

REMARKS BY
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
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I want to talk to you today about one of America's last frontiers . . . a frontier as challenging as any in the past . . . and a frontier that must be pushed back if all our people are to share in and contribute to the fruits of this nation's progress.

It is appropriate to discuss the past in Green Bay because some of the early religious and economic history of Wisconsin was made here. And also because -- in both discovering and settling the land -- there are striking historic parallels in the early days of Wisconsin and of America.

As Christopher Columbus sailed west over the Atlantic to a new world in 1492, Jean Nicolet sailed west over Lake Michigan to step aground on the shore of Green Bay in 1634. In the 1600s the pioneers pushed west and north from the Eastern Seaboard in search of opportunity . . . in the 1700s farmers and tradesmen pushed west and north from such Lake Michigan communities as Green Bay for the same reason.

All this happened many years ago. Yet the frontier I want to discuss with you today -- the economic frontier -- in many ways is still waiting to be pushed back from Green Bay. The full development of the human and economic resources of Wisconsin's Northland still is before us.

As President Johnson has said:

"The distress or underdevelopment of any part of the country holds back the progress of the entire nation."

This means we must turn our attention also to the parts of our country which have been bypassed by our growing, vigorous national economy.

Fortunately, Wisconsin as a state has shared in the tremendous growth of our economy. Both Wisconsin and the nation have made great economic strides in the last four years.

Yet one-fifth of America's families still live in poverty . . . in some counties more than three-fourths of the families have incomes of under 3,000 dollars a year . . . and entire regions have been bypassed by the growing economy.

In Wisconsin, employment reached 1.6 million in March for a new high for that month. The unemployment rate for March of 3.7 per cent was well under the national average. The 46,000 new jobs created in the last year much more than made up for employment losses in such areas as farming. And the state's personal income figure topped the 10 billion-dollar mark for the first time.

Yet thousands of Wisconsin families live in poverty. Many Northern counties have winter unemployment rates of three times the national average. And much of the Northland -- an area that once boomed with mining and lumbering -- has been economically bypassed.

Today, President Johnson has asked Congress for a bigger and redirected program of economic development for those parts of our nation which need that development.

It is based on the idea of cooperation between the federal government , state and local governments, and private enterprise.

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, 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.

Today this nation has the resources -- and I think it also has the will and the know-how -- to eliminate poverty from our midst.

The main part of this job must be done by providing opportunity for personal initiative and self-help by energetic people who welcome that chance.

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.

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.

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



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