

MONDAY PM's
June 3, 1968

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
FIFTEENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
TEXTILE WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA
WASHINGTON, D. C.
June 3, 1968

What of America in 1968?

I am reminded of the first line of Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way."

America is the most prosperous nation in the world. In the 1960's alone our nation's wealth has grown by more than our entire gross national product of thirty years ago. It means a lot that the average American's real income is up an average of 18 per cent in the last seven years . . . or that 12 million Americans have moved across the poverty line since 1961 . . . or that social security benefits are up 13 per cent.

But it means even more that we are deeply concerned about the poverty that remains among us.

More Americans are in school today than ever before -- fully a third of our entire population. More are in college . . . more in adult education classes . . . more in job training programs.

Yet never have we been more concerned about public education. And never have we worked so hard to see more and more people educated -- especially those who have been denied a chance at education in the past.

Americans are healthier than at any time in our history. Look at any index -- infant mortality . . . life expectancy . . . incidence of disease.

Yet we have never been more concerned in all of our history to increase the quality and availability of health services throughout this nation.

"The worst of times?" Perhaps it helps to believe that. It makes us keen. It keeps us going.

But is it not also the best of times when a prosperous people refuse to be a satisfied people; when a fortunate nation rejects the role of an indifferent nation?

Yes, a gap exists between our goals and our achievements, and some think it has caused a mortal sickness in our society.

I say the fact that we acknowledge the gap and struggle to close it is a sure sign of good health -- proof that ours is an active, fresh and lively nation, filled with the sense of self-renewal.

I say our potential is greater than our problems.

I say America can achieve full and equal opportunity for every individual, and be the first nation in history to do it.

The resolutions before this convention point the way:
services for the aging . . . first class citizenship for those victims of too many open-air sweatshops, the farm workers of the country . . . health care throughout the nation . . . peace in Vietnam . . . consumer protection . . . American support of the United Nations.

These are not the narrow concerns of complacency.

They represent the kind of next-step-forward, let's-get-on-with-the-job thinking that has given America a solid platform of progress on which to build.

They are in the proud tradition of Medicare . . . Aid to Elementary and Secondary Education . . . civil rights . . . the Economic Opportunity Act . . . Model Cities . . . the Manpower Development and Training Act . . . and much else that you and I have fought for over the years.

We know that kind of progress doesn't come easily. And it doesn't grow out of complaint and doubt and disillusion.

The prescription is vision plus hard work plus experience plus confidence.

I am proud to have been your partner in purpose and progress.

And I am going to continue to be a proud partner this year and . . . next year . . . and for not less than four more active years to come.

Resolution Number 32 caught my eye in this regard. I noted it with humility and pride. As I am only a guest today, I don't feel entitled to speak for it -- but certainly don't mean to speak against it.

It was, after all, your own executive board that urged me to get into this fight, so you all might as well jump in. Let me tell you the water's fine -- even if it is a little churned up.

* * *

I believe the answer to continued progress in America comes in 4 pieces -- four pieces which you and I have to put together in 1968.

Piece number one comes right out of your Resolution number 16: elect again enough of the kind of men and women we had in Congress . . . and in State and local offices . . . in 1965 and 1966. The "how" of social progress in America depends on a lot more than the Presidency.

Number two is to start right now to plan . . . to prepare . . . to get ready for what comes after Vietnam.

Peace will come in Vietnam. Are we clear what we will do then . . . with the victory of peace?

In 1954 . . . after Korea . . . the meaning of peace in the world was recession and retreat in America. We will not let that happen again.

It would be wrong -- shamefully wrong -- if a cease-fire order in Vietnam meant a cease-work order in the factories in America. That must not be.

It would be wrong -- criminally wrong -- if young men who fought from an integrated bunker in Khe Sanh came back to live in a segregated slum in an American city. That must not be.

The third piece of our answer is this: America has to decide to invest in our most underdeveloped resource -- the millions of under-fed, under-clothed, under-educated, under-employed. The stress is on invest because until now we have too often been penny-wise and people foolish -- readier to pay vast amount for relief, for hospital care, for jails. . . than to make the human investment that would have prevented those costs . . . and the human tragedy that goes with them.

We think in terms of investment when we plan for the development of our natural resources . . .our business enterprise . . .the development of technology . . .the exploration of space.

But most of our thinking about human development is on a current cost basis -- the cost, too often, of not making the investment we could have made.

