

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
FUNDRAISER FOR CONGRESSMAN MARTIN RUSSO

Evergreen Park, Illinois

April 2, 1976

Marty Russo is my kind of Democrat.

That's why I've come to Chicago. I want the voters in the Third District to return this fine young man to Congress in November.

And I want him to come back to Washington ready to work with the next President of the United States, who will be a member of the Democratic Party.

We need Marty in Washington.

We need his sense of commitment and dedication.

We need his sense of duty to the people he serves.

Your Congressman has a reputation for hard work. Hard work on national problems and hard work on the very specific problems of the people of the Third District of Illinois.

Marty has been hard at work on the Judiciary Committee of the Congress, working on such vital issues as gun control and designing legislation to compensate the victims of crime. He and I know that the victims of crime in the United States no longer should be cast aside by society.

If we are going to reform criminals, we have a duty to restore the lives of those who are victims of senseless crimes.

The voters of this district know that when they return Marty to Washington they will see him and they will have contact with him.

You know he is your man in Washington -- ready to listen, ready to make government more responsive to the needs of all segments of his constituency.

Marty cares, and he is willing to fight for what he believes is right for this country.

He cares about the working people of the Third District. He cares about the small businessmen of this district, as evidenced by his efforts on the Small Business Committee.

I understand that your Congressman has been targeted by a coalition of conservative Republicans and big business interests. That's right. He is one of the many targeted for removal this fall.

You and I know that this unholy alliance has targeted your Congressman because he is such an effective advocate for the goals and objectives of the Democratic Party.

In less than eight months our people will elect a President and a new Congress.

The Democratic Party will attempt to recapture the White House for the American people.

And our Party once again will do battle on behalf of progress for all Americans.

As we look back on the seven sad years of Republican control of the White House, it is time to demand an accounting. All we are getting is empty rhetoric -- another "cover-up" for disastrous Republican performance.

Perhaps the saddest commentary of all is that the Nixon-Ford Administration has rejected the notion adopted by the Founding Fathers that the Executive and Legislative branches of this government should work together for the benefit of all the people -- that there should be government by consensus.

We can disagree without being disagreeable. We can and should debate and discuss the issues. But when it's all over, we should accept the decisions and move on to other things.

Petty bickering and arguing, needless delay, government by veto -- these have no place in our system of government. We Democrats, all of us in public service, have a responsibility to the people. And that's the most important issue of the day.

Let's take a quick look at what it has meant to have Republicans in charge.

From 1961 to 1969, when our party was in the White House, we created 13 million new jobs. We reduced unemployment to 3.6 percent in 1968.

In the last three years, the Nixon-Ford team has been able to increase employment by a mere one million jobs. They managed to push the official unemployment rate to an 8.5 percent average in 1975 and the real unemployment rate remains today at a double-digit level.

Since 1972 the Republicans have provided exactly one job for every four new job seekers in our country.

One job for every four persons! What an indictment of "go slow" Republican economics.

In the Democratic 60's, with Presidents Kennedy and Johnson in the White House, the weekly take home pay of a working man or woman, after inflation, rose by 12.4 percent.

In the past three years alone that same man or woman has experienced a drop of 5.4 percent in the real value of their take-home pay. Republican economic mismanagement has, in fact, pushed the working families of America back 10 years to their 1965 income level.

In the 60's when Democrats were attempting to make important social and economic changes in our nation in order to improve life for all our citizens, the rate of inflation was a mere 2.3 percent.

In the last several years the Republicans have given us not only high unemployment but the highest levels of inflation since World War II. In fact, the Republicans have managed to give us an average rate of inflation three times higher than in the last decade. It takes more than WIN buttons and anti-government demagoguery to keep prices from going through the roof.

But not everyone has lost since 1969 under the Nixon-Ford team.

Because of the capital gains loophole, and inflation-proof real estate income, the richest 20 percent of our population actually increased its share of the total income of our nation during this period of economic suffering for most Americans.

This reversed the trend toward greater income equality firmly established by our Party in the 1960's.

