

ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Friends, this is a heated election year and we are going to need every Democrat we have November 3. And you know we have them. Their names are on the books and if they come to the polls, they will vote Democratic. But, we've got to get them there. That's the job we've got cut out for us. We've got to get our good Democrats to the polls so they can mark those tickets for the fine slate of candidates we have here in this county.

The Republicans are going to have their people out. They are out stirring them up now and they're going to be doing more of it later on. They've had the President visit the State and now they're bringing Spiro Agnew to North Carolina right before the election to try to do for the North Carolina Republicans what they can't do for themselves - win elections!

Frankly, I don't think they're going to have much success because I think the people realize that though the President and Vice President are doing a lot of talking they aren't answering the questions which are worrying North Carolinians most right now.

I don't know what the Vice President will say when he comes to North Carolina - the President didn't say much. I do hope, though, that instead of attempting a tongue-twisting display of the English language, he will devote his time to talking about the current economic picture and what the Nixon administration has been doing or is planning to do for the people who elected him.

Will Rogers said that all he knew was what he read in the paper. I've been reading the paper lately and there have been some pretty disturbing things said about the economy. I hope some Republican can explain them to us.

What does the paper say? Here's what it says:

"Unemployment climbed sharply in September to 5.5% of the nation's working force and millions of unemployed workers brought home smaller pay checks because of shorter working hours, the Labor Department reported today ..."

"Using the average consumer prices of the years 1957-1959 as the 100 base, the price index at the end of September stood at 136.6. In other words, an American consumer in September had to spend \$136.60 for the same goods and services he would have paid \$100.00 for in the years 1957-1959. Inflation continues, and living costs advanced even more swiftly last month."

Every time Mr. Nixon goes on TV or puts on one of his "economic advisers" to try to cover up for the administration, they tell us that this unemployment is good for us; that they're curing the nation's ills and must we must learn to live with this economic pinch.

Their reply to the jump in the cost of living index was that the price results were an aberration and reiterated that their program to restore economic health to the nation was working. Aberration means a deviation from what is right, natural, or normal. I agree - this jump is neither right, natural or normal.

They call it recession; I call it depression. I call it Republicans - just being Republicans - putting

the working man out of work, shrinking the dollar, and saying tighten up your belt, it's good for you.

What have we been reading about North Carolina? Let's look for a moment and see.

An Associated Press story of only a few days ago stated that unemployment compensation payments to jobless workers in North Carolina totaled nearly \$3.5 million during September and was more than double the amount paid during September 1969.

The North Carolina Employment Security Commission stated that an average of 23,470 jobless workers received unemployment checks each week in September compared to 12,423 each week in the same month last year.

This news comes at a time when the national administration is trying to tell us that the economy is looking up. If they have succeeded in convincing themselves this is true, they had better schedule a few more trips to North Carolina. They especially need to talk to our jobless workers in the textile, hosiery and apparel industries who have been hardest hit by the current recession.

To tell you the truth, I've enjoyed about all of the Nixon administration that I can stand and I believe the working people of this county, state and nation have also.

There is an old saying that you can double your money if you fold it when you put it in your pocket. I've tried it, then folded it again, then tried to squeeze another fold, but I still haven't been able to make it go around.

As a matter of fact, the Republican Party has accomplished the impossible in the economic area; they have done what scholars and economists throughout the ages have said was impossible—they have given us a depression and inflation at the same time, the worst of two worlds.

They have reduced the number of dollars in people's pockets and then shrunk those few dollars we have. Those of you who remember the great depression of the thirties know that a least then if you had a dollar, it went a long way. That's no longer true today.

And who does this hit the hardest? The poor, the retired who live on fixed incomes, the owners of insurance policies, every contributor to a retirement system. The people that over the decades the Democratic

Party has shown compassion and concern for, developed programs for—these are the same people the Republicans are ignoring and neglecting and depriving.

I hope Mr. Agnew talks about the interest rate and the fact that our young people just starting their families can no longer afford to buy homes and more and more must become apartment dwellers or live in mobile homes.

We used to talk matter-of-factly about getting married, building a home and starting a family. But those days are gone, I'm afraid, unless we can reverse this Republican economy. It looks like the current money market is going to limit homes to the fortunate few and make apartments and mobile homes the order of the day for the masses of our young people.

I hope the Vice President talks about "law and order" when he comes to North Carolina. He says that we Democrats are "boxed in" on the law and order issue; he says that we've coddled those who have disobeyed the law and caused violence and destruction. He had better check the record before he comes to North Carolina unless he wants to embarrass himself and the tottering Republican candidates he has come to prop up.

It is the Nixon administration which asked the Congress to cut \$520 million from the Safe Streets Act of 1968 (a Democratic program by the way) and then turned around and proposed a massive welfare program to provide a guaranteed annual income for every family. (Dave Henderson voted against.)

It is the Nixon administration which sponsored legislation which so infringed upon the individual liberties of our people that it has drawn the constant fire of North Carolina's conservative Senator Sam Ervin.

I hope Mr. Agnew talks about a memorandum which his White House "intellectual in residence," who incidentally holds cabinet rank, wrote concerning the Nixon administration's understanding of the crime problem.

Writing to the President, Mr. Patrick Moynihan said, "We really ought to be getting on with the research on crime. We just don't know enough. It is a year now since the Administration came to office committed to doing something about crime in the streets. But frankly in that year I don't see that we have advanced either our understanding of the problem, or that of the public at large."

This is surprising talk from someone who seemed to have all the answers during the last presidential campaign.

