REMARKS OF HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY LEADERSHIP DINNER DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, JUNE 3, 1969

- Chr. amon He RHA 6 Pat Darien & me Paul ~ Charles Euro -+ mrs - mome Hodding Conter II Butop Jonga Brunine Rev Jamie Washi

LI COME TO JACKSON TONIGHT TO BE WITH FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS AND TO SAY THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS NOVEMBER and for your quetwork in build LONE OF THE MOST HEARTENING RESULTS OF THAT ELECTION WAS THE VOTE YOU HELPED ME ACHIEVE IN MISSISSIPPI. WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY IN DEMONSTRA-TING POWER AT THE BALLOT BOX. LWE FOUGHT FOR REFORM AT THE 1964 DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION TO ENSURE FAIR DELEGATE SELECTION TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS.

KIN 1965 THE HISTORIC VOTING RIGHTS ACT EFFECTIVELY OPENED THE CLOSED

me to a meeting of Democrate when

DOORS TO VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTER PARTICIPATION.

AND IN 1968, THE DEMOCRA-TIC CONVENTION SEATED A DELEGATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPJ WHICH REPRE-SENTED THOSE WHO SOUGHT BROAD REPRESENTATION FROM ALL SEGMENTS OF THE PEOPLE.

A COMPLETE REVIEW OF <u>CONVENTION</u> AND PARTY ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES. THROUGH THE COMMISSION ON <u>PARTY</u> STRUCTURE AND DELEGATE SELECTION

statun z charles Quers, Nat Dan committe

CHAIRED BY SENATOR GEORGE MC GOVERN AND THE COMMISSION ON RULES CHAIRED BY CONGRESSMAN JIM O'HARA WE ARE GOING TO ASSURE THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS_OPEN TO ALL WHO WANT TO PARTICIPATE AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR BUILDING PARTY ORGANIZATION AND ELECTING CANDIDATES LTONIGHT, I NOT ONLY COME TO THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME ACHIEVE THE GREATEST VOTE EVER CAST FOR A DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN A MISSISSIPPI ELECTION, BUT I WANT ESPECIALLY TO TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE ...

-- THE FUTURE OF OUR DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN THE SOUTH AND IN THE NORTH,

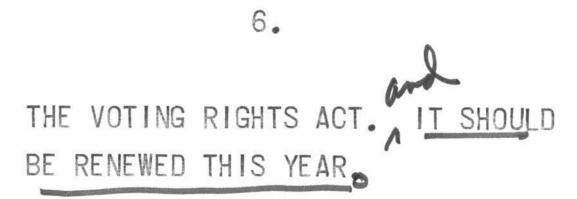
-- THE FUTURE FOR PROTECTING AND BUILDING UNDER THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT.

-- AND THE FUTURE OF YOUR PARTY WORK HERE IN MISSISSIPPI.

ZEIRST, LET ME REMIND YOU THAT THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965 EXPIRES IN 1970, LTHE DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP IN THE CONGRESS HAS JOINED IN BILLS TO EXTEND THE PRO- AMENDMENT, FOR ANOTHER FIVE YEARS. TO DATE, THE NIXON AD-MINISTRATION HAS NOT INDICATED WHETHER OR NOT IT SUPPORTS A SIMPLE EXTENSION OF THIS ACT. THERE ARE RUMBLINGS THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY PROPOSE SOME WEAKEN-ING OF THE MECHANISMS THAT MAKE THE ACT WORK AND ELIMINATE PROVI-SIONS FOR FEDERAL REGISTRATION OFFICIALS. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO SOFTEN

VISIONS OF THAT ACT, WITHOUT

000768



LTHIS LAW WAS ENACTED UNDER <u>BI-PARTISAN SPONSORSHIP</u> HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CITIZENS VOTED IN THE LAST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND LOCAL ELECTIONS ONLY BECAUSE THERE WAS A VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965.

LSO I SAY TO YOU TONIGHT, Embed we art, WE COULD LOSE MUCH OF THE GAINS WE HAVE MADE. LIT IS IMPERATIVE THERE BE REPUBLICAN AS WELL AS <u>DEMOCRATIC</u> SUPPORT FOR THE EXTENSION OF THIS ACT. THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD

NOT WAIVER and Sout intent to let them A SECOND PRIORITY WE NEED TO LOOK CONCEPT OF REQUIRING THE ENTIRE CONCEPT OF REQUIRING THE VOTER TO TAKE PERSONAL RESPON-SIBILITY TO REGISTER IN ORDER TO CAST A VOTE.