Republican economics produced a shift of about \$20 billion from the pockets of working Americans to the coffers of the rich. They guaranteed that the wealthy would have full compensation from the ravages of inflation, while the rest of America suffered.

The Nixon-Ford Administration, and its Wall Street advisers in Washington, has seen to it that our big banks were well cared for.

From 1960 to 1968 mortgage rates averaged less than six percent.

Since 1969 they soared more than 50 percent to levels last experienced at the time of the Civil War.

The income, production and employment loss to America as a result of Republican bungling of national economic management since 1969 is staggering:

-- Two Republican recessions have thrown 57 million Americans out of work and into the street at one time or another.

-- Two Republican recessions have robbed one trillion dollars from the paychecks of American workers.

-- Two Republican recessions have wiped out the entire income gain made by working families of America during the decade of the 60's.

Two strikes is enough. The Republicans have proven that they do not deserve another swing of the bat. Our people cannot be asked to suffer a Republican economic management strikeout.

Even more alarming is the fact that Republican "go slow" policies are convincing many of our citizens that a welfare check is as good as a paycheck. We have an entire generation of young men and women who never have held a full time job. The odds are one to four against them. The Nixon-Ford team has stacked the deck.

The policies of those modern day free market buccaneers have torn the fabric of our society in other ways, too.

The Republicans promised to get crime off the streets, but they failed to tell us they would bring it to their suites.

Our neighborhoods are more crime filled today by far than when the Republicans moved into the White House.

Since 1969 the crime rate has risen 30 percent. The number of murders has leaped 50 percent. The number of robberies has risen 68 percent. The number of burglaries has soared 84 percent.

Your family has a one in six chance of being victimized by a burglary or theft this year. That's how Republicans deliver on their promises.

Today President Ford and his economic advisers travel around the country with their economic medicine show. The message is always the same: "We have found the miracle cure. Economic recovery is under way and prosperity is just around the corner."

Once again, the Republicans are claiming an "economic miracle" in an election year. There is, indeed, a modest recovery underway, but can it be sustained with the Ford Administration economic policy projections for fiscal 1977?

Sure, profits are improving and the stock market is booming along, but how about the lower income groups?

In Minnesota last February, 24,000 additional people were added to the unemployment rolls; in Providence, Rhode Island; Boston, Massachusetts; Los Angeles and New York, and in many other big cities across the land, unemployment is still at the double-digit level.

Yes, economic improvement is under way but I see few signs that a true "people's recovery" has taken hold.

Let me just remind you of two facts. First, when you are flat on your back the only way to go is up. American workers and their families are now on their knees, when they should be walking, and it hardly is reason to rejoice.

Second, the American people should remember that it was a Democratic Congress that argued, prodded and cajoled the Republican President to take every reluctant step that has produced the modest economic improvement that we see.

Let's not forget that in December of 1974 Gerald Ford was calling for a tax increase, while the worst recession since the Great Depression took an ever firmer strangle hold on the American economy. And remember that at that time the only Administration response was the WIN button and a smile.

Seven sad years of the Nixon-Ford team are more than too much.

-- The Nixon-Ford team has devastated the American economy with its 19th century economic ideology.

-- The Nixon-Ford team has undermined confidence in government, bringing it to its lowest point in decades. And I'm not just talking about forced resignations of a President and Vice President. More to the point, I'm talking about the widespread belief among our people that this government isn't functioning, isn't responding to their concerns, isn't doing anything until it is hit by one crisis or another.

The only creativity we have seen from the White House has been its ability to say no in 89 different ways.

It is time to take off the gloves and tell it like it is.

The party that has occupied the White House for the last seven years is a minority party -- and for good reason. It has clearly demonstrated that it is incapable of running the country in the interest of all its people. It has succeeded only in running it into the ground.

But we won't win this election by default. A President has a tremendous advantage due to his incumbency.

The Democrats will only win if they go to the country with a positive message and convince our citizens that we have a better idea and will do a better job.

Democrats always have joined together because they shared a vision of the future for America. Republicans always have banded together in the hope that somehow, someday, they could prevent the future from arriving.

So, my fellow Democrats, there is a lesson for us today.

