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>About the Book

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The special quality that distinguishes Morris K. Udall from his Congressional colleagues and others is wisdom graced with humor. As this sparkling book demonstrates, wit can disarm the staunchest opponent—even when delivered by a one-eyed former Mormon, the respected liberal Democrat from the arid deserts of the southwest.

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When Mo Udall was running second to Jimmy Carter in primary after Presidential primary in 1979 ("My God, Mo, I know your campaign war chest is empty and you have to hitch-hike rides on military planes—but Jimmy Carter!—you can't beat Jimmy Carter in Wisconsin?") he was upset by the Georgian's clearly redundant down-home, homespun appeal. Udall responded in a stump speech in rural Illinois: "I think I, too, know something about small towns. Globe, Arizona, where I came from, was so small you couldn't even have lust in your heart... why, I was in the fifth grade before I learned the town's name wasn't resume speed..."

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□

Shades of Will Rogers. But Mo's humor has a serious side: it deflates pretentiousness while getting the job done. He employed wit against the extravagances of Adam Clayton Powell and thereby helped to reform an outdated seniority system. Later his cheerful good humor (and perfectly-timed barbs) protected public lands via the omnibus Wilderness Act, and more recently Mo directed immortal lines against the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, who seemed to have forgotten that Mo and his colleagues voted against the MX missile and aid to the contras.

(A)



□ Last year Morris Udall was named the most effective member of the U.S. Congress by the full membership, supporters and opponents alike.

□ A useful ^{collection} appendix of jokes, stories, and anecdotes drawn from Mo's legendary black notebooks and arranged by subject for any public speaking occasion complete the work.

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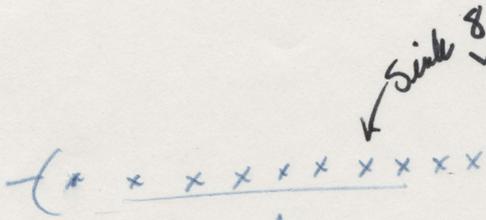
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Too Funny to Be President

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by Morris K. Udall

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original hardcover
original paperback
9/29/86

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Published by Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 521 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10175.

Distributed in Canada by Fitzhenry & Whiteside Limited, 195 Allstate Parkway, Markham, Ontario L3R 4T8.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Udall, Morris K.

Too funny to be President / by Morris K. Udall. 1st ed.

□ p. □ cm.

ISBN 0-8050-0593-5

- 1. Udall, Morris K.—Anecdotes.
- 2. Udall, Morris K.—Humor.
- 3. Political satire, American.
- 4. United States—Politics and government—1945—

E840.8.U3A3 1987

973.925'092'4--dc19

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87-17922
CIP

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ISBN

First Edition

Designed by Jeffrey L. Ward
Printed in the United States of America

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DEDICATION

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This book is dedicated to the 3,000 Members of Congress, living and
dead with whom I served for nearly three decades.

Morris K. Udall

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1R# Acknowledgments

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Run in

This work is the product of a whole generation of interns, staffers, colleagues and friends who helped collect and organize my three looseleaf books:

- Larry L. King
- Richard Olsen
- Terry Bracy
- Dee Jackson
- Dean "Chuck" Ares
- Bonnie Kell
- Matt James
- Tom Chandler
- Abe Chanin
- Ken Burton

to mention only a few.

Joan Shycoff deserves a great reward for her tireless efforts transcribing my scratchy tapes and old jokes.

I am indebted to my longtime friend, Art Buchwald, the author of "Buchwald's Fourth Law", which reads: "The first two times you use a joke, give your source credit. From then on, to hell with it! Be shameless claim it as your own. After all, your source undoubtedly stole it from someone else."

Another giant who honors me with a flattering forward is Erma Bombeck, the first lady of humor, who has brought the healing power of laughter to a whole country.

Two others played critical roles in getting the project off the ground and when I was discouraged and ready to abandon it, Bob Neuman, my longtime press assistant and now my Administrative Assistant, who was there at the beginning and persevered to the end. The other is James R. Udall, my second

persevered

Acknowledgements (continued...2)

son, whose invaluable ability to put down old memories in fresh and lucid prose, ^{made him} was the key person in reviving the enterprise at a critical time.

□ His wife, Leslie, and Bob Neuman's ^{wife} Kay, along with Ella Udall deserve thanks for their patience, understanding, and encouragement.

□ Finally, my thanks to Esther Newberg and Jack Macrae for sticking with us when the going was tough.

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Morris K. Udall

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