7.

LTHEIR SHOULD BE A UNIFORM, PUBLICALLY FINANCED SYSTEM FOR RE-GISTERING ALL QUALIFIED VOTERS.

LIT MIGHT BE DONE BY <u>GRANTS</u> TO THE STATES, OR AS A CENSUS, But, THERE SHOULD BE A UNIFORM VOTER RE-



8.

GISTRATION SYSTEM WHERE THE REGISTRATION LIST OF ALL VOTERS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IS KEPT AS A PUBLIC FUNCTION BY THE GOVERN-(Sut TopRotts) MENT. SUCH A SYSTEM IS USED IN EVERY OTHER DEMOCRACY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, TODAY, WITH COMPUTER RECORD-KEEPING IN USE ACROSS THE NATION FOR TAX PURPOSES -- WHY NOT PUT A SYSTEM FOR VOTER REGISTRATI ON COMPUTERS?

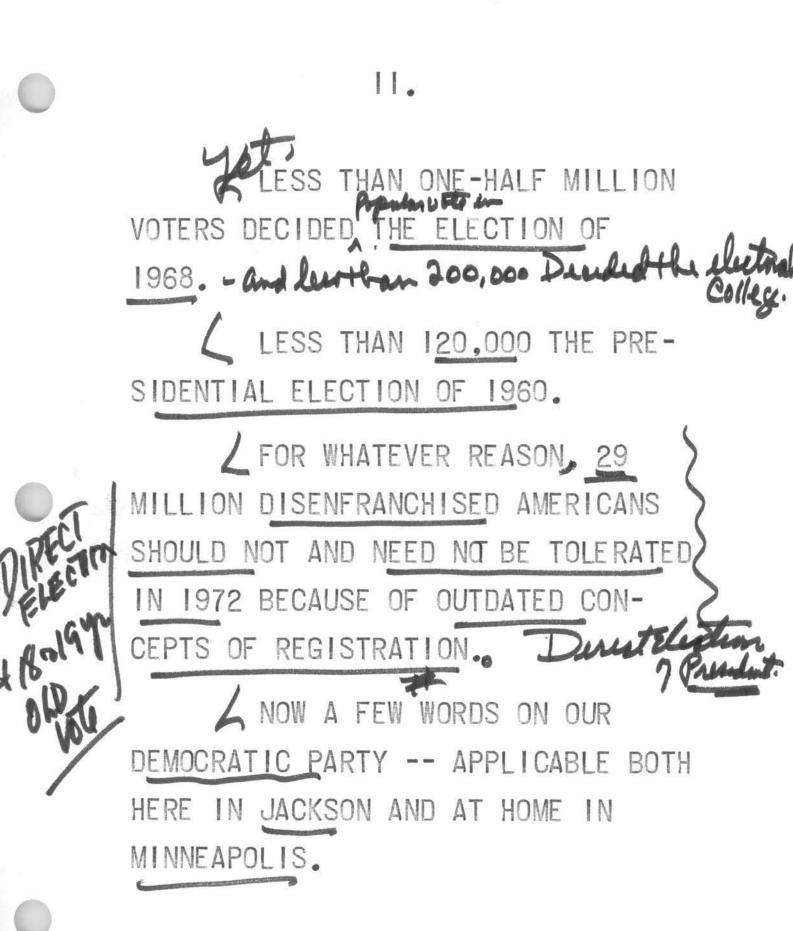
LIN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELEC-TION OF 1968 ABOUT ONE-FOURTH OF ALL ELIGIBLE VOTERS WERE NOT RE-GISTERED.

