

Butcher -
Standing before
Noisy crowd

Willie & Wally
Transue City -
"3 circumstances +

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
ROAST FOR SENATOR BOB GRIFFIN
CIRCUS SAINTS & SINNERS CLUB

satirize can
things, since
he filed for office

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MARCH 25, 1976

Barney Brown -
- Bill Hall
- Mory Siegel
- Les Kramer

Preparation
+
Transue City - Cultural
Center -

-1-

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TODAY, AMONG THE HONORED NUMBER
OF SAINTS, AND AMONG SO MANY OF MY FELLOW SINNERS.
2 YOU KNOW, THE SAINTS AND SINNERS HAS MANY GLORIOUS
ATTRIBUTES, BUT CHIEF AMONG THEM IS ONE MAJOR ADVANTAGE WHICH
IT HAS OVER THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT - IT HAS NO 22ND AMENDMENT,
LIMITING THE TERMS OF ITS PRESIDENT.

AND FOR GOOD REASON, NO ONE OF GOOD SENSE AND JUDGMENT
WOULD WANT TO PUT AN UNTIMELY END TO THE TENURE OF OUR ^{peerless +} SPLENDID
LEADER, MY OLD AND DEAR FRIEND, BARNEE BRESKIN, WHO HAS BEEN
ELECTED TO HIS THIRD TERM AS PRESIDENT OF THIS CLUB.

INCIDENTALLY, I ALWAYS HAVE BEEN TROUBLED BY THE HISTORY
OF THE 22ND AMENDMENT. AS YOU MAY RECALL, MINNESOTA WAS THE
LAST STATE WHICH WAS NEEDED TO RATIFY IT.

WELL, THE GOOD PEOPLE OF MINNESOTA DEBATED IT AND THEY WRESTLED
WITH IT. THEY ARGUED ABOUT IT AND FOUGHT OVER IT FOR MANY
LONG MONTHS -- UNTIL I WAS ELECTED TO THE SENATE.

AND THEN IT SEEMED LIKE THEY LOST NO TIME AT ALL IN
LIMITING THE TERM OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE
DURATION. I ALWAYS HAVE WONDERED ABOUT THAT.

✓ BUT, DISAPPOINTING AS IT MAY BE, WE ARE NOT HERE TO
DISCUSS THE LOW POINTS OF MY CAREER IN POLITICS. ✓ THERE
ARE OTHER LOW POINTS WHICH ARE DESERVING OF EQUAL ATTENTION.

in 4/19/61
OUR SUBJECT FOR TODAY IS MY RESPECTED, ESTEEMED AND
DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE, BOB GRIFFIN, FROM THE GREAT STATE
OF MICHIGAN -- KNOWN TO MILLIONS OF AMERICANS AS THE BIRTHPLACE
congratulation
OF JOHN CONYERS.

*now a few words about Mr Republican
friend Bob Griffin.*

✓ THIS LOYAL SON OF MICHIGAN SERVED HIS COUNTRY WITH HONOR
DURING WORLD WAR II. ✓ APPARENTLY, HIS TRAINING AS A FORWARD
ARTILLERY OBSERVER DETERMINED THE COURSE OF HIS FUTURE. ✓ HE
CAN BE COUNTED ON TO DROP AT LEAST ONE BOMB A WEEK IN THE
SENATE.

✓ THE LAWYER FROM TRAVERSE CITY LEARNED HIS LESSON WELL.

✓ HE CAN "TRAVERSE" BOTH SIDES OF AN ISSUE WITH EASE.

↳ ELECTED TO THE HOUSE IN 1956, AND ENTERING THE SENATE 10 YEARS
LATER, BOB HAS HAD A CHECKERED BUT DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN PUBLIC
SERVICE -- WHETHER IN ACHIEVING ENACTMENT OF THE LANDRUM-GRIFFIN
ACT, OR AS MINORITY WHIP IN THE SENATE.

↳ NOW, THE WHIP JOB IS ONE I HAPPEN TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT: I
WAS MAJORITY WHIP MYSELF ^{some} ~~many~~ YEARS AGO -- AND IN 1968 I WAS REWARDED
FOR MY YEARS OF SERVICE BY BEING MADE THE WHIPPING BOY OF THE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

↳ SO, BASED UPON MY CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE, I CAN TELL YOU THAT
BOB REALLY DOESN'T NEED MUCH OF A WHIP -- THERE ARE JUST SIMPLY
TOO FEW REPUBLICANS IN THE SENATE ~~to be~~

↳ I SEE BY THE CONFUSION ON YOUR FACES THAT SOME OF YOU DIDN'T
KNOW THAT WE ACTUALLY USE WHIPS IN THE SENATE TO ROUND UP VOTES.