We will return to the White House in 1977.

But we cannot do so as anti-government zealots or as prophets of doom and gloom.

The real issue underlying the anti-government issue is whether and how the interests of people best can be served. The answer is not less government, but better government -- a government that works to serve the nation's needs.

Franklin Roosevelt recognized this and so did Harry Truman, John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson.

These men didn't disparage what can be done in Washington for the benefit of the people by dedicated men and women -- they did recognize its limitations.

Yes, they could have run against Washington -- it never has been perfect. They could have made the federal government the whipping boy for the dissatisfaction and despair that existed in the country. Instead, they chose to do their best to make it better -- not perfect -- just a little better.

Democrats should run against Republicans. They should run against the Republicans that gave us Watergate, double-digit inflation, and depression-level unemployment. They should run against the Washington of Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford and William Simon. But not against the Washington of FDR and JFK and LBJ -- the Washington of Social Security and Medicare.

Democrats will win not because they are against the government we hope to run, but because we are for government which helps people:

- a government that offers America a full employment policy that assures decent jobs and decent wages for all Americans;

- a program of long overdue reform to clean up the welfare mess so that help goes only to families who actually need it;

- a national health care system that provides quality health service for all at the lowest possible cost;

- a housing program that replaces slums with sound, low-cost, high quality housing, and interest rates that make home ownership a reality for working people once again;

- a tax program that eliminates the glaring tax loopholes that make it possible for the super-rich and the giant corporations to pay little or nothing while the middle-income taxpayer bears the major burden of government expenditures;

- a transportation program that meets the needs of urban and rural people;

- an energy program that assures America of energy resources for decades to come;

- and national leadership with compassion and understanding that is clearly "of, by and for the people."

The issue of this election year is not Washington -- but the disastrous policies of the Nixon-Ford Administration -- vetoes, unemployment, recession, inflation, crime, corruption, and the neglect of our nation's cities.

Let us get on with the work of running against the Republicans and their economic policies which have brought us to the brink of depression.

Only by this route will we regain the faith and confidence of the American people.

We will win because we care.

We will win because we dare to pioneer.

We will win because America is tired of being told what it can't do.

Our people want to hear what we can and must do to make this a better and stronger Nation -- to give every person a sense of hope and genuine opportunity and security. And, they will respond to this kind of positive, strong national leadership.

#

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

FUNDRAISER FOR CONGRESSMAN MARTIN RUSSO

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

APRIL 2, 1976

L MARTY RUSSO IS MY KIND OF DEMOCRAT.

L THAT'S WHY I'VE COME TO CHICAGO. I WANT THE VOTERS IN

3rd DIST
L THE THIRD DISTRICT TO RETURN THIS FINE YOUNG MAN TO CONGRESS

IN NOVEMBER.

L AND I WANT HIM TO COME BACK TO WASHINGTON READY TO WORK

WITH THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WHO WILL BE A

~~MEMBER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.~~

Democrat.

yes L WE NEED MARTY IN WASHINGTON.

L WE NEED HIS SENSE OF COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION.

L WE NEED HIS SENSE OF DUTY TO THE PEOPLE HE SERVES.

L YOUR CONGRESSMAN HAS A REPUTATION FOR HARD WORK. HARD WORK
ON NATIONAL PROBLEMS AND HARD WORK ON THE VERY SPECIFIC PROBLEMS
OF THE PEOPLE OF THE THIRD DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

L MARTY HAS BEEN HARD AT WORK ON THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE OF THE
CONGRESS, WORKING ON SUCH VITAL ISSUES AS GUN CONTROL AND DESIGNING
LEGISLATION TO COMPENSATE THE VICTIMS OF CRIME. WE AND I KNOW THAT
THE VICTIMS OF CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES NO LONGER SHOULD BE CAST
ASIDE BY SOCIETY.

~~L IF WE ARE GOING TO REFORM CRIMINALS, WE HAVE A DUTY TO RESTORE
THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO ARE VICTIMS OF SENSELESS CRIMES.~~

L THE VOTERS OF THIS DISTRICT KNOW THAT WHEN THEY RETURN MARTY
TO WASHINGTON THEY WILL SEE HIM AND THEY WILL HAVE CONTACT WITH HIM.

