REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY JEFFERSON-JACKSON DAY DINNER Indianapolis, Indiana April 10, 1976 It's a great pleasure to be here with you tonight. I feel at home with Hoosiers. Hoosier Democrats are my kind of Democrats. They are hard working. They know what it takes to win. The Democratic Party of Indiana has sent an outstanding delegation to Washington. You have given this State fine state and local officials. The Democrats of Indiana know that when you are united, this party's case will be well received by voters. Come November, Democrats in Indiana, Democrats in Minnesota and Democrats throughout the nation will be victorious. This year we celebrate our nation's Bicentennial. We honor the daring, pioneering spirit of those early Americans who launched our bold experiment in democracy. We praise and admire those who defied the established limits of their time, cast aside the comfortable rhetoric of the period and risked their creation of a new political order. And as a nation, we can be justly proud of our accomplishments; among them, the great contributions we have made in the struggle for social justice and human dignity. At the same time, we must be mindful that the future provides tremendous opportunities for fulfilling the dreams of our founders. Tonight we celebrate the birth of the oldest and most successful political party known to man. The Democratic Party has stood these many years on the proud traditions of Jefferson -- the great architect of American ideals -- and Jackson -- the hero and great leader who formed our electoral coalition. These two great men provided us with a vision and a tradition for the Democratic Party -- a vision that gives us unparalleled perspective for viewing the conflicts of the moment against the broad sweep of history. As we look back on the past seven sad years of Republican control of the White House, it is time to demand an accounting. All we are getting now is empty rhetoric -- another "cover-up for disastrous Republican performance. Let's take a quick look at what it has meant to have Republicans in charge of the White House: -- 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, with an inflation rate averaging under 2.5 percent. -- In the last three years, the Nixon-Ford team has been able to increase employment by a mere one million jobs. They have managed to push the official unemployment rate to an 8.5 percent average in 1975 and higher in state after state, city after city. Since 1972 the Republicans have provided exactly one job for every four new job seekers in our country. One job for every four persons!

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

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 $\,$ -- 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.

It's a fact: Republican economic mismanagement has pushed the working families of America back ten years to their 1965 income level.

But not everyone has lost since 1969 under the Nixon-Ford team. We know that the GOP takes care of its friends. 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.

The trend toward greater income equality firmly established by the Democratis in the 1960's has been reversed. A shift of about \$20 billion from the pockets of working families to the coffers of the rich has occurred as a result of Republican economics.

The Republican record of recession and retreat from the problems of America has forced the party of Grant, Harding and Hoover to develop a new strategy in this Presidential election year.

It's a strategy which \underline{runs} \underline{away} from the issues rather than $\underline{running}$ \underline{on} a record.

If you were a Republican, would you admit the incompetence that has characterized the workings of the Nixon-Ford Administration? Of course not! So why do you think Ronald Reagan is running against the government? And why do you think the President acts as if he is fresh off the boat and unfamiliar with the Republican record?

These Republicans have made a choice. They will run against the government, against the Congress, against the Courts, against their own past promises.

Let's look at the promises they made:

- -- The Republicans once promised balanced budgets. But they have given us the highest budget deficits in our history.
- -- They once promised jobs and sang the glories of the work ethic. But they have given us the highest levels of unemployment since the Great Depression and have been content to let welfare rolls swell and job rolls dwindle.
- -- They once promised a stable dollar. But they have given us the highest inflation rate in our 200-year history.
- -- They once promised free enterprise, but they have given us more rules and more regulations than ever before, and forced over 12,000 businesses to close their doors in 1975 alone.
- -- The Republicans once promised us good government. But they are guilty of more mismanagement and outright corruption than any time since Ulysses Grant and Warren Harding.
- $\,$ -- They once promised law and order, yet they preside over the highest crime rate in the history of the country.

Today Democrats are seeing and hearing another cover-up. A cover-up of Republican failures. A cover-up of mismanagement and broken promises.

But I say tonight, the Democrats will expose that cover-up and justice will be done in November. There will be no pardons for the Republicans in 1976.

This is not the time for the timid or the meek. We must challenge the anti-government, anti-politics Republican propaganda and call it what it really is -- the biggest, best organized case of public deception since Watergate.

