

Wallace DVD Transcript Excerpts

These excerpts are from interviews conducted between November 2002 and February 2004 for the documentary *Henry A. Wallace*. The excerpts can be found on the Wallace DVD in the sections mentioned below.

John C. Culver, co-author, *American Dreamer: A life of Henry A. Wallace*

- Henry Wallace's 1944 VP nomination sends the Democratic convention into turmoil.

Anne Effland, United States Department of Agriculture historian

- The end of World War I means hard times for America's farmers.

John Kenneth Galbraith, economist

- The impact of the McCarthy era is overrated, Galbraith says.

Doris Kearns Goodwin, Roosevelt biographer

- FDR won't run for 3rd term without Wallace as VP.

Neil Harl, Distinguished Professor in Agriculture, Iowa State University

- New Deal measures endure as landmark legislation.
- Wallace's programs win supporters on the farm.
- Agricultural advances result in weakened rural communities.

Arnel Hallauer, Professor Emeritus of Agriculture, Iowa State University

- Hybrid seed corn is seen as way to satisfy increased demand.
- Farmers formerly chose their seed based on the beauty of the ears.
- Hybrid corn produces its own industry.

John Hyde, co-author, *American Dreamer: A Life of Henry A. Wallace*

- The Progressive Party platform is a road map for generations.

George McGovern, Former U.S. Senator, South Dakota

- For Wallace, a peaceful world depends on people who are well fed.
- Wallace is on the forefront in the push for the United Nations.
- Wallace sees the post-World War II era as the century of the common man.
- Wallace prefers cooperation to confrontation in dealing with the Soviets.
- The Cold War demands a mighty military.
- The Cold War embroils the U.S. in Viet Nam.
- McGovern attends the Progressive Party convention as a delegate.
- American third parties may be needed but certainly not wanted.
- Depression for American farmers gets an early start.

Pete Seeger, folk musician

- New Deal sends musicians to heal communities.
- Wallace supporters turn out for the campaign, but not for election day.
- New Deal programs are sometimes radical, sometimes theatrical.
- The civil rights movement reaches FDR.
- The politics of change doesn't come easily.

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Hugh Sidey, contributing editor, Time Magazine

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John C. Culver, co-author, *American Dreamer: A life of Henry A. Wallace*

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- Impact of Individuals

Henry Wallace's 1944 VP nomination sends the Democratic convention into turmoil.

The convention really went berserk. We interviewed Senator Claude Pepper who at the time was a Senator. He was in charge of the Florida delegation. He couldn't believe his eyes. He was a supporter of Wallace but suddenly the most genuine, spontaneous demonstration of the whole convention took place. And he noted that these placards of each of the state signs were being carried by the head of the delegation. So, it really was a significant move toward Wallace.

So, Claude said that he got on his chair and screamed for recognition and his mic didn't work. And he jumped down and fought his way through the crowd up to the podium. And there was a labor union guy guarding the gate. And he knew him and he led him on up. And there was a presiding officer of Senator Jackson in Indiana, freshman Democrat Senator, and Claude yelled at him to be recognized so that he could offer the motion to put the Vice Presidential nomination in order at that point rather than the next day.

And the bosses were screaming in the presiding officer's other ear, "Adjourn this thing, adjourn it, hammer this thing down." So, he called for the yeas and nays on adjournment. And the nays were overwhelming, but he nevertheless hammered down. They cut the pipe organ. They cut the organ out. Fire chiefs came in and ordered the evacuation of the hall. Just pandemonium broke loose. And the next morning Claude Pepper said he was in the hotel lobby with that Senator and that Senator said, "You know, Claude, I'm sorry. I know I should have recognized you, but the bosses wouldn't let me do it."

And Claude Pepper said that the failure to be recognized changed the face of history for the next fifty years.

Anne Effland, United States Department of Agriculture historian

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- Economy of Farm Life

The end of World War I means hard times for America's farmers.

