

Gov Huelett Smith

<sup>Reverend Washington</sup>  
Sen Jennings Randolph  
81 yr service

Mayor Henry Warden

Sen Bob Byrd

Sec State Post Bailey

REMARKS BY

Cong Jim Kee

Judge Thornton Berry

Cong Harley Staggers

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY

Clarence Elmore

Cong Arch Moore

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

Pat Jennings of Va June 16, 1965

Ken Heckler } unable  
John Slack } to come

congrats my work with local Govt

It certainly is a privilege to share this day with you -- with the city that licked its problems and not its wounds. America needs more Bluefields.

Heart of Bluefield refuses to stop

Here in the heart of Appalachia, you decided to do something about your problems. And you did.

Heart of Appalachia

As the result of your work, Bluefield is today one of eleven All-American cities. - Regular Honor!

1 You developed Skyland, Incorporated, your 2 and 1/2 million dollar resort complex.

Gift Shop - Products of native craftsmen

2 Then you developed your scenic railroad, "the Ridge Runner." 43,000 Passengers 1st Season

3 "Winning is just the beginning" - Thrup  
'longest Journey is the first step'

Then came your successful effort to bring in new facilities  
in new industry, to develop Bluefield College, to build  
 a new Chamber of Commerce building, a golf course,  
 and a new youth center. - new Bank, Finney's new bldg,  
shopping center

All of these were by individual and private effort.  
 And so were other projects aimed at making Bluefield a  
 better place in which to live and work.

Your local government has done its job too. As  
 a result of a bond referendum which received a handsome  
majority, park facilities have been expanded. . . storm  
sewers put in . . . and other needed improvements made.

Community facilities have been expanded and improved with  
 an outlay of approximately 10 and 1/2 million dollars.

The federal government has helped too. - this Army  
2nd share  
\$750,000  
\$200,000  
 Your city planning and urban renewal project  
are helped by federal funds. So is your new low-rent  
housing project. And Interstate Highway 77 has been

Pence

10,000  
volunteers

(X)  
county  
Health Center  
\$400,000

(b)

9 Citizens  
Action  
Programs

city  
Police

ACBU  
Public  
works

an important factor in what you have accomplished.

↳ Business and industry responded to the challenge.

This is demonstrated by the 7 million dollars they have invested in a new bank and expansion and improvement of stores and factories.

↳ Your progress has been achieved as the result of cooperation -- a partnership -- of private citizens, the business community, and government.

Unity -  
S.P.I.R.I.T.

I looked over again today the list of this year's All-American cities.

↳ Their names are different, and their problems and successes have been different, too. ↳ And yet, I was struck by similarities among them.

All have been forced to deal with problems stemming from the growth and change that is taking place in this nation.

∟ There was another similarity among all eleven cities. All of these cities have been assisted by one or more federal programs -- programs designed to help local leadership solve the kinds of problems you are solving.

∟ There are other similarities. Three cities -- Bluefield is one of these -- have been cited for coming to grips with the great challenge of our times -- human relations.

I see evidence of progress in this area here and now.

∟ I know the soul-searching effort it took to achieve this. *It's not easy to change!*

∟ It was only last February that your YMCA-YWCA trustees voted unanimously to open those organizations to all citizens of this community.

↳ And your Human Relations Commission has undertaken done work that any American city could be proud of.

↳ You are working in Bluefield to create equal opportunity in jobs as well as in education. - and your records are to Progress.

The spirit you have shown is the spirit behind

President Johnson's new approach to economic development.

↳ You in West Virginia know about the Area Redevelopment Program. But, as you may know, ARA as such is due to go out of business at the end of this month.

Both President Johnson's new program under the Economic Development Act, is based on past program experience of ARA and Public Works

This new program is based on the idea of cooperation between the federal government, state and local governments, and private enterprise -- the same cooperation which did the job here in Bluefield.

} you get the pattern

Economic Development Administration

Our goal is to create permanent jobs through long-term economic expansion. How is this to be done?

States and counties will be encouraged to plan economic development together.

Loans and grants will be available to encourage new industry in redevelopment areas.

A long-range program of public works will be started to build new sewage disposal systems, water mains, streets, and access roads -- for without these things, industrial development can't even begin.

I predict today that this Congress will give its approval to this new program. The Senate has already done so; the bill is now under consideration in the House.

Randolph  
McNamm  
Muskie

Jennings Randolph Ch. Sub. Comm. on Public Works & Roads

annually \$400,000,000 - Public works funds - grants for 5 yrs

\$150 million  
525 " Regional Program - like Appalachia  
Technical Assistance  
LOANS

from the soap  
out of Henry  
Committee  
today

⑫ Congressman Jim Kee (Bluefield home)  
on House Public Works

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↳ The workability of this program will depend in large measure on the ability of local leadership to plan and work -- just as you have planned and worked here.

↳ For example, five years ago the city of Bluefield received a \$12,000-dollar grant from the Urban Renewal Administration for the purposes of planning.

Plans

I'm sure you will agree that your decision to make an extensive planning study was one of the wisest decisions you ever made.

↳ Out of this developed the master plan filed in January 1962 -- and I know that this has served as a valuable, indispensable guide for new ideas under way in this city.

Excellent Document

I know <sup>too</sup> that recently the Urban Renewal Administration has approved another and much larger planning grant for Bluefield so that you can continue your progress.

I had someone bring me a copy of your 1962 plan. Thumbing through this plan, I saw the recommendation on new manufacturing employment as "the most basic means of economic improvement."

This of course has been translated into jobs in Bluefield, through your new factory and factory additions.

I also saw reference in your plan to Highway 77; along with the recommendations carried out so well to increase tourism.

I could go on further but you know this plan better than I.

The point is this:

*Jobs*

*Tourism*

*Beautiful mountain country.*

*Tourism  
See the USA*

*- 71% of Popul of U.S. lives within one day drive of Bluefield*

↳ We would not be here today if there had not been such successful followthrough on that plan.

*Followed through*

↳ We would not be here if it hadn't been for the *cooperation* of government at all levels *brought to Bluefield* *and cooperation* *with private enterprise.*

↳ But we would also not be here if you had not acted on that plan, and with that assistance, with energy and imagination.

↳ This is the lesson that all of us have learned.

↳ In this day and age, good fences do not make good neighbors. All of us in this nation -- in government, in private industry, in cities and towns, on farms -- all of us must share responsibility for seeing that all people and places in our society have both a chance to contribute to and share in the fruits of our abundance.

↳ We cannot have a Great Society -- no matter how rich this nation becomes -- if parts of that society are left behind.

War on Poverty - Appalachian  
AID to educ. - Public works  
etc

President Johnson has made his pledge. And

I join him in that pledge. We will not be satisfied until all Americans, and all parts of America, can participate in this better life.

We grow together

Human Resources  
a more beautiful America

I know that you here in Bluefield share that determination. With your continued work, and with ours, I know we will succeed.

Congratulations!

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⊕ Have no little Plans - No Small Dreams,  
Reach for the Stars



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