

*Neil*  
President Haggerty

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*Walter Mason*  
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REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

10th

TENTH NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT

AFL-CIO

*Tomorrow*

WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL, May 3, 1965

This past weekend we entered our 51st month  
of uninterrupted economic expansion.

↳ We are now in the longest period of peacetime  
prosperity in this nation's history.

↳ Our Gross National Product is at a record high  
and pushing upward. Some 1.6 million more Americans  
have jobs than a year ago. And the unemployment rate  
is the lowest in 7½ years.

↳ As you well know, the construction industry has  
shared in -- and contributed to -- this prosperity.

From 1961 to 1964 the physical volume of construction work rose more than 13 per cent, while in the previous six years it rose only a little over one per cent. Last year, weekly earnings of construction workers averaged more than \$132. Average hourly earnings hit \$3.67 in February -- 14 cents more than a year ago.

The number of employees of construction contractors rose by 300,000 from 1961 to 1964 to reach a new total of 3.3 million.

But I did not come here today just to tell you that you never had it so good.

I came to thank you for your past efforts toward building a better America -- but also to ask your help in the tasks that remain to be done.

↳ We still have a long way to go in this country before we truly achieve a Great Society -- before we assure every man full opportunity to build a better life for himself and his children.

↳ There are tasks to be done which will require all the energies of those who hope to build that better life.

↳ Our enemies are poverty, discrimination, and disease -- and they will not be easily defeated. } ~~Success!~~  
Poverty Program

↳ You have fought for many years for aid to education.

and This Congress has already passed an historic Elementary and Secondary Education Act. With your support, we will pass in this session the Higher Education bill. } Appalachian Program

↳ You have fought for Medicare. With your support, we will pass Medicare in this session.

With your support, this Congress in this session will pass: the Voting Rights bill ...  
the Urban Affairs and Housing bill and legislation  
to create a new federal department of Housing and  
Urban Affairs ... and other legislation basic to  
the long-term well-being of our country.

Public works

Health Legislation!

Health Research Institutes

This country needs a healthy and responsible relationship between management and labor. To cement this relationship, this Administration is pledged to repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act.

We ask your continued work in this effort.

Another part of the Taft-Hartley Act -- as interpreted by the Supreme Court in the Denver case -- restricts the rights of Building Trades members to picket at construction sites. Three Administrations,

Republican and Democratic, have recognized these restrictions as unfair. I am happy that ~~the Building and Construction Trades Department and Industrial Union Department~~ have now reached agreement on scope and language of legislation to remedy this. ~~I ask for your work for that legislation.~~

I also ask your help today in righting other wrongs.

As chairman of the President's Committee on ~~Equal Employment Opportunity~~, I am charged with the responsibility of seeing that equal hiring policies are observed on all federal and federally-assisted construction projects. I'm sure we agree that this problem demands the concern and attention of all segments of the construction industry.

↳ I say to you today -- directly and publicly --  
that the general presidents of your international  
unions have pledged to me their full cooperation  
in the promotion of equal employment opportunity  
within the building and construction trades. ↳ And  
I have pledged to them that the federal government  
has no intention of seeking to abolish established  
union hiring procedures which are based on merit  
and qualifications of the individuals. ↳ We seek to  
impose no quotas. We seek no preferential treatment  
on the basis of race or other factor.

↳ But we do seek affirmative action by all union  
members to help correct a situation stemming from  
many generations of deprivation, inequality and  
discrimination. ↳ We ask you to carry back to your

local communities the message that equal  
employment opportunity within your locals is more  
than an empty phrase or a meaningless slogan.

↳ We expect that all applicants for apprenticeship  
programs will be given fair and equitable treatment  
and that all examinations for apprenticeship programs  
will be administered in a fair and nondiscriminatory  
fashion.

↳ We will encourage the full use of apprenticeship  
information centers and the other resources of the  
Department of Labor to help prepare young people for  
apprenticeship examination. ↳ Where the situation  
warrants, I hope that local construction industry  
councils will cooperate closely with school systems  
or other appropriate bodies in sponsoring

pre-apprenticeship training courses. !

< Each of us has a personal responsibility in  
this matter.

My friends, it is at this time of prosperity  
that we must make the investments and put forth the  
hard work necessary to maintain this nation's future  
health -- not just its physical health, but its  
economic and social health as well.

< That investment and that work will be great. But  
it will cost less, far less, than the cost of  
illiteracy ... of school dropouts ... of poverty ...  
of discrimination ... of disillusion and bitterness.

< We have the opportunity to prove in this country  
that free men, working together, can both preserve  
personal liberty and provide for the general welfare.

We can prove that opportunity and justice can exist together.

↳ My friends, we have come a long way and we have worked for a long time for the things that are now in our reach. Let us see it through.

↳ I can say now, as President Franklin Roosevelt wrote 20 years ago in the last week of his life:

↳ "The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today.

↳ "Let us move forward with strong and active faith."

FDR

# INFORMATION

FROM THE  
PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE  
-ON-  
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY  
Washington 25, D. C.

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
AT THE TENTH NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE  
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT  
AFL-CIO, WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL, MAY 3, 1965

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