

# Ten Reasons Why George McGovern would be a great President

Who is this man of the prairie who managed to achieve such a spectacular triumph over better known, more favored contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination? What are the qualities of greatness that have singled him out for a special place in history?

## 1. HIS COMPASSIONATE CONCERN FOR OTHERS.

From his father, a South Dakota minister, young George McGovern learned to care about others in need. Even though it was the depths of the 1930's Depression and the Reverend McGovern was paid little money, often accepting potatoes and farm produce instead of cash from his congregation, the McGovern family was always ready to share what little they had with others.

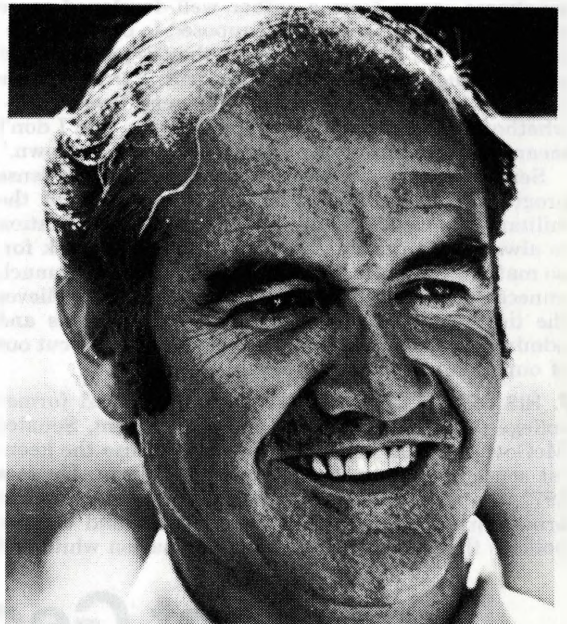
"I remember," recalls Senator McGovern today, "many times when the whole family would be sitting down to a meal and here some hobo would come along and knock on the door begging for food. My dad would always invite him in."

As President Kennedy's Director for the Food for Peace program for feeding starving peoples around the world, and as a leader of the Senate fight to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in the U.S., Senator McGovern has been able to extend his father's concern for the hungry to millions of people.

On a Food for Peace tour around the world, he stopped in Rome for an audience with Pope John, who had a special interest in the problems of world hunger. "Ah," said the Pope when McGovern was introduced to him, "when you meet your maker and he asks, 'Have you fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty, and cared for the lonely?' you can answer, 'Yes'."

**2. HIS COURAGE.** Senator McGovern's uphill battle for the Democratic presidential nomination was not the first time he had courageously struggled against overwhelming odds. In 1953 he quit his secure job as a college history professor to take on the thankless job of rebuilding the dead broke and demoralized Democratic Party in South Dakota. And he persisted in opposing the use of our military might in South Vietnam long before a great part of Congress and the nation came to see the wisdom of his views.

**3. HIS VISION.** A great leader must be able to gaze into the future and anticipate coming events. George McGovern, as a young history professor, urged U.S. recognition of Mainland China 20 years before President Nixon made his visit there — not because he liked or favored the Communist regime there, but simply because he believed deeply that in the age of nuclear weapons the great powers must learn to live together.



Nine years ago he stood alone on the floor of the U.S. Senate and warned against our growing military involvement in Vietnam, saying, "it is a policy of moral debacle and political defeat."

Another sign of his great vision was his proposal about the same time that defense contractors be required to set aside a portion of their profits to finance their eventual conversion to production for peacetime civilian needs. If the nation had listened to McGovern then, there would not be such heavy unemployment in the aerospace industries today.

**4. HIS DEVOTION TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE.** All his life, Senator McGovern has worked for world peace. As a high school orator and debator, one of his prize-winning orations was "My Brother's Keeper," a plea for world peace.

As a bomber pilot in World War II, he saw the horrors of war firsthand. His best friend in the service was killed. On his 30th mission, his plane was badly damaged by flak over Vienna and his crew was injured. "It was my firsthand experience with the tragedy of war," says McGovern today, "that led me to dedicate my life to the struggle for lasting peace."

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**5. HIS HONESTY.** Senator McGovern embarked on his presidential campaign determined "to seek and speak the truth," just as he had done throughout his career in public service.

"I pledge to you," he has said many times, "that as President I would never propose in private a course of action that I would be ashamed to advocate in public."

As a liberal Senator in the conservative state of South Dakota, he has been elected and re-elected because the voters there respect his honesty and integrity whether they always agree with him or not.

**6. HIS STRENGTH.** George McGovern's calm, conciliatory manner and basic kindness can be deceptive. People make the mistake of underestimating the strength that lies beneath the surface.

"The people who don't think I'm tough enough to be President don't know me," he said recently in an interview. "They don't understand that you can be tough and quiet and restrained all at the same time. My toughness comes from a rather well-developed sense of justice. The guys who are supposed to be the toughest of all — the Pentagon brass — they're going to find out I'm tough if I get to be President. I think that is going to be the chief test of the next President — whether he can stand up to the military — and I don't mean the Russians or the Chinese — I mean our own."

Senator McGovern favors a strong national defense program. But he believes that excessive awe of the military has caused Congress and the Administration to always give the Pentagon everything they ask for, no matter how many billions are wasted and how much unnecessary overkill capacity is built up. He believes the time has come to stand up to the generals and admirals and demand that the waste and fat be cut out of our national defense program.

**7. HIS SENSE OF HISTORY.** As a Ph.D. and former college professor in history and government, Senator McGovern would bring to the White House the keenest sense of history since Woodrow Wilson. He sees 1972 as a watershed year in which new leadership can bring America home from the Vietnam and defense policies that have been bleeding our nation white and

can start caring for our seriously neglected domestic needs.

**8. HIS FAIRNESS.** As Chairman of the McGovern Commission which had the assignment of rewriting the party rules for selecting delegates to the Democratic National Convention, Senator McGovern toured the country holding hearings and listening to all party elements. He was determined that everyone should be heard and that the new rules should give everyone a fair chance to take part in the delegate selection process.

The guidelines written by the McGovern Commission and adopted by the Democratic National Committee resulted in the most open, serious, and democratic convention in our time. This impressive gathering was a tribute to the deep sense of fair play that was written into the McGovern guidelines.

**9. HIS DECENCY.** Robert Kennedy called George McGovern "the most decent man in the Senate."

And newspaper columnist Harriet Van Horne recently put it this way: "Even his opponents must acknowledge his curious and special appeal: he emanates decency, compassion, old-fashioned goodness. It would be hard to imagine a President McGovern proclaiming one policy in public while plotting an opposite one in private."

**10. HIS DETERMINATION.** Something deep inside George McGovern has made him always determined to persevere in the face of the greatest difficulties. As a boy, he was so shy that he was afraid to read aloud in class — so he overcame it by becoming a champion debater in high school. He was afraid of flying — so he joined the Air Force and won the Distinguished Flying Cross for his "heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial combat."

This same steel determination kept him going during the darkest days of the pre-primary period when everyone said he didn't have a chance of winning the nomination. Many now believe it will enable him to forge ahead of President Nixon in the present election campaign and become the next President of the United States.

# President George McGovern. Vice President Sargent Shriver. What a great team!

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