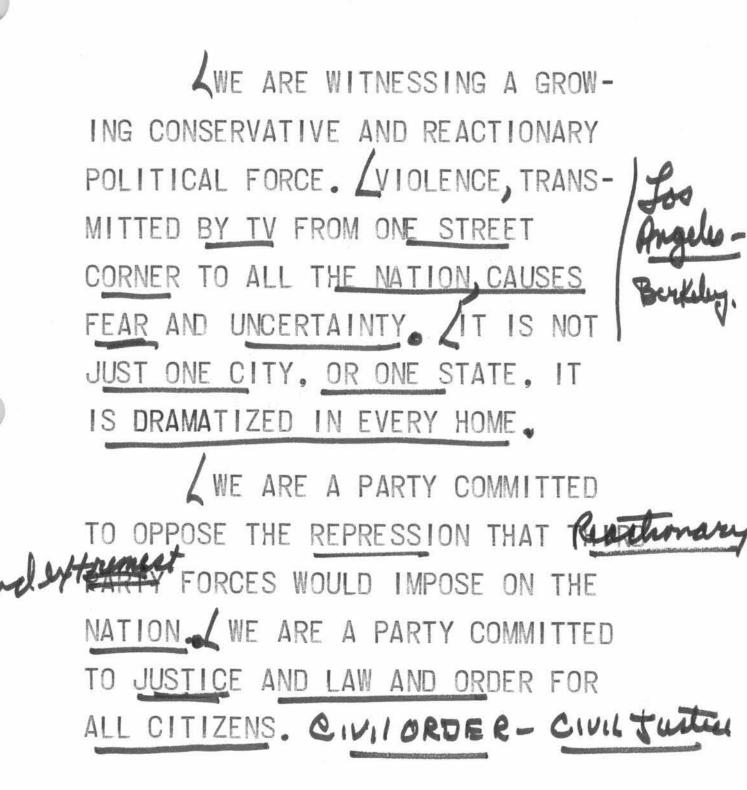
<u>LSOME HAD MOVED</u> LSOME HAD <u>TO WORK WHEN REGISTRATION OFFICES</u> <u>WERE OPENED</u> LSOME ARE NEVER IN-TERESTED IN ELECTIONS UNTIL AFTER REGISTRATION BOOKS ARE CLOSED.

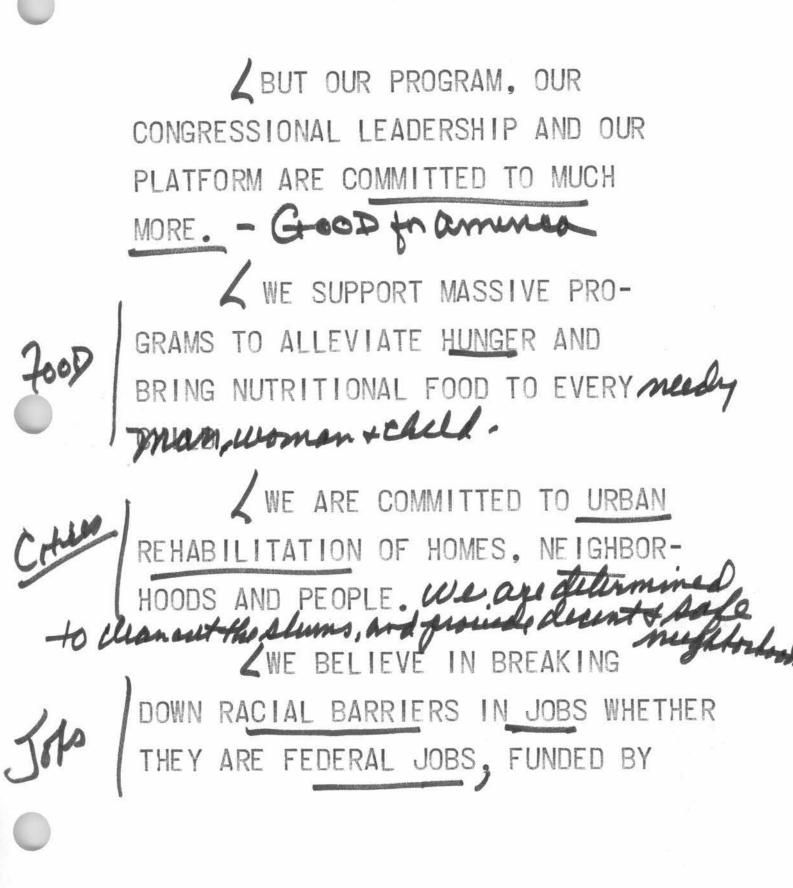
KNOW ALL TOO WELL, THE POOR, AND THOSE LIVING IN RURAL AREAS OFTEN FIND THE OBSTACLES JUST INSUR-MOUNTABLE.

10.

L TODAY, TIME, MONEY AND ENERGY ARE INVESTED BY POLITICAL PARTIES AND OTHERS IN REGISTRA-TION DRIVES WHAT COULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE THAN TO SAY -- EVERY AMERICAN WHO MEETS MINIMUM VOTING REQUIREMENTS OF AGE, RESIDENCY ZENSHIP WILL BE ENRO BY THE GOVERNMENT TO AUTOMATICAL PROTECT HIS RIGHT TO VOTE IN 1968, THERE WERE 29 VOTERS WHO WERF FIGIBIE TO VOTE FOR PRESIDENT BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT OR DID NOT REGISTER.







