

THIRD ANNUAL PRESIDENTS TO PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE

9/29/71
DS:mt
IT'S ALWAYS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO TALK TO A GROUP SUCH AS YOURSELVES. AS PRESIDENTS OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND AS STUDENT BODY PRESIDENTS YOU ARE MOULDERS AND LEADERS OF A NATION'S YOUTH. AND THIS AFTERNOON I WANT TO TALK TO YOU BRIEFLY ABOUT YOUTH AND THE JOB THAT YOUNG PEOPLE AND THOSE WHO LEAD THE YOUNG MUST UNDERTAKE.

I'VE ALWAYS CONSIDERED MYSELF A MAN OF YOUTH -- A MAN FOR YOUTH. LET ME EXPLAIN.

I WAS ELECTED MAYOR OF MINNEAPOLIS AT AGE 34. AT AGE 37 I WAS FIRST ELECTED TO THE SENATE. I RAN FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION IN 1960 WHEN I WAS 49. EVEN AT AGE 53 WHEN I WAS ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT, I FELT YOUNG. AND TODAY, FOUR YEARS AFTER THE ELECTION OF 1968, I ADMIT ONLY THAT I AM NO LONGER A KID. BUT I ALSO FEEL A CLOSER BAND WITH THE YOUTH OF THIS COUNTRY THAN I EVER HAVE BEFORE.

HOW CAN HE FEEL THIS WAY, YOU PROBABLY ASK.

WELL, I BASE MY FEELING ON A REALIZATION THAT I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE IN AMERICA WANT TODAY BOTH IN AND OUT OF COLLEGE.

FIRST OF ALL, THEY WANT THE TRUTH. THEY WANT EQUAL TREATMENT AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. THEY WANT COMMITMENTS

NOT DREAMS. THEY WANT ACTION AND PROGRESS--NOT EMPTY PROMISES. I DON'T MEAN TO OBLITERATE THE GENERATION GAP IN ONE FELL SWOOP, BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE WANT AND DESERVE MANY OF THE SAME THINGS THAT ANY AMERICAN CITIZEN--REGARDLESS OF AGE--WANTS.

BUT MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, I KNOW THAT YOUNG PEOPLE IN AMERICA TODAY NO LONGER WANT TO BE THE OBJECTS OF GLOWING GOVERNMENTAL RHETORIC AND THE SUBJECTS OF SCORN AND NEGLECT. YOUNG PEOPLE--FROM INFANTS TO 30 YEARS OLD--HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS AND SPECIAL PROBLEMS. AND, I BELIEVE THESE HAVE BEEN UNMET BY THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION WHILE IT CHAMPIONS THE HOPES AND SPIRIT OF AMERICAN YOUTH. LET ME ILLUSTRATE:

- THE PRESIDENT HAS CHANGED THE SCHOOL LUNCH REGULATIONS FOR THIS FALL, THUS PREVENTING 2,000,000 MORE CHILDREN FROM PARTICIPATING IN THIS VITAL PROGRAM. HOT LUNCHES TURNED INTO COLD PROMISES ALL ACROSS THE NATION.
- THE PRESIDENT TRIED TO LIMIT FUNDING FOR THE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM THIS JUNE. FORTUNATELY, CONGRESS WAS ABLE TO RESTORE THE FUNDS.
- THE PRESIDENT QUIETLY DISBANDED THE CABINET LEVEL COUNCIL ON YOUTH OPPORTUNITY ON APRIL 1ST

OF THIS YEAR. THIS WAS THE ONLY GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY SOLELY COMMITTED TO THE PROBLEMS OF YOUTH -- ESPECIALLY THE POOR.

- THE PRESIDENT VETOED A MANPOWER TRAINING ACT WHICH CONTAINED \$36.4 MILLION FOR NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS. HE HAD ONLY REQUESTED \$5 MILLION. TEENAGE UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG WHITE YOUTHS IS NOW 13.5%. IT IS AT A SCANDALOUS LEVEL OF 33.5% FOR BLACK TEENAGERS.
- THIS SUMMER, IN THE FACE OF THESE ALARMING UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES, THE PRESIDENT REDUCED THE NUMBER OF SPECIAL FEDERAL SUMMER JOBS BY 13,000 LEAVING CITIES IN A DESPERATE PLIGHT.
- THERE ARE FEW JOBS FOR THE RETURNING VIET NAM VETERAN. THEIR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STANDS AT 8.4%.
- AND WHERE ARE THE JOBS FOR YOUNG TEACHERS, LAWYERS, ENGLISH MAJORS AND COLLEGE EDUCATED PEOPLE IN GENERAL? IN OUR PRESENT ECONOMIC DILEMMA JOBS ARE SCARCE AND THE UNEMPLOYED OR UNDEREMPLOYED PHD'S ARE EVERYWHERE.

