

REMARKS

(X) } today
Presidents
Birthday

Tonight 1 yr
ago
at City

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR ON POVERTY

TAMPA, FLORIDA

AUGUST 27, 1965

One year ago this week it was my privilege
to be present when President Lyndon Johnson signed
into law the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

At that time our President told this nation:
"I firmly believe that as of this moment a new day of
opportunity is dawning, and a new era of progress is
opening for us all."

Tonight it is my privilege to report to you on
the first year of that "new era of progress" -- to
report to you on how we are doing in the war we
want to fight - the War on Poverty

Jim Inspectors Genl of War on Poverty

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As the general coordinator, with Sargent Shriver, of the war on poverty, I have been asked by the President to maintain a close watch on the efforts of the Americans -- in government and out -- who are fighting this war not only against poverty, but for equality of opportunity, for hope, for human dignity.

No city in the nation is a better place for my first-anniversary report on this program. ~~For~~ Tampa's own experience serves as the model of a successful program of community self-help.

Tampa from its earliest days has demonstrated the benefits which come to the community which makes the necessary efforts to bring its less privileged citizens into full partnership.

Today, in midst of growth and prosperity, you in Tampa still are working hard to help all your citizens both contribute to and share in your common progress.

Sam Gibbons

There is another reason why this report should be made in Tampa: Your extraordinary Congressman,
Sam Gibbons.

Sam Gibbons was the author of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1965 . . . and its floor manager in the successful fight in the House of Representatives to double its size and its potential.

Sam Gibbons deserves not only your gratitude but the gratitude of millions of your fellow citizens in every state.

No man has worked harder, or contributed more, to make America better and stronger, I Salute him!

For Sam Gibbons ~~recognizes that~~ Knows that ~~no~~ greater opportunity faces ~~at~~ us today than the opportunity to strengthen the economic and social structures of our communities, of our nation.

↳ We in America enjoy ~~to~~ an unprecedented peacetime economic expansion. That ^{prosperity that} expansion -- created through a positive partnership for prosperity between government and ^{business labor unions} ~~the private sector~~ -- gives us the opportunity to make basic investments to strengthen our ~~country~~ ^{Country} for the great, long-term responsibilities we face at home and in the world. *and*

↳ ~~We are moving ahead in seizing that opportunity.~~

an other America | But, ~~and~~ in the midst of our rich society there is an "other America." There are some 30 million Americans in it. They have been shunted aside or lost in the backwaters. ~~For them our national prosperity is something seen but seldom shared.~~ ~~These Americans belong to families earning an average 1800 dollars a year from all sources.~~ That is 35 dollars a week -- to feed that family, to clothe that family, to house that family, to provide education and transportation and health

care for that family.

↳ But the poverty of these 30 million Americans is not to be measured in dollar terms alone. It must be measured in hopelessness and helplessness . . . in resentment and rejection . . . in despair and distrust . . . in loss to our nation of valuable human resources.

↳ No one knows better than you the cost of these lost resources. The costs of welfare are a continuing drain on American communities.

↳ The "other Americans" are taxeaters and not taxpayers.

↳ There are estimates which indicate that hundreds of millions of dollars each year could be added to our economy . . . that hundreds of millions of dollars could be subtracted from our public budgets through greater investment to break the "other Americans' " cycle of poverty.

Just imagine what it would mean
~~What~~ if these people could become productive

citizens . . . could become, for our communities,
pluses and not minuses?

← *Some of the* These are challenges facing all Americans today.

These are challenges we seek to meet with our war on
poverty.

← What are the dimensions -- in numbers -- of
our first year's program under the Economic Opportunity
Act itself?

← At the heart of our efforts, under the Economic
Opportunity Act, is the Community Action Program.

In the past year, more than 800 separate grants have
been made to nearly 750 cities and counties in all
50 American states, directly benefiting some 3 million
people.

