

Chronological: Speeches, Statements, Messages, 1968: Speech to 9th Representative District Campaign Kickoff Dinner, Wahiawa

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers
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Speech by Senator Daniel K. Inouye
9th Representative District Campaign
—Kickoff Dinner, Wahiawa
27 September 1968

Official Copy

I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY FOR
TWENTY YEARS , AND DURING THAT TIME I HAVE SEEN MANY
POLITICAL TRENDS. I STUDY THEM CAREFULLY FOR THAT IS
MY BUSINESS. IT IS ON THE STRENGTH OF THIS EXPERIENCE THAT
I MUST CONFESS THAT SOME REPORTS RELATIVE TO THE NOVEMBER
ELECTION ARE RATHER ALARMING.

THERE ARE TWO EXAMPLES. THE FIRST IS A REPORT
FROM SEVERAL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY THAT LARGE NUMBERS
OF RANK AND FILE LABOR UNION MEMBERS ARE CARRYING THE
BANNERS FOR GEORGE WALLACE, OR RICHARD NIXON. IT IS
APPARENT THAT THIS SUPPORT COMES ABOUT BECAUSE OF THEIR
POSITIONS ON "LAW AND ORDER". IT ALSO IS APPARENT THAT IN
CERTAIN AREAS OF THE COUNTRY THIS PHRASE "LAW AND ORDER"

MEANS SUPPRESSION

MEANS SUPPRESSION OF THE NEGRO ; IN OTHERS, IT REPRESENTS
SUPPRESSION OF STUDENT RIOTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

IF THERE ARE SOME HERE WHO FEEL WE SHOULD HAVE
MR. WALLACE OR MR. NIXON IN THE WHITE HOUSE BECAUSE OF
THE "LAW AND ORDER" ISSUE, MAY I MAKE SOME COMMENTS.

AS A PRELUDE, MAY I SAY THAT I DO NOT WISH TO SPEND
TIME RE-HASHING THE RECORD OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AS
IT RELATES TO SOCIAL SECURITY, MINIMUM WAGE LAWS , RIGHT
OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING , RIGHT TO ORGANIZE, AID TO
EDUCATION , MEDICARE, ETC. ETC. NEITHER DO I WISH TO
SUGGEST THAT DEMOCRATS TAKE ALL OF THE CREDIT FOR THE
HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING WORKING MEN EVERYWHERE ACROSS
THE COUNTRY ARE ENJOYING. YOU SURELY KNOW THE RECORD.
YOU ARE LIVING IT. BUT SOME MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN HOW LONG
AND HARD THE STRUGGLE HAS BEEN , OFTEN AGAINST THE TIDE ,
TO GET WHERE WE ARE TODAY.

TO GET WHERE WE ARE TODAY. AND IT IS EASY TO FORGET
THAT IN THE SHIFTING CURRENTS OF AMERICAN POLITICAL
THOUGHT, MANY OF LABOR'S STAUCHEST SUPPORTERS IN CONGRESS
HAVE NOT MADE IT BACK TO SHORE. MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS
OF STRUGGLE ARE BEHIND THE AFFLUENCE LABOR ENJOYS TODAY.
IT SHOULD , THEREFORE , BE SOBERING , AS I WILL SHOW YOU IN
A MINUTE , HOW THE PRESENT WINDS CAN BLOW THESE GAINS
AWAY IN JUST A FEW BRIEF MONTHS.

RATHER THAN GO INTO THE PAST , I WANT TO TALK TO
YOU ABOUT LABOR'S FUTURE---A FUTURE WITH A PRESIDENT WHO
IS TOUGH ON LAW AND ORDER IN THE WAY THESE MEN SAY THEY
WILL BE TOUGH. I HOPE YOU REALIZE THAT ALL OF US SUPPORT
LAW AND ORDER. THAT IS NOT AN ISSUE , NO MATTER HOW MUCH
THE REPUBLICANS WANT TO MAKE IT ONE.

BUT WHAT IS ON ISSUE IS HOW TO ACHIEVE LAW AND ORDER

WITHOUT THE SERIOUS LOSS

WITHOUT THE SERIOUS LOSS OF CIVIL LIBERTIES. I WONDER HOW
MANY OF OUR UNION FRIENDS WHO SUPPORT GOVERNOR WALLACE
HAVE CONSIDERED THAT THE VERY SAME LEGAL PROCESSES
USED TO AUTHORIZE POLICE OR GUARDSMEN TO CRUSH A STUDENT
DEMONSTRATION , OR A RIOT , CAN BE USED TO BUST A STRIKE.
STUDENT PROTEST AND STUDENT VIOLENCE AND LABOR STRIKING
AND LABOR VIOLENCE ARE NOT THAT MUCH DIFFERENT. THE
BASIC DIFFERENCES ARE AGE. A BILLY CLUB ON ONE MAN'S
HEAD IS JUST AS PAINFUL AS IT IS ON ANOTHER'S.