- THE PRESIDENT REFUSES TO PROVIDE THE NATION WITH A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR ECONOMIC IN THE FACE OF REDUCED SPENDING IN THE DEFENSE INDUSTRIES. THOUSANDS OF YOUNG ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS ARE JOBLESS--TALENTS WASTED THAT COULD BE USED TO FIGHT POLLUTION AND CRIME.
- THE PRESIDENT HAS GIVEN NO RECOGNITION OR RESPONSE TO HIS OWN COUNCIL ON YOUTH WHICH MET IN ESTES PARK, COLORADO IN APRIL.
- THE PRESIDENT'S ATTORNEY GENERAL IS UNWILLING TO ISSUE GUIDELINES TO STATES AS TO HOW THEY SHOULD IMPLEMENT THE 26TH AMENDMENT NOR IS HE WILLING TO HAVE THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PLAY ANY ROLE IN SHAPING STATE RESIDENCY LAWS AS APPLIED TO NEW VOTERS.

MY FRIENDS, THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS DEVELOPED NO COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR YOUTH AND HAS ATTEMPTED TO EMASCULATE EXISTING YOUTH PROGRAMS. WHILE VOICING CONCERN, WHILE SHOWING INTEREST, WHILE EMBRACING SOME OF THE HOPES OF YOUTH, PRESIDENT NIXON CONTINUES HIS DELIBERATE POLICY OF NO YOUTH POLICY. WHY SHOULDN'T THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THIS NATION BE GIVEN THE SAME

ATTENTION THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHES ON BIG BUSINESS?

AT LAST YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE WEAPON TO FIGHT FOR GOOD JOBS, FOR DECENT DIETS, FOR INCREASED EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS. YOU KNOW HAVE WHAT LABOR UNIONS HAVE, WHAT FARMERS HAVE, WHAT THE ELDERLY HAVE: THE VOTE.

BUT I WANT TO WARN YOU: UNLESS THE 25 MILLION NEW VOTERS RECOGNIZE THAT THEY ARE A SPECIAL GROUP, WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND PROBLEMS MUCH LIKE LABOR, BUSINESS OR THE AGED, YOUR NEW FOUND POWER WILL BE DILUTED OR DISSIPATED. WHAT IS NEEDED ARE YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS ENTERING THE POLITICAL ARENA AND SAYING TO NATIONAL POLITICAL LEADERS: WE WANT A JOB FOR EVERY UNEMPLOYED TEENAGER. WE WANT EVERY CHILD IN AMERICA TO RECEIVE A FREE HOT LUNCH. WE WANT A CABINET DEPARTMENT ON YOUTH AND YOUTH AFFAIRS. WE WANT EFFECTIVE JOB RETRAINING PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS. WE WANT PEACE NOW. ALL OF THESE THINGS AND MANY MORE ARE IN YOUR REACH AND YOU DESERVE THEM.

BUT THEY WARENÓT GRONGNEO BE DROPPED INTO YOUR LAPS. YOU HAVE TO ORGANIZE AND FIGHT FOR THEM.

YOU STARTED TO DO THIS IN 1968. IF YOU ARE TO PROFIT

FROM YOUR NEW FOUND POWER TOMORROW AND IN THE COMING MONTHS AND YEARS THEN YOU WILL HAVE TO BECOME EFFECTIVE POWER BROKERS ON THE NATIONAL SCENE.

AND IF I MAY CARRY THIS THEME ONE STEP FURTHER AND SPEAK DIRECTLY TO THOSE OF YOU WHO MAY IDENTIFY WITH MY POLITICAL PARTY, I WOULD URGE YOU TO FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU NEED AND DESERVE WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT A THIRD PARTY WILL ONLY MEAN A CONTINUATION OF THE POLICIES WHICH WE ALL WANT CHANGED. A THIRD PARTY MAY OFFER MOMENTARY RELEASE FROM THE BURDEN AND YOU MUST ASSUME IT WILL YIELD LITTLE OR NOTHING IN CHANGED AND TRUE REFORM. A THIRD PARTY WOULD BE AN UNREAL ESCAPE INTO A NEVER-NEVER LAND OF DREAMS THAT WILL NEVER BE REALIZED. IT IS A DEVICE OF DESPERATION WHEN COOL THOUGHT, ACTION AND COMMITMENT ARE NEEDED WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN ORDER TO WIN.

POLITICIANS HAVE ALWAYS SPOKEN TO YOUTH SAYING YOU HAVE THE MORAL POWER, THE IDEALISM, THE ENERGY TO CHANGE THIS NATION. WELL, I BELIEVE THIS, BUT I ALSO BELIEVE THE ADJECTIVES HAVE CHANGED. YOU HAVE THE VOTES, THE POLITICAL POWER TO WORK CHANGE--YOU NO LONGER HAVE TO WISH AND DREAM FOR IT.

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AND THIS IS THE MESSAGE I HOPE ALL OF YOU WILL BRING
BACK TO YOUR COLLEGE CAMPUSES. THE ROAD IS NOT GOLDEN
AND THE RAINBOW IS OBSCURED BY SMOG AND POLLUTION. BUT
WHAT YOU WANT IS WITHIN YOUR GRASP.

DS:NCB

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