YOU KNOW HE IS YOUR MAN IN WASHINGTON -- READY TO LISTEN, READY
TO MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF ALL SEGMENTS OF
HIS CONSTITUENCY,

L MARTY CARES, AND HE IS WILLING TO FIGHT FOR WHAT HE BELIEVES
IS RIGHT FOR THIS COUNTRY,

L HE CARES ABOUT THE WORKING PEOPLE OF THE THIRD DISTRICT. HE
CARES ABOUT THE SMALL BUSINESSMEN OF THIS DISTRICT, AS EVIDENCED
BY HIS EFFORTS ON THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE,

(Small
Business
Comm)

X L I UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR CONGRESSMAN HAS BEEN TARGETED BY A
COALITION OF CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICANS AND BIG BUSINESS INTERESTS,

L THAT'S RIGHT. L HE IS ONE OF THE MANY TARGETED FOR REMOVAL THIS FALL.

L YOU AND I KNOW THAT THIS UNHOLY ALLIANCE HAS TARGETED YOUR

CONGRESSMAN BECAUSE HE IS SUCH AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE FOR THE GOALS

AND OBJECTIVES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

L IN LESS THAN EIGHT MONTHS OUR PEOPLE WILL ELECT A PRESIDENT AND

A NEW CONGRESS.

L THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WILL ATTEMPT TO RECAPTURE THE WHITE HOUSE

FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

L AND OUR PARTY ONCE AGAIN WILL DO BATTLE ON BEHALF OF PROGRESS

FOR ALL AMERICANS.

7 yrs of Republicans
-5-

L AS WE LOOK BACK ON THE SEVEN SAD YEARS OF REPUBLICAN CONTROL
OF THE WHITE HOUSE, IT IS TIME TO DEMAND AN ACCOUNTING. ALL WE
ARE GETTING IS EMPTY RHETORIC -- ANOTHER "COVER-UP" FOR
DISASTROUS REPUBLICAN PERFORMANCE.

L PERHAPS THE SADDEST COMMENTARY OF ALL IS THAT THE NIXON-FORD
ADMINISTRATION HAS REJECTED THE NOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOUNDING
FATHERS THAT THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF THIS
GOVERNMENT SHOULD WORK TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE PEOPLE,

-- THAT THERE SHOULD BE GOVERNMENT BY CONSENSUS.

L WE CAN DISAGREE WITHOUT BEING DISAGREEABLE. WE CAN AND
SHOULD DEBATE AND DISCUSS THE ISSUES. BUT WHEN IT'S ALL OVER,
WE SHOULD ACCEPT THE DECISIONS AND MOVE ON TO OTHER THINGS.

Veto
PETTY BICKERING AND ARGUING, NEEDLESS DELAY, GOVERNMENT BY

VETO -- THESE HAVE NO PLACE IN OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. WE

DEMOCRATS, ALL OF US IN PUBLIC SERVICE, HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY

TO THE PEOPLE. AND THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE OF THE DAY.

Record #
LET'S TAKE A QUICK LOOK AT WHAT IT HAS MEANT TO HAVE

REPUBLICANS IN CHARGE.

L FROM 1961 TO 1969, WHEN OUR PARTY WAS IN THE WHITE HOUSE,

WE CREATED 13 MILLION NEW JOBS. WE REDUCED UNEMPLOYMENT TO

3.6 PERCENT IN 1968.

L IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, THE NIXON-FORD TEAM HAS BEEN ABLE
TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT BY A MERE ONE MILLION JOBS. *L* THEY MANAGED

TO PUSH THE OFFICIAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TO AN 8.5 PERCENT AVERAGE IN
1975 AND THE REAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINS TODAY AT A DOUBLE-DIGIT
LEVEL.

L SINCE 1972 THE REPUBLICANS HAVE PROVIDED EXACTLY ONE JOB FOR
EVERY FOUR NEW JOB SEEKERS IN OUR COUNTRY.