IF WE TINKER WITH THE LAWS LIKE THOSE TWO GENTLEMEN
SUGGEST THEY WANT TO , AND IF THEY GET THIS COUNTRY MORE
STIRRED UP THROUGH THE EXCESSIVE USE OF POLICE POWER ,
UNION MEMBERS NEED NOT THINK THAT THEIR OWN RENDEZVOUS
WITH THE TEAR GAS BOMB IS FAR AWAY.

SECOND , WE DON'T NEED TO KID OURSELVES ABOUT THE
TEMPER OF THE TIMES.

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TEMPER OF THE TIMES. WE VERY LIKELY WILL WITNESS THE RETURN OF CONSERVATISM DURING THE NEXT FOUR TO EIGHT YEARS. THE LIBERAL HONEYMOON MAY BE OVER. MOST LIBERALS RUNNING FOR CONGRESS THIS YEAR ARE HAVING THE FIGHT OF A LIFETIME. THIS MEANS THAT INSTEAD OF INTRODUCING NEW LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE THE LABORING MAN A BETTER LIFE AND SAFEGUARD HIS RIGHTS, YOU WILL FIND THAT YOUR FRIENDS IN CONGRESS WILL HAVE TO DOGFIGHT TO MAINTAIN THE GAINS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE. AND ANOTHER THING: DON'T BE SURPRISED IF THE SAME LIBERALS WHO CRITICIZED THE FILIBUSTER MAY FIND THEMSELVES THANKFUL THAT IT IS STILL AROUND.

THE SECOND THING THAT ALARMS ME IS HOW MANY PEOPLE , ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG INTELLECTUALS, AND THOSE WHO PROFESS TO SUPPORT LIBERALISM , NOW GO ABOUT ADVOCATING THE DEFEAT OF HUBERT HUMPHREY. OR, IF THEY DO NOT ACTUALLY ADVOCATE HIS DEFEAT , THEY SIT ON THEIR HANDS

WHEN IT COMES TO HELPING.

WHEN IT COMES TO HELPING. THEY ARGUE IT IS SMART TO LET
NIXON OR WALLACE BE ELECTED THIS TIME SO THAT IN FOUR
YEARS THEY CAN DUMP HIM AND PUT IN THEIR OWN MAN.

THIS IS A FINE DOUBLE CROSS FOR THE PARTY. BUT MORE
SERIOUS , THEY UNDERESTIMATE MR. WALLACE OR MR. NIXON.
IF EITHER OF THESE TWO MEN GET ELECTED , HE WILL MOST
LIKELY BE IN OFFICE FOR EIGHT YEARS. I WONDER IF THESE
PUNDITS COMPREHEND WHAT EVEN FOUR YEARS WITH EITHER OF
THESE MEN WOULD BE LIKE. IMAGINE MR. WALLACE IN THE
WHITE HOUSE , A MAN WHO FEEDS LIKE A VULTURE ON CLASS
AND RACE HATREDS ; WHO BELIEVES OUR VASTLY COMPLEX AND
DIFFICULT DOMESTIC PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED BY POLICE
REPRESSION.

OR , WEIGH IN MR. NIXON WHOSE MOST CONCRETE PROPOSAL
THUS FAR CALLS FOR POSTPONING CONSIDERATION OF THE NUCLEAR

NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. HE SHOULD KNOW THAT TO ALLOW DISTRIBUTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS TO INVITE BLACKMAIL BY EVERY TWO-BIT POWER IN THE WORLD , AND THE INCINERATION OF US ALL. RUSSIA PLAYS A TOUGH GAME AND WE DARE NOT TURN OUR BACKS TO HER FOR A MOMENT , BUT SHE IS ONE PARTY TO NEGOTIATE WITH , NOT FIFTY. OUR NATION HAS LABORED LONG TO BRING THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO THIS STAGE. THEY ARE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST. THE ISSUE STANDS ABOVE PARTISANSHIP.

YET IT APPEARS THAT MR. NIXON IS WILLING TO USE THE TREATY FOR PARTISAN PURPOSES BY GENERATING HEAT IN THE RIGHT WING ELEMENT OF OUR SOCIETY.