I think we have found some of the answers in North Carolina. Maybe it's good that folks from Washington have suddenly decided to pay us visits.

Let them look and see what the Democratic administration did in North Carolina when violence erupted on our campuses. Our Governor, our Democratic governor, stepped in in a way that made us all proud and made sure that our college and university campuses did not become a haven for law breakers. His common sense and cool thinking saved this State the turmoil which many others have experienced.

I hope they will look at our Police Information Network, which will very soon connect law enforcement agencies throughout the State, giving them, at a moment's notice, valuable information they need to fight crime more effectively.

I hope they will look at the State Bureau of Investigation. Working with our Governor and Democratic Legislature, we have more than doubled its size, upgraded its laboratory facilities, doubled the number of chemists, established regional offices, put mobile crime laboratories in the field and developed other services to help local law enforcement officials fight the rising crime rate.

What has been the result? In the first six months of this year the SBI obtained twice as many convictions and recovered three times as much stolen property as in the first six months of 1969.

During the first six months of this year, the SBI opened over 2,100 new investigations compared with 1,200 during the same period last year.

These are positive steps to fight the rising crime rate here in North Carolina.

Working with the leaders of many state agencies, our Governor, our Democratic governor, has started planning for a State Criminal Justice Training Academy to be located in Raleigh to offer training to law enforcement officials throughout this State—one of the greatest steps any state can take toward improving law enforcement and coping with the crime rate.

And much more has been done that I could tell you about. Friends, this is not just talk, this is what North Carolina is doing and I'm proud to be a Democrat in North Carolina where Democrats are doing something about fighting crime.

Let Mr. Agnew talk about taxes when he comes to North Carolina if he wants to. We'll tell him to look at the record and see that North Carolina gives its citizens more services per tax dollar spent than almost any other State in the Union.

We'll tell him that the State of North Carolina maintains 10% of all the state-owned highways in the United States and with 3% of the tax dollars. We'll tell him how North Carolina is developing industrially by leaps and bounds because over the years our Democratic administrations have been concerned about highways as arteries of commerce and have insisted that we plan for the future.

We'll show him our good public schools; a system of higher education unequalled, in my opinion, anywhere in America; our mental hospitals and programs for the physically handicapped. We'll show him our technical institutes, our parks and recreational areas, and a thousand other programs and services offered the citizens of North Carolina by its government and then ask him where anyone, anywhere, is getting more return on his tax dollar.

I dare him to try to answer. I dare him to go back to his own State of Maryland where he served as Governor and show me this kind of progress.

The Republicans thought when they announced that the Vice President was coming to North Carolina that we Democrats would send up an SOS. Well, I am sending out an SOS tonight, but it doesn't mean "Save our Ship," it means "Same old Spiro," "Same old Stuff." And I think everyone will get the message.

Now, the Republicans have a billboard on the streets—it pictures a long-haired, bearded youth waving the peace sign and riding away on a motorcycle. It pictures an older man and woman waving sadly goodbye. I believe we are to get the idea that the young people are the Democratic Party platform and the older people are being left behind.

Let me remind you here tonight just who instigated care for the aged in the State and Nation. It was a Democratic Congress and a Democratic President that passed social security into law and gave our older people an income. It was a Democratic Congress that fought for Medicare. The Democratic Party has never left the older people behind, nor do we intend to leave the young people for they need us.

I get impatient with the youth of the day as you do, but we must provide positive authority and leadership—we can't help them if we wave them goodbye. Despite their air of independence they need us more than ever.

They need us to tell them to turn down the noise of the amplified rock band because they are in truth becoming a deaf generation. They need us to save them from this adolescent nonsense about drugs before they inflict upon themselves casualties far more savage and tragic than any in Viet Nam. We're not going to desert our young people and I'm glad I am not a member of a party that is deserting their youth.

No, we're not going to desert our youth and I don't believe many of our people are going to desert the Democratic Party in North Carolina because I believe the Democratic Party of today is still the same party that Franklin Roosevelt was talking about in 1935 when he stated that it was its purpose:

"to increase the security and the happiness of a large number of people in all occupations of life and in all parts of the country; to give them more of the good things of life; to give them a greater distribution, not only of wealth in the narrow terms but of wealth in the wider terms; to give them places to go in the summer time—recreation; to give them assurance that they are not going to starve in their old age; to give honest business a chance to go ahead and make a reasonable profit; and to give everyone a chance to earn a living."

A great North Carolina Democrat of that same period spoke also for the continuation of the Democratic Party's power and leadership and his words are just as applicable today. Governor Hoey said, and I quote:

"The Democratic Party has a great heritage in its record of service to this State and Nation...The Party is permanent...It is made up of people of varying shades of political thought. It should be so. If all Democrats were conservative, we should make progress too slowly...if all were radical, we would run away with ourselves and wreck the government. By combining all of these elements together, we have the balance and checks which make for sane and progressive government."

Then Governor Hoey concluded by saying, and again I quote:

"...(the Democratic Party) was a responsible instrument for the administration of government before any of those who now occupy a place on the stage of action in our State and Nation were born, and it shall continue to be

the champion of popular rights and the
interpreter of the hopes and aspirations
of men and women throughout the land,
when they have all passed to their reward."

I share the faith of these two great Democrats of
another day because I can look to the performance and
leadership of Democrats of today. We'll take on the local
Republicans; we'll take on their candidates for Congress,
and anybody they run in on us from North of the Potomac—
we'll take them all on including Spiro, and we'll win
November 3!

Thank you.