One of the things that had happened in the '20s is that during a war period the income had been so good from agriculture. And there was a falling rural population and a rising urban population. And so there was more demand for farm products and fewer people producing them. So there was an experience of having... this is where the term parody comes from-- from having a similar kind of income in farming that people could earn in other kinds of work. And then to have the bottom drop out of it! I mean the value or the income dropped by about 50%. And the cost to buy other things only dropped about 30%. So, instead they saw their income drop dramatically and their buying power also dropped. Other people's incomes were also dropping but the farm income was much more.

And so they saw their place in the society being kind of reduced and there was no way out. They didn't see a way out. So, there was this kind of sense of not being able to solve their own problem that I think led to that sort of violence. And that, I believe, really did create a surprise in the country to discover good solid Midwestern farmers who were willing to go dump milk or threaten judges or whatever else. So, there was fear of radicalism when it breaks out in a place like Iowa where there's not expectations of that kind of response.

John Kenneth Galbraith, economist

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive — McCarthyism

The impact of the McCarthy era is overrated, Galbraith says.

If you unfolded the whole McCarthy era, looking back on it, I think that we had a tendency, possibly I along with others, of exaggerating the menace. Joe McCarthy was a man who in an incredible way seized

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on the opportunity of beating one part of the population, hailing them as dangerous Communists. But it was a passing episode. Joe McCarthy has very few continuing admirers and one can marvel at the noise he made then without ever thinking now that it amounted to much.

Doris Kearns Goodwin, Roosevelt biographer

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: DVDquest -- The Experts, The Politician

FDR won't run for 3rd term without Wallace as VP.

What happened was that because the delegates were in a kind of angry mood they started booing Wallace from the floor. There was a real fear that they had put forth other nominees, that they might vote for somebody else other than Wallace.

And meanwhile, Roosevelt is back in the White House in his study writing out a statement saying that if they do not go for Wallace, "I'm not going to run for President." And he wasn't going to give the acceptance speech. He wasn't going to accept the nomination because he saw it that if they wouldn't go for Wallace it meant they were choosing a more conservative trajectory in the future. He didn't want to be part of that.

So, had they not been able to quiet those delegates down and if Wallace had been voted down the whole history might have been very different if indeed Roosevelt had followed through. So, Eleanor gets up at that critical moment to give a speech and it's amazing. The minute she stands up there's sort of a hush over the crowd. And what she's able to do is to say to the crowd, in a sense, "This is no ordinary nomination. This is no ordinary time when a president is under the pressure that he's under." In a sense, what she was saying underneath the lines is, "Allow him the choice of the people that they feel are most qualified for this job."

And somehow as soon as she said that, it gave them the feeling of she was understanding that he couldn't be there. She said, "He can't campaign as he ordinarily could" --which was the reason why he wasn't there. And as soon as they saw it in a different light, that he wasn't there because of the situation in the country, and that he deserved... that he was going to put himself forward for a third term given his age, given his health, then they deserve to have the choice made by him and then they voted in Wallace.

So, her speech was incredibly important, first time a woman had ever spoken at a national convention.

Neil Harl, Distinguished Professor in Agriculture, Iowa State University

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- New Deal Farm Programs

New Deal measures endure as landmark legislation.

The new administration in 1933 came into office when the times were really, really tough, really difficult. The first several weeks of that administration were a period of frenetic activity in agriculture in Washington in the south building and the administration building. Out of that came some legislation that has been since viewed as very hallmark legislation. Efforts to deal with balancing demand and supply had a high priority. Credit legislation badly needed because people were losing their farms. It was a time of great and general distress.

Neil Harl, Distinguished Professor in Agriculture, Iowa State University

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- New Deal Farm Programs

Wallace's programs win supporters on the farm.

I remember very well in the fall of 1938 Congress passed the Agricultural Adjustment Act, the AAA. My grandfather had built a new corn crib in the fall of 1938. I was a year short of being able to go to school so

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I was there helping at age, not quite age five. And it was finished just before Thanksgiving. The family came in and helped pick corn during the Thanksgiving week. They filled up the crib. The week after Thanksgiving, here came the AAA committee out to seal the corn and tacked up "Ever-normal Granary, Henry A. Wallace."

