

# SAWYER HITS 'DO NOT DISTURB' PHILOSOPHY

Following is the text of Gov. Grant Sawyer's keynote address to the Democratic Party State Convention in Las Vegas last weekend:

TODAY WE MEET together as Democrats always do—in an atmosphere of party dedication and idealism on the one hand, of individual conviction and determination on the other.

It was this spirit of fierce independence that brought this state into being one hundred years ago. It was a spirit shared by Democrats and Republicans alike in 1864.

Since then there has been a change. We Democrats have retained that fiery devotion to positive action and progress so evident in 1864, while the Republicans have retained the platforms.

Our ultimate purpose here is to participate in the growth and progress of our state and nation. We do this partially through the mechanism of our political party. Although the people, under the democratic system, always make the final determinations on all matters basic to the public interest, those who are selected to represent them in public office can be a major factor for good or bad. Through our selection of party officers, our nominees for office, our attitudes expressed by way of resolution, we all work in the broad framework of public affairs. Our responsibilities, as party members, then are important because we and our party structure help determine the kind of state and nation that we will have. The challenge which confronts us is how to best contribute to the public welfare and as individuals and a party work to achieve these goals.

IT SEEMS TO ME that in meeting our responsibilities some basics should be mentioned.

1. Democrats have no corner on virtue or purity. There are a great many Republicans in our state who are just as progressive, energetic and interested in good government as we like to think we are. And they have helped us, during the past few years, propel this state into the 20th century.

2. Petty, partisan criticism of the other party or individuals which comprise it harms us more than our intended targets. It reduces us to the same crude level of those who limit their political contributions to such carping about us. The public is not fooled by such tactics.

3. Our own house must be kept in order. This means that we must not by tacit consent or silence embrace or permit the lunatic right or left to go unchallenged. We have an obligation to publicly speak out against any such radical or destructive element in our own party, if such there be.

4. Our obligations can be served only by enunciating principles and programs and by taking positive action on important state, national and international matters. What do we stand for? How do we intend to make this a better state and nation? These are the vital questions. It is too easy to be against, to offer nothing but ancient history as a cure for modern troubles.

5. We must be willing to challenge, fight and engage in every honorable way the leaders of the opposition. Our battle standard must bear the issues, not personalities. And in our crusade we must be constantly aware that our efforts to reach a goal are the most graphic indications of how we will serve when it is reached. We cannot be dishonorable in a campaign and honorable as office holders.

6. Finally, as electors of our party, we cannot abdicate our responsibilities to the people of this state by failing to nominate persons who will best serve Nevada. Any other course would be failure in the worst sense.

WE HAVE the good fortune to live in the most exciting and dynamic state in America. Per capita, we are the fastest growing, most prosperous state of all the fifty. But the great progress made in the last few years serves only as a glimpse to the future. We have barely

scratched the surface of our potential. We are proud of our past, but we must not be content to live in it. The Democrats must have the vitality, the vision and the courage to think in terms of tomorrow. We cannot be deterred by those who waste their energies through petty sniping or unwillingness to accept change or progress. We must move on by those who, overcome with their dreams of the past, hang out the "Do Not Disturb" sign. We must forge on in the spirit of those who 100 years ago commenced the staggering job of carving this state out of the wilderness.

The job of the future will take the combined talents of all of our citizens of both parties, of all races, of all economic and social stratas. It has never been more evident than today that Democrats will provide the leadership in this great task. It is abundantly clear that those in the Republican Party who have and will continue to contribute substantially to progress have been smothered by the party leadership under a soggy blanket of reaction and negativism. Never has the Republican leadership generally, and in our state particularly, marched off to the

clarion call of the 18th century so briskly as they are marching today. Substantial and responsible Republicans, disgusted with the takeover of their party by a misguided minority, can no longer work within the framework of their party. As a Democrat I want to thank them publicly for their help in the past and assure them of a continuing warm and comfortable relationship in our future joint efforts toward a better state of Nevada.

My dear friends, whatever our business here, I am confident that we will approach it responsibly and with the knowledge that the high degree of public trust imposed upon us will be faithfully executed. This is not a clambake—it is serious business. There will not and should not be unanimity in all matters, but the results, I am sure, will place our party in the mainstream of public thought and will reflect a party of action and progress—a party that truly represents a dynamic American and a Nevada with unparalleled promise.

I hope to share with you a convention which reflects the best qualities of leadership the Democratic Party in Nevada has to offer.

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