## REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

## DEMOCRATIC DINNER

Los Angeles, California

October 16, 1971

I always look for Biblical inspiration when I'm given the last spot on the program. And tonight, after listening to so many of my eloquent colleagues, I feel compelled to quote from Matthew in order to remind my good friends from the Senate:
"But many that are first shall be last; and the last

shall be first."

Being the last speaker does give me the opportunity not

to look backward but to look forward into the future.

I'm not particularly interested in the past.

And as a nation and a party I don't believe we can afford to be continually preoccupied with the past in the face of an on-rushing future.

American society is quickly on the verge of running out of control.

We are unprepared for the future.

For tomorrow.

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For the next ten years.

For the year 2000.

Change is met by patchwork solutions more often rooted in the past than in the future. We sit as a people unresponsive to trends and patterns that spell disaster not for a way of life that we cherish -- but for life itself.

No one wants to be a prophet of doom and gloom. But I believe that it's time this nation and the Democratic Party begin to ask some tough questions about where we're going and how we'll get there.

-- The population of this country is today 208 million. Projections show 30 million Californians by 1990. By 1980, another 650,000 acres of prime agricultural land in California will be urbanized.

We must ask: How will this nation provide for 219 million Americans by 1975, for 236 million Americans by 1980 and for 320 million Americans by 2000? How will our cities absorb this growth when already 70 percent of our people live on less than 2 percent of the land?

-- Today there are 5.1 million Americans without a job. White unemployment is 6.1 percent, black unemployment is 9.8 percent, and I am sure that unemployment in the Chicano community equals the high level of black unemployment. In California, aerospace unemployment continues to climb while the Nixon administration fails to develop realistic conversion programs to provide jobs for the highly skilled.

We must ask: If so few jobs are being created today, how will our economy be able to provide 25 million new jobs that will be needed in nine years?

-- Air, noise, and water pollution in America increasingly are becoming a threat to health and life. All of California's major rivers, bays and estuaries are polluted. More than a third of all Californians suffer eye, allergy and respiratory irritation from smog which is found in almost every populous California community.

We must ask: How can this nation clean its air and water while increasing industrial production to keep pace with a growing population and increased consumer demands?

-- Few Americans can afford to be sick. Between 1960 and 1970 the cost of hospital care rose 122 percent and doctor's fees rose 45 percent. The cost of living rose 20 percent. Many Californians -- especially Chicanos, Blacks and Indians -receive poor health care.

We must ask: How can all Americans be guaranteed the right to good health care? And how can we provide enough doctors, nurses and hospitals, now and in the future, to provide for all

Americans?

-- Americans today live in fear while crime increases at alarming rates. In California between 1960 and 1970 the burglary rate increased 77 percent; forcible rape 96 percent; and murder 53 percent.

We must ask: How will we make our cities, neighborhoods, and towns safe again? When will we stop crime by attacking crime

at its social and economic roots?

-- Increasing drug addiction and alcohol abuse are the tell-tale signs of a society in great trouble. There are an estimated 35,000 heroin addicts in California. There are approximately 200,000 alcoholics in this state.

We must ask: Can we develop programs that eradicate drug addiction and alcoholism in America? Can we create a society where drugs and alcohol do not become instruments used by the

young and old for unreal and often fatal escape?

-- All of our children do not learn in school. Too many drop out of high school. Colleges prepare students for careers which no longer exist. There is increasing functional illiteracy among California's high school graduates.

We must ask: How will we be able to give all of our children now and in the future a quality education relevant to their needs and capable of reaching all of them -- rich and poor?

These are only some of the questions we face.

But we must all ask: How can our tomorrows be different from our yesterdays?

The future will not wait for the next task force to be

formed or the next commission to be appointed.

No American should have to wait while his government waits

to gather the courage to confront the future.

All of us have wainte while the Nixon administration fails to prevent this nation from stumbling blindly into the future. By January 1973 when a Democratic President is inaugurated, four years iwll have been lost in our nation's battle to prepare for the future.

I believe the Democratic Party can no longer be the party of the New Deal, the New Frontier or the Great Society.

