WHAT CAN ONE MAN DO IN THIS WORLD?

Exerpts from Mo Udall's Newsletters

On Priorities

We have a great country, and we do many things very well. But I don't think it hurts to take stock occasionally of our weaknesses along with our strengths. And this even applies to the decisions we make every day as private citizens. Howard Samuels, former Under Secretary of Commerce, pointed out last year that as a people we spend as much on chewing gum as we do on low-rent housing, as much for hair dye as for mass transit, as much for pet food as for food stamps for the poor. No one should question our *right* to buy these things; the question is simply: should they take such priority?

On Tax Reform

It seems that under our present system, the axiom that the rich get richer, and the poor get taxes, is operating. Whether that system is changed in any significant way depends in large measure on the interest shown by you and your fellow citizens. Unlike Boyle's Law, which says pressure is inversely proportional to volume, pressure on Congress is *directly* proportional to the volume of constituent mail.

On Inflation

In preparing for the period of peace we all hope lies ahead, I think we ought to give real attention to this problem of inflation. It need not be a by-product of war; surely we know now we can't have both "guns and butter." And it need not be a by-product of peace. It is my hope that out of this costly experience will come a determination to improve our fiscal and other machinery to deal with the problem of inflation. If we will do that, we may never again go through such an unstable period or see so many of our hard-earned dollars disappear.

On Population

Americans, voluntarily and openly, must face the fact that most of our tensions and our failures are directly due to an unrestrained, spiraling population growth. Every family with two or more children would make a personal, voluntary decision to have no more children. Every couple with no children or one child would voluntarily agree to stop with the second.

Having done this, we would use science and technology and the resources of government to thin out the cities by making it attractive for industries and people to voluntarily relocate in smaller, middle-sized communities, where people still can be a blessing, not a burden. We would do for this country the one thing which I believe would bring back tranquility and a permanent strength: Stabilize Our Population.

'STAY IN THE SYSTEM'

As we start this new decade which will mark the bi-centennial of the Declaration of Independence, our nation is in a time of troubles. At times it seems that the very fabric of our society is going to pull apart. Many of our sons and daughters, whom we taught to have ideals and to strive for the best, see all too clearly many of our imperfections and want to change things *now.* In response they are being told: *"Stay in the system. Work through the political process."* I agree with that advice, but I think we had better take a look at that system and that process if we expect our advice to be heeded.

If we can amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College – and I think we will – and if we can lower the voting age to 18 – which we have – then I think it's time we did something about our archaic registration and voting procedures as well. If we do, we can breathe new life into our system of suffrage and reassert our faith in America's great experiment in government, as Lincoln said:

Of the people, by the people and for the people.

THE WORDS OF MO UDALL CAN BE GUIDES FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION.

WE NEED MO IN CONGRESS TO CONTINUE TO PUT INTO EFFECT THE IDEAS EXPRESSED HERE.

THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR

mo udall
CONGRESS

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