

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
MINNESOTA BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL
30th ANNUAL CONVENTION
Mankato, Minnesota

August 21, 1976

It is a pleasure to be here with all my friends at the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council's 30th Annual Convention. I always have been proud of my close association with American labor in general, and Minnesota labor in particular. Through their unions, American workers have helped to shape the structure and enrich the content of our economy, our society and our culture.

Throughout our nation's history you in the labor movement have been the cutting edge for social and economic justice. Because your basic concern has been to provide the greatest good for the greatest number of Minnesota's working people, your efforts have helped to give substance and reality in our State to the promise of America's democratic ideals.

So I am proud of my friendship with you, and I always shall be.

I know the newspapers are always filled with bad news. So today I am going to give you some good news for a change. We will elect a Democratic President and Vice President in November.

Yes, in just five months, Jimmy Carter and our own Fritz Mondale will stand on the steps of the Capitol, take the oath of office and assume the leadership of our Nation!

And once again, the working people of Minnesota and all America will have a friend like FDR, HST, JFK and LBJ in the White House, and majority government will have been restored.

When the people have to make a choice between the politics of Democratic courage and compassion and the politics of Republican retreat and indifference, they will make the right choice -- a Democratic victory.

This year the American people are filled with the Bicentennial spirit.

In 1776, the American people proclaimed their independence and threw out the British Tories.

In 1976, the American people once again will affirm our independence and vote out the "Republican Tories."

That's the Bicentennial spirit that assures a good beginning for the next 100 years. Let's get the party of Jefferson and Jackson back in power!

Despite their rhetoric, let us not forget that we've had Republicans in the White House 16 of the last 24 years. Gerald Ford didn't arrive in town just last week. And the recent seven sad years of the Nixon-Ford Administration have clearly demonstrated that Republicans are incapable of running the country in the interest of all the people. The Nixon-Ford team has been in charge since 1969.

So, if there is a mess in Washington, it's their mess. If there are too many regulations, they wrote them. If no one is listening, it's their ears that are plugged.

Now, if you were a Republican candidate you would run against Washington, too. But remember, Gerry Ford has been there since 1949 and Bob Dole has been in Congress since 1961. x

Let's look at their record.

We are not going to let Republicans cover up the fact that since 1969, 57 million Americans have been thrown out of work by two recessions and Herbert Hoover economics.

Despite the song of recovery being sung at the White House, 17.7 percent of our nation's construction workers are out of work nationally -- up nearly two percent in the last two months alone.

In Minnesota the statistics are just as bad. And, in some areas of the country they are much worse.

You can't pay your mortgage, feed your family, and send your kids to school on a profits boom -- a Wall Street recovery. You need decent jobs and good wages and an America that is building, expanding and meeting the people's needs.

We are not going to let Republicans run away from the fact that America's working families have seen their entire income gain of the 1960's wiped out by the policies of the Wall Street advisors who occupy the White House corridors.

Republicans can't run away from 96 Nixon-Ford vetoes which say No! No! No! to the hopes and aspirations of the American people.

And the Republicans cannot run away from their promise made in the heated days of 1968 that they would bring law and order to the Republic.

Instead, they brought lawlessness and corruption to the sacred precincts of the nation's highest office and crime in the streets has reached unprecedented levels!

The election of 1976 marks one of those historic moments in the history of American politics when the people will demand an accounting. I predict they will say, loud and clear, "No more, we've had enough."

We've had enough of those who claim recovery and prosperity after bringing us the longest and worst recession since the Great Depression.

We've had enough of inflation -- enough of high interest rates that crippled our economy.

Yes, we've had enough of those who proclaim the work ethic and expand the welfare rolls.

We've had enough of those who denounce budget deficits and then by their policies cause those deficits to grow even larger.

We've had enough of those who worship at the shrine of free enterprise and let monopolies flourish and bankruptcies increase.

We've had enough of those who want to cover up a record of doubt, defeat and despair -- I say, that's not good enough for America.

It's time to clean house. It's time to throw the rascals out!

But the people have a right to ask: What do we Democrats stand for?

What do we want for the American people?

Well, let me give you an idea.

If we believe in work and a productive America, then our government must be committed to full employment that assures decent jobs at decent wages. Work, not welfare -- paychecks, not the dole.

