

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT

Tallahassee, Florida

January 10, 1972

This morning in Philadelphia I signed a certificate declaring my candidacy for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States.

This afternoon I have come to Florida in order to take my campaign to the people of this state who will be the first to judge my fitness for the high office I seek.

I told Pennsylvanians that it was in their state that the message of "We, the People..." was proclaimed as the foundation for our democracy.

And it is in Florida today that the blueprint for the third century of American democracy is being written.

The watchword "We, the People" has been forgotten by those who lead our nation.

We the people want jobs and a better quality of life.

We the people want clean air and water.

We the people want our families to be safe from crime.

We the people want a nation at peace.

We the people want to be treated equally.

We the people want the best education for our children.

We the people want a prosperous rural America.

And we the people want to be brought together again.

The most important issue in this election is the Nixon Administration's disregard of we the people.

My campaign will go to the people of Florida -- from Pensacola to Key West -- with the message that the people's government must get on with the work of building a better America.

Florida is today one of the best examples of responsive government, open government, government with vision and purpose.

The people of Florida won when they elected Reuben Askew. He took his case to the people. I intend to do the same.

The people won when they elected Lawton Chiles. He took his case to the people. I intend to do the same.

And the people of Miami won when they elected David Kennedy. He took his case to the people. I intend to do the same.

These men are proof that Americans no longer have to settle for closed government, government by promise without action and government that ignores people.

And David Kennedy, Lawton Chiles, and Reuben Askew are Democrats of the first order in the tradition of Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy and Johnson who believed that people count.

In the coming days and weeks I intend to talk seriously and truthfully to the people.

I refuse to keep from the people of Florida my views on the issues which affect their lives.

They have a right to know how and for what I stand.

I intend to conduct a political campaign people can believe in. My campaign will be one of issues -- not personalities. One of programs to solve problems -- not promises to raise false hopes.

A campaign is the truest test of a man, his ideas and hopes. I stand ready before the people of Florida to meet that test.

#

000808

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

JANUARY 10, 1972

THIS MORNING IN PHILADELPHIA I SIGNED A CERTIFICATE DECLARING
MY CANDIDACY FOR THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES.

THIS AFTERNOON I HAVE COME TO FLORIDA IN ORDER TO TAKE MY
CAMPAIGN TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE WHO WILL BE THE FIRST TO
JUDGE MY FITNESS FOR THE HIGH OFFICE I SEEK.

I TOLD PENNSYLVANIANS THAT IT WAS IN THEIR STATE THAT THE
MESSAGE OF "WE, THE PEOPLE..." WAS PROCLAIMED AS THE FOUNDATION
FOR OUR DEMOCRACY. ~~Florida~~

AND IT IS IN FLORIDA TODAY THAT THE BLUEPRINT FOR THE THIRD
CENTURY OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY IS BEING WRITTEN.

THE WATCHWORD "WE, THE PEOPLE" HAS BEEN FORGOTTEN BY ~~President~~

~~WHO LEAD OUR NATION.~~

~~All meetings at all levels to be on~~

⁻²⁻
 We the People have a right to know what
 Government does - Public Policy is the property of the People
 WE THE PEOPLE WANT JOBS AND A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE. *Florida Sunshine Law*

WE THE PEOPLE WANT CLEAN AIR AND WATER.

WE THE PEOPLE WANT OUR FAMILIES TO BE SAFE FROM CRIME.

WE THE PEOPLE WANT A NATION AT PEACE.

WE THE PEOPLE WANT TO BE TREATED ^{fairly and} EQUALLY.

WE THE PEOPLE WANT THE BEST EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN.

WE THE PEOPLE WANT A PROSPEROUS RURAL AMERICA.

AND WE THE PEOPLE WANT TO BE BROUGHT TOGETHER AGAIN.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN THIS ELECTION IS THE NIXON

ADMINISTRATION'S DISREGARD OF WE THE PEOPLE.

-3-

MY CAMPAIGN WILL GO TO THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA -- FROM
PENSACOLA TO KEY WEST -- WITH THE MESSAGE THAT THE PEOPLE'S
GOVERNMENT MUST GET ON WITH THE WORK OF BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA
FLORIDA IS TODAY ONE OF THE BEST EXAMPLES OF RESPONSIVE
GOVERNMENT, OPEN GOVERNMENT, GOVERNMENT WITH VISION AND PURPOSE.
THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA WON WHEN THEY ELECTED REUBEN ASKEW.
HE TOOK HIS CASE TO THE PEOPLE. I INTEND TO DO THE SAME.
THE PEOPLE WON WHEN THEY ELECTED LAWTON CHILES. HE TOOK
HIS CASE TO THE PEOPLE. I INTEND TO DO THE SAME.
AND THE PEOPLE OF MIAMI WON WHEN THEY ELECTED DAVID KENNEDY.
HE TOOK HIS CASE TO THE PEOPLE. I INTEND TO DO THE SAME.

-4-

L THESE MEN ARE PROOF THAT AMERICANS NO LONGER HAVE TO SETTLE
FOR CLOSED GOVERNMENT, GOVERNMENT BY PROMISE WITHOUT ACTION AND
GOVERNMENT THAT IGNORES PEOPLE!

