

STATEMENT
THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
THE DEMOCRATIC POLICY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D. C.
NOVEMBER 17, 1969

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, November 17, 1969

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you to the first meeting of the Democratic Policy Council.

I use the word "pleasure" somewhat advisedly: I have no doubt of the necessity or importance of the Policy Council's mandate from the Democratic National Committee, as spelled out by Chairman Fred Harris.

As one who participated in a rather difficult Presidential campaign last year, I can testify to the need for revitalization and invigoration of the Democratic Party structure. And I know that the policies of the Nixon-Agnew administration will place upon this Council the positive obligation to think creatively and speak forcefully about the things that have to be done in this country.

But I also have no illusions of the difficulty and obstacles we will likely confront in carrying out this mandate. Our job will not be easy. It will often be frustrating. Great patience, commitment and courage will be required from every person in this room if we are to succeed.

This cannot be -- and this will not be -- a phony operation, more concerned with headlines and political public relations than with the critical problems which beset this country. We cannot -- and will not -- duck the tough issues. And we will turn out a final product of which each of us can be proud -- even if most of us at one time or another will disagree with certain of the policies or recommendations that the Council adopts or that the committees of the Council publish in their own name.

The diversity of the Policy Council's membership reflects nothing more than the diversity of the Democratic Party itself. A generation ago we learned to live with the many seemingly incompatible elements of the Roosevelt coalition -- and this coalition brought the Democratic Party to majority status in this country.

The question before this Council -- just as it is the question before all people who consider themselves Democrats -- is whether we can understand our present diversity, and many of our differences, as inevitable by-products of a society which itself is undergoing profound and often painful transformation and change.

Some people believe that changes are coming too rapidly; others believe exactly the opposite -- that our political, economic and social institutions are fundamentally impervious to new voices and demands. And there are many people who find themselves located somewhere between these two extremes. All of those views have their articulate spokesmen in this room.

The Democratic Party has the alternative of splitting apart into a host of self-centered and ideologically purified factions, much as the Republican Party did in the mid-1960's with the emergence of Goldwaterism. And we can then look to similar success on election day.

Or in our diversity we can accept and act on the belief that out of this admittedly difficult period will emerge a Party better able to serve the needs of all the people of this country. To be perfectly frank, I care too much for this country to leave it too long in the care of Richard Nixon, Spiro T. Agnew, John Mitchell, Dean Burch, Mel Laird and the other performers on the Nixon team.

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I know that much is already underway -- at the Democratic National Committee and in many of the states. I see the McGovern Commission proposing a number of constructive ways to democratize and open up the process of selecting delegates to the National Convention.

I see the O'Hara Commission drawing up an exciting series of changes to make the Convention itself a more modern and responsive instrumentality of Party government in the 1970's.

I see a series of ad hoc task forces appointed by Chairman Harris looking at the most critical needs of the Party today: former Attorney General Ramsey Clark heads the Freedom to Vote Task Force; former Chief of Protocol Lloyd Hand chairs the Task Force on Campaign Finance; Southern California Democratic Chairman, Leon Cooper is in charge of Project 70, the task force working on next year's critical state legislative races. I believe Chairman Harris will soon appoint a special Task Force on Youth Affairs and a Committee on Communications for the D.N.C.

All of this has been accomplished by Senator Fred Harris since he assumed the chairmanship of the National Committee last March. This is a record of which he should be justly proud -- and from which we, as Democrats, should take considerable encouragement.

These are actions of a Party which understands the need for change and invigoration, but in a manner which recognizes the worth and importance of much of what has gone before -- and in a manner which respects the efforts and achievements of loyal Democrats in all parts of the country for many, many years.

It is in the context of these other efforts that the Policy Council begins its work. I do not see this Council finding instant solutions to the terribly complicated public issues which will dominate politics in the 1970's. I see this as an effort extending over several years and culminating in a variety of ways: a series of lively and provocative essays prepared by the Council's six committees, various specific recommendations and policies adopted by the Council itself, a number of public hearings and other similar efforts sponsored by the Council itself and its committees, television and motion picture productions which reach millions of voters, and perhaps even a quarterly journal which captures the best thought and writing arising from the Council's work.

I, of course, also see circumstances when this Council, as the major policy arm of the Democratic National Committee, may want to declare itself on an immediate public issue. But these circumstances are not likely to be frequent. I recall, for example, that the Democratic Advisory Council of the 1950's issued policy statements in response to an immediate situation on only three or four occasions. As Chairman Harris noted in his statement outlining the purposes and structure of the Policy Council, we should look primarily to the D.N.C. Chairman, members of Congress and other public officials as spokesmen on most occasions.

These opening remarks reflect no more than my personal views as Chairman of the Policy Council. They are delivered, in part to stimulate your response and your participation. As the agenda suggests, we hope to devote this first meeting to a discussion of the Council's goals and its operating procedures, and then turn to the more substantive questions to be explored by each of the Council's committees.

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MEMORANDUM

To: HHH

From: John Stewart

Re: Policy Council meeting.

Your opening statement to the Democratic Policy Council (DPC) is attached. It will follow some opening remarks by Fred Harris, in his capacity as DNC National Chairman.

I did not include in this opening statement a number of points that I believe are important to make in the course of the day's deliberations. These additional points follow:

1. Initially, at least, the ~~xxxx~~ bulk of the Council's work will be accomplished by the six major committees. (See attached list of committees and chairmen.) It is, therefore, important that each Policy Council ~~xxxxxxx~~^{member} understand the standing invitation to attend or participate in any Committee meetings or hearings, as ex officio members.

To facilitate this participation, we will publish approximately once a month a Council Newsletter, giving full details on all committee hearings, meetings, etc. so that Council members can know what's going on at all times.