Our Party is committed to the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill -- a practical solution to the nation's unemployment crisis.

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 care to all at the lowest possible cost.

If we believe in our cities, then we must have a program that replaces slums with decent homes and make home ownership a reality for the working people of America. Just remember: we will produce one million fewer homes this year than we must have to meet our national housing goals.

If we believe in our young people, then let us champion the cause of quality education for all.

If we love and respect our senior citizens, then let us assure them of generous and decent care.

And, if we believe in the future of America, we must see that men and women guided by a sense of vision and fairness are elected to lead our nation.

These are just some of our vital goals.

For many reasons, the trust and confidence of the American people in their government has been seriously eroded. We are experiencing a crisis of confidence in our national leadership unprecedented in modern times... and for good reason.

All of you know the sting and the hurt of a President who has gone back on his word, a President who vetoed vital legislation -- the Common Situs Picketing Bill -- after having promised you that he would sign it. A man that is not as good as his word is not good enough to be your President.

The time is at hand to use your vote to elevate to public office men and women whose word is a sacred trust, whose vision of America includes you and your families, whose commitment to the well being of America's workers is not a subject for public debate but a matter of public record.

Our hopes for victory in November can be realized if we work together in the days ahead.

Unity will bring us more than victory.

It will bring us opportunity -- opportunity to govern a nation with compassion and justice.

Victory in November will give us the opportunity to get this nation moving once again in the spirit of Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy and Johnson.

Victory will give us the opportunity for America once more to be confident, proud and happy -- this is our promise to the American people.

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

MINNESOTA BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

30TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

MANKATO, MINNESOTA

AUGUST 21, 1976

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH ALL MY FRIENDS AT THE
MINNESOTA BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL'S 30TH
ANNUAL CONVENTION. I ALWAYS HAVE BEEN PROUD OF MY CLOSE
ASSOCIATION WITH AMERICAN LABOR IN GENERAL, AND MINNESOTA
LABOR IN PARTICULAR. THROUGH THEIR UNIONS, AMERICAN WORKERS
HAVE HELPED TO SHAPE THE STRUCTURE AND ENRICH THE CONTENT OF
OUR ECONOMY, OUR SOCIETY AND OUR CULTURE.

THROUGHOUT OUR NATION'S HISTORY YOU IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT
HAVE BEEN THE CUTTING EDGE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE.
BECAUSE YOUR BASIC CONCERN HAS BEEN TO PROVIDE THE GREATEST
GOOD FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER OF MINNESOTA'S WORKING PEOPLE,
YOUR EFFORTS HAVE HELPED TO GIVE SUBSTANCE AND REALITY IN OUR
STATE TO THE PROMISE OF AMERICA'S DEMOCRATIC IDEALS.

SO I AM PROUD OF MY FRIENDSHIP WITH YOU, AND I ALWAYS
SHALL BE.

I KNOW THE NEWSPAPERS ARE ALWAYS FILLED WITH BAD NEWS.
SO TODAY I AM GOING TO GIVE YOU SOME GOOD NEWS FOR A CHANGE.
WE WILL ELECT A DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT IN
NOVEMBER.

YES, IN JUST FIVE MONTHS, JIMMY CARTER AND OUR OWN FRITZ
MONDALE WILL STAND ON THE STEPS OF THE CAPITOL, TAKE THE OATH
OF OFFICE AND ASSUME THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR NATION!

AND ONCE AGAIN, THE WORKING PEOPLE OF MINNESOTA AND ALL
AMERICA WILL HAVE A FRIEND LIKE FDR, HST, JFK AND LBJ IN THE
WHITE HOUSE, AND MAJORITY GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE BEEN RESTORED.

WHEN THE PEOPLE HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN THE POLITICS OF DEMOCRATIC COURAGE AND COMPASSION AND THE POLITICS OF REPUBLICAN RETREAT AND INDIFFERENCE, THEY WILL MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE -- A DEMOCRATIC VICTORY.

THIS YEAR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE FILLED WITH THE BICENTENNIAL SPIRIT.

IN 1776, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE PROCLAIMED THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND THREW OUT THE BRITISH TORIES.

IN 1976, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ONCE AGAIN WILL AFFIRM OUR INDEPENDENCE AND VOTE OUT THE "REPUBLICAN TORIES."