That was to signify that the corn was sealed, it was insulated from the market. My father and grandfather were standing there, both fairly conservative-- I think my father a little more conservative than my grandfather was. They were talking in hushed tones, both of them rather critical of some of the Roosevelt programs. They both said, "You know, this just might work. This just might work, this idea of insulating crops from the market. And I was really impressed as a five year old."

Neil Harl, Distinguished Professor in Agriculture, Iowa State University

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- The Agricultural Revolution

Agricultural advances result in weakened rural communities.

Well, I think there is some irony. I think few people back then in the early '30s really saw how this would play out and didn't anticipate how much influence the technology of power would have, how much the influence of the technology of seed would have and did not see how this is going to play with respect to the rural community. That came slowly.

I can recall in my early years thinking how wonderful it was that we no longer put up hay by hand. We didn't pick corn by hand, but of course that meant a change in the rural community. You're pulling bricks out, if you will, of the stability of the rural community as you lose population. That was a necessary result, and in retrospect it should have been obvious but it was not obvious to policy makers. It was not obvious to many back in the '30s that the result was going to be a weakening of rural communities that were formerly quite vibrant, that this policy process that was put in place was not going to assure healthy rural communities.

Arnel Hallauer, Professor Emeritus of Agriculture, Iowa State University

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: DVDquest -- The Experts, The Scientist

Hybrid seed corn is seen as way to satisfy increased demand.

Corn depended on humans for its survival. We've had what we called 'open pollinated varieties,' 'land raised varieties' or 'cultivars' and farmers retain their own seed. And we have records in the United States at least from the days of the Civil War, 1865 to the present time. During that 70 period interval until 1935, yields only exceeded 30 bushels an acre I think in only four instances and barely exceeded 30 bushels per acre.

Well, corn is becoming a much more important crop as livestock feed particularly with the expansion of the United States in the Midwest area here. Consumers are wanting greater quantities of corn, and it was obvious that these previous years were not making a significant increase in the yields of corn.

Well, there had been some preliminary information in 1909, 1910 indicating that what we call the inbred hybrid concept... which some did not think practical at the time because of the high cost of seed production-- which the producers couldn't afford to do. They'd have to be repeat customers to go back and get the seed each year. Well, there was some research done on it. And there was a suggestion, "Why not use double crosses rather than single crosses?" And so this seemed to reduce the concerns about seed cost.

Well, Henry Wallace then had the foresight that, "Hey, there's got to be a different way to breed corn or develop corn that has higher yields than what we've experienced in the past 60-70 years."

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Arnel Hallauer, Professor Emeritus of Agriculture, Iowa State University

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- The Agricultural Revolution

Hybrid corn spurs a revolution.

It was a revolution and it materialized, not only in the US but worldwide. Now, there's a lot of areas in the world where they still have the land raised varieties but it's usually limited because of economic conditions or the infrastructure within the country that permits them to produce and sell and the farmers can't afford to purchase the seed. But the revolution happened very rapidly, if you take from 1922 when the initial concept was going to be tested thoroughly until 1935, '36 when it was being accepted by the producers and by ten years later nearly 100%. And in Iowa... by 1950 it was throughout the whole Corn Belt. So, that would be certainly a revolution instead of an evolution because evolutionary-wise corn was, they thought, derived from a weedy species seven to ten thousand years ago.

Well, we went from where we have data available in the US, 1865-1935, 30 bushels of corn or less. Well, then you look at the comparisons, with comparisons today where we've been able to recycle, recycle lines and get better and better hybrids. Why, most of the evidence suggests that we're on the average making about 1 bushel per acre per year advance.

Arnel Hallauer, Professor Emeritus of Agriculture, Iowa State University

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: DVDquest -- The Experts, The Scientist

Farmers formerly chose their seed based on the beauty of the ears.

It was on an individual plant and they went through the field harvesting their fields of corn which would be used for animal feed or ship it to the elevator or something, why, if they see an exceptionally sound healthy looking ear, large ear they had containers on the side of the wagon where they'd pitch it in and save that one.

Arnel Hallauer, Professor Emeritus of Agriculture, Iowa State University

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive —Hybridization

Hybrid corn produce s its own industry.