As you know, nearly 5 million dollars has been earmarked by the Office of Economic Opportunity for Tampa's antipoverty efforts. These funds will be channeled through 6 local sponsoring agencies -- agencies which have already set aside more than 400,000 dollars of their own revenues to meet their share of the cost.

and, **As** You know, ^{there are} ~~in Tampa~~ of these two complementary programs -- the Neighborhood Youth Corps and the Job Corps. Together, these programs seek to find an answer to one of America's most urgent challenges: the challenge of finding useful, productive, gainful employment for our young people.

The Neighborhood Youth Corps will have more than 300,000 American youngsters working by the end of this year.

Over 300,000 men and women have already applied for the Job Corps. The first 10,000 enrollees are now learning and working in 50 centers across the land.

There is VISTA, the Volunteers in Service to America. VISTA has already attracted the volunteered services of more than 20,000 Americans of all ages, of all backgrounds, and from all parts of our land. The first 1,000 of our nation's finest citizens are now on the job or in training -- in Appalachian hollows, on Indian reservations, in urban and rural slums. By the end of the year they will number 2,000 -- working in 40 states.

There is Project Head Start, developed only in February of this year. This program is based on the simple proposition that if we give some special attention to those four and five-year-olds entering school for

the first time this fall -- youngsters who might otherwise have difficulty adjusting -- we can not only alleviate some of the problems already afflicting these children, but can prevent their tragic accumulation in the years immediately ahead. *Wonderful* { We hoped Head Start would reach, its first year, 100,000 children. But Head Start reached this summer ~~over 500,000~~ more than half a million of these children in 13,000 child development centers across the nation.

{ There is the College Work Study Program, under which 40,000 students from 750 colleges worked this summer.

{ There is the Work Experience Program, under which 88,000 unemployed parents are participating in projects in 42 states.

There is the Adult Basic Education Program, under which 37,000 persons are receiving literacy training in 45 states.

And there is Aid to Migrants and the Rural Loan Program, ~~and the Special Business Development Program of Small Business Adm.~~

Tampa is familiar with all these programs. You ^{some of} have put them to work here.

↳ The Small Business Administration has helped, too, in the war on poverty.

↳ In communities across the nation, local citizens have formed Small Business Development Centers as the focal point for local efforts to expand jobs and boost economic development through the creation of new small firms or the upgrading of existing businesses.

Late this afternoon, I was able to report to the people of this area that the Small Business Administration has approved a Tampa Small Business Development Center -- the first in Florida.

The Office of Economic Opportunity has approved a federal grant of about ⁴⁷ \$,000 dollars to operate it.

Through the Center, the Small Business Administration will now be able to approve Economic Opportunity loans for small business in this area.

I have given you, on this anniversary, some statistics to show the scope of what is already being done under the Economic Opportunity Act.

But the Economic Opportunity Act -- important as it is -- is only a beginning.

And the progress made in the past year under that Act is only a part of the progress our nation has made in awakening to the task at hand and in turning this country's will and resources to poverty's final elimination.

In this past year:

④ The conscience of America has been aroused
and disturbed.

↳ We now, as a nation, believe the fact of poverty in our affluent ~~land~~ society.

↳ There is greater understanding, too, that the war on poverty and civil rights are tied directly together. ↳ We recognize that the granting of legal rights must be matched with economic opportunity. The tragedy of Los Angeles has made this painfully clear.

↳ We have placed on the federal statute books a series of vital programs.

L The Congress has just approved a doubling of the Economic Opportunity program. But this is only one battleground of our struggle. Congress has also passed historic legislation granting aid-to-education . . . it has passed Medicare . . . a voting rights law . . . a new housing program . . . aid to Appalachia . . . the *Economic Development Act* Older Americans Act . . . and other laws aimed at one or another of poverty's causes and symptoms.

L Hundreds of communities have organized their own wars on poverty.

yes, More than 500 American communities have organized on their own. Tens of thousands of community leaders and citizens have joined the battle at home.

