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It is indeed a privilege and pleasure to be with you in

St. Louis this afternoon. As principal liaison between the

Administration of President Johnson and our local governments, I wish to express my deep appreciation to the

U. S. Conference of Mayors for its fine cooperation in

the important work of strengthening the creative partnership

between your national government and the thousands of

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I have already met with many of you at our recent conferences in Washington and I look forward with great enthusiasm to broadening this relationship in the months and years ahead.

municipalities across this nation.

As one who has served in local government—as Mayor of Minneapolis, Minnesota—I believe I have some appreciation of the important role played by local government in our Federal system.

You are the people who come face to face with the tough daily problems of the relations of government to the people.

And make no mistake about it, when the people think of government, they are primarily thinking of that government which touches their lives—the police and fire departments, the health and transportation services, the education and cultural facilities, and, yes, even the property taxes and the sales tax.

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No nation in the world has had as much experience in self-government as ours. If there is one area of human activity in which we can claim superior knowledge and greater experience, it is in the field of representative government. I salute those public officials—elected and appointed—whoserve on the front line of public service and who go unappreciated and unrewarded all too often.

In our conference for mayors in Washington, in President Johnson's legislative program being considered by the 89th Congress, in the myriad decisions which are made daily by our federal departments and agencies, we are attempting to hammer out intelligent responses to some fundamental questions about our evolving federal system:

-What should be the appropriate roles of the federal, state, county and local governments in terms of the social, economic realities of the 1960's?

Z --Will each segment of our federal system be prepared to allocate the human and economic resources necessary to make democracy work in these challenging times? In seeking answers to these questions, one fact stands out above all others: The respective levels of government in the American system are partners in a common enterprise. In our democracy, people are the masters at all levels. For this reason, I have never understood why some people seem determined to drive a wedge between the people and their government at any level--federal, state, or local.

Today the American federal system is confronted with responsibilities of truly staggering dimension— whether the stage will double by the year 2000. Within 10 short years the United States

alone will have 30 million more people.

We know there will be nearly six million more people living within the Boston-Washington corridor. And we know that less than 20 per cent of the population will live outside our urban areas.

By the time the center of U. S. population
hits St. Louis about 1972 there will be 15 million
more autos to provide roads and parking space for,
three million more college students to educate,
half a million more newlywed couples annually to
provide housing for.

The realization of these trends has led this

Administration to create a program for the urban

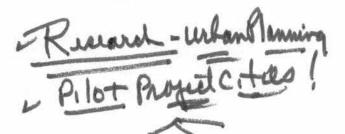
comples. It is based upon Creative Federalism,

a partnership of the three basic forms of government
in this nation.

This distribution of population will produce not only the growth of individual cities but also the expansion of sprawling urban areas along the East Coast, the Great Lakes, in Florida and the Gulf states, in California and the Northwest, between St. Louis and Chicago, and elsewhere. Our growing population needs roads, houses, jobs, police and fire protection, water and sewer services, parks and recreational areas, transportation facilities and the whole range of essential services which comprise good government in the 20th century,

The Johnson Administration is determined to work closely with our states and localities in meeting these pressing needs. There are, for example, two major programs of assistance currently pending before the Congress of special interest to our municipalities.

House of Representatives, calls for establishment of a



new Department of Housing and Urban Development.

You, as representatives of our great cities, deserve a voice at the highest level of government--in the Cabinet

Amany of you individually, and through the U.S.

Conference of Mayors, have worked for passage of this vital legislation. I respectfully urge you to continue - Redouble these efforts until the bill becomes law.

2 / The other major bill is the Housing and Urban Development Bill of 1965. Passage of this legislation is essential if we are to have resources at hand which will permit local governments to meet the needs of an expanding population.

/ What does this legislation provide?

--It would provide a way of rehabilitating older housing, so vital in rebuilding and preserving our neighborhoods.

divide description of the cost of water and sewer facilities to meet foreseeable urban growth.

--And this bill calls for a new program of rent supplements to help those with below-average incomes who are unable to find decent homes on the private market.

The rent supplement program will help older people, those in slums, and those displaced by public building activity to move into decent homes at rents amounting to no more than 25 per cent of their incomes.

Regrettably, the rent supplement program is being attacked on some curious and conflicting grounds. Some charge it competes with public housing—but it does not.

It is designed to complement the resources of public housing, by permitting church, union and other non-profit sponsors to provide urgently needed housing units—built and operated by private firms.

A Passage of these two important pieces of legislation will surely strengthen the creative partnership which exists among all levels of American government.

These programs represent only a small part of our total involvement with the problems of people and the cities and towns in which they live.

In our Washington conferences we have emphasized the partnership among federal, state and local governments

in waging the War on Poverty, in eliminating discrimination and prejudice, in restoring the slums and ghettoes, in beautifying our cities and our highways, in reducing crime and violence on our streets, and in providing adequate education and job opportunities for all people, regardless of race, color or creed.

We recognize that no single level of government possesses the financial resources necessary to combat these problems successfully. Indeed, in the past ten years state and local debt has more than doubled while the federal debt has risen only 15 per cent. During the same decade, state and local public expenditures have doubled and interest on state and local public debt has increased by 250 per cent.

These figures demonstrate the willingness of our state, county and local governments to assume a greater share of our common burden. This commitment

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by our localities to meet these complex problems of government surely deserves explicit recognition and commendation by the citizens of this nation.

These figures also illustrate why we cannot afford waste in any form. In particular, we cannot afford the waste of human resources associated with discrimination and inequality of opportunity in the areas of education, housing, and jobs.

Last week President Johnson announced a program to deal with fone major area of waste, the massive unemployment existing among our boys and girls between the ages of 16 and 21. The Department of Labor estimates that 2.2 million young people will be actively seeking employment in the coming summer.

The President has asked that federal, state and local governments, and private employers, join forces this summer

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in a massive Youth Opportunity Campaign.

This Campaign is seeking to develop work and training experiences for at least a half million of these young people who would otherwise remain unemployed.

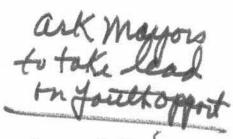
We have instructed every federal department and agency to provide one training opportunity this summer for every 100 regular employees on the payroll—a total of 25,000 training opportunities. If similar programs are conducted by state and local governments, an additional 30,000 job opportunities can be provided this summer.

The U.S. Employment Service is establishing a special Youth Opportunity Campaign roster which will provide young people to fill these job and training opportunities.

I hope you can give this Youth Opportunity Campaign your personal attention and strongest support. A special proclamation would be an effective way to launch the

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campaign in your cities. Also, I urge you to marshall the business community, labor, and various public agencies, and civic and religious organizations in your cities to participate actively in providing job opportunities and work experience for our young people this summer.

We are also involved cooperatively in President
Johnson's Job Development Program. This program calls
for the creation of 10,000 new permanent jobs each
month in service and related fields.

I am arranging conferences between officials of the Labor Department and many of the mayors to develop procedures for implementing the Job Development Program in your local communities.

In all these activities we are merely demonstrating our faith that man does possess the courage, wisdom and determination to govern himself.

And never forget--the Great Society will be a product of all levels of our federal system laboring together in pursuit of this common goal. Not federal against state, county against municipality, but one free people joined in common cause to give new and richer meaning to our lives in this blessed land.

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