I UNDERSTAND AS WELL AS ANYONE THE DESIRE OF MEN TO BE ELECTED. BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IRRESPONSIBILITY. THE HEADS OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT HAVE A PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE,

WHETHER ON ITS LEGISLATION,

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WHETHER ON ITS LEGISLATION , ITS ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS ,
OR IN JUDICIAL REVIEW. WHEN A CANDIDATE IS WRONG ON
FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES AS THESE ARE, AND IF WE MUST RISK FOUR
YEARS OF WALLACE OR NIXON---THEN ALL I CAN SAY IS
GOD HELP AMERICA.

I REALIZE THE PICTURE I AM PAINTING OF DEMOCRATIC
CHANCES LOOKS GRIM. BUT I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A
REALISTIC POLITICIAN AND TODAY THE PICTURE IS GRIM. AT
THE SAME TIME, THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF BETTER DAYS :
THE POLLS ARE IMPROVING ; SO ARE THE CROWDS. THERE IS A
GROWING EVIDENCE OF PARTY UNITY. AS THE DAYS GO BY AND
THE ISSUES BECOME KNOWN , I HAVE FAITH THAT THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE WILL SEE THE RISK THEY WOULD TAKE WITH EITHER
WALLACE OR NIXON IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

IF THERE EVER WAS A TIME TO VOTE FOR A DEMOCRATIC

PRESIDENT , THAT TIME IS NOW.

PRESIDENT , THAT TIME IS NOW. THE EVIDENCE AS TO WHAT A
 DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION MEANS MATERIALLY TO THIS
 STATE IS PRETTY OVERWHELMING. I HAVEN'T NOTICED ANY
 COMPLAINTS FROM THE SUGAR INDUSTRY OVER ITS TREATMENT
 IN WASHINGTON. NEITHER HAVE I NOTICED ANY DROPS IN
 PINEAPPLE DIVIDENDS. MORE CARS ARE BEING SOLD THIS YEAR
 THAN EVER BEFORE. MORE PEOPLE OWN COLOR TELEVISIONS.
 MORE PEOPLE ARE BUYING HOUSES WITH TWO-CAR GARAGES.
 MORE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE GOING TO COLLEGE. WITH MEDICARE ,
 MORE OLD PEOPLE CAN LOOK TO A DIGNIFIED AND SECURE
 RETIREMENT. AND THESE GAINS MUST BE PROTECTED.

I DON'T WANT TO BORE YOU WITH TECHNICALITIES ,
 EXCEPT TO POINT OUT THAT ALL IT TAKES IS A FEW CONSERVATIVE
 FACES ON THE SUPREME COURT BENCH TO CUT THE HEART OUT
 OF FORWARD LOOKING LEGISLATION OF THE PAST EIGHTS YEARS :

CIVIL RIGHTS

CIVIL RIGHTS , REDISTRICTING , LABOR GUARANTEES , AID TO
EDUCATION , AND ALL THE REST. REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN
NEED NOT EXPOSE THEMSELVES TO THE CLUMSY AND DANGEROUS
PATH OF LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO KNOCK OUT THESE GAINS.
WHY DEBATE LABOR LAW AMENDMENTS ON THE FLOOR OF THE
CONGRESS AND HAVE A VOTE THAT WILL MAKE IT PART OF THE
PUBLIC RECORD WHEN THAT ONE LITTLE PART THAT MAKES THE
LAW EFFECTIVE CAN BE QUIETLY KNOCKED OUT THROUGH A
COURT RULING ? THE AVERAGE VOTER DOES NOT UNDERSTAND
A TECHNICAL RULING , AND A JUDGE DOES NOT HAVE TO STAND
FOR ELECTION. THE REPUBLICAN PARTY CAN STILL HOLD TO A
SIZABLE CHUNK OF THE LABOR VOTE. LEAVE THE STATUTE ON
THE BOOKS. WHAT DOES IT HURT ONCE A LAW HAS BEEN
EMASCULATED BY THE COURT.

IT IS TO GAIN CONTROL OF JUDICIAL RULINGS THAT THE
REPUBLICAN PARTY HAS CHOSEN TO MAKE SUCH AN ISSUE OF

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S APPOINTMENT OF ABE FORTAS.

NOTHING MORE.

THIS IS GOING TO BE AN IMPORTANT YEAR. I JUST HOPE
THAT THE LABORING MAN WILL REMEMBER , BEFORE IT IS TOO
LATE , JUST WHO HIS FRIENDS ARE.