

REMARKS

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STATE DEMOCRATIC DINNER

COLUMBUS, OHIO

SEPTEMBER 17, 1968

I have come here today to talk about the three great realities which today confront this nation... this people... and this country's engine of progress, the Democratic Party.

It is the special genius of the Democratic Party that it welcomes change -- not as an enemy but as an ally -- not as a force to be suppressed but as an instrument of progress to be encouraged.

It was in this spirit -- one of confidence and faith in our ability to master the future -- that Franklin Roosevelt told America we had nothing to fear but fear itself.

In this spirit the one and only Harry Truman let 'em have it, and told it like it was.

In this spirit that beloved man, Adlai Stevenson, talked sense to the American people -- and how we miss this great, good and gentle man of peace.

In this spirit John F. Kennedy told us: "Ask not what your country can do for you... but what can you do for your country."

In this spirit Lyndon Johnson rallied a grief-stricken nation and said: "Let us continue." And then he went on to accomplish more of the unfinished business of America than any of his modern predecessors.

And it is in this spirit -- the proud spirit of Democrats who love their country... who have faith in their fellow citizens... and who believe there is nothing this great nation and its people cannot accomplish-- that we face the three realities of our time.

The first reality is the necessity for peace in Vietnam and in the world.

The second reality is the necessity for peace and justice in our cities and in our nation.

And the third reality is the necessity for unity in our country.

First, what of Vietnam?

In this campaign I run on the platform of the Democratic Party -- a platform which points the way toward a political settlement -- toward a withdrawal of all foreign forces from Vietnam -- toward free elections open to all major factions and parties -- toward the long-term economic, social and political development of this war-torn land.

Meanwhile, as a citizen, candidate and Vice President, I pledge that I will do everything within my power to aid negotiations in Paris and bring a prompt end to this war.

Today we face another grave challenge... and another priceless opportunity to advance the cause of peace.

There is today pending in the United States Senate a treaty to stop the further spread of nuclear weapons. Eighty

nations have already signed this treaty -- U.S. ratification is crucial if the world is to take another step backward from the brink of nuclear holocaust.

I don't think the cause of world peace is served by dozens of nations having the weapons which could plunge this world into World War III.

I favor Senate ratification of this treaty this year -- I say the long-term security interests of the United States will be served by its prompt approval.

Mr. Nixon says he favors the treaty, but he also says he opposes ratification now.

Let the American people understand what Mr. Nixon is saying -- and let them understand that failure to act this year could mean the death of this treaty forever.

I don't think we can afford to play political games with anything as serious as nuclear war -- and I don't think we can afford to run the grave risks of inaction on this treaty.

The second reality is the necessity for peace and justice in our cities and in our nation.

There is trouble in America.

But it does not come from a lack of faith, but from a kindling of hope.

We Democrats have inspired new hope in millions of men and women who previously had no hope. Now they are impatient to see their hopes fulfilled.

The simple solution of the frustrated and the frightened is to lash out against society. But we know -- and they must know -- that this is no answer.

Violence breeds more violence. Disorder destroys. Only in order can we build.

I put it very bluntly -- rioting, burning, sniping, mugging, traffic in narcotics and disregard for the law are the advance guard of anarchy.

They must and they will be stopped.

But they will not be stopped through words, slogans, fear-mongering, or empty promises.

The answer lies in reasoned, effective action by state, local and Federal authority. I have proposed a comprehensive and specific program to stop crime and violence in America-- a program to support our local police with leadership and Federal resources, including desperately needed money for higher salaries, better training and equipment.

I am the only candidate for President who has supervised a local police force.

I am the only candidate for President who has cleaned up a city -- driven out the criminals and racketeers -- and received the F. B. I. award for effective law enforcement.

As Mayor of Minneapolis, I fought crime... and I won.

I intend to do exactly the same thing as President of the United States.

I also intend to meet -- with every resource at my command -- the urgent challenges of jobs, education, health care, and housing.

And so I have proposed a Marshall Plan for the Cities... an Urban Development Bank... education for every child from his fourth year through college or vocational training... expanded health care for every child.

These are goals which will mean a more satisfying and rewarding life for every family in America.

And they are goals a Democratic President working with a Democratic Congress can achieve.

Now what of Mr. Nixon, Mr. Agnew and their Republican friends?

When they talk about help for the cities... aid to education... health... homes... and jobs... just remember how Nixon-Agnew - Republicans voted on these issues... 70 percent... 80 percent... 90 percent... against Federal aid to schools... against cities...

Medicare... Social Security... slowing the arms race. Why they even voted 97 percent against the control and extermination of rats.

I am not concerned about the "new Nixon" or the "old Nixon." What worries me is the real Nixon -- and his Nixiecrat allies.

The third reality in this campaign is the necessity for unity and reconciliation in this country.

Are we to be one nation -- or are we to be a nation divided, divided between black and white, between rich and poor, between north and south, between young and old?

I take my stand -- where I have stood for 25 years of public service -- that we can only be one nation, under God, united by liberty and justice for all.

Just as I say there can be no compromise on the right of personal security, there can be no compromise on securing human rights for every American.

Winning the Presidency is not worth the price of entering into a compact with extremism.

And if America is to make a crucial judgment of leadership in this election, then let that selection be made without either candidate hedging or equivocating.

Winning the Presidency is not worth the price of silence or evasion on the issue of human rights and equal opportunity.

I call upon my opponent -- Mr. Nixon -- to make that same statement.

And I call upon him to join with me in urging the House of Representatives to pass the resolution needed to permit the candidates for President and Vice President to appear on television debates. Mr. Nixon's Republican friends in the House can make this possible. But do they dare?

* * *

I say to America:

Put aside recrimination and dissension.

Turn away from violence and hatred.

Believe in what America can do and in what America
can be.

And with the help of that vast, unfrightened majority
of Americans, I am ready to lead our country.

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