

Speech of Stewart L. Udall at ^{PRESCOTT} ~~Gottonwood~~ Rally, October 27, 1954
(For release ^{WED.} ~~Tuesday~~ evening.)

You have heard, no doubt, during this campaign, that there is a new spirit of teamwork among the candidates of the Democratic party. As never before, we have closed ranks this fall and are working together in common cause. Our candidate for Governor, Sen. Ernest McFarland, has other committments and could not be here this evening, and therefore, as an example of this teamwork, I have devoted a major portion this evening to the gubernatorial campaign. After all, Gov. Pyle chose to enter the congressional race last Saturday in Yuma by commenting that one of my opponents in the primary was "the best qualified and worthiest" candidate. Consequently, I feel it is my ^{right} ~~duty~~, as a member of the Democratic team, to make certain observtions concerning the race for governor.

Judging by the press releases, there has recently been formed in our midst a tiny group which might well be called Herbert-Hoover-Democrats-for-Pyle. These gentlemen have stated the incumbent should be re-elected because of the leadership he has given during the last four years. I am glad they framed this as the chief issue in the campaign for I fully agree that the principal issue facing the voters of this state concerns the type of leadership they want in the top echelon of state government.

I would not insult ^{your intelligence} ~~you~~ by telling you that the incumbent has been a complete failure as our chief executive. He has, at best, a modest record of accomplishment, largely due to cooperation by Democrats in the state legislature. Like any other citizen, he is entitled to credit where credit is due; and like any other citizen in a democracy, he is subject to honest criticism when he magnifies his credits, and his friends praise him for a quality of leadership he has never exhibited,

It seems to me that Pyle's leadership has been sporadic and ill-timed, and that he has significantly failed to lead out and help to solve the most crucial problems facing the state.

Let me list some of his significant failures as a leader:

1) The overwhelming, paramount issue facing Arizona during Pyle's tenure as governor has been conservation of water resources. The security and future of our state are further endangered each day this problem remains unsolved. It is our firm belief that a strong governor -- a governor truly devoted to the state, able and willing to lead the people, and having sufficient courage to risk an open fight with selfish interests -- would, at all costs, have secured the prompt enactment of stabilizing legislation by exerting the full authority of his office. During his first year in office, Pyle seemingly set out, with the help of a citizens' committee which he appointed, to provide this much-needed leadership. However, when the legislature convened and speculators who had no concern for the future growth of the state arrayed themselves against his plan, he put aside his high responsibility to the people, ignominiously abandoned his hard-working committee, withdrew his bill and later agreed to appoint a new committee to re-study the situation. To this day our water resources are still dwindling and the emergency grows by the hour. This is Pyle's major failure as governor -- a failure we must profoundly regret, for the lost opportunities of 1951, 1952, and 1953 cannot be retrieved.

2) Pyle has been elected twice on a platform of tax reform, and he has repeatedly stated that the state should shoulder a larger share of the school-tax burden. Again, strong leadership was indispensable to success, and strong leadership has not been forthcoming. During the 1953 legislative session, the governor would not openly support the proposals of a school-tax committee he had appointed, and he finally

advised the legislature that he would sign any school-tax bill passed by that body.

3) During his campaign for re-election in 1952, the chief plank in the Governor's platform was that he would work for repeal of the law imposing sales tax on food. When the legislature convened in 1953, he disappointed the housewives and wage-earners who had taken him at his word by failing to exert strong pressure on behalf of this proposal. In fact, to the surprise of the legislators, he removed it from his list of "must" legislation at the mid-point in the session, and shortly after, in an astonishing reversal, he lent support to those who were seeking to solve the school problem by increasing the sales tax on food and other commodities.

4) In newspaper ads now appearing throughout the state, the Governor is taking credit for leadership in ending compulsory school segregation in Arizona. This claim has astonished those who carried on the fight for many years to desegregate the public schools. When he took office in 1951, Howard Pyle had an excellent opportunity to provide leadership in this field. However, this was three years before the United States Supreme Court laid down a new national policy regarding segregation of school children and it would have taken a high quality of moral and political courage to have championed this cause in 1951. The truth of the matter is that Pyle was asked to champion this cause soon after he took office but he declined by expressing the opinion that the people were not ready for such a drastic change. He did not at any time enter the ~~race~~^{lists} as a champion in this fight and the only act which reflects credit on him and his administration is that he signed the bill after the legislature passed it in March of 1951.

5) As a candidate for governor in 1950, the incumbant cried from

the housetops that he was opposed to any form of legalized gambling and any extensions of legalized gambling. Yet, in 1953 when the legislature passed a measure extending legalized gambling at the dog racing tracks, he lacked the courage to veto this bill, notwithstanding veto requests by the Tucson Chamber of Commerce and many church and civic groups in that city. The really great governors of this country have never hesitated to veto bad legislation--in fact, much of their strength has arrived from judicious use of this constitutional power. The incumbent, however, has criticized ^{the} legislative ~~use~~ more and used his veto power less than any chief executive in the history of the state.

6) The Governor's ads also state that he "put the Colorado River issue in the U. S. Supreme Court for final decision after 25 years of political juggling". The plain fact is that this "historic decision" by the Governor was actually a joint decision by the Interstate Stream Commission and our Democratic congressional delegation--after we failed to get enough Republican votes to force the Colorado River project out of a House committee.

We see, then, that although the Governor has provided leadership in attempting to push through his re-organization program, and in support of such measures as the two-senator bill, and, most notably, in putting down the Short Creek "insurrection", he has declined the leader's mantle when the truly urgent problems of the state have come up for decision.

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By contrast, Sen. McFarland, our candidate for Governor, has
has filled with distinction the office--majority leader of the
U. S. Senate--which carries with it more responsibility and leadership than
any national office except the presidency. He is skilled in working
with legislators and knows what it is to tackle x tough problems and
push through a legislative solution. He will not duck a fight for fear
of offending selfish interests, nor will he be dominated by a desire
to attempt to fool or please all of the people all of the time. Sen.
McFarland has, in fact, the precise quality of leadership ability lacked
by our present executive.