Every penny we invest to bring health to our sick, education to our untrained, jobs to our jobless, will come back a hundredfold to the enrichment of America.

We must wisely put the great wealth of this land to work to develop the underdeveloped millions whose hands and whose minds will bring new greatness to America.

We have the wealth. We know the way. What we need in 1968 is a national decision to invest more now to achieve the quality of life we want later.

And the fourth piece of our answer is truly -- unity of purpose . . .unity of determination . . .unity of faith in America -- and the enormous power that goes with it.

By my oath under the Constitution, I am pledged to help "form a more perfect union." I intend to do exactly that. I intend to do whatever is in my limited power to unite -- not divide -- this nation, to make a union that will embrace black people and white people, Northerners and Southerners, businessmen and workers, yes, old people and the young.

And I intend to hear from a million of them in the months ahead -- not as members of separate groups . . .not as statistics . . . but as individual citizens. I intend to hear from you.

I shall hold a series of campaign forums in cities and towns around our country at which individual citizens and community leaders will be invited to give me their views and policy suggestions. There will be between two and five thousand volunteers administering these campaign forum programs, and I shall personally attend as many of them as I can.

What message will we hear when a million ordinary Americans have a chance to speak up? Division? . . .Uncertainty? . . . Hatred? . . .Despair?

I doubt it.

We are going to hear impatience, yes -- impatience with poverty and discrimination . . .impatience with the uncertain place of the individual in a society of bigness . . .impatience with a world that has known too much of war.

But I think we are also going to hear high purpose expressed in the language and hopes of mothers and fathers, grand-parents and students, rich and poor -- individual Americans.

I think we are going to hear confidence . . .determination . . . commitment.

I think we are going to see America stand up and say, "Yes! One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

"It can be done. We'll do it."

#

(20 V.P.S -) I do the work
720
REMARKS

Bill De Chesi
Cope Director

Minnesota
here
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
FIFTEENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
TEXTILE WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

Al Barkan
Cope Director

WASHINGTON, D.C.
JUNE 3, 1968

Bill
President Pollock
8 yrs ago - I addressed
the convention
Section SOI Stettin

What of America in 1968?

I am reminded of the first line of Charles Dickens' A Tale of

Two Cities: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it

was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness,
it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness,
it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair;
we had everything before us, we had nothing before us,
we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going
direct the other way."

looky
lahn
vahn
-
looky

John Chupka
35 years Retired Sec. Treas

✓ America is the most prosperous nation in the world. In the 1960's alone our nation's wealth has grown by more than our entire gross national product of thirty years ago. It means a lot that the average American's real income is up an average of 18 percent in the last seven years ... or that 12 million Americans have moved across the poverty line since 1961 ... or that social security benefits are up 13 percent.

✓ But it means even more that we are deeply concerned about the poverty that remains among us.

✓ More Americans are in school today than ever before -- fully a third of our entire population. More are in college ... more in adult education classes ... more in job training programs.

✓ Yet never have we been more concerned about public education. And never have we worked so hard to see more and more people educated especially those who have been denied a chance at education in the past.

L Americans are healthier than at any time in our history.

Look at any index -- infant mortality ... life expectancy ... incidence of disease.

Yet we have never been more concerned in all of our history to increase the quality and availability of health services throughout this nation.

L "The worst of times?" Perhaps it helps to believe that. It makes us keen. It keeps us going.

L But is it not also the ^u best of times when a prosperous people refuse to be a satisfied people; when a fortunate nation rejects the role of an indifferent nation?

L Yes, a gap exists between our goals and our achievements, and some think it has caused a mortal sickness in our society.

L I say the fact that we acknowledge the gap and struggle to close it is a sure sign of good health -- proof that ours is an active, fresh and lively nation, filled with the sense of self-renewal. *not a sick*

Nation - but a changing nation and changing for the Good.

L I say our potential is greater than our problems.

L I say America can achieve full and equal opportunity for every individual, and be the first nation in history to do it. !

L The resolutions before this convention point the way: services for the aging ... first class citizenship for those victims of too many open-air sweatshops, the farm workers of the country ... health care throughout the nation ... peace in Viet Nam ... consumer protection ... American support of the United Nations.

L These are not the narrow concerns of complacency.

L They represent the kind of next-step-forward, let's-get-on-with-the-job thinking that has given America a solid platform of progress on which to build.