War on Awet Consumer protection Heatth mede

GOVERNMENT MONEY. OR IN PRIVATE BUSINESS. - Joh Thanington -

14.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO SUP-PORT A PEACEFUL POLITICAL SOLU-TION IN VETNAM, AND TO MAKE THE DIFFICULT FIGHT TO REDIRECT THE NATION'S RESOURCES TO BUILDING AT HOME. We an Commuted to Communication

WE BELIEVE IN TAX REFORMS, IMPROVED SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS, multimedical for the poor, the old MEDICAID FOR THE POOR, THE OLD AND THE YOUNG.

THESE ARE NOT THE GOALS OF A PARTY HEADED BY GEORGE WALLACE. re committe the whom

15.

THOSE WHO HAVE STUDIED VOTING RECORD KNOW THESE ARE NOT THE GOALS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. (Novon - Lower BUR Voices Luter L BUT TO MAKE THESE GOALS A REALITY WE HAVE A HEAVY TASK AHEAD WE MUST APPROACH THE 1970 CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS SUPPORTING MEN WHO CAN BUILD ON THESE GOALS IN CONGRESS / A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN EITHER HOUSE WOULD EFFECTIVELY BLOCK ANY HOPE FOR PROGRESS.

LIN OUR PARTY ORGANIZATIONS WE MUST BUILD LEADERSHIP FULLY COM-

16.

MITTED TO THE WIDEST POSSIBLE COALITION OF DEMOCRATS WILLING TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO THESE GOALS

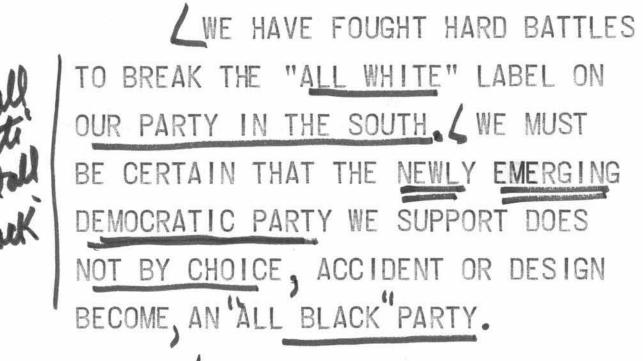
FOR ALL TOO MANY YEARS,
IN MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, OUR
PARTY LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN CLOSED
TO THE WHO WANTED TO PARTICIPATE.
WE ARE NOW MOVING TO OPEN THE PARTY
TO ALL WHO WILL WORK WITH US. 4 NOT
JUST HERE IN MISSISSIPPI, BUT IN
EVERY STATE.

FROM THE PRECINCTS. TO THE STATE CONVENTIONS, EXCEPTIONAL EFEORTS ARE NOW REQUIRED TO INSURE INCLUSION

17.

OF ALL WHO STAND FOR THE GOALS OF OUR PARTY.

LIT MEANS WILLINGNESS TO SHARE LEADERSHIP AT ALL LEVELS AND ACTIVELY SEEK A BROAD REPRE-SENTATIVE PARTY.



LNOTHING WOULD PLEASE THE REPUBLICANS -- OR THE WALLACEITES

18.

MORE. THE LEADERSHIP YOU HAVE SHOWN IS HARD EVIDENCE YOU UNDER-STAND THIS CAUTION.

<u>MAYOR CHARLES EVERS HAS</u> BEEN QUOTED WIDELY ACROSS THE NATION WHEN HE SAID..."<u>DON'T VOTE</u> FOR A BLACK MAN, OR A WHITE MAN. JUST A GOOD MAN."

WE ARE BUILDING NOT A BLACK POLITICAL PARTY, NOT A WHITE PARTY, BUT HOPEFULLY A GOOD PARTY FOR ALL THE PEOPLE YOU HAVE ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT LEADERSHIP TASKS I KNOW.

KWE, OUTSIDE YOUR STATE HAVE

19.

A SPECIAL OBLIGATION TO HELP, UNDERSTAND AND ASSIST. THAT IS WHAT I CAME LAST YEAR TO DO --THAT IS WHAT I HOPE TO CONTINUE TO DO.

LI FIRMLY BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU ARE <u>UNDERTAKING</u> AND IN OUR ULTIMATE SUCCESS...A GREAT MANY OTHERS IN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND A GREAT MANY AMERICANS ALSO HAVE THAT FAITH.

THANK YOU.

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.

