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REMARKS

THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

DFL JEFFERSON-JACKSON DAY DINNER

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

MARCH 22, 1969

Jensen Parting.

Namen Parting.

Namen Parting.

The success story of America is based upon continuity and change -- progress and action

A change in national administration does not justify either standing still or tearing down what has been built before. It may call for a reassessment of priorities -- but always with the single purpose of moving forward.

The continuing business of American democracy hecessitates that we build on what is good -- that we move forward from small beginnings to larger achievement -- that we press forward with reform.

L'Sylvenian Knowledge

There are those today who speak of the need for a protracted pause in our efforts to perfect this society.

To me this means only one thing: postponing again the urgent imperative of achieving for all our citizens real equality in housing, employment, education, health care and vital public services.

It's curious, isn't it, that those persons who call for a pause -- a slow down -- are people many times blessed by the affluence of this land.

And it's curious, isn't it, that those people who stand outside this affluence seldom speak of pretracted pauses or the need to consolidate our gains of the past.

They talk of moving faster...now... and they're right.

For despite our gains of the past -- many of them impressive and far-reaching -- this nation's agenda of of unfinished business requires massive action and commitment by people and governments at all levels.

Churchel Stray!

What is this unfinished agenda?

First and foremost, we must succeed in bringing the war in Vietnam to an end through negotiations in Paris and a political settlement.

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Second, the United States must take the initiative in halting the spiraling nuclear arms race before the arms race halts mankind.

Rau

This is why negotiations with the Soviet Union over the reduction of offensive and defensive strategic weapons are so critical.

Both the United States and the Soviet Union are on the brink of moving to an entirely new plateau of highly sophisticated and destructive offensive weapons.

If we falter for an instant in our efforts to freeze the arms race at present levels -- and then to roll it backwards -- both nations will soon stand on this higher plateau of nuclear destruction...neither one more secure than they were before.

This is why I oppose deployment of even a limited anti-ballistic missile system such as proposed by President Nixon.

Lathis is why I spoke out during the campaign in favor of the treaty to limit the spread of nuclear weapons.

We must be enclosed to take Risks for Peace !

This is why I will continue to speak out in behalf of immediate arms control talks with the Soviet Union.

Third, we must face squarely the agony and the shame of the race issue.

Many of our goals, such as an open, integrated society, are under challenge. Many of our methods, such as non-violent direct action, are rejected as being out-of-date.

In these circumstances, one danger looms above all others: the danger of a failure of nerve to sustain the march toward an integrated society through the processes of peaceful change.

But, we must remember this: twenty million black

Americans will no longer be pacified by slogans or tokens.

They will not be satisfied -- they shall not be moved -- nor should they.

"Freedom Now" is not a catchword for a minority of Americans. It is a moral imperative for all Americans.

Fourth, we must push forward with the revitalization and restructuring of our cities.

In reciting the facts of the urban crisis, we usually forget that fundamentally this is a political crisis...a failure of both political parties to generate the popular support necessary to get the job done.

As a leader of the Democratic Party, I intend to do everything in my power to generate this support in the coming months and years.

intend to talk frankly about what must be done to seize and maintain the initiative in saving the American city.

And I intend to work for the election of those people who understand the urgency of our present circumstances... and who are prepared to join with others in a long-term commitment to see this struggle through to victory.

Fifth, we are at the crossroads in the development of an educational system which is essential for the survival of democracy.

The headlines of controversy on many college campuses -the terribly complex problems of achieving real educational
progress in our inner city neighborhoods -- may convince
some people to cut back our national educational investments.

This would be a grievous, even a tragic, mistake.

We must permit neither loud shouts nor faint hearts, to jeopardize the exciting educational progress of the past few years...or to sacrifice the tremendous achievements which are within our grasp if we press forward now.

I have proposed that Congress establish a trust fund for education financed with revenues from federally-owned oil shale deposits, a source of billions of dollars in revenue.

And that is the scale of investment we must be prepared to make in the years ahead.

<u>Sixth</u>, we must proceed as rapidly as possible with the restructuring of our entire health-care system.

Today there are serious deficiencies in the basic planning, design and operation of our health-care system.

We have failed as a society to establish the national priorities necessary to provide every citizen with full access to humane and comprehensive health care.

I am impressed by the program of principles and action set forth by the Committee for National Health Insurance.

This is a balanced and thoughtful approach which takes seriously the vital interests and concerns of all groups in our society essential to an effective system of health-care services.

I hope the Democratic Party will stand in the forefront of those groups advocating this kind of thorough reform of our health-care system.

Seventh, the outcome of these efforts may well depend upon the progress we achieve in reforming our tax structure -- at the federal, state and local levels.

Total

- -- tax loopholes must be closed. We must have a minimum tax requirement for every taxpayer, no matter what his sources of income.
- -- the federal government must use its tax-sharing powers to require reform in regressive and repressive property and sales taxes.
- -- a significant portion of national tax revenues resulting from the growth of the economy must be shared with the states and localities.

This then, is an agenda of action worthy of a great political party.

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And we have much work to do.

The next 16 months will determine not only the control of Congress after 1970, but, more importantly, will chart the political direction in this nation for at least the next decade.

That is why we must win the 1970 elections... for the U.S. Congress, for State Houses, and for State legislatures.

That is why I have come home to ask your help.

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The success story of America is based upon continuity and change, progress and action.

A change in administration does not justify either standing still or turning back. It may call for a reassessment of priorities with a single purpose of moving forward.

The continuing business of American democracy is the agenda for today and tomorrow. That continuing business necessitates that we build on that which is good; that we move forward from small beginnings to larger achievements; that we press forward with reform.

What is the agenda of unfinished business of our time?

First and foremost, firsking a succeeding in bringing the war in Vietnam to an end through negotiation and a political settlement.

Secondly, American initiative in calling a halt to the spiraling arms race and turning it downward as a constructive step to peace.

Three: Facing squarely the agony and shame of the race issue. Quickly and relentlessly pursuing a course that opens the American society to everyone.

Four: The restructuring and the revitalization of our cities, making them livable, where freedom and safety -- opportunity and justice -- are compatible.

Five: The reform of our tax structure, closing loopholes that defy any sense of equity and providing revenues that permit local government to fulfill its responsibilities.

Six: An all-out attack upon slums and inadequate housing.

Through a massive program of housing construction for low-income families and public facilities that changes a ghetto into a neighborhood, a slum into a community.

Seven: Poverty

Eight: Education (get something on pre-school and building on the elementary and secondary education act. . . .)

"Because the advantages of higher education will never come to those who have been denied a good education at the elementary and secondary level."

Nine: Health. The necessity of a long-range national health plan . . . (Geriatric speech)

DEL Telleron-Jackson Day Dinner Minmenula, Min Marke 22, 1969

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