L AND ~~DAVID KENNEDY~~, LAWTON CHILES, AND REUBEN ASKEW ^{David Kennedy}

^{are} DEMOCRATS OF THE FIRST ORDER IN THE TRADITION OF ROOSEVELT,

TRUMAN, KENNEDY AND JOHNSON WHO BELIEVED THAT PEOPLE COUNT.

L IN THE COMING DAYS AND WEEKS I INTEND TO TALK SERIOUSLY
AND TRUTHFULLY TO THE PEOPLE.

L I REFUSE TO KEEP FROM THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA MY VIEWS ON THE
ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THEIR LIVES.

L THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW HOW AND FOR WHAT I STAND.

L I INTEND TO CONDUCT A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN PEOPLE CAN BELIEVE
IN MY CAMPAIGN WILL BE ONE OF ISSUES -- NOT PERSONALITIES. ONE
OF PROGRAMS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS -- NOT PROMISES TO RAISE FALSE HOPES.
L A CAMPAIGN IS THE TRUEST TEST OF A MAN. HIS IDEAS AND HOPES.
I STAND READY BEFORE THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA TO MEET THAT TEST.

#####

MAR 11 '72

'I Speak for Myself'

By ANTHONY LEWIS

GAINESVILLE, Fla.—Hubert Humphrey's people were afraid of a hostile audience here at the University of Florida, and there were boos along with applause from the 1,500 kids as he came in. Unruffled, Humphrey began talking off the cuff about ending the war, caring for people, rebuilding America.

After fifteen minutes he said it was time for the country to turn from "hate and yesterday" to "love and tomorrow." With emotion in his voice, he asked: "What makes you think you can end the war abroad if there's violence in your heart at home?"

The students cheered. One of the men in the Humphrey party whispered to another, "If only he would stop now." And then he did. "Well that's my message," the Senator said, "let's have your questions."

The first student up was angry. He knew the Humphrey record on Vietnam, he said, "and I think you're full of —." The nasty epithet hung in the air; the audience was edgy. Hubert, smiling, said he didn't think anything had been added to the grace of the English language. That eased the tension, and the students liked it.

There were more angry words later, but they gave Humphrey no trouble. "Are you ready to go to work," he shouted at one critic, "or do you want to talk?" More cheers.

A 20-year-old girl said afterward: "He's a lot looser than 1968." And he is. That emasculated Vice President is gone. Free of the tie to Lyndon Johnson, Hubert Humphrey is enjoying himself and everybody else again. He has rapport. He connects.

And doesn't he know it. On a television question program the other

ABROAD AT HOME

night a man asked why he hadn't done something as Vice President. "Really and truly," he said, "I need to explain to you about the Vice-Presidency. I have more power in one day now as a Senator than I did in four years as Vice President. I speak for myself."

Right now Humphrey is in some ways in the most interesting position of any candidate for the Democratic nomination. The signs of faltering in Senator Edmund Muskie's campaign have naturally turned people to thinking about him as the other leading possibility in the political center. He has all the old energy, and the personal warmth that helps in dealing with other politicians.

And so, incredible as it would have seemed a little while ago, Hubert Humphrey has a real chance to run against Richard Nixon again next November. But just to say that is to recognize the difficulty involved: How would the young and all the other Americans who want a new politics feel about having to make the same choice as in 1968?

The truth is that Humphrey's feelings are working again, and his fundamental decency is there to see, but his outlook has not changed. There is very little evidence of the new politics, or of new ideas. He is still a 1948 liberal, with that view of the cold war and economics and other things.

He talked to the Gainesville Kiwanis Club about the drug problem, and there was no sign of awareness in him that official drug policy in this country has been a disastrous failure. He wanted more of the same: tougher law

enforcement, efforts to cut off heroin supplies in Turkey and elsewhere, sympathetic rehabilitation programs.

"If a C.I.A. agent can find a subversive and an F.B.I. agent can find a Communist," he said, "don't tell me they can't find a drug pusher." As for Turkey and other countries where opium poppies grow, he said the United States should take them to the World Court if they won't stop, or "cut off their credits—that'll do it."

At a crime forum in Miami he proposed that the killing of local police and firemen and prison guards be made a Federal crime. To any serious student of the crime problem that is just a grandstand play: We need to make law enforcement work in local communities, not to transfer problems to the Federal Government.

He attacked President Nixon both for letting the American balance-of-payments deficit mount and for devaluing the dollar, a move designed to end the deficit. It was as if, for Humphrey, the dollar could still make its own rules in a world it dominates. But that is no longer true.

Kenneth O'Donnell, who did such shrewd political work for John Kennedy, is now on the Humphrey team. He put it fairly when he said: "The politicians are more comfortable with Humphrey than with anyone else. They want to go with him, but they want to be sure first that he can win. He has to show he can do it. I think he will."

Watching the bubbling Hubert Humphrey, anyone could see it happening. The question is whether his revived spirits are enough—whether a man so identified with yesterday's politics can persuade the Democrats that he can win.

Good Photos and Quips



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.



www.mnhs.org