Yes, this is a very, very extensive operation for them, a very important one that they've got to reproduce this hybrid every year and the producers have to go back and repurchase seed each year. If they don't, if they use seed or keep seed from the hybrid-- it depends on the type of hybrid-- they may lose anywhere from 15-30% or have 15-30% lower yield than the original hybrid, which is why they've got to go back and get a new seed each year. Otherwise they'll have a lower yield and a less uniform crop.

John Hyde, co-author, *American Dreamer: A Life of Henry A. Wallace*

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- Third-party Politics

The Progressive Party platform is a road map for generations.

The platform was really the lasting monument to the Progressive Party. Because even after the Progressive Party went away in another five or six years, the platform remained a kind of road map for the next half century in American politics. It called for all kinds of measures that we now regard as part of American society or at least they're still being debated, like health care. But it called for a Medicare type program. It called for the eighteen year old vote. It called for equal rights for women. It called for the end of Jim Crow laws, the end of segregation. It was a whole blueprint for forward thinking measures that have since become part of law or are still very much in play.

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George McGovern, Former U.S. Senator, South Dakota

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- Historical Impact of Individuals

For Wallace, a peaceful world depends on people who are well fed.

Of course, what Henry Wallace was getting at is that you can't have a stable, peaceful world evolving towards freedom if the major preoccupation of people from the time they get up in the morning until they go to bed at night is hunger. Where does the next meal come from? Where can I find a decent shelter for my family? What is the possibility of medical care for my children who suffer from various afflictions?

Wallace knew as a world traveler and as a man always with his eyes open that much of the population of this planet was suffering, suffering from hunger, suffering from poverty, from disease, from illiteracy and those were the problems that really turned him on.

George McGovern, Former U.S. Senator, South Dakota

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: DVDquest -- The Experts, The Politician

Wallace is on the forefront in the push for the United Nations.

The war was not even over before he started talking and pushing for a United Nations, as did President Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt. If you were to single out the three most effective champions of the United Nations in those months near the end of World War II right after the war, it would be the President Franklin Roosevelt. He of course died a couple of months before the war ended but he'd already helped launch the United Nations. Eleanor Roosevelt and Henry Wallace, those were the big three that I associated with it and Senator Vandenberg, the Republican Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Senate. Those people were the ones that were really pressing for strong United Nations at the end of the war.

George McGovern, Former U.S. Senator, South Dakota

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- Historical Impact of Individuals

Wallace sees the post-World War II era as the century of the common man.

Wallace said, "No, this is going to be the century of the common man, a century where people everywhere, sure in the United States, in Britain, in Russia, in Africa, in Asia, in Latin America, in the Middle East, all of them-- the ordinary people that live in those countries-- it's going to be their century."

I think it was much closer to the vision of our founders, much closer to the spirit of Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin or Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson. It was within the spirit of a true American involvement in the life of the world, not as a domineering factor but as a participant in the life of the world. I thought it was Wallace's greatest speech.

George McGovern, Former U.S. Senator, South Dakota

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive —McCarthyism

Wallace prefers cooperation to confrontation in dealing with the Soviets.

We armed ourselves to the teeth. We built up enough nuclear power to obliterate the Earth time after time. The Russians did the same thing. Is it possible that Wallace was right that we should have been a little more patient, a little more imaginative in trying to sort out the common ground between the Russians on one hand and the Americans on the other?

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George McGovern, Former U.S. Senator, South Dakota

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive—McCarthyism

The Cold War demands a mighty military.

You know the assumption of the Cold War is that if we let our guard down one inch the Russians would attack us the next day. That the only thing that kept the Russians from taking over Western Europe and then attacking us was our mighty military power, our NATO alliance, our unprecedented military budgets. That's the only thing that stood between us and annihilation.

George McGovern, Former U.S. Senator, South Dakota

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive —McCarthyism

The Cold War embroils the U.S. in Viet Nam.

Well, the war in Vietnam was the most costly by-product of the Cold War. We never would have gone into Vietnam had it not been for decades of conditioning that convinced us that we couldn't let Communism succeed anywhere. That's what containment was all about. Every place in the world where the Communists had any kind of a foothold we had to move in and see what could be done to contain it and turn it back.