The poor themselves have been mobilized for their own help.

Unlike previous programs, we look today to the poor themselves for a substantial effort on their own behalf. They are no longer apart, as spectators. Literally tens of thousands of poor Americans are now at work helping other poor people to help themselves.

All parts of our society have joined in this task.

Hundreds of American corporations have undertaken

affirmative programs of job recruitment and training *and the elimination of discrimination in employment.*

Business organizations, including the United States

Chamber of Commerce and National Association of

Manufacturers, have joined the effort as organizations

and through their members.

The AFL-CIO, and its member unions, have opened the way for greater job opportunity.

All levels of American government, business and labor have become directly involved and are working in cooperation.

Business

Unity

and

Our efforts have touched the lives of millions

of individual Americans.

Human Resources

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I have reported to you the progress made in programs authorized only a year ago. Today, in America, there are hundreds of thousands of our citizens who have played a role in civic action, in training programs, in volunteer work. There are other hundreds of thousands who know for the first time that their poverty is not inevitable and that there are ways to be helped, trained, educated . . . ways to reach upward.

America Better

Yes, over the past year we have implemented a new law. But, even more important, we have mobilized our country for work too-long delayed and pushed aside.

The people who came to this continent, and built this nation, set out to create a society in which each citizen would have unfettered opportunity to lift himself and his family to something better.

↳ If we really believe in our past -- and our future ^{how faith in} -- we must dedicate ourselves to making each man, each woman, each child in America a full participant in American life. I mean a life not just of prosperity and security -- but a life in which self-expression and self-fulfillment are within the reach of all.

↳ I came to Washington 17 years ago as a freshman Senator. During that first year a scene took place in a Senate hearing room that symbolized just what we mean by the Great Society.

↳ A woman from Tennessee, a garment worker, was testifying before seven United States Senators on behalf of raising the minimum wage to 75 cents an hour. At one point, this is what she said:

"My youngest girl, she's 9 now, goes straight to the piano when we go to a house where they have one. She does want to play the piano so bad. I've thought that maybe I could save 50 cents or a dollar a week to buy a second-hand piano for her . . . but I haven't found a way to do it yet. Maybe I've been foolish to talk to you people about music for one of my children when the main question is getting enough to eat and wear, or blankets for the bed, or a chair to sit on. But down in Tennessee we love music, and factory workers don't live by bread alone any more than anyone else does."

yo Piano lessons for a little Tennessee girl . . . full, productive lives for our citizens and the places where

they live -- these, my friends, are what the war on poverty is all about, what the Great Society is all about. This is what we work for.

↳ For the elderly, sick and disabled -- compassion and concern.

↳ For the young -- an equal start in life.

↳ For all Americans -- the opportunity to raise themselves not only to wealth and productivity, but to a life of satisfaction and fulfillment.

↳ In twentieth century America we have come to realize that the worth of a nation is, as John Stuart Mill said, no more than "the worth of the individuals composing it."

↳ Thus we are determined to free millions of Americans from the bondage of that tragic equation which has too often decreed that poor shall beget poor and ignorance shall beget misery.

↳ Thus it is that we seek to heal for all time the emotional scars of the experience which the Book of Job so poignantly describes: "The poor of the earth hide themselves together."

↳ And thus it is that we are increasingly aware that, of those to whom much is given, much is expected . . . that as the abundance of worldly goods provides us with the tools to wage this war, so does it also impose upon us the moral imperative, the obligation, to wage it -- and to wage it with resolution.

And cooperation must be the keynote -- cooperation between public and private sectors; among federal, state and local governments; among all interested parties. Together there is little we cannot do, divided there is little that we can.

Yes, we wage war on poverty because it will make America stronger economically. But we attack poverty, too, in the spirit expressed by the author Thomas Wolfe:

"To every man his chance, to every man regardless of his birth, his shining golden opportunity -- to every man the right to live, to work, to be himself and to become whatever thing his manhood and his vision can combine to make him -- this . . . is the promise of America."