But there is an even more seamy side to this current Republican campaign. They are heralding a mass retreat in our progress toward social justice and human dignity.

They espouse the rhetoric of the comfortable and forget the needs of the concerned.

It's a siren song of the old-fashioned Republican trickle-down economics. They tell us what not to do, not what we can and should do. Mr. Nixon and Mr. Ford, Mr. Connally, and Mr. Simon have devised a blue-print for rolling back progressive social policies and laying waste the hopes of those who look for a more just, more equitable America.

We cannot and must not perpetuate the decay of our cities, allow poverty to increase or ignore the terrible living conditions which the poor -- black and white -- must endure.

I know that the American people will reject this course.

A new day is dawning. We are close to being at the end of this long nightmare and dashed hopes. Our future is in our hands -- yes, in our votes in 1976.

And many of our people in this Bicentennial year are asking what legacy we will leave to future generations.

Let us pause and reflect on the kind of goals that were important to the first Americans.

They asserted the inalienable rights of people to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

They sought to create a new society that would stand for a full measure of human freedom and opportunity.

My hope is that each of us will consider the kind of America that our children and grandchildren will inherit.

Will they live in a society which refuses to see that adequate health care is available to all?

Will they grow to adulthood without knowing the value of work, because we have no jobs for them?

Will they learn only to distrust government and to ask less of themselves in the process?

Will they live in an America that forgets its poor -- its needy -- its less fortunate?

If we believe in work, we must have a government that offers America a full employment policy that assures decent jobs at decent wages for all Americans.

If we believe in sound administration, we must have a program of long overdue reform to clean up the welfare mess -- to modernize programs for modern days.

If we believe in the right of every American to a full life, then we need a national health care system that provides quality health services for all at the lowest possible cost.

If we believe in the right of all Americans to pursue excellence, we must support efforts to improve the quality of education and the way it is financed.

If we believe in our cities, we must have a housing program that replaces slums with quality housing, and interest rates that make home ownership a reality for working people once again.

If we believe in fair play, then we must have 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.

If we want to improve the quality of life for all Americans, then we must protect our environment and conserve our resources.

If we believe in an expanding economy, then we must have an energy program that assures America of energy resources for decades to come.

And, most important, we must have national leadership that works with compassion and understanding and is clearly "of, by and for the people."

The real issue in 1976 is who does government serve? Does it serve people?

A favorite quotation of mine summarizes the kind of vision we must offer to the American people.

It comes from the great American poet of the Midwest who seemed to understand the heartbeat and the spirit of this nation. These are the words of Carl Sandburg. He speaks for me, as I know he speaks for you:

"I see America, not in the setting sun of a black night of despair ahead of us. I see America in the crimson light of a rising sun, fresh from the burning, creative hand of God. I see great days ahead, great days possible to men and women of will and vision."

As we will it, so shall it be! A nation without a vision shall perish. But a people with hope shall triumph!

Now is not the time to retreat. It remains only for us to reach out, to risk and to dare greatly.

Whether or not we are fully successful, at least we owe it to ourselves to try!

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THIS YEAR WE CELEBRATE OUR NATION'S BICENTENNIAL. WE

HONOR THE DARING, PIONEERING SPIRIT OF THOSE EARLY AMERICANS

WHO LAUNCHED OUR BOLD EXPERIMENT IN DEMOCRACY.

WE PRAISE AND ADMIRE THOSE WHO DEFIED THE ESTABLISHED

LIMITS OF THEIR TIME, CAST ASIDE THE COMFORTABLE RHETORIC

OF THE PERIOD AND RISKED THEIR CREATION OF A NEW POLITICAL

ORDER .

AND AS A NATION, WE CAN BE JUSTLY PROUD OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS;

AMONG THEM, THE GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS WE HAVE MADE IN THE STRUGGLE

FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN DIGNITY AT THE SAME TIME, WE M

BE MINDFUL THAT THE FUTURE PROVIDES TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES

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IDEALS 4- AND JACKSON -- THE HERO AND GREAT LEADER WHO FORMED

OUR ELECTORAL COALITION.