And I do think the early decisions that eventually pulled us into Vietnam with an army of over 500,000 men began in 1945 and '46 when the Truman administration decided to back France in its effort to recover its colonies in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. That was the fateful first step in what became a 30-year American involvement in French Indochina.

George McGovern, Former U.S. Senator, South Dakota

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- Third-party Politics

McGovern attends the Progressive Party convention as a delegate.

And so when Wallace announced he was going to run as a third party candidate on the Progressive ticket because he was unhappy with the drift into the Cold War and the need for a stronger stand on civil rights and on the rights of labor and working people and so on, that struck a favorable response with me. I was then writing a doctoral dissertation on the Colorado coal strike in 1913 and '14 and I saw how the miners had been mistreated by absentee owners. So, I had a deep sympathy for working people, especially for miners and for farmers, the people I had grown up with in South Dakota. And what Wallace was saying resonated strongly with me as it did my fellow graduate students and my teachers there at Northwestern. So, Eleanor and I decided when we were invited to do so to be delegates to the Progressive convention meeting in Philadelphia.

George McGovern, Former U.S. Senator, South Dakota

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- Third-party Politics

American third parties may be needed but certainly not wanted.

I think this is a two party country. That may or not be our biggest virtue but it's awfully tough. We haven't had a new party come into being and make it since Abraham Lincoln and the Republicans in the 1860s. I think we're a two party government. I think we're somewhat skeptical of third parties. Almost invariably they'll be depicted as so far out of the mainstream that they're not relevant and I think that's what happened to the Progressive Party. It happened to other third parties too. Where is Ross Perot these days? Third

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parties don't have a very long life in the United States. And those that have had a little longer life than the others have found their platforms being adopted by one or the other or both of the major parties.

George McGovern, Former U.S. Senator, South Dakota

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- Economy of Farm Life

Depression for American farmers gets an early start.

Most Americans think the Depression began in 1929 when the stock market crashed. Every farmer knows that it began in 1921, when farm prices collapsed at the end of the first World War. We had then been exporting everything we could scrape together and sending it over to the war effort. But that all collapsed. Farm prices went down to a 'below break even point.' So, farmers in South Dakota, in Iowa, in Nebraska, all across the whole farm belt, they were struggling seriously with economic problems a full eight years before the stock market crashed.

And because farmers were in trouble, they were defaulting on their loans. So the banks were going broke. We had 150 banks go broke in South Dakota in the period of the early 1920s before anybody even heard about a stock market collapse. We had other problems out there. In addition to the collapse of the farm prices, we had drought. We had grasshopper invasions. We had dust storms. We had rot on the part of some of the crops because of bad environmental conditions. So farmers were in deep trouble throughout the decade of the 1920s. And that's when Henry Wallace developed his early interest in doing something about those problems.

Pete Seeger, folk musician

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: DVDquest-- The Experts, The Artist

New Deal sends musicians to heal communities.

Now Henry Wallace was, I thought, an absolutely wonderful candidate. My father had worked in the Agriculture Department. He was working what they called a "special skills division" assigning musicians to go to resettlement projects here and there. One of the people he assigned was picked up at the station by a man who didn't say much and he takes her down to a meeting of all of the farmers and families. He says, "You know the ways in Washington are sure strange. We need agricultural help. We need tractors. We need all sorts of information and guess what Washington has sent us-- a musician!" But this musician had been advised by my father, "Find out what kind of music they like and start there." She got together with the women and they composed a musical show telling where they'd all come from and how they got there. It was the most wonderful thing; it brought that whole community together. She helped them write songs about this person, about that family and so on and when she was finally reassigned a year later the whole community was in tears as they bid her goodbye. And my father was very proud because it shows you what a musician can do if they don't just try and be a musician but try and understand why they're a musician.

Pete Seeger, folk musician

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- Third-party Politics

Wallace supporters turn out for the campaign, but not for election day.

