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REMARKS BY SENATOR HUMPHREY

BLACK RALLY

MARCH 10, 1972

TAMPA, FLORIDA

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS SAID TO BLACK AMERICA: "WATCH WHAT WE DO, NOT WHAT WE SAY WHEN IT COMES TO CIVIL RIGHTS."

BLACK AMERICA HAS WATCHED, BLACK AMERICA HAS LISTENED AND I KNOW THAT NONE OF YOU HAVE LIKED WHAT YOU'VE HEARD AND SEEN COMING FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

YOU AND I SEE AN ADMINISTRATION THAT HAS TURNED ITS BACK ON BLACK PEOPLE.

YOU AND I SEE AN ADMINISTRATION THAT HAS SO MISMANAGED THE AMERICAN ECONOMY THAT IT HAS PUT BLACK AMERICA INTO A SEVERE DEPRESSION.

BLACKS ARE ONLY ONE-TENTH OF THE NATION'S POPULATION. BUT TODAY BLACKS ACCOUNT FOR ONE-THIRD OF THE NATION'S POOR AND ONE-FIFTH OF THE NATION'S UNEMPLOYED.

THIS IS WRONG. THIS IS UNFORGIVEABLE AND FOR TOO MANY BLACK AMERICANS IT IS HEARTBREAKING.

AND FOR ALL ITS PRESS RELEASES AND PUBLIC RELATIONS GIMMICKS, THIS REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION CANNOT HIDE THE SADDEST FACT OF ALL: THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS TRIED TO TURN BACK THE CLOCK OF CIVIL RIGHTS PROGRESS.

IT HAS TRIED TO TURN THE CIVIL RIGHTS CLOCK BACK ON EQUAL HOUSING WITH ITS RETREAT ON THE GOAL OF PROMOTING RACIALLY OPEN COMMUNITIES. IT HAS TRIED TO TURN THE CIVIL RIGHTS CLOCK BACK ON VOTING RIGHTS WHEN IT ATTEMPTED TO TORPEDO THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT IN MISSISSIPPI.

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IT HAS TRIED TO TURN THE CIVIL RIGHTS CLOCK BACK ON ENDING JOB DISCRIMINATION WHEN IT DELAYED AND FAILED TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO A STRONG EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION.

IT HAS TRIED TO TURN THE CIVIL RIGHTS CLOCK BACK ON PROMOTING EQUAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLACK BUSINESSES BY UNDERFUNDING MINORITY ENTERPRISE PROGRAMS.

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AND IT HAS TRIED TO TURN THE CIVIL RIGHTS CLOCK BACK BY FAILING TO PROMOTE MEANINGFUL NUMBERS OF BLACK AMERICANS TO POSITIONS OF HIGH RESPONSIBILITY IN OUR FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE.

AND I SAY TO YOU THAT RICHARD NIXON, SPIRO AGNEW AND JOHN MITCHELL CANNOT TURN THE CIVIL RIGHTS CLOCK BACK--NOT ONE SECOND, NOT ONE MINUTE, NOT ONE HOUR.

WE WON'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH IT,

AND WE WON'T LET RICHARD NIXON AND HIS REPUBLICAN FRIENDS GET AWAY MUCH LONGER WITH VETOING DAY CARE CENTERS, CUTTING FOOD STAMP AND FREE LUNCH PROGRAMS AND SLASHING THE POVERTY BUDGET.

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STARTING TUESDAY, YOU AND I ARE GOING TO WIND UP THE CIVIL RIGHTS CLOCK AGAIN AND FOR RICHARD NIXON HIGH NOON WILL BE NEXT NOVEMBER.

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