than Vice President.
Agree completely."

Signed: Hubert Humphrey,
Vice President pro tem.

You know, I just don't understand some people being Republicans when it's so much fun being Democrats.

I guess it's because an elephant has such a hard time laughing. But it's easy for a donkey -- even when the joke's on him.

Part of the fun is ^{having an excuse to} coming here tonight because I said I would ^{be} quite a while ago.

Part of the fun is seeing again old friends like

_____, _____, _____, et al.

START RELEASE

Part of the point of a Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner is to take stock: of what it means to be a Democrat -- and what more we want it to mean -- and how to do it.

A better way of asking, though, is what we want to make it mean to be an American -- for there is no difference between a good American and a good Democrat -- in that order.

We claim no monopoly on squaring politics with patriotism.

But
~~We~~ do claim, ~~though~~ some patents on how to make patriotism work to the human advantage.

Those patents were originally filed, in the name of the people, by Jefferson, by Jackson, by Wilson -- and in our time by four great social inventors: Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, John Kennedy, and Lyndon Johnson.

Those patents have been infringed -- thank heaven -- by our Republican friends.

But this is the fact -- and the pardon for our pride: that every major step forward this Nation has taken in the past fifty years -- every achievement bold enough that it comes now to people's minds -- has been taken under the leadership of a Democratic President.

If this seemed *ed* too broad a boast, we would call the roll:

Social Security -- minimum wage -- farm parity -- free collective bargaining -- the United Nations -- the Marshall Plan -- the war on poverty -- civil rights -- a whole new education program -- medicare; and ten more for every one of these.

These are America's achievements -- not any President's alone -- or any Party's. But the Presidents who proposed those actions -- and the majorities in the Congress who took them -- were Democrats. So are we -- and proud of it.

^{Being}
~~A lot of what it means to be a Democrat is to be~~ ^{means being} willing and able to do something for the first time.

So in a way all we have done so far is important mainly as our credentials for the future.

We start from today.

And with all of the gains that have been made, we recognize squarely that this is a seriously troubled time in America's history.

^{Our peace}
~~There is tragic disturbance of all we mean by peace --~~
both in some parts of our country and in some parts of the world.

History will not treat well of America if she does not use this year of particular decision to exert the most powerful initiative for peace -- here and everywhere.

It is, to me, the most essential part of the meaning of being a Democrat that we assert this initiative -- not from fear, ~~or fear of fear~~ -- but from the firmest command and the fullest use of our strength.

This means reliance on reason, not on anger. The strength I speak of is the strength of our spirit, our ideals, our wisdom, our resources.

It means the exercise of restraint -- self-restraint in the use of our power, ~~yes~~ -- and restraint, equally against any who use force or violence to deny the authority of reason.

I reject flatly the view of those who equate or even compare rioting in this country -- in the slums or on the campuses -- with the attack on freedom in Viet Nam.

They are totally different.

"Law and order," furthermore, is too easy a catch-

phrase -- too easily made an excuse for not looking to the root causes of protest that goes too far.

But where a free society -- which depends basically on some measure of individual self-restraint -- encounters a situation in which the whole idea of self-restraint is totally abandoned and violence is chosen instead, then the required course is to put down that violence.

The firm command and the full use of our strength as a democracy means response -- to whatever needs to be done.

It means, summing all these up, the exercise of responsibility -- by each of us as individuals, and acting

yes. It must be the essential precondition for progress as it must be preserved.
I But "law and order"
poverty is the cause of wealth...
hunger
when come here too much...
by oppression when you are poor...
hope of these...
I am the only one who is not...

of wealth and power and

together as a community in those things we cannot do alone.

exercising the ~~responsibility~~ ^{responsibility} of greatness in a world that desperately needs

Being a Democrat means, to me, realizing and accepting

fully the idea and the reality of the human competence to

perfect the human experience -- far beyond any present sense

of it

Finally, and in immediate terms, being a Democrat means

to me winning an election -- in November

I think we can achieve a perfect in America -- and
peace in the world -- on a time, without peace

Mobilizing resources --

Business --
Business --
about

Full use of food abundance with
farms to farms.

Church energy of
youth.

our full
participation.

1. peace (etc.) movement --

~~I believe~~
How we might it is the
who are the ways and
means:

we know, or know



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