THESE TWO GREAT MEN PROVIDED US WITH A VISION AND A

TRADITION FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY -- A VISION THAT GIVES US

UNPARALLELED PERSPECTIVE FOR VIEWING THE CONFLICTS OF THE

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A COVER-UP OF REPUBLICAN FAILURES. A COVER-UP OF MISMANAGEMENT

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BUT I SAY TONIGHT, THE DEMOCRATS WILL EXPOSE THAT COVER-UP AND JUSTICE WILL BE DONE IN NOVEMBER | THERE WILL BE NO PARDONS FOR THE REPUBLICANS IN 1976.

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PROPAGANDA AND CALL IT WHAT IT REALLY IS -- THE BIGGEST, BEST

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BUT THERE IS AN EVEN MORE SEAMY SIDE TO THIS CURRENT

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HANDS -- YES, IN OUR VOTES IN 1976.

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AND MANY OF OUR PEOPLE IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR ARE ASKING

WHAT LEGACY WE WILL LEAVE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS -

LET US PAUSE AND REFLECT ON THE KIND OF GOALS THAT WERE IMPORTANT TO THE FIRST AMERICANS.

THEY ASSERTED THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE TO LIFE,

LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. They Believe in

THEY SOUGHT TO CREATE A NEW SOCIETY THAT WOULD STAND FOR

A FULL MEASURE OF HUMAN FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY

My hope is that each of us will consider the kind of America

THAT OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN WILL INHERIT

WILL THEY LIVE IN A SOCIETY WHICH REFUSES TO SEE THAT ADEQUATE

HEALTH CARE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL?

WILL THEY GROW TO ADULTHOOD WITHOUT KNOWING THE VALUE OF WORK, BECAUSE WE HAVE JOBS FOR THEM?

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OF LONG OVERDUE REFORM TO CLEAN UP THE WELFARE MESS TO MODERNIZ

PROGRAMS FOR MODERN DAYS

IF WE BELIEVE IN THE RIGHT OF EVERY AMERICAN TO A FULL LIFE,
THEN WE NEED A NATIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES QUALITY
HEALTH SERVICES FOR ALL AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE COST.

IF WE BELIEVE IN THE RIGHT OF ALL AMERICANS TO PURSUE EXCELLENCE,

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If we believe in our cities, we must have a housing program

THAT REPLACES SLUMS WITH QUALITY HOUSING, AND INTEREST RATES THAT

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If we believe in fair play, then we must have a tax program

THAT ELIMINATES THE GLARING TAX LOOPHOLES THAT MAKE IT POSSIBLE

NOTHING WHILE THE MIDDLE-INCOME TAXPAYER BEARS THE MAJOR BURDEN

FOR THE SUPER-RICH AND THE GIANT CORPORATIONS TO PAY LITTLE OR

OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES.

IF WE WANT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL AMERICANS

THEN WE MUST PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVE OUR RESOURCES

IF WE BELIEVE IN AN EXPANDING ECONOMY, THEN WE MUST HAVE AN

ENERGY PROGRAM THAT ASSURES AMERICA OF ENERGY RESOURCES FOR

DECADES TO COME.

AND, MOST IMPORTANT, WE MUST HAVE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP THAT

WORKS WITH COMPASSION AND UNDERSTANDING AND IS CLEARLY "OF, BY

AND FOR THE PEOPLE."

THE REAL ISSUE IN 1976 IS WHO DOES GOVERNMENT SERVE?

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A FAVORITE QUOTATION OF MINE SUMMARIZES THE KIND OF VISION

WE MUST OFFER TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

IT COMES FROM THE GREAT AMERICAN POET OF THE MIDWEST WHO SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND THE HEARTBEAT AND THE SPIRIT OF THIS NATION.

THESE ARE THE WORDS OF CARL SANDBURG. HE SPEAKS FOR ME, AS I

"I SEE AMERICA, NOT IN THE SETTING SUN OF A BLACK NIGHT

OF DESPAIR AHEAD OF US I SEE AMERICA IN THE CRIMSON LIGHT

OF A RISING SUN, FRESH FROM THE BURNING, CREATIVE HAND OF GOD.

I SEE GREAT DAYS AHEAD, GREAT DAYS POSSIBLE TO MEN AND WOMEN

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