

DEMOCRATIC PARTY
DIVERSITY & ACHIEVEMENTS

There are no two members of Congress alike, and they will never agree completely on anything. But within the Democratic Party, where we have the same kind of diversity, I think we have basic agreement on what we want for the citizens of our country.

I've had old friends say to me, "How in the world can you stay in a party that's got such liberals in it as George McGovern? And my liberal friends are always wanting to know why I stay with a party that's got George Wallace in it. There are a couple of things I can point out to them.

In the first place, the labels are misleading. Nobody

is always a liberal, or always a conservative. If they would just talk to each other long enough, they would find they agree on many, many things. You can see it working like that in the Senate every day. Three months ago, I walked onto the Floor of the Senate and found Teddy Kennedy and James Allen of Alabama joined together to pass a bill. Then we went on to the next item of business and they squared off for a fight. James Allen and I are both conservative states-righters, but we went head-to-head for two weeks on the antitrust bill.

Why is this? It is not because we are intellectually dishonest, but because our party reflects the diversity of opinion in this nation. That's why we represent it best.

Our party is diverse, and that is one reason why it

is able to do so much for the people. The strong spirit of individualism we have in America can't be represented by a narrow party, or led by people who are Xerox copies of each other.

I have faith we will continue to offer as candidates the best people the country can produce for public office.

I have faith we will continue to conduct the nation's business well and responsibly. The Republicans are always saying we spend too much. But do you know when was the last time we had a balanced budget in this country? It was in 1969. The next year, the Republicans took over the administration.

I have faith the Democratic Party will always be the party which can produce effective government policy.

Take a look at the lasting government programs which have made a positive difference in the lives of the American people -- they were Democratic innovations. It would be easy just to go to Congress and vote "No" all the time.

There are representatives who do that, and it must be a lot easier.

What is much harder is to vote "no" when money would be wasted, mis-spent, or the budget would be wrecked. And then not be afraid to vote yes when we can spend the taxpayers' money on something which will really benefit them.

I am going to see what we can do in housing in the

95th Congress. The administration has failed completely to carry out laws which would by now have gotten the housing industry back on its feet. But I have faith that the Democratic Party can put the effort where it will have the most effect. That won't be useless spending: it will get people back into homes they can afford and get the unemployed worker back on the job. These are two things traditionally associated with Democratic policies, and I intend to do all I can to see they happen again.

In the Democratic Party, we can unify diverse opinion in a common effort, and come up with policy which is both fair and workable. A diverse government which

Democratic Diversity -- 6

can find consensus -- that is what we are going to see beginning in January. And I think you are going to be able to tell what the difference is between that and the kind of divided government we have now. The American people are going to start thinking of government as being effective once more -- and they are going to be right.