

# Hart bears standard

By TIM RICHARD

Phil Hart began by condemning the presidential veto of a public works bill, then he and his helpers hoped it would be re-passed over the veto. Next he blistered the secretary of agriculture for failing to use manpower to feed the needy.

Then the veteran senator, 75, senator from Michigan, left his Oakland County Democratic audience in a secret. "That was taken from my 1968 speech."

IN THIS YEAR he announced his candidacy for the upper house of Congress, and for each of the 18 years he has been there, Hart has addressed an Oakland Democratic dinner in his honor.

This year he is not seeking re-election and has been battling from cancer and his late 70s. Hart's speech was delivered to people in southeast Michigan. He talked Sunday evening in the Raleigh House in Southfield was his farewell address, with a tone of strong underlying emotion.

"YOU COULD CONCLUDE it (the 1968 speech) was one of those rare great speeches that is valid for all time," Hart reflected. "But that isn't true."

"If you're a thinking Democrat, you could say we had a Democratic president there for seven years and a Republican president for seven years, and we have to start again."

Hart drew two conclusions:

"It's a while of a lot easier to solve technical problems—putting a man, not a woman, on the moon—or to solve social problems."

"The often we liberals were tussling with the system and not changing the system. Where we dealt with the structure of the system—as in the voting rights act—we were effective."

"The problem is, I believe it will be government in the liberal mold that will have the best chance of meeting the goals."

Hart said liberalism must be "firm in its goals, tentative in its solutions to meet those goals."

The goals? Those are still valid. Provide decent health care, decent incomes, decent methods, feed the hungry at home, feed the world, bring sanity to a world that spends \$20 billion a year on arms."

"Evolution is a very slow process."

The arena race prompted a very comment on a recent news event. "When they close an air base at Kirtland, that's the arrangement for Cuyahoga County, but we can't have it both ways."

THE DENVER drew some 800 persons. Hart was first, the only speech, and introduction of the program, concluding many previous bidding for the Democratic nomination to succeed Hart—were kept out of the program.

The introduction was performed by the man who brought Hart into active politics—former Sen. Williams, now a justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

It was Williams who, as governor in 1964, helped Hart in the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor and then helped him win Republican Charles Poter.

Williams said Hart's 34-year record was with his own first victory for governor in 1968 as his most gratifying.

From the party there was a reproduction of a leading Washington Post article summarizing Hart's ideals and ideals. From the Southfield City Council there was a resolution praising his character.

FROM HART himself there were touching personal thanks and themes closing comments.

"I wish I could say political participation is an unbroken string of successes, but you have to accept defeat and plodding."

"Evolution is a very slow process."



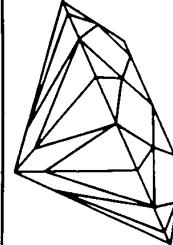
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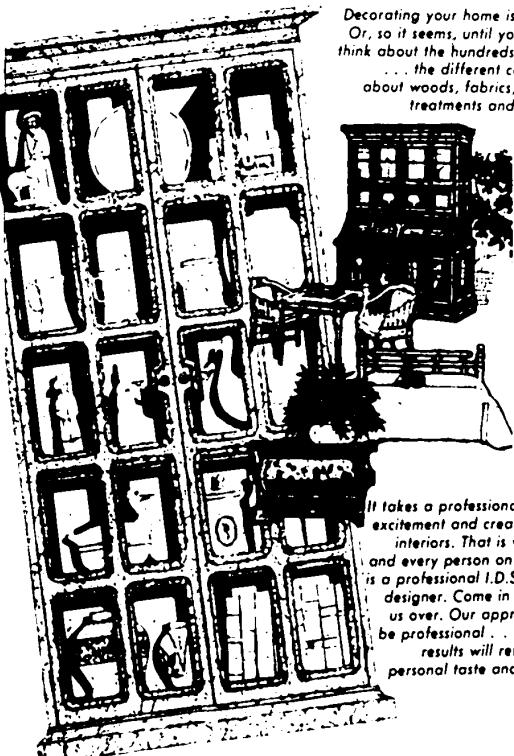
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