L ONE JOB FOR EVERY FOUR PERSONS! WHAT AN INDICTMENT OF "GO SLOW"
REPUBLICAN ECONOMICS.

Pay L IN THE DEMOCRATIC 60's, WITH PRESIDENTS KENNEDY AND JOHNSON
IN THE WHITE HOUSE, THE WEEKLY TAKE HOME PAY OF A WORKING MAN OR
WOMAN, AFTER INFLATION, ROSE BY 12.4 PERCENT.

L IN THE PAST THREE YEARS ALONE THAT SAME MAN OR WOMAN HAS
EXPERIENCED A DROP OF 5.4 PERCENT IN THE REAL VALUE OF THEIR TAKE-
HOME PAY. L REPUBLICAN ECONOMIC MISMANAGEMENT HAS, IN FACT, PUSHED
THE WORKING FAMILIES OF AMERICA BACK 10 YEARS TO THEIR 1965 INCOME
LEVEL.

inflation
IN THE 60'S WHEN DEMOCRATS WERE ATTEMPTING TO MAKE IMPORTANT
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES IN OUR NATION IN ORDER TO IMPROVE LIFE
FOR ALL OUR CITIZENS, THE RATE OF INFLATION WAS A MERE 2.3 PERCENT.

Republican inflation up to 12%
IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS THE REPUBLICANS HAVE GIVEN US NOT ONLY
HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT BUT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF INFLATION SINCE WORLD
WAR II. IN FACT, THE REPUBLICANS HAVE MANAGED TO GIVE US AN AVERAGE
RATE OF INFLATION THREE TIMES HIGHER THAN IN THE LAST DECADE. IT
TAKES MORE THAN WIN BUTTONS AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMAGOGUERY TO KEEP
PRICES FROM GOING THROUGH THE ROOF.

BUT NOT EVERYONE HAS LOST SINCE 1969 UNDER THE NIXON-FORD TEAM.

BECAUSE OF THE CAPITAL GAINS LOOPHOLE, AND INFLATION-PROOF REAL ESTATE INCOME, THE RICHEST 20 PERCENT OF OUR POPULATION ACTUALLY INCREASED ITS SHARE OF THE TOTAL INCOME OF OUR NATION DURING THIS PERIOD OF ECONOMIC SUFFERING FOR MOST AMERICANS.

THIS REVERSED THE TREND TOWARD GREATER INCOME EQUALITY FIRMLY ESTABLISHED BY OUR PARTY IN THE 1960's.

REPUBLICAN ECONOMICS PRODUCED A SHIFT OF ABOUT \$20 BILLION FROM THE POCKETS OF WORKING AMERICANS TO THE COFFERS OF THE RICH. THEY GUARANTEED THAT THE WEALTHY WOULD HAVE FULL COMPENSATION FROM THE RAVAGES OF INFLATION, WHILE THE REST OF AMERICA SUFFERED.

THE NIXON-FORD ADMINISTRATION, AND ITS WALL STREET ADVISERS IN WASHINGTON, HAS SEEN TO IT THAT OUR BIG BANKS WERE WELL CARED FOR.

Mtg Rate

FROM 1960 TO 1968 MORTGAGE RATES AVERAGED LESS THAN SIX PERCENT.

SINCE 1969 THEY SOARED MORE THAN 50 PERCENT TO LEVELS LAST

EXPERIENCED AT THE TIME OF THE CIVIL WAR.

Cost of Recession

THE INCOME, PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT LOSS TO AMERICA AS A RESULT OF REPUBLICAN BUNGLING OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

SINCE 1969 IS STAGGERING:

-- TWO REPUBLICAN RECESSIONS HAVE THROWN 57 MILLION AMERICANS OUT OF WORK AND INTO THE STREET AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.

-- TWO REPUBLICAN RECESSIONS HAVE ROBBED ONE TRILLION DOLLARS FROM THE PAYCHECKS OF AMERICAN WORKERS.

