

⑧ Neil Blaisdell
Mayor Honolulu

Mayor Cervantes

Mayor Tucker

Mayor Al
Kahfman

⑨ Whitney Young

U.S. Conference of Mayors
St. Louis - May 31, 1965
Governor Hearnes

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 municipalities across this nation.

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.

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.

now Whitney Young says

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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.

(X) 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--who serve 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?

✓ --Can we devise methods and procedures whereby the unique capabilities of each level are used to the fullest?

✓ --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.

Partners

We know

Need to unite to promote cooperation

Today the American federal system is confronted with responsibilities of truly staggering dimension—and these respons.
continue to grow!

We know that the world's population will double by the year 2000. and 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 ^xcomple^s. 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.

We must
work
together

#1 The first bill, now very close to floor action in the House of Representatives, calls for establishment of a

Research - Urban Planning
Pilot Project Cities!

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new Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Work with
congress -
U.S. Conf -
Nat League
municipalities

✓ You, as representatives of our great cities, deserve ↓ must have
a voice at the highest level of government--in the Cabinet.

✓ Many 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.

└--It would give you money to pay a large share
of the cost of water and sewer facilities to meet foreseeable
urban growth.

└--It would increase the federal share of assistance
to 50 per cent of the cost of buying land for parks and
other open space needs. The bill would provide funds to
buy downtown sites, clear them of old buildings, and improve
them for parks and similar use.

└--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.

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

✓ mayor Responsibilities
increase.

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in waging the War on Poverty, in eliminating discrimination
and prejudice, in restoring the slums and ghettos, 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.

Such
a
big
task

↳ 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 ~~to meet~~

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.

500
 1800
 2500
 3500
 4500

{ Last week President Johnson announced a program
 to deal with one 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

Youth
 Opportunity!

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

- ✓ Aid to Educ
- ✓ Housing + Urban Develop Act
- ✓ Economic Opportunity Act
- ✓ Public Works
- ✓ Health Research ←
- ✓ Improved Soc Sec

ask Mayors
to take lead
in youth support

campaign in your cities. Also, I urge you to marshal
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. — Anti Poverty Program

↳ 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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