

1970

ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The Republicans have brought the President to our State and they've brought Spiro Agnew 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 have done a lot of talking they haven't answered the questions which are worrying North Carolinians most right now.

I think that instead of making more promises to our people, they should have spent their time 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, though President Nixon and Vice President Agnew obviously could not.

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 ..." (unquote)

During the twenty-one months of the Nixon Administration, the total number of unemployed has risen from 3.3 million to 5.3 million. Today, there are two million more people out of work than there were 21 months ago.

Another item -

"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 that we must learn to live with this economic pinch.

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 the President and Vice President 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.

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 worse 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 at 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 small wage earner, 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 wish Mr. Agnew had talked 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 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 wish the Vice President had talked about "law and order" when he came to North Carolina. He said not long ago 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 knew better than to say these things about North Carolina Democrats.

What about the Nixon Administration and "law and order."

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. My memory is fairly short, but I can remember when the "guaranteed annual income" was a "dirty word" for Republicans as "radical liberals" is today.

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 wish Mr. Agnew had talked 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.

I hope they looked to 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 looked 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 looked 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.

Mr. Agnew mentioned taxes when he came to North Carolina but he didn't tell his audience that

North Carolina gives its citizens more services per tax dollar spent than almost any other State in the Union.

He didn't tell them 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. He didn't tell them 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.

He didn't tell them about 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. He didn't tell them about our technical institutes, our parks and recreational areas, and a thousand other programs and services offered the citizens of North Carolina by its government. Vice President Agnew didn't mention these accomplishments because he knows

full well that no where are voters getting more returns on their tax dollars than in North Carolina.

I dare him to go back to his own State of Maryland where he served as Governor and show me this kind of progress. He can't!

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." And I think everyone already has gotten the message.