We would hope, however, that each member would become principally involved in the work of one or two committees, rather than spread themselves ~~xxxxxxx~~ among all six committees.

Participation of Members in Committee Activities

Independent Nature of Committee Work

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2. We have told each Committee chairman that his group will have the prerogative of publishing policies and recommendations in the committees name, without prior clearance by the ~~xxxxxx~~ Council--much as the Walker Report on the Chicago riots was an independent publication released under the aegis of the Violence Commission.

The Policy Council will then be free to extract or otherwise use the materials that the committees will generate.

This procedure was agreed upon primarily to encourage the publication of lively, provocative and interesting essays and reports.

3 . Finance. This is obviously critical. I urge you to appoint Arthur Krim as chairman of the DPC's Finance Committee, and take responsibility for raising approximately \$150,000. This would provide each committee with \$15,000 of operating funds, plus an additional \$50,000 to \$60,000 for the Council itself.

Other members of the Finance Committee might be: John Kenneth Galbraith (who offered to help raise money), Carter Burden, Larry Temple, ^{and} David Carley, ~~and Gloria Steinem~~.

We also plan to sign a publishing contract in the near future that should provide additional operating funds for the committees.

4. Publications. Our ~~xxx~~ objective would be the publication of a series of essays by the six committees in about one year's time, followed by specific Policy Council reports, etc. I urge you to appoint David Ginsburg as chairman of the ~~xxxxxx~~ Publication's Committee.

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A sub-project under this would be the publication of a DPC Journal--featuring critical and analytical essays arising out of the committees' efforts ~~xx~~ and/or by the Council members. I suggest asking Cliff Alexander to accept responsibility for editorship of the DPC Journal.

5. Communications. I believe Fred Harris intends to appoint Leonard Marks ~~xxxx~~ as chairman of a DNC-wide Committee on Communications. In this capacity he obviously will be very helpful to the Policy Council. I would hope, however, that you might suggest to Leonard that Ted Van Dyk might serve on his committee, with particular responsibility for the Policy Council. This ~~xxx~~ would provide the Council with ~~xxx~~ additional help in public affairs in a way that should be acceptable to all concerned.

You will also want to stress that the Policy Council and its committees will want to stress the television

potentialities in all that they do. This means thinking about TV from the beginning of their respective activities, not coming up with some TV effort after the work is all completed.

← For example, Committee chairmen and Council members should search out possible TV appearances, both national and local. We, of course, will do everything we can to facilitate these TV appearances. *Planning has*

already started for a Demonstration response to the Republican State-of-the-Union address.

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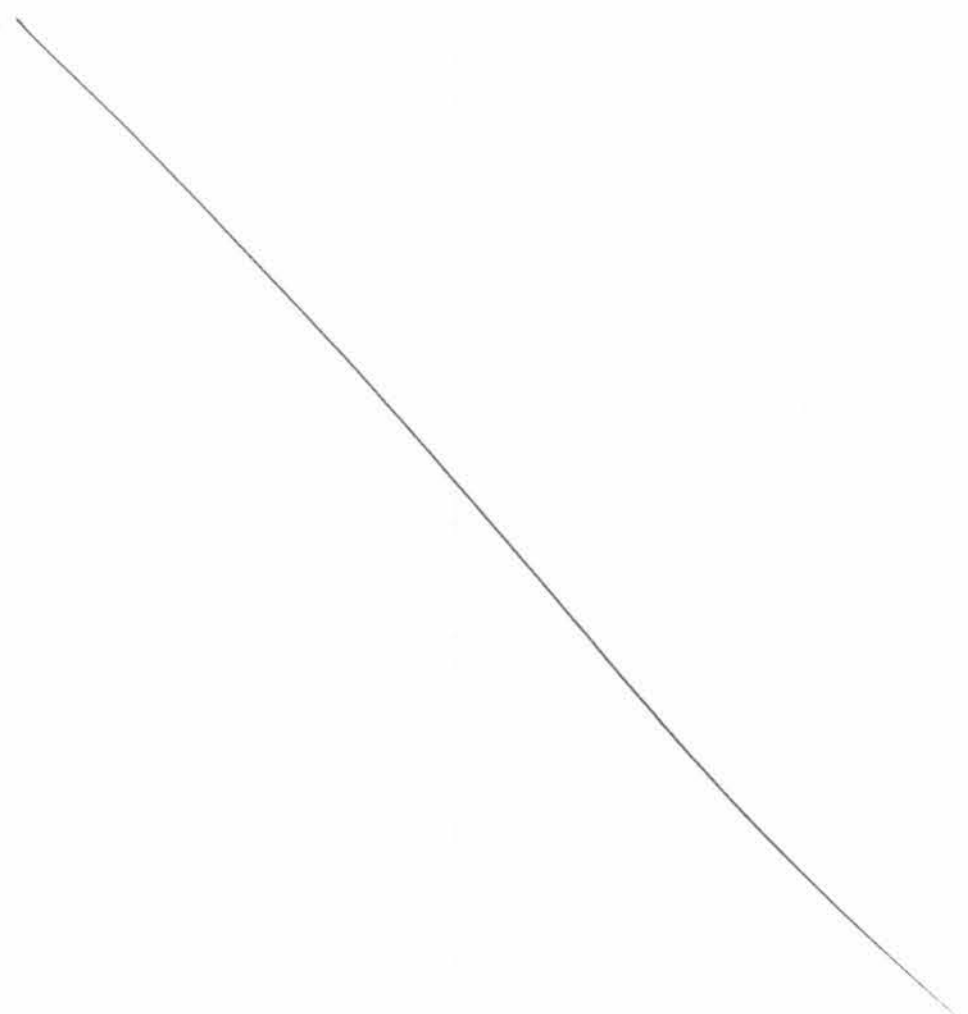
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