Two REPUBLICAN RECESSIONS HAVE WIPED OUT THE ENTIRE INCOME
GAIN MADE BY WORKING FAMILIES OF AMERICA DURING THE DECADE OF THE 60'S

Two STRIKES IS ENOUGH. THE REPUBLICANS HAVE PROVEN THAT THEY DO
NOT DESERVE ANOTHER SWING OF THE BAT. OUR PEOPLE CANNOT BE ASKED
TO SUFFER A REPUBLICAN ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT STRIKEOUT.

EVEN MORE ALARMING IS THE FACT THAT REPUBLICAN "GO SLOW"
POLICIES ARE CONVINCING MANY OF OUR CITIZENS THAT A WELFARE CHECK IS
AS GOOD AS A PAYCHECK. WE HAVE AN ENTIRE GENERATION OF YOUNG MEN
AND WOMEN WHO NEVER HAVE HELD A FULL TIME JOB. THE ODDS ARE ONE
TO FOUR AGAINST THEM. THE NIXON-FORD TEAM HAS STACKED THE DECK.

THE POLICIES OF THOSE MODERN DAY FREE MARKET BUCCANEERS HAVE
TORN THE FABRIC OF OUR SOCIETY IN OTHER WAYS, TOO.

THE REPUBLICANS PROMISED TO GET CRIME OFF THE STREETS, BUT THEY FAILED TO TELL US THEY WOULD BRING IT TO THEIR SUITES.

OUR NEIGHBORHOODS ARE MORE CRIME FILLED TODAY BY FAR THAN WHEN THE REPUBLICANS MOVED INTO THE WHITE HOUSE.

SINCE 1969 THE CRIME RATE HAS RISEN 30 PERCENT. THE NUMBER OF MURDERS HAS LEAPED 50 PERCENT. THE NUMBER OF ROBBERIES HAS RISEN 68 PERCENT. THE NUMBER OF BURGLARIES HAS SOARED 84 PERCENT.

YOUR FAMILY HAS A ONE IN SIX CHANCE OF BEING VICTIMIZED BY A BURGLARY OR THEFT THIS YEAR. THAT'S HOW REPUBLICANS DELIVER ON THEIR PROMISES.

TODAY PRESIDENT FORD AND HIS ECONOMIC ADVISERS TRAVEL AROUND THE COUNTRY WITH THEIR ECONOMIC MEDICINE SHOW. THE MESSAGE IS ALWAYS THE SAME: "WE HAVE FOUND THE MIRACLE CURE. ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS UNDER WAY AND PROSPERITY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER."

ONCE AGAIN, THE REPUBLICANS ARE CLAIMING AN "ECONOMIC MIRACLE" IN AN ELECTION YEAR. THERE IS, INDEED, A MODEST RECOVERY UNDERWAY, BUT CAN IT BE SUSTAINED WITH THE FORD ADMINISTRATION ECONOMIC POLICY PROJECTIONS FOR FISCAL 1977?

SURE, PROFITS ARE IMPROVING AND THE STOCK MARKET IS BOOMING ALONG, BUT HOW ABOUT THE LOWER INCOME GROUPS?

IN MINNESOTA LAST FEBRUARY, 24,000 ADDITIONAL PEOPLE WERE ADDED TO THE UNEMPLOYMENT ROLLS; IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND; BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS; LOS ANGELES AND NEW YORK, AND IN MANY OTHER BIG CITIES ACROSS THE LAND, UNEMPLOYMENT IS STILL AT THE DOUBLE-DIGIT LEVEL.

YES, ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT IS UNDER WAY BUT I SEE FEW SIGNS THAT A TRUE "PEOPLE'S RECOVERY" HAS TAKEN HOLD.

LET ME JUST REMIND YOU OF TWO FACTS. FIRST, WHEN YOU ARE FLAT ON YOUR BACK THE ONLY WAY TO GO IS UP. AMERICAN WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE NOW ON THEIR KNEES, WHEN THEY SHOULD BE WALKING, AND IT HARDLY IS REASON TO REJOICE.

