

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS UNION

MIAMI, FLORIDA

MAY 14, 1965

⑦ Report
Honorary Membership
1947

→ Evelyn Dubrow
→ Miss Tyler

Yesterday one of my friends asked me --
in light of this Administration's support from
business -- whether I still intended to come to the
ILGWU convention.

I told him I still had ^{a long} way to go
before businessmen treated me as warmly as they do
David Dubinsky. To be a friend of labor -- and I hope this
audience does not have to be told that I am proud of
that label -- is not inconsistent with being ^{a friend of} ~~the~~ business.

~~But to be~~ Today Govt, Business & labor
must work together -

I know of no better example of successful management-labor cooperation than that in the ladies' garment industries. This cooperation has been good for industry and for labor. ^{above all,} It has been good for America.

But, Progress did not come easily. You sacrificed a great deal to reach this stage of maturity and of security.

Your struggle was for a system to guarantee peace, opportunity, understanding, and justice. ^{you are winning that struggle.}

Today I value this great union ^{of its leaders} because it has never limited its concern to its own members. ^{alone.} You have fought the good fight for people everywhere: for others in the labor movement, for others throughout America who needed help, and for people seeking freedom and justice elsewhere in the world.

Economic Progress 51 months

Prosperity with a Conscience!

I want to talk to you today about another great effort which the ILGWU has already thrown itself into -- the effort to eliminate poverty from this rich land.

The President has asked me to serve as general coordinator of the war against poverty. I share that responsibility with Sargent Shriver.

Mr. Shriver has assembled a team in Washington and throughout the country which includes a number of associates with outstanding labor experience, men like Jack Conway and Hyman Bookbinder. And he has created a Labor Advisory Council, with representatives from the labor movement.

The Economic Opportunity program is now only seven months old. During the past few weeks, that program has undergone a searching inquiry by the Congress as it prepares to renew and, hopefully, double its

program for next year.

↳ I have made a searching inquiry too. And

I am happy to tell you today that the war against poverty is off the ground and off to a great start. Don't let some of the headlines about minor issues mislead you. Here is a report on progress already under way:

1. America's communities have accepted the challenge.

↳ In accordance with the law, more than a thousand communities have already started the process of organizing community action programs. Several hundred have already received their first grants from Washington. Community action means that all resources of the community must be mobilized for a coordinated attack on the causes of poverty.

2. Every segment of American life is participating.

Tens of thousands of Americans are serving, without compensation, on the governing bodies of these community action agencies. There are bankers and labor leaders; there are social workers and clergymen, there are educators and doctors. For the first time, in many cases, a truly representative group of community leaders is engaged in planning and implementing programs for a great cause.

3. The poor themselves are helping to work out their own salvation.

The law requires, and the Office of Economic Opportunity insists, that the poor themselves shall be involved in the development and the execution of local programs. For too many years we have been satisfied to do things for the poor and to the poor.

↳ This involvement of the poor adds up to nothing less than a social revolution -- the best kind of social revolution. It tells the poor that we have confidence in them ... that their poverty does not necessarily deprive them of the potential for leadership and for self-help. No more, my friends, than poverty or lack of formal education kept David Dubinsky and Philip Murray and Phil Randolph and Sidney Hillman and George Meany from becoming great leaders.

There has been some criticism *of the War on Poverty*. But the record for the nation is impressive. Let me cite some figures:

↳ In the first 145 community action agencies receiving grants from the Office of Economic Opportunity, there are about 3,800 members of government boards.

Of these, 1,236 -- about one-third -- are representatives from the ranks of the poor themselves. In addition, there are almost 20,000 local people in the poor neighborhoods serving on the many Neighborhood Councils created under the program. Moreover, there are more than 5000 paid staff positions that have been created for the poor themselves.

4. The Job Corps is operating and its needs has been demonstrated.

This program for young men and women between the ages of 16 and 21 provides full-time living and learning and working experience. It is based on a proposal I made back in 1956, and I am proud today to see it a reality.

In the first three months of this year, more than 250,000 young people signed up for this program.

These people want a second chance and they are willing to work for it.

