

Jim Patton

Gov Jack Campbell

Southwest Conference on Poverty - 1/25/65

May <sup>Lee</sup> Davis - Gov Good

Poverty Speech - Arizona

Last Wednesday President Lyndon Johnson took the historic oath of office which our Founding Fathers set forth in the Constitution.

The men who wrote that oath gathered in Philadelphia over 175 years ago. They were 55 in number. They ranged in age from 27 to 81. And they represented the widely differing political and economic interests within the thirteen independent states.

These diverse men, however, produced a document whose Preamble opened with these words: "We the People of the United States." Within their diversity, the Founders had left no doubt about their commitment to strengthen and preserve a union of states and people.

You meet here today to express a similar commitment.

You represent different states, different agencies, different population groups, and different political views, yet your

Fatherly Vignard

Tommy Udahl

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Mrs. [unclear]

[Handwritten squiggle]

ultimate identification -- like those 55 men in Philadelphia --  
is in terms of "We the People of the United States."

Your ultimate purpose in convening this Conference --  
like theirs over 175 years ago -- is to form a more perfect  
union, to establish justice, to insure domestic tranquility,  
to promote the general welfare, and to secure the blessings  
of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

This, then, is more than just another conference. You  
sense it. We all sense it. *It is a call to action,*

~~of that great Constitutional Convention of a century and  
three quarters ago.~~

~~Our Founding Fathers responded to a call which stemmed  
from the economic and commercial difficulties which beset  
the separate states under the Articles of Confederation.~~

~~But they knew they dealt with more than commerce, tariff  
wars or trade barriers. They were concerned primarily with~~

a growing lack of common purpose and action among our states  
and our ~~young~~ people which threatened to immobilize and even-  
tually destroy our young Republic.

LBJ  
President Johnson's declaration of war on poverty, and  
the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, present  
us with a ~~new~~ call to common action. We have been sum-  
moned to lay the foundations of a new society -- the Great

Society. Justice Liberty & Union / Quality of life -

Our Founders met their challenge -- their summons. They  
labored faithfully and well. They created a new form of  
government -- the Federal system -- a government sufficiently  
strong and united, yet sufficiently limited and diverse, to  
serve the needs of a changing and expanding nation.

The nation's needs now are different -- yet strangely  
similar to what they were almost two centuries ago.

In 1787, the central government could not pay its own  
bills. Today, this nation is defaulting on its obligation

to assist the disadvantaged and deprived who live among us.

In 1787, the central government could not raise an army to put down local rebellion by debtors.

Today we lack an <sup>adequate</sup> army of trained and dedicated fighters to man the front lines in our struggle against poverty and injustice.

In 1787, interstate rivalries, toll bridges, and tariff wars impeded the free flow of commerce among the several states.

Today the barriers of ignorance, poverty, disease, discrimination, and unemployment stand in the way of a new prosperity for all our people and a new spiritual greatness for our society.

But slowly and quietly the nation has begun to stir. We have, at long last, begun to challenge the economic and social injustices we had often permitted to go unrecognized and unrelieved.

In Washington, and across the nation, we are now pledging

ourselves to action on a variety of fronts to transform  
 these past shortcomings into future strengths. We are giving  
 new dimension and meaning to the promise of America.

President Johnson expressed this new sense of commitment  
 in his State of the Union message:

"We seek to establish a harmony between man and society  
which will allow each of us to enlarge the meaning of his  
life and all of us to elevate the quality of our civilization."

As our Founding Fathers struck off a new testament of  
 freedom in fashioning the Constitution, we are now laboring  
 to define a new charter of freedom for the American people.

*new  
 charter  
 of freedom*

President Johnson has summoned us to dedicate ourselves to  
 creating on these shores a Great Society. And in this summons  
 the President has called upon America's greatest reservoirs  
of strength: compassion, charity, courage and love.

