

# Richard Nixon for President

The Times strongly urges the election of Richard M. Nixon as the 37th President of the United States.

Vice President Humphrey is an able and honorable man, and might have been a good choice for the nation's highest office in the context of another time and circumstance.

The simple fact of the matter is, however, that Nixon possesses the qualities of leadership which will be sorely needed during the next four years and Humphrey does not.

This country faces a crisis which is unique in its history.

The United States is the most powerful nation on earth, and has reached levels of technological competence and overall economic prosperity which are the envy of the world.

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Yet we suffer from a malaise of the spirit, a cancer of fear, frustration and self-doubt which threaten to turn us into a people at war with each other—unable and unwilling to cope with the very real problems which afflict us both at home and abroad.

Black Americans, caught up in a revolution of rising expectations, are impressed less with the unprecedented progress of the last few years than they are angered by the poverty, indignity and atmosphere of hopelessness which remain characteristic of life in the ghetto.

Many of our young people are in rebellion against what they see as a fat, phony and complacent society, and are either dropping out or turning to the politics of the street.

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Alienation on the left is matched by a far more massive and politically potent alienation on the right—a backlash by those who are so incensed by riots, crime in the streets and demonstrations that they are even willing to vote for George Wallace.

Most numerous of all are those in the middle who work hard, pay their taxes and obey the law—and have grown tired of footing the bill for people who, as they see it, do not.

Any social program which does not have the support of this "silent majority"—or at least its acquiescence—is politically untenable in the long run, no matter what its merits may be.

The American people, then, are starving for a new leadership which can bridge their differences, bring out the best instead of the worst in them and restore their confidence in themselves and their country.

If the next President is to have any chance of uniting the country and harnessing its energies for the tasks ahead, he must not only do what is right but be able to convince the people that he is doing so. And there can be no reasonable doubt that Nixon has far surpassed Humphrey in the art of successful spokespersonship.

The polls indicate that the voters, on the whole, see Nixon as the candidate best qualified to end the war, control crime and stop inflation—in short, to handle the issues which are of greatest concern to the people.

Things could change in the next three weeks.

As of now, however, the GOP candidate leads in every region except the South—and he is surpassed there not by Humphrey but by Wallace. He runs ahead of Humphrey among the young as well as the not so young, the educated and not-so-educated, city folk and farmers.

Nixon presides over a robust, united Republican party which is shoulder deep in talent, enthusiasm and ideas. And, whatever his detractors may say, he fully intends to be an activist, problem-solving President—not a stand-patter who seeks only to tranquilize the country.

Humphrey, on the other hand, suffers from a multitude of liabilities which, while not all of his own making, nonetheless serve to disqualify him for the Presidency.

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The Democratic nominee is, first of all, the victim of a massive revolt against the Johnson Administration with which he is indelibly identified.

His traditional bases of support include farmers, organized labor and liberal intellectuals. But the farm population is declining and fretful, rank-and-file union members are deserting in record numbers to Nixon and Wallace, and many of the most prominent Democratic intellectuals have transferred their allegiance to the likes of Sen. Eugene McCarthy.

The inevitable conclusion is that Humphrey, even if elected, would be a minority president who, from his first day in office, would find himself engaged in a running, destructive battle with a majority consisting of Republicans, Wallaceites and dissenting Democrats.

The Democratic party is coming apart at the seams and, as a result, appears unable to offer the country a decent prospect of effective and coherent government.

Any thoughtful citizen must conclude, in this election year, that the Republican campaign slogan is quite literally true: Nixon is the One.