There was Wallace out of a job and he says, "Why not do what Roosevelt wanted to do?" And he got huge audiences everywhere he went. I mean, not just five and ten thousand here but 20,000 here and 30,000 there and 40,000 there. If Truman would have gone out, he would have drawn a few hundred people. A lot of people said, "Well, it's true, Teddy Roosevelt didn't make it with a third party and Eugene Debs didn't make it and neither did La Follette with his Progressive Party in 1924, but Wallace can."

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Once a week, wow. And it was sold all through the Midwest and so they were certain that Wallace could make it. They didn't know that once you find yourself in the voting booth you still vote for the lesser evil. I had a sister-in-law that said "Pete, I know Wallace is a wonderful man but I looked at those, I didn't want to see Dewey get to be President, so I voted for Truman," she said. And she apologized to me. And, as you know, Wallace got a far smaller vote than even his most cynical supporters thought.

Pete Seeger, folk musician

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- Third-party Politics

New Deal programs are sometimes radical, sometimes theatrical.

What was it about the Progressive Party ticket that appealed to you? Can you talk a little bit about what was progressive about the party?

Well, it was really carrying on Franklin Roosevelt's idea: "Let's have peace with the Russians and let's work with unions and little by little working people will get a better break from the bosses."

Now, Roosevelt was no radical. He only moved as far as he did because they were desperate. His advice of Mr. Roosevelt: "If you don't serve something there's going to be angry people marching in the street and you won't be able to stop it."

And they'd seen what angry people marching in the street had done in Russia and in other countries and... "Let's do something."

The first thing he did, the moratorium on banks, bank holiday-- you will not lose your savings. No bank will open until Congress passes a law for federal deposit insurance right up to \$100,000 or something. I suppose if you had millions you might lose some of them but it means ordinary folks wouldn't go broke. Well, that was the biggest thing he did, could have done, right away.

And then a few years later social security passed. It took some pushing. I know the man who pushed it. He was a Communist, head of his local painter's union, and he was at the big AFL convention and the conservatives of the AFL did not want to discuss social security.

He says, "We must discuss social security." They said, "No." He went up to the balcony and leaped ten feet across open space to the chandelier and grabbed a hold of it with his two hands and hauled himself up and sat in the chandelier and says, "We're not going to proceed with this convention until we discuss social security."

They didn't know how to get him down. They could shoot him but they weren't quite up to that. And so he kept talking and talking and hollering and hollering and finally everybody said, "Yeah, this social security." And they voted, the AFL voted for social security. I think it was '33 sometime.

Pete Seeger, folk musician

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: DVDquest -- The Experts, The Politician

The civil rights movement reaches FDR.

Well, Roosevelt had to be pushed you know. A. Philip Randolph found that blacks were still not getting decent jobs, even in a war industry where they're desperate for people. They'd hire whites before they'd hire blacks. And they'd promote whites before they'd promote blacks. And finally A. Philip Randolph, the leader of the Sleeping Pullman Porters union, said, "We are going to have hundreds of thousands of African

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Americans in the streets of Washington unless you have a fair employment practices act passed." And he said it so firmly, they knew he meant what he said. Roosevelt said, "Okay, okay, pass the act."

Pete Seeger, folk musician

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- Art Reflects Society

The politics of change doesn't come easily.

Of course, he was ahead of his time in the sense that he knew the human race has got to work together. Einstein in August 1945 said, "The atom bomb has changed everything except our way of thinking." And any thinking person would agree with that. But the question is, "How do we change our way of thinking?" Nobody knows.

Truman and Dewey would say, "Well, you do it a little at a time. You can't do it a big lump at a time, either this way or that way." And my guess is most politicians would do that. On the other hand, Robert Kennedy made a good point once, "Politics is not just the art of the possible; politics is making possible what everybody else says is impossible."

That's the great art of politics. That's what Lincoln did; this is what Teddy Roosevelt did; it's what George Washington did.

That's the great art of politics-- to put together, make possible what everybody else says is impossible. To a certain extent a good song leader can do this. I've known that I've gotten crowds singing that everybody else said, "You'll never get this crowd singing. They're a bunch of academic people. They're all concerned about their academic objectivity."

So, I took that very phrase and I've used it as a joke now for 50, 60 years. "You're not singing very well; you're all too concerned about your academic objectivity!" And in the college it always gets a good laugh.