This new charter of freedom will be etched not in words  
alone, but in deeds -- not on parchment, but on the conscience

of America.

To achieve this Great Society  
- this Charter of Freedom -

~~we~~ we must seek a new and dynamic relationship--

a creative partnership--among Federal, State, and local

governments.

~~Just as the relationship between the central government and the states taxed the genius and ability of our Founding Fathers in Philadelphia, so we must now struggle with the problem of developing procedures and understandings which use fully the special abilities and insights possessed by each level of government and take advantage of the knowledge and experience of both public and private instrumentalities.~~

*and* This is especially true, if we hope to mount an effective assault on the complex and interrelated causes of poverty and deprivation. In the Southwest as in other parts of the country inadequate educational opportunity, unemployment, automation, sluggish economic growth, discrimination, and disease all contribute to one

end product: a region where <sup>to</sup> many American citizens are denied full participation in the economic and social blessings of this bountiful land. *This need not be.*

*or elsewhere.*  
We cannot permit this to continue in the Southwest

*we* cannot permit it to continue anywhere in America. *It's wrong*  
Politically, economically + morally.

~~We must, instead, seek to mobilize new resources and to develop new methods of action in combatting poverty in its many dimensions.~~  
*The Defeat of Poverty -*  
*The Game is - at home + ahead*

*Papago Reservation*

This conference testifies to your <sup>open</sup> ~~explicit~~ recognition of this fact. You are, in effect, saying: "We, in the Southwest--not you on the banks of the Potomac--know our own special problems and our own special strengths."

~~also recognize that special knowledge and ability entail~~

~~special responsibility. We acknowledge and accept this~~

~~responsibility.~~ We are ready to develop a creative partner-

ship between the national, ~~State and local~~ State and local

governments--between public agencies and private agencies--

In other words, we see  
Poverty here, we will attack it here, & we  
will mobilize every resource available.

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and between national conscience and local conscience."

Second, ~~we~~ <sup>we must</sup> seek new dimensions of popular participation and representation within our democratic system.

When--as in this conference--representatives of all population groups, all concerned agencies, all governmental bodies--and especially, when representatives of the poor themselves can meet together to speak, to listen, to plan, and to act, this is American democracy functioning as it should.

This is providing the American people with a new franchise--the franchise of service, of participation, of opportunity--open to all without regard to race, color, creed or economic position.

"We the People" becomes more than a phrase, it becomes a living force.

And when, after these hearings and this conference are concluded, your "Call to Conscience" goes out to your fellow

*can understand*

citizens, you will be helping to define ~~the mission of~~ *in words everyone*

~~the mission of~~ the Great Society.

↳ This task, however, will not be ended at the close of

this conference, ~~any more than it was completed at the close~~

~~of the Conference on the Great Society.~~

*carried to*

*Your*

"Call to Conscience" will have to be ~~read in~~ every town,

city, county, region and State to which you will return.

~~everywhere~~ *awaken America! Self Examination!*

~~democratic system did not emerge full blown upon the ratifi-~~

~~cation of the Constitution.~~

↳ ~~The process is only beginning. And it is never ending.~~

~~We must build -- and rebuild. We must create -- and recreate.~~

↳ ~~But as you take your leave, and go your separate ways, the~~

~~depth of your commitment and the degree of your determination~~

~~to build this Great Society will be in doubt no longer.~~

↳ ~~Out of the differences, the problems, and the conflicts~~

~~will emerge a new commitment to work together in pursuit of~~

~~a "more perfect union."~~ And the spirit of America will draw

new strength and vitality from your

Call to consumers

One other suggestion —

~~we~~, we must expand and strengthen the resources

which the Federal government can contribute -- in partnership

with State, local and private agencies -- toward winning the

war on poverty and building the Great Society.

↳ For the first time in our history, there is an office --

the Office of Economic Opportunity -- to coordinate the

principal Federal programs related to the elimination of

poverty.

Conservation & Development  
of Human Resources.