L They are in the proud tradition of Medicare ... Aid to Elementary and Secondary Education ... civil rights ... the Economic Opportunity Act ... Model Cities ... the Manpower Development and Training Act ... Consumer Protection - and much else that you and I have fought for over the years.

Lead not from weakness -
Weakness? Supper!
" " doubt!
" " of fear!

Lead from stgth -

Stgth born of confidence,
Stgth born of an ideal
Stgth born of hope
Stgth that comes from
optimism

↳ We know that kind of progress doesn't come easily. And it doesn't grow out of complaint and doubt and disillusion. !

↳ The prescription is vision plus hard work plus experience plus confidence.

And with your help -

I am proud to have been your partner in purpose and progress.

↳ And I am going to continue to be a proud partner this year and next year ... and for not less than four more active years to come. !

↳ Resolution Number 32 caught my eye in this regard. I noted it with humility and pride. As I am only a guest today, I don't feel entitled to speak for it -- but certainly don't mean to speak against it.

↳ It was, after all, your own executive board that urged me to get into this fight, so you all might as well jump in. Let me tell you the water's fine -- even if it is a little churned up.

L I believe the answer to continued progress in America comes in 4 pieces -- four pieces which you and I have to put together in 1968.

#1 L Piece number one comes right out of your Resolution number 16: elect again enough of the kind of men and women we had in

Congress ... and in State and local offices ... in 1965 and 1966. The

"how" of social progress in America depends on a lot more than the

Presidency.

! Congress + The President
States + The Federal House

#2 L Number two is to start right now to plan ... to prepare ... to get ready for what comes after Viet Nam.

But
Peace will come in Viet Nam. Are we clear what we will do then ...

with the victory of peace?

In 1954 ... after Korea ... the meaning of peace in the world was recession and retreat in America. We will not let that happen again.!

It would be wrong -- shamefully wrong -- if a cease-fire order in Viet Nam meant a cease-work order in the factories in America.

That must not be.

It would be wrong -- criminally wrong -- if young men who fought from an integrated bunker in Khe Sanh came back to live in a segregated slum in an American city. That must not be.

#3 The third piece of our answer is this: America has to decide to invest in our most underdeveloped resource -- the millions of under-fed, under-clothed, under-educated, under-employed. The stress is on invest because until now we have too often been penny-wise and people foolish -- readier to pay vast amounts for relief, for hospital care, for jails ... than to make the human investment that would have prevented those costs ... and the human tragedy that goes with them.

We think in terms of investment when we plan for the development of our natural resources ... our business enterprise ... the development of technology ... the exploration of space.

But most of our thinking about human development is on a current cost basis -- the cost, too often, of not making the investment we could have made.

Every penny we invest to bring health to our sick, education to our untrained, jobs to our jobless, will come back a hundredfold to the enrichment of America.

We must wisely put the great wealth of this land to work to develop the underdeveloped millions whose hands and whose minds will bring new greatness to America. ! Our untapped strength!

We have the wealth. We know the way. What we need in 1968 is a national decision to invest more now to achieve the quality of life we want later.

#4

And the fourth piece of our answer is unity -- unity of purpose ... unity of determination ... unity of faith in America -- and the enormous power that goes with it.

By my oath under the Constitution, I am pledged to help "form a more perfect union." I intend to do exactly that, I intend to do whatever is in my limited power to unite -- not divide -- this nation, to make a union that will embrace black people and white people, Northerners and Southerners, businessmen and workers, yes, old people and the young.

And I intend to hear from ^{thousands} ~~a million~~ of them in the months ahead -- not as members of separate groups ... not as statistics ... but as individual citizens. I intend to hear from you.

L I shall hold a series of campaign forums in cities and towns around our country at which individual citizens and community leaders will be invited to give me their views and policy suggestions.

L There will be between ~~two and five~~ ^{several} thousand volunteers administering these campaign forum programs, and I shall personally attend as many of them as I can.

What message will we hear when ~~a million~~ ordinary Americans have a chance to speak up? Division?... Uncertainty? ... Hatred? ... Despair?

I doubt it. !

We are going to hear impatience, yes -- impatience with poverty and discrimination ... impatience with the uncertain place of the individual in a society of bigness ... impatience with a world that has known too much of war.

But I think we are also going to hear high purpose expressed in the language and hopes of mothers and fathers, grand-parents and students, rich and poor -- individual Americans.

I think we are going to hear confidence ... determination ... commitment.

I think we are going to see America stand up and say, "Yes! One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

"It can be done. We'll do it."

#



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