Neighborhood Youth Corps

5. We have started the Domestic Peace Corps --

Volunteers in Service to America.

Already, more than 18,000 Americans -- from age 18 to 82 -- have asked to be VISTA volunteers. They are ready to give up a year of their lives -- without pay -- to go wherever we send them to live and work with the poor. And already, VISTA volunteers are working with migrant labor families, on Indian reservations, in Harlem slums, in Appalachia.

6. Half a million children will be helped this summer

as they start their education. Operation "Head Start"

To break the cycle of poverty for the children of the poor, we must reach them early.

Most of them start school life seriously handicapped.

This summer we will reach, through Project Head Start,
more than 500,000 poor children entering school for
the first time this fall. More than 2000 communities
are participating. There will be hundreds of thousands
of volunteers helping the many thousands of professional
workers in this program. These children will be given
a head start out of poverty.

< These are some of the things that have
happened so far. There are others too. Tens of
thousands of youngsters are now employed in Neighborhood
Youth Corps projects, working part-time to keep in
school, or working full-time if they have already dropped
out and need some work experience.

↳ Additional thousands, from poor families,
are being given a chance to attend college through
part-time work-study jobs.

↳ Thousands of our poorest farm families and
our smallest businessmen are being helped through
government loans.

↳ Thousands of hard-core unemployed are being
given counseling and training and work experience.

And there are special adult literacy
programs, migrant labor programs, research and
demonstration programs.

↳ Yes, the Economic Opportunity Program is
on its way! Of course there have been problems, there
have been delays, there have been conflicts. But
the important thing is that we are on our way.

I remember the words of Franklin Roosevelt at the time of the enactment of the Fair Labor Standards Act -- an Act in which this great union has played such a vital role. He said:

"The test of our progress is not whether
we add more to the abundance of those
who already have much. It is whether
we do enough for those who have too
little."

↳ The Economic Opportunity program is
important -- but it is not the only weapon in the war
against poverty. Poverty is not a simple thing. It
is not caused by a single problem -- and it will not
be solved by a single program.

↳ We must continue to reduce unemployment.
We are pleased with the steady improvement for over
50 months -- but we consider the present levels still

intolerable. The tax reduction helped, and further reduction will help more. The new Appalachia and Area Redevelopment programs will create jobs. Whatever more will be needed will be done.

↳ We must provide better and broader education.

The new Education Act is a breakthrough. Its special emphasis on the poor will be a major weapon in the war against poverty.

↳ We must provide better medical care. The

poverty of many of our older citizens is directly related to their health needs and their health costs. I am happy to tell you that Medicare will be law this year, in no small part because of your work.

↳ We must provide better housing and enrich

life in the city. The President's housing and urban development proposals are directly related to the anti-poverty program.

They contain grants for neighborhood services for the poor, grants for renovation for poor homeowners, new public housing authority for large families, loans for low-income rural families, and rent supplements for low income families.

← And there will be action on unemployment insurance, on minimum wages, on child health care, *yes on medicare*

← The war on poverty is off to a good start.

But we are not satisfied and relaxed. I promise you *the Johnson-Humphrey administration* that ~~President Johnson~~ is determined to see that this

war is adequately financed, that it is effectively administered, and that it is changed and expanded as necessary to do the job that needs to be done.

← *Constructive* We welcome criticism. We will discard programs that don't work. We will expand those that do.

Fifty years ago, ^{garment} ~~textile~~ strikers

carried picket signs that said: "We want bread --

and roses, too." The definition of the Great Society.

Those words were immortalized in the song
you know so well:

↳ "Our lives shall not be sweated from birth
until life closes; Hearts starve as well as bodies;
give us bread, but give us roses."

↳ The efforts of this nation are now being called upon
~~here~~ to fulfill that dream. I ask your help. ~~I ask~~
~~your full commitment.~~

Finally - Intern. Leadership - for Peace
D.D. on Vietnam. Dominican

to. Peace a Process
Peace a Cathedral.

INFORMATION

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

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY BEFORE THE
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The efforts of this nation are now being bent to fulfill that dream. I ask your help. I ask your full commitment.



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