It must be the party of the future.

We must think more about designing solutions than merely solving problems. That's what the future is all about. The Democratic Party nationwide and in this great state of California must formulate programs that not only make life better for all Americans today, but prevent the inevitable growth of tomorrow from destroying the good things we created yesterday.

The next President of the United States must not only think of his policies and programs as they affect his four or eight years in office, but as they affect the way Americans will live for the next four to eight decades. What he does or fails to do during his administration will determine the future quality of life for millions including the many yet unborn.

We can and must confront the future as a Party and as a people.

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WE MUST ASK: How CAN ALL AMERICANS BE GUARANTEED THE RIGHT TO GOOD HEALTH CARE? AND HOW CAN WE PROVIDE ENOUGH DOCTORS, NURSES AND HOSPITALS, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, TO PROVIDE FOR ALL AMERICANS?

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By January 1973 when a Democratic President is inaugurated, four years will have been lost in our nation's battle to prepare for the future.

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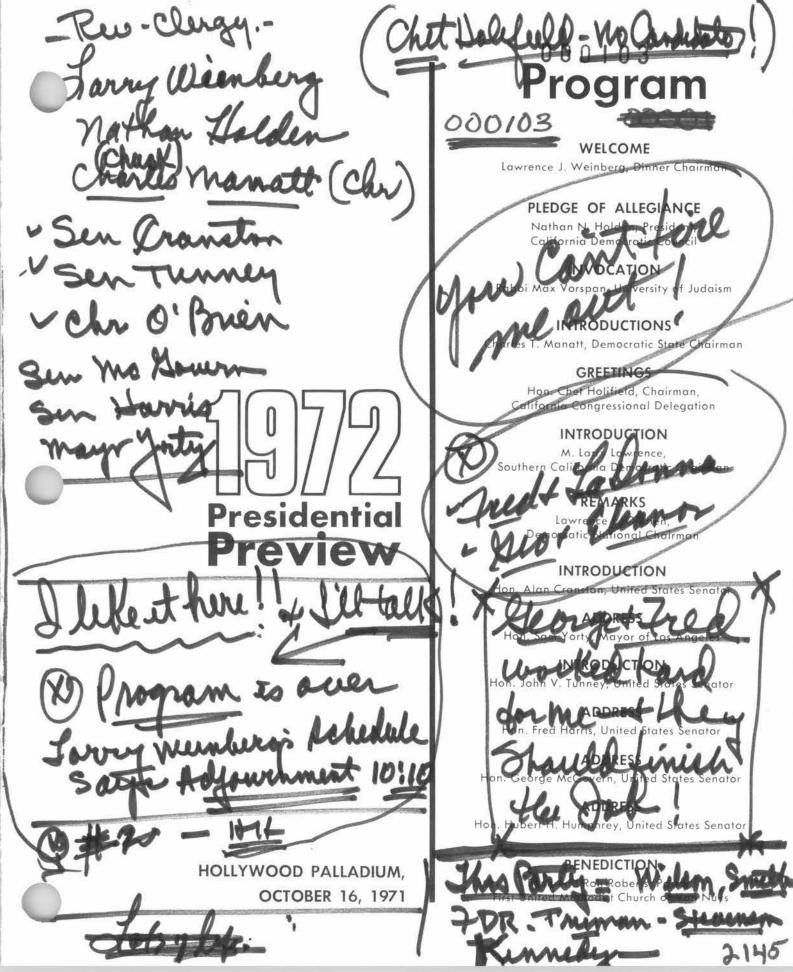
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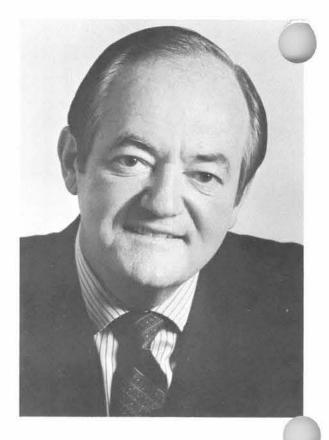
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Hubert H. Humphrey United States Senator



Fred Harris United States Senator

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