Hugh Sidey, contributing editor, Time Magazine

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- New Deal Farm Programs

Jimmy Carter's father changes parties because of Wallace's production controls.

Jimmy Carter used to tell a story that one of Wallace's plans was to kill little pigs so they wouldn't get on the market. His father who had been a lifelong Democrat became a Republican because he thought it was immoral. He thought it was a religious thing that with hungry people you don't waste food like that. Wallace, of course, was struggling with the economic markets which were the basis of so much trouble.

Hugh Sidey, contributing editor, Time Magazine

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- Changes in Iowa Land

The impact of Wallace's New Deal programs is written on the land.

I was driving and saw these great big contours in the western part of the county. When we came up the hills we'd see the terraces and the patterns that are still there even though the crops are harvested. That's Henry Wallace. He left that.

When I flew -- I was flying the other day -- the sun was in the south and it looked like diamonds spread out. These little ponds that reflected -- thousands of them now. In my time when I was around here it might have been there were one or two, that's about all. Nobody thought that we'd be without water.

They say down in Oklahoma and Texas that you can fly and see those shelter belts which was another one of the things that came out of the Wallace Department of Agriculture. They'd plant trees and these bands all

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the way up to the Canadian border. That was ridiculed. Oh, such scorn he got on that idea! But they're still down there. In 1983 they had a terrible drought down in the southwestern part of the United States. They worked. There were dust storms, but they were minor. They piled that dirt up and kind of held it.

Hugh Sidey, contributing editor, Time Magazine

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- Historical Impact of Individuals

Historians love success stories.

Well, that's historians. We historians write about the great successes. Nobody wants to write about the guy where it didn't work. I think that agricultural history isn't the most prominent one. We love stories about D-Day and about building the Union Pacific Railroad.

Hugh Sidey, contributing editor, Time Magazine

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- The Agricultural Revolution

A shortage of food is beyond the American experience.

Well, I was going to write a couple of pieces about what would happen in this country if food, if we had a scarcity of food. We've never approached that. You're talking about social upheaval; you're talking about the end of civilization. If people get hungry and you can't furnish them, you're talking about Russia and China, you're talking about deaths in the street. We've never ever approached it or even had anything like that. Therefore why would a historian be interested in exploring it? There's plenty of food. It's cheap. And I think that's just kind of a lazy attitude. There have been a few that have tried to do it.

You don't even have to have much of a shortage. All you have to do is say the price of food triples like the price of gasoline has done. You have a crisis of immense proportions if it triples, because you don't have a supply. So, in some ways this problem of having too much food is also a great blessing for this country because we don't have the tension that a shortage of food would produce.

Studs Terkel, journalist and author

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- McCarthyism

Wallace's 3rd party run aids Truman's victory.

But then Clyde Clifford said, "Take Wallace's program. You can red bait him all you want. Let the other guys, let the liberals-- those who were known as anti-Communist liberals, the phrase they used and are quite proud of that-- let them attack him on foreign policy. You take his domestic policy, minimum wage, health care, all the things that people want and hunger for. Make it yours."

And so Harry Truman took Wallace's platform and made it his. That's when the phrase, "Give 'em hell, Harry!" came into being.

So, Wallace wound up with a measly one million votes. In fact he got the same number of votes as Strom Thurmond did. Strom Thurmond ran an outwardly racist party and pulled a million votes without lifting a finger. And here all this work, because the last minute people switched to Harry Truman, the four million or so.

Wallace DVD Transcript Excerpts

Studs Terkel, journalist and author

Wallace DVD source for this excerpt: Media Archive -- Historical Impact of Individuals

Wallace's southern campaign breaks the color barrier.

When they traveled South-- and Pete Seeger was a member of that campaign so he can tell you about that-- when they traveled South it was the first political gathering ever to have an integrated get-together, They were egged. They were tomatoed. And his running mate, a former Senator from Idaho I think, Glenn Taylor was beaten up by the cops. They were threatened. They were driven out of town-- speaking Wallace's platform. And yet they broke the color line doing that.