SECOND, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT IT WAS A DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS THAT ARGUED, PRODDED AND CAJOLED THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT TO TAKE EVERY RELUCTANT STEP THAT HAS PRODUCED THE MODEST ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT THAT WE SEE.

LET'S NOT FORGET THAT IN DECEMBER OF 1974 GERALD FORD WAS CALLING FOR A TAX INCREASE, WHILE THE WORST RECESSION SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION TOOK AN EVER FIRMER STRANGLE HOLD ON THE AMERICAN ECONOMY. AND REMEMBER THAT AT THAT TIME THE ONLY ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE WAS THE WIN BUTTON AND A SMILE.

SEVEN SAD YEARS OF THE NIXON-FORD TEAM ARE MORE THAN TOO MUCH.

-- THE NIXON-FORD TEAM HAS DEVASTATED THE AMERICAN ECONOMY
WITH ITS 19TH CENTURY ECONOMIC IDEOLOGY.

-- THE NIXON-FORD TEAM HAS UNDERMINED CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT,
BRINGING IT TO ITS LOWEST POINT IN DECADES. AND I'M NOT JUST
TALKING ABOUT FORCED RESIGNATIONS OF A PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT.
MORE TO THE POINT, I'M TALKING ABOUT THE WIDESPREAD BELIEF AMONG
OUR PEOPLE THAT THIS GOVERNMENT ISN'T FUNCTIONING, ISN'T RESPONDING
TO THEIR CONCERNS, ISN'T DOING ANYTHING UNTIL IT IS HIT BY ONE
CRISIS OR ANOTHER.

THE ONLY CREATIVITY WE HAVE SEEN FROM THE WHITE HOUSE HAS
BEEN ITS ABILITY TO SAY NO IN 89 DIFFERENT WAYS.

IT IS TIME TO TAKE OFF THE GLOVES AND TELL IT LIKE IT IS.

THE PARTY THAT HAS OCCUPIED THE WHITE HOUSE FOR THE LAST SEVEN YEARS IS A MINORITY PARTY -- AND FOR GOOD REASON. IT HAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS INCAPABLE OF RUNNING THE COUNTRY IN THE INTEREST OF ALL ITS PEOPLE. IT HAS SUCCEEDED ONLY IN RUNNING IT INTO THE GROUND.

BUT WE WON'T WIN THIS ELECTION BY DEFAULT. A PRESIDENT HAS A TREMENDOUS ADVANTAGE DUE TO HIS INCUMBENCY.

THE DEMOCRATS WILL ONLY WIN IF THEY GO TO THE COUNTRY WITH A POSITIVE MESSAGE AND CONVINCE OUR CITIZENS THAT WE HAVE A BETTER IDEA AND WILL DO A BETTER JOB.

DEMOCRATS ALWAYS HAVE JOINED TOGETHER BECAUSE THEY SHARED A VISION OF THE FUTURE FOR AMERICA. REPUBLICANS ALWAYS HAVE BANDED TOGETHER IN THE HOPE THAT SOMEHOW, SOMEWAY, THEY COULD PREVENT THE FUTURE FROM ARRIVING.

SO, MY FELLOW DEMOCRATS, THERE IS A LESSON FOR US TODAY.

WE WILL RETURN TO THE WHITE HOUSE IN 1977.

BUT WE CANNOT DO SO AS ANTI-GOVERNMENT ZEALOTS OR AS PROPHETS
OF DOOM AND GLOOM.

THE REAL ISSUE UNDERLYING THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT ISSUE IS WHETHER
AND HOW THE INTERESTS OF PEOPLE BEST CAN BE SERVED. THE ANSWER IS
NOT LESS GOVERNMENT, BUT BETTER GOVERNMENT -- A GOVERNMENT THAT
WORKS TO SERVE THE NATION'S NEEDS.

FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT RECOGNIZED THIS AND SO DID HARRY TRUMAN,
JOHN KENNEDY AND LYNDON JOHNSON.

THESE MEN DIDN'T DISPARAGE WHAT CAN BE DONE IN WASHINGTON FOR
THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE BY DEDICATED MEN AND WOMEN -- THEY DID
RECOGNIZE ITS LIMITATIONS.

