

NEWS FROM

UNITED DEMOCRATS FOR HUMPHREY

1100 17th STREET, N.W. ■ WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

TELEPHONE 202 / 393-6420

Immediate Release
July 12, 1968

For Further Information:
Ev Munsey, ext. 208
U-173

ADLAI STEVENSON III SAYS MORE UNITES THAN DIVIDES DEMOCRATS

TACOMA, WASHINGTON, July 12 -- Adlai E. Stevenson III tonight told the Washington State Democratic Convention that Democrats should "join forces" after the National Convention and "help a new captain, whichever man it is, lead us to a new America."

Substituting for Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey who had to cancel his appearance at the Convention because of grippe, Stevenson expressed his belief that "that captain, no longer just a member of the crew, will be Vice President Humphrey."

"We can disagree about the candidates, conceding each other's sincerity. What unites us is more important," Stevenson said. "We can all agree that the people of America need new hope. We need new directions and fresh starts. We need to reassess our role in the world and to re-order our priorities. Above all, we need to win the peace peacefully."

"The differences within the Democratic Party are more rhetorical than they are real. The differences between the Democratic Party and the Republican Party are the real differences."

Let's remember the role of the (Democratic) Party and its record in 1968 -- a record of continual progress and more progress under the present administration than in any comparable period since the early days of the New Deal.

(more)

"Let's not forget Medicare, Federal Aid to Education, the tools for our cities, expanded social security, civil rights, improved law enforcement, better housing and job opportunities, and the struggle to eradicate all the sources of disorder and discontent in our society.

"And let's not forget the historic role of the Republican Party. It has been the Party which has always stood for preserving the status quo. It has been the Party of stand-patism, the Party which had turned its back to all the great problems of race and poverty, the Party which is dusting off all of the old cliches of the Cold War.

"Now is the time to use our minds, as well as our hearts. The rhetoric cannot be permitted to conceal the record. The promises can't hide the performances of the candidates. The stakes were never higher.

"It would be ironic, at least, if truth became the victim of noble hopes and motives.

"For Vice President Humphrey, . . . and he alone, has been in the forefront of every good fight for 20 years.

"What are we to do -- let some innocent hope aroused at the moment erase the dedication of a lifetime? We know Hubert Humphrey can carry on the fight against all the forces of recalcitrance and selfishness. He always has.

"Hubert Humphrey has been in the forefront of the fight for peace. It was Hubert Humphrey who led the way in Congress for the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. It was Hubert Humphrey who conceived and fought for the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. And remember, too, his fight for the Peace Corps and the Food for Peace program.

"Hubert Humphrey alone has been tested and proven by adversity," Stevenson said.

#####



FOR RELEASE
SATURDAY AM's
July 13, 1968
Telephone 202/225-2961

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
WASHINGTON STATE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION
TACOMA, WASHINGTON
JULY 12, 1968

Let's talk politics -- and the purposes of politics: 1968.

And let's get this clear: The politics that count are the election results in November.

We already know that a leading contender for the Republican nomination -- a Californian by desertion -- is now putting his "primary emphasis on winning in November."

Well, he won't win.

He won't win because America will again support the kind of Democratic policy and program that meets the needs and aspirations of our people.

The next President of the United States will face a new period in history -- a period in which all the old premises . . . the old policies . . . all the old ways of doing things are in question.

He will face not only a new world map -- but a world containing dozens of countries and millions of people who have, until now, almost literally lived outside history.

He will face what modern communication and technology have wrought -- a highly sensitized, "in touch" and impatient family of people and nations who will no longer accept the status quo when it means hunger . . . injustice . . . lack of participation . . . subjugation of one man by another.

The next President will confront nothing less than the need to re-examine -- and to change, where necessary, -- our national priorities . . . the allocation of our resources . . . even the structures and framework in which we conduct the business of this country.

All the doctrinaire arguments about yesterdays -- or even rightful pride in recent accomplishments -- will mean very little against the challenge of the next decade or the year 2000.

* * *

What is on our new agenda?

First, Peace -- nothing less. The world won't be truly civilized until nations, and people, stop building fences . . . stop stocking weapons . . . stop settling their disputes by force.

That means, at the earliest possible moment, peace in Vietnam.

We can have that peace if we have the patience to see the negotiations through.

It means that in the world at large we have to slow down the arms race.

It means getting to the table as soon as possible with the Soviet Union to talk about mutual reduction of both offensive and defensive weapons.

It means getting down to the hard work -- right now with the Soviet Union, and in the future, with Communist China -- of reducing the tensions that increasingly take our resources for the wrong things.

It means a massive international effort to start closing the gap between rich and poor nations -- a gap that is growing larger every day, and one that I believe is far more a threat to our ultimate security than any other, with the possible exception of the arms race itself.

* * *

Here at home, we are now coming face to face with ourselves -- with our shortcomings, but also, I hope, with our assets.

From this self-confrontation, I believe we have a chance to develop a new social morality -- a morality that will no longer tolerate racial discrimination in democracy . . . hunger in the midst of plenty . . . or joblessness and under-employment in a prosperous society.

This means the placing of national priorities and resources against the problems that keep ordinary people from living a freer, more rewarding existence.

I reject the idea that we have to be two nations, black and white...or two nations, north and south...or two nations... rich and poor.

No responsible person wants that.

There is a vast, silent group of Americans -- a majority of many millions -- that wants to make this country work... that wants safety and equal rights for everyone...that bears no ill will against other Americans.

I think this Silent America -- an America still unaroused -- can be aroused.

I mean to try...to build bridges...to show fortunate Americans that many of the claims of the poor are legitimate... and to show the poor that they are not shut off from the leadership of this nation...that the democratic system can work.

We can bring both security and opportunity to all the people of this country -- not one without the other, but both.

I submit that the recommendations of the President's Commission of Civil Disorders are right, and that they should be carried out.

We must look to the full meaning of civil rights.

We must recognize the right of every American to earn a living -- to work and earn.

I believe people want the dignity and the self-respect that comes from an honest job.

I believe it is our responsibility to help everyone who wants a job to have that job. I think the private sector can come up with the jobs.

But I have also proposed that the government do whatever is necessary to back that effort up with financing or subsidies.

Then, education...I have proposed that America guarantee the right to a full education for every child -- from the age of four through college or advanced training...on the basis of his ability to learn and not ability to pay.

And cities...Last week I spelled out my Marshall Plan designed to put the full commitment of America into making the places where most of us live decent and safe.

And hunger...In a country where many are concerned about the hazards of overeating, it is criminal neglect when one child goes undernourished. Let's say so. Let's see that it doesn't happen any more.

Those are big goals.

They will require big commitments -- commitments in money; commitments in determination by federal, state and local government...by the free institutions of this country...by every single person who has faith in the vitality and destiny of their free country.

It is time now to challenge the people who say this country is sick -- to challenge those who chant and jeer and disrupt those with whom they disagree -- to challenge those whose minds are so closed they will not listen to the other man's point of view, or even permit its expression.

Every citizen in this nation has the right to be heard -- but not to prevent others from being heard.

I do not believe this nation can afford the abusive tactics which have reappeared in American politics.

It is time to get on with this country's work.

* * * * *

Eight years from now this country will celebrate its 200th birthday.

By then, this nation can be torn...divided...withdrawing within itself and from the outside world.

Or it can be open.

It can be safe.

It can be free.

It can be filled with opportunity -- for every single citizen.

I think we can do that. I think we can build that kind of country.

We can do it if those of us who believe in political action will dedicate ourselves to it.

This nation has the resources.

This nation has the money.

This nation has the strength.

This nation has the power to do whatever it needs to do.

#



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