

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

DEMOCRATIC VICTORY 76 DINNER

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

May 14, 1976

Tonight I've been asked to respond to the question, "Why do we need a Democratic victory?"

At the outset, let me confess that this has been the easiest speech of my life. Never before in this century have we had better, more compelling, more obvious answers to this question. But on the chance that someone in America needs to be reminded of the particulars, let me restate the people's indictment of Republican government.

Seven sad years of the Nixon-Ford team have been more than enough.

-- 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 91 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.

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.

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

From 1961 to 1969, when the Democratic 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.

Only 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. It takes more than WIN buttons and anti-government demagoguery to keep prices from going through the roof.

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.

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 policies of these 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 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.

Once again, the Republicans are claiming an "economic miracle" in an election year. There is, indeed, a modest recovery underway 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.

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 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.

But we won't win this election by default.

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.

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 necessarily less government, but better government -- a government that works to serve the nation's needs.

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.

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 our people have learned the painful lesson of Republican government. They know that only a Democratic victory in November can wipe out the losses of the last seven years and restore their families to the high road of decency, opportunity and prosperity once again.

# # # #

Why Do we need a Democratic Victory?

Easy answer -

Freshman  
Gov Boren - Legislature  
Congressman <sup>Heard</sup> English - Ted Risenbaker  
(1964) REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY 2d

- Oklahoma - Building Party

DEMOCRATIC VICTORY 76 DINNER

- Party unity - Democ Victory!

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

David  
Gov Boren  
MAY 14, 1976

(Bob Kerr)  
Carl Albert (Speaker)

State Sen. Gene Howard - Pres. pro Tempore  
Oklahoma State Senate

State Sen. Bob Funston - Party Chairman

(Gene - Started helping me in 1956 - Chr. Young Democrats  
supported me 1960 - 1964 - 1968 Humphrey

Henry Liles - Pres. A7H-CIO

May 14, 1976  
Oklahoma City  
Victory 76 Dinner

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TONIGHT I'VE BEEN ASKED TO RESPOND TO THE QUESTION, "WHY

DO WE NEED A DEMOCRATIC VICTORY?"

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SPEECH OF MY LIFE. NEVER BEFORE IN THIS CENTURY HAVE WE HAD  
BETTER, MORE COMPELLING, MORE OBVIOUS ANSWERS TO THIS QUESTION.

BUT ON THE CHANCE THAT SOMEONE IN AMERICA NEEDS TO BE REMINDED  
OF THE PARTICULARS, LET ME RESTATE THE PEOPLE'S INDICTMENT OF  
REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT. - + Repub Stand guilty!

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ENOUGH.

THE NIXON-FORD TEAM HAS DEVASTATED THE AMERICAN ECONOMY  
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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

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BEEN ITS ABILITY TO SAY NO IN 91 DIFFERENT WAYS.

Veto. No

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

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Tell it  
like it is



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THE COUNTRY IN THE INTEREST OF ALL ITS PEOPLE. It has succeeded

ONLY IN RUNNING IT INTO THE GROUND.

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AVERAGE IN 1975 AND THE REAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINS TODAY  
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"GO SLOW" REPUBLICAN ECONOMICS.

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.



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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  
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A RESULT OF REPUBLICAN BUNGLING OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT  
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L 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 POLICIES OF THESE 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  
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.

ONCE AGAIN, THE REPUBLICANS ARE CLAIMING AN "ECONOMIC MIRACLE" IN AN ELECTION YEAR. THERE IS, INDEED, A MODEST RECOVERY UNDERWAY 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.

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 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.

BUT WE WON'T WIN THIS ELECTION BY DEFAULT.

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.

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 NECESSARILY LESS GOVERNMENT, BUT BETTER GOVERNMENT -- A GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS TO SERVE THE NATION'S NEEDS.

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.

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 OUR PEOPLE HAVE LEARNED THE PAINFUL  
LESSON OF REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT. THEY KNOW THAT ONLY A  
DEMOCRATIC VICTORY IN NOVEMBER CAN WIPE OUT THE LOSSES OF THE  
LAST SEVEN YEARS AND RESTORE THEIR FAMILIES TO THE HIGH ROAD  
OF DECENCY, OPPORTUNITY AND PROSPERITY ONCE AGAIN,





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