YES, THEY COULD HAVE RUN AGAINST WASHINGTON -- IT NEVER HAS BEEN PERFECT. THEY COULD HAVE MADE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THE WHIPPING BOY FOR THE DISSATISFACTION AND DESPAIR THAT EXISTED IN THE COUNTRY. INSTEAD, THEY CHOSE TO DO THEIR BEST TO MAKE IT BETTER -- NOT PERFECT -- JUST A LITTLE BETTER.

DEMOCRATS SHOULD RUN AGAINST REPUBLICANS. THEY SHOULD RUN AGAINST THE REPUBLICANS THAT GAVE US WATERGATE, DOUBLE-DIGIT INFLATION, AND DEPRESSION-LEVEL UNEMPLOYMENT. THEY SHOULD RUN AGAINST THE WASHINGTON OF RICHARD NIXON AND GERALD FORD AND WILLIAM SIMON. BUT NOT AGAINST THE WASHINGTON OF FDR AND JFK AND LBJ -- THE WASHINGTON OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE.

DEMOCRATS WILL WIN NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT WE HOPE TO RUN, BUT BECAUSE WE ARE FOR GOVERNMENT WHICH HELPS PEOPLE:

-- A GOVERNMENT THAT OFFERS AMERICA A FULL EMPLOYMENT POLICY THAT ASSURES DECENT JOBS AND DECENT WAGES FOR ALL AMERICANS;

-- A PROGRAM OF LONG OVERDUE REFORM TO CLEAN UP THE WELFARE MESS SO THAT HELP GOES ONLY TO FAMILIES WHO ACTUALLY NEED IT;

-- A NATIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES QUALITY HEALTH SERVICE FOR ALL AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE COST;

-- A HOUSING PROGRAM THAT REPLACES SLUMS WITH SOUND, LOW-COST, HIGH QUALITY HOUSING, AND INTEREST RATES THAT MAKE HOME OWNERSHIP A REALITY FOR WORKING PEOPLE ONCE AGAIN;

-- A TAX PROGRAM THAT ELIMINATES THE GLARING TAX LOOPHOLES THAT MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE SUPER-RICH AND THE GIANT CORPORATIONS TO PAY LITTLE OR NOTHING WHILE THE MIDDLE-INCOME TAXPAYER BEARS THE MAJOR BURDEN OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES;

-- A TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF URBAN AND
RURAL PEOPLE;

-- AN ENERGY PROGRAM THAT ASSURES AMERICA OF ENERGY RESOURCES
FOR DECADES TO COME;

-- AND NATIONAL LEADERSHIP WITH COMPASSION AND UNDERSTANDING
THAT IS CLEARLY "OF, BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE."

THE ISSUE OF THIS ELECTION YEAR IS NOT WASHINGTON -- BUT THE
DISASTROUS POLICIES OF THE NIXON-FORD ADMINISTRATION -- VETOES,
UNEMPLOYMENT, RECESSION, INFLATION, CRIME, CORRUPTION, AND THE
NEGLECT OF OUR NATION'S CITIES,

LET US GET ON WITH THE WORK OF RUNNING AGAINST THE REPUBLICANS
AND THEIR ECONOMIC POLICIES WHICH HAVE BROUGHT US TO THE BRINK OF
DEPRESSION.

ONLY BY THIS ROUTE WILL WE REGAIN THE FAITH AND CONFIDENCE OF
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

WE WILL WIN BECAUSE WE CARE.

WE WILL WIN BECAUSE WE DARE TO PIONEER.

WE WILL WIN BECAUSE AMERICA IS TIRED OF BEING TOLD WHAT IT CAN'T
DO.

OUR PEOPLE WANT TO HEAR WHAT WE CAN AND MUST DO TO MAKE THIS A
BETTER AND STRONGER NATION -- TO GIVE EVERY PERSON A SENSE OF HOPE AND
GENUINE OPPORTUNITY AND SECURITY. AND, THEY WILL RESPOND TO THIS KIND
OF POSITIVE, STRONG NATIONAL LEADERSHIP.

#



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