

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

RALLY FOR CONGRESSMAN DOMINICK DANIELS

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Today in America there are more than 20 million Americans over 65.

They are the men and women who have worked all of their lives to build this nation.

They are the men and women who have suffered through depression and war as citizens of this land.

They are the men and women who have tried to make our cities, our towns and our rural communities better places for new generations to live.

And these are the men and women that this administration has ignored, neglected and forgotten for 4 long years.

For 4 years, the legitimate needs and demands of older Americans have been swept into the hidden corners of this administration without response.

Nearly a year ago, the White House Conference on Aging met and issued a series of recommendations, recommendations that the President faithfully promised he would respond to.

But nothing has happened. Richard Nixon has not responded to the promises he made so readily.

No one who has asked the President: What is your plan, what are your programs to carry out the Aging Conference's recommendations, has received an answer.

The special interests get answers from this President and this administration.

The grain dealers get answers from the Agriculture Department, ITT gets answers from the Justice Department.

But Richard Nixon refuses to give 20 million elderly Americans an answer.

Instead, he opposes and vetoes legislation.

-- Richard Nixon opposed a basic nutrition for the elderly program for over 2 years and then tried to claim credit for it when it finally passed the Congress.

-- Richard Nixon has steadfastly opposed employment programs for the elderly. He knows that 1 million persons over 45 are jobless.

-- Richard Nixon has opposed a nationwide community employment services program for the elderly after he had suggested this at the White House Conference.

-- And Richard Nixon has overseen a heartless and cruel disintegration of the Medicare program. Elderly Americans are now forced to pay almost as much for medical bills as they did before Medicare.

It took Congress 2 decades to pass Medicare and Richard Nixon and his Republican friends sabotaged the program in less than 2 years.

Richard Nixon has a message for older Americans: "We'll help you with your doctor's visits. But if you're sick enough to require long-term hospital care, you're on your own."

Democrats like Congressman Daniels are anxious to close the gaps in Medicare and Richard Nixon and his Republican allies in the Congress want to open them.

This Republican administration's neglect of the deserving needs of older Americans adds one more broken promise to a tragic list of broken promises and dashed hopes that began back in 1969.

Finally, there is another area of neglect that a man like Congressman Daniels is committed to eradicating. The Republican Administration has neglected the safety of elderly Americans.

We have had 4 years of alarming statistics pointing out that crimes of violence against the elderly are increasing.

Many of you are afraid to visit your neighbors and relatives. This is an outrage. Many of you are afraid to go out to cash your social security checks or to go to church. This too is an outrage.

You should know that time and time again this Republican administration has refused funds for adequate security for our elderly citizens.

Congressman Daniels and I believe that the time has come to provide the means for elderly Americans to find fulfillment -- not frustration -- in the closing chapters of their lives.

To achieve this goal, we must defeat Richard Nixon and we must keep the Congress of the United States in the hands of the Democrats. We can no longer allow a Republican administration to ignore and forget the needs of the nation's elderly, tarnishing your final years.



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