

SUBJECT: Comments by National Democratic Chairman John M. Bailey
At Salt Lake City, Democratic Conference, Fri., Jan. 12, '68.

Where will Republicans attack us in the upcoming campaign? For awhile it looked like they would make Vietnam the big issue. But since the GOP has developed absolutely no alternative to President Johnson's Vietnam policies, Republicans are shifting their emphasis to another area.

It looks now like they will try to blame the Democratic Party for racial unrest in this country. They will stir the stew of bigotry. But let me tell you, we aren't going to let them get away with it.

President Johnson has made it clear that law and order come first in this country. If you read the papers, you know the courts are also beginning to take a sterner attitude toward those who preach hate and dish out violence.

President Johnson and Democrats in Congress are going to make clear to everyone in 1968 that in this nation we make changes with the ballot, not the bomb. Those who do not yet know this about our American tradition will, I predict, learn it soon.

On the surface, I know, it sometimes seems we are going backward instead of forward with race relations. I assure you this is not the case.

The basic strength of this nation is in our melting pot. We are proud to be black, white, red, yellow and all the shades between.

If brother is ever to line up with brother to prevent this old world from exploding--it will happen first in the United States of America. If it doesn't happen here, it won't happen.

Right now we are getting a badly distorted view regarding the extent of racial problems in our nation. The distortion comes from the fact a few misguided souls, both black and white, are willing to make wild statements for the press and TV cameras.

Yet today 98% of all Americans--regardless of creed or color--stand firmly together in determination to eliminate crime in the streets. And President Johnson has made it known that the rights of law-abiding citizens are going to come first.

The wild-eyed, loose-tongued, hate-mongers who sometimes seem to monopolize the TV screen--in both black and white skins--represent only the tiniest minority of either race.

(more)

---2---more Bailey, Salt Lake City

There is a clear line where lawful protest ends and criminal acts begin. The President, Congress and the courts will draw this line sharply during 1968.

Those who preach hatred of blacks and those who preach hatred of whites are equally wrong.

Throwing a Molotov-cocktail into an innocent person's home or business because of past wrongs is just a new form of bigotry. It is in the same category as loosing snarling dogs on peaceful demonstrators. Instead of righting past wrongs, it creates new ones. Instead of helping a minority race, it hurts that race.

We are all human and the juice of prejudice drips at times within us all. But in America, in spite of the extremists you see and hear so often--and who represent such a small minority--colors and creeds ARE growing closer together. Brother is lining up with brother.

Black, white, red and yellow are all ~~lining~~ up together to make the extremists realize that civil riots will not be tolerated...not even in the false name of civil rights.

Who do you think is most concerned about eliminating the cruel riots which cause so much harm to innocent persons? It is the 99 out of 100 law-abiding citizens who live in the ghettos where these riots have been occurring.

It is their homes and businesses being destroyed by the torchbearers. Their sons and daughters are wounded and killed by burning buildings and stray sniper bullets.

I predict 1968 will see Americans of all faiths and colors joining together to protect themselves from the small minority in all races who are preaching hatred and violence as a way of life.

Men of good will founded this land and made it flower. Bigots, whatever their color, are going to discover that the men of good will still prevail in the United States.

Where prejudice and hate exist to such a degree that rights and privileges of other Americans are infringed upon, those so carried away by hate will be forced to back up.

The Molotov-cocktail thrower is a prime candidate for arrest and jail. A deprived background is not sufficient excuse for burning buildings, looting or shooting. Those indulging such anti-social behaviour will find

(more)

---3---more Bailey, Salt Lake City

their future more deprived than their past.

Americans of every belief and color are demanding the right to walk their streets and conduct their business without fear. We in the Democratic Party believe they deserve this right.

This nation was founded by people fleeing intolerance. We have never had a state religion. We teach our children tolerance of other opinions and beliefs.

Throughout our history, we Americans have gained strength from each other. From our melting pot has come one of the great civilizations.

There are a few among us who want to set Americans apart from other Americans, because of difference in skin shade or heritage.

This is something in which neither our President nor our Party believe. We will fight to prevent it.

The tiny percentage of white and black Americans who preach and practice hate are going to find the going rough in 1968. Our Democratic leaders, from President Johnson down, are committed to outlawing crime in the streets.

Unlike the Republican Party, we are committed to doing something about the root causes of riots. We recognize many people in the nation's ghettos and elsewhere are in a sad plight. And they aren't all black.

They deserve a decent chance in life--better education, more job opportunities.

Their chance of getting this better opportunity is far better with President Johnson and the Democratic Party than with the GOP. I think every last one of them knows it.

When you take a good look at the situation, it is obvious that the issues of 1968 strongly favor President Johnson and the Democratic Party. I believe even most Republicans realize it. That is why I think they may again play their 1964 game where civil rights is concerned--give lip service to equal justice, while fanning the flames of prejudice where they think it might be helpful.

But not many Americans will be fooled. The people of this nation are going to get along with each other. We are going to improve every man's opportunity together. We will all join together in support of law and order.

(more)

---4---more Bailey, Salt Lake City

And together we will stand against foes within and without.

That is the program of President Johnson and the Democratic Party.

It is a program the people want.

It will bring us victory in November.

Thank you.

(30)