THAT'S THE BICENTENNIAL SPIRIT THAT ASSURES A GOOD BEGINNING FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS. LET'S GET THE PARTY OF JEFFERSON AND JACKSON BACK IN POWER!

DESPITE THEIR RHETORIC, LET US NOT FORGET THAT WE'VE
HAD REPUBLICANS IN THE WHITE HOUSE 16 OF THE LAST 24 YEARS.
GERALD FORD DIDN'T ARRIVE IN TOWN JUST LAST WEEK. AND THE
RECENT SEVEN SAD YEARS OF THE NIXON-FORD ADMINISTRATION
HAVE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT REPUBLICANS ARE INCAPABLE OF
RUNNING THE COUNTRY IN THE INTEREST OF ALL THE PEOPLE. THE
NIXON-FORD TEAM HAS BEEN IN CHARGE SINCE 1969.

SO, IF THERE IS A MESS IN WASHINGTON, IT'S THEIR MESS. IF
THERE ARE TOO MANY REGULATIONS, THEY WROTE THEM. IF NO ONE
IS LISTENING, ITS THEIR EARS THAT ARE PLUGGED.

NOW, IF YOU WERE A REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE YOU WOULD RUN AGAINST
WASHINGTON, TOO. BUT REMEMBER, GERRY FORD HAS BEEN THERE SINCE
1949 AND BOB DOLE HAS BEEN IN CONGRESS SINCE 1961.

LET'S LOOK AT THEIR RECORD.

WE ARE NOT GOING TO LET REPUBLICANS COVER UP THE FACT
THAT SINCE 1969, 57 MILLION AMERICANS HAVE BEEN THROWN OUT OF
WORK BY TWO RECESSIONS AND HERBERT HOOVER ECONOMICS.

DESPITE THE SONG OF RECOVERY BEING SUNG AT THE WHITE HOUSE,
17.7 PERCENT OF OUR NATION'S CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ARE OUT OF
WORK NATIONALLY -- UP NEARLY TWO PERCENT IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS ALONE.

IN MINNESOTA THE STATISTICS ARE JUST AS BAD. AND, IN
SOME AREAS OF THE COUNTRY THEY ARE MUCH WORSE.

YOU CAN'T PAY YOUR MORTGAGE, FEED YOUR FAMILY, AND SEND
YOUR KIDS TO SCHOOL ON A PROFITS BOOM -- A WALL STREET RECOVERY.
YOU NEED DECENT JOBS AND GOOD WAGES AND AN AMERICA THAT IS
BUILDING, EXPANDING AND MEETING THE PEOPLE'S NEEDS.

WE ARE NOT GOING TO LET REPUBLICANS RUN AWAY FROM THE
FACT THAT AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES HAVE SEEN THEIR ENTIRE
INCOME GAIN OF THE 1960'S WIPED OUT BY THE POLICIES OF
THE WALL STREET ADVISORS WHO OCCUPY THE WHITE HOUSE CORRIDORS.

REPUBLICANS CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM 96 NIXON-FORD VETOES
WHICH SAY No! No! No! TO THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

AND THE REPUBLICANS CANNOT RUN AWAY FROM THEIR PROMISE
MADE IN THE HEATED DAYS OF 1968 THAT THEY WOULD BRING LAW
AND ORDER TO THE REPUBLIC.

INSTEAD, THEY BROUGHT LAWLESSNESS AND CORRUPTION TO
THE SACRED PRECINCTS OF THE NATION'S HIGHEST OFFICE AND
CRIME IN THE STREETS HAS REACHED UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS!

THE ELECTION OF 1976 MARKS ONE OF THOSE HISTORIC
MOMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN POLITICS WHEN THE
PEOPLE WILL DEMAND AN ACCOUNTING, I PREDICT THEY WILL SAY,
LOUD AND CLEAR, "NO MORE, WE'VE HAD ENOUGH."

WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THOSE WHO CLAIM RECOVERY AND
PROSPERITY AFTER BRINGING US THE LONGEST AND WORST
RECESSION SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION.

WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF INFLATION -- ENOUGH OF HIGH INTEREST
RATES THAT CRIPPLED OUR ECONOMY.

YES, WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THOSE WHO PROCLAIM THE WORK
ETHIC AND EXPAND THE WELFARE ROLLS.

WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THOSE WHO DENOUNCE BUDGET DEFICITS AND
THEN BY THEIR POLICIES CAUSE THOSE DEFICITS TO GROW EVEN LARGER.

WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THOSE WHO WORSHIP AT THE SHRINE OF
FREE ENTERPRISE AND LET MONOPOLIES FLOURISH AND BANKRUPTCIES
INCREASE.

WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THOSE WHO WANT TO COVER UP A RECORD OF
DOUBT, DEFEAT AND DESPAIR -- I SAY, THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR
AMERICA.

IT'S TIME TO CLEAN HOUSE. IT'S TIME TO THROW THE RASCALS OUT!

BUT THE PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO ASK: WHAT DO WE DEMOCRATS
STAND FOR?

WHAT DO WE WANT FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE?

WELL, LET ME GIVE YOU AN IDEA.

IF WE BELIEVE IN WORK AND A PRODUCTIVE AMERICA, THEN OUR
GOVERNMENT MUST BE COMMITTED TO FULL EMPLOYMENT THAT ASSURES DECENT
JOBS AT DECENT WAGES. WORK, NOT WELFARE -- PAYCHECKS, NOT THE
DOLE.

OUR PARTY IS COMMITTED TO THE HUMPHREY-HAWKINS BILL --
A PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO THE NATION'S UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS.

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 CARE TO ALL AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE COST,

IF WE BELIEVE IN OUR CITIES, THEN WE MUST HAVE A PROGRAM
THAT REPLACES SLUMS WITH DECENT HOMES AND MAKE HOME OWNERSHIP
A REALITY FOR THE WORKING PEOPLE OF AMERICA. JUST REMEMBER: WE
WILL PRODUCE ONE MILLION FEWER HOMES THIS YEAR THAN WE MUST HAVE
TO MEET OUR NATIONAL HOUSING GOALS.

IF WE BELIEVE IN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, THEN LET US CHAMPION
THE CAUSE OF QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL.

IF WE LOVE AND RESPECT OUR SENIOR CITIZENS, THEN LET
US ASSURE THEM OF GENEROUS AND DECENT CARE.

AND, IF WE BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE OF AMERICA, WE MUST
SEE THAT MEN AND WOMEN GUIDED BY A SENSE OF VISION AND
FAIRNESS ARE ELECTED TO LEAD OUR NATION.

THESE ARE JUST SOME OF OUR VITAL GOALS.

FOR MANY REASONS, THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY
ERODED. WE ARE EXPERIENCING A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE IN
OUR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP UNPRECEDENTED IN MODERN TIMES...
AND FOR GOOD REASON.

ALL OF YOU KNOW THE STING AND THE HURT OF A PRESIDENT
WHO HAS GONE BACK ON HIS WORD, A PRESIDENT WHO VETOED VITAL
LEGISLATION -- THE COMMON SITU PICKETING BILL -- AFTER
HAVING PROMISED YOU THAT HE WOULD SIGN IT.

A MAN THAT IS NOT AS GOOD AS HIS WORD IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO
BE YOUR PRESIDENT.

THE TIME IS AT HAND TO USE YOUR VOTE TO ELEVATE TO
PUBLIC OFFICE MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE WORD IS A SACRED TRUST,
WHOSE VISION OF AMERICA INCLUDES YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES,
WHOSE COMMITMENT TO THE WELL BEING OF AMERICA'S WORKERS
IS NOT A SUBJECT FOR PUBLIC DEBATE BUT A MATTER OF PUBLIC
RECORD.

OUR HOPES FOR VICTORY IN NOVEMBER CAN BE REALIZED IF
WE WORK TOGETHER IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

UNITY WILL BRING US MORE THAN VICTORY.

IT WILL BRING US OPPORTUNITY -- OPPORTUNITY TO GOVERN
A NATION WITH COMPASSION AND JUSTICE.

VICTORY IN NOVEMBER WILL GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO
GET THIS NATION MOVING ONCE AGAIN IN THE SPIRIT OF
ROOSEVELT, TRUMAN, KENNEDY AND JOHNSON.

VICTORY WILL GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICA ONCE
MORE TO BE CONFIDENT, PROUD AND HAPPY -- THIS IS OUR PROMISE
TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

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