↳ THE DEMOCRATIC WHIP ISN'T MUCH TO LOOK AT -- JUST THE SORT OF THING
YOU'D EXPECT TO USE TO MOVE A BUNCH OF DONKEYS AROUND.

↳ BUT BOB USES THE SPECIAL REPUBLICAN WHIP ↳ IN THE BEST TRADITIONS OF HIS PARTY, OF COURSE. ↳ IT'S A BUGGY WHIP, FOR A HORSE AND BUGGY PARTY; WHEN YOU SNAP IT, IT DOESN'T SAY "CRACK" -- IT SAYS "VETO!"

↳ BOB IS WHAT THE PRESS CALLS A "MODERATE REPUBLICAN." THAT'S ANOTHER NAME FOR A MAN WHO FINDS HIMSELF SANDWICHED IN BETWEEN TWO EXTREMES. ↳ BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT HE WAFFLES ON THE ISSUES,

↳ IN FACT, I ASKED HIM JUST THE OTHER DAY HOW HE STOOD ON THE PRIMARY FIGHT BETWEEN REAGAN AND FORD. ↳ AND HE TOLD ME STRAIGHT OUT: HE HAS FRIENDS ON BOTH SIDES AND HE STANDS WITH HIS FRIENDS. !

↳ SO BOB IS THE IDEAL MAN TO BE MINORITY WHIP, THE PERFECT SENATOR TO MODERATE BETWEEN SUCH REGULAR REPUBLICANS AS BARRY GOLDWATER AND JACOB JAVITS.

IN FACT, I HEARD AN INTERESTING STORY ABOUT HOW BOB GOT THE
JOB IN THE FIRST PLACE. It SEEMS THAT SOME ENTERPRISING STAFF
ASSISTANT IN THE MINORITY LEADER'S OFFICE FOUND THE DICTIONARY
DEFINITION OF THE WORD "GRIFFIN" -- "A FABLED MONSTER, USUALLY
HAVING THE HEAD AND WINGS OF AN EAGLE AND THE BODY OF A LION."

AND THE REPUBLICANS SAID TO THEMSELVES, "THIS IS JUST
WHAT THE JOB CALLS FOR." *Bobs the man*

Following IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ~~THE~~ BELOVED EV DIRKSEN, BOB'S
ORATORICAL FLOURISHES HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT SECOND-BEST. How COULD HE
EXPECT THE SENATE TO BE AS ENRAPTURED OVER HIS NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT
IN THE ENACTMENT OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN ACT OF 1971, AS WE
WERE OVER THE ~~GLORIES OF THE MARIGOLD AS OUR NATIONAL FLOWER?~~ *to the same extent as we were*

Yes, BOB CAN TAKE JUSTIFIABLE CREDIT FOR HIS REAL CONTRIBUTIONS
TOWARD MAKING THE SENATE ASSUME ITS CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES
AND ADOPT A NEW CODE OF ETHICS.

THE BROAD SCOPE OF HIS LEGISLATIVE INTERESTS IS WELL ESTABLISHED --
WHETHER IN COLLEGE STUDENT AID, THE CONTROL OF DRUG ABUSE, OR
MEASURES TO COMBAT CRIME, OR TO MAINTAIN A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE.
EVEN HIS CIVIL RIGHTS RECORD IS PRETTY GOOD. BUT,
YOU CAN BET YOUR LAST DOLLAR THAT IF OUR TRANSPORTATION
OPTIONS ARE LIMITED BY AN ENERGY SHORTAGE, ONE WAY BOB
GRIFFIN WILL NEVER GO TO WORK IS ON A SCHOOL BUS.

TO BE SERIOUS FOR A MOMENT, WE'VE ALL HAD A LOT OF FUN AT BOB
GRIFFIN'S EXPENSE TODAY -- AND I ALWAYS TAKE A LOT OF SATISFACTION
OUT OF DOING ANYTHING AT THE EXPENSE OF A REPUBLICAN!

BUT I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT BOB GRIFFIN IS, ABOVE ALL, A
MAN OF UNQUESTIONED HONESTY AND INTEGRITY. WE MAY NOT ALWAYS
AGREE, BUT IT IS AN HONOR TO WORK WITH HIM -- IN THE SENATE.



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