↳ Under the direction of Sargent Shriver, this office in

less than four months has made remarkable progress in launching

this comprehensive attack on poverty. The difficult early

months of initial planning and staffing are now completed.

↳ Job Corps centers are opening and Job Corps recruitment is

underway. Community action programs are going forward. Other

Federal efforts -- the Neighborhood Youth Corps, work

experience and work study programs, and loans to rural residents--are in operation. State and local governments and private groups are vital partners in these accomplishments.

In sum, the anti-poverty offensive is now moving into high gear.

But, The current programs of the Office of Economic Opportunity are just <sup>a</sup> beginning. President Johnson has already announced that next year's budget will provide for a doubling of the present program levels.

*Double the Prog.*

The war on poverty will be waged on other fronts, too. The President's message on education is directed principally at areas of poverty, ~~and the economically and culturally deprived groups of our society.~~ His recommendations on health

are similarly concerned with the special problems of the poor *& needy*

There will, in addition, be significant action in the areas of social security, unemployment compensation, minimum wages, and continued economic growth and expansion.

an army

yes L

A national army of poverty fighters is now being recruited. Segments of this new force have enlisted in VISTA-- our domestic version of the Peace Corps. These volunteers-- and thousands more in local communities throughout the nation-- will be ready to assist those persons serving under the auspices of public and private agencies on the State and local levels.

~~Such deeds--a creative partnership among Federal, State, and local governments; popular participation and representation; and increased material and physical resources--are vital components of the Great Society. In this process we must not shun diversity; ~~rather~~ rather, we must undergird our diversity with the sense of laboring together in common cause.~~

President Johnson said with such eloquence in his Inaugural Address: "We are one nation and one people. Our fate as a nation and our future as a people rests not upon one citizen but upon all citizens." - all of us!

~~This spirit motivated the Founding~~ →

Fathers to launch our democratic experiment with such insight, wisdom and fortitude. And this same spirit will guide the work of this historic conference.

And when your chairman adjourns these meetings, we might well remember the words of Benjamin Franklin in his closing statement to the Constitutional Convention. For many months, George Washington had presided in an arm chair inscribed with a gilded half-sun. As Washington rose from this chair for the last time, the venerable Franklin remarked:

“I have often ~~seen~~ in the course of this session... looked at that sun...without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting; but now...I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun.”

As I meet with the participants of this conference, and ~~as I grasp the~~ sense your determination to build a better Southwest and a better America, I can share Franklin's optimism: it is truly a rising and not a setting sun.

We are on our way - the Army of Poverty's lighter marches -!

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1/25/65  
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three quarters ago.

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But they knew they dealt with more than commerce, tariff  
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a growing lack of common purpose and action among our states and our young people which threatened to immobilize and eventually destroy our young Republic.

President Johnson's declaration of war on poverty, and the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, present us with a similar call to common action. We have been summoned to lay the foundations of a new society -- the Great Society.

Our Founders met their challenge -- their summons. They labored faithfully and well. They created a new form of government -- the Federal system -- a government sufficiently strong and united, yet sufficiently limited and diverse, to serve the needs of a changing and expanding nation.

The nation's needs now are different -- yet strangely similar to what they were almost two centuries ago.

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And when, after these hearings and this conference are concluded, your "Call to Conscience" goes out to your fellow

citizens, you will be helping to define in meaningful terms the charter of the Great Society.

This task, however, will not be ended at the close of this conference any more than it was completed at the close of the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787. Your "Call to Conscience" will have to be ratified in every town, city, county, region and State to which you will return. And even with ratification the job will not be over -- just as our democratic system did not emerge full blown upon the ratification of the Constitution.

The process is only beginning. And it is never-ending. We must build -- and rebuild. We must create -- and recreate. But as you take your leave, and go your separate ways, the depth of your commitment and the degree of your determination to build this great Society will be in doubt no longer.

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