With the grace of God, with the help of men like Sam Gibbons, with the example of cities like Tampa, we will fulfill the promise of America. We will win the war on poverty. !

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REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY AT THE
FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR ON POVERTY, TAMPA,
FLORIDA, AUGUST 27, 1965

One year ago this week it was my privilege to be present when President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

At that time our President told this nation: "I firmly believe that as of this moment a new day of opportunity is dawning, and a new era of progress is opening for us all."

Tonight it is my privilege to report to you on the first year of that "new era of progress" -- to report to you on how we are doing in the war on poverty.

As the general coordinator, with Sargent Shriver, of the war on poverty, I have been asked by the President to maintain a close watch on the efforts of the Americans -- in government and out -- who are fighting this war not only against poverty, but for equality of opportunity, for hope, for human dignity.

No city in the nation is a better place for my first-anniversary report on this program. For Tampa's own experience serves as the model of a successful program of community self-help.

Tampa from its earliest days has demonstrated the benefits which come to the community which makes the necessary efforts to bring its less privileged citizens into full partnership.

Today, in midst of growth and prosperity, you in Tampa still are working hard to help all your citizens both contribute to and share in your common progress.

There is another reason why this report should be made in Tampa: Your extraordinary Congressman, Sam Gibbons.

Sam Gibbons was the author of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1965 ... and its floor manager in the successful fight in the House of Representatives to double its size and its potential.

Sam Gibbons deserves not only your gratitude but the gratitude of millions of your fellow citizens in every state.

No man has worked harder, or contributed more, to make America better and stronger.

For Sam Gibbons recognizes this:

No greater opportunity faces all of us today than the opportunity to strengthen the economic and social structures of our communities, of our nation.

We in America enjoy today an unprecedented peacetime economic expansion. That expansion -- created through a positive partnership for prosperity between government and the private sector -- gives us the opportunity to make basic investments to strengthen our American society for the great, long-term responsibilities we face at home and in the world.

We are moving ahead in seizing that opportunity.

In the midst of our rich society there is an "other America." There are some 30 million Americans in it. They have been shunted aside or lost in the backwaters.

For them our national prosperity is something seen but seldom shared. These Americans belong to families earning an average 1800 dollars a year from all sources. That is 35 dollars a week -- to feed that family, to clothe that family, to house that family, to provide education and transportation and health care for that family.

But the poverty of these 30 million Americans is not to be measured in dollar terms alone. It must be measured in hoplessness and helplessness ... in resentment and rejection ... in despair and distrust ... in loss to our nation of valuable human resources.

No one knows better than you the cost of these lost resources. The cost of welfare are a continuing drain on American communities.

The "other Americans" are tax-eaters and not taxpayers.

There are estimates which indicate that hundreds of millions of dollars each year could be added to our economy ... that hundreds of millions of dollars could be subtracted from our public budgets through greater investment to break the "other Americans'" cycle of poverty.

What if these people could become productive citizens... could become, for our communities, pluses and not minuses?

These are challenges facing all Americans today. These are challenges we seek to meet with our war on poverty.

What are the dimensions -- in numbers -- of our first year's program under the Economic Opportunity Act itself?

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Action Program. In the past year, more than 800 separate grants have been made to nearly 750 cities and counties in all 50 American states, directly benefiting some 3 million people.

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But the Economic Opportunity Act -- important as it is -- is only a beginning.

And the progress made in the past year under that Act is only a part of the progress our nation has made in awakening to the task at hand and in turning this country's will and resources to poverty's final elimination.

In this past year:

The conscience of America has been aroused and distributed.

We now, as a nation, believe the fact of poverty in our affluent midst.

There is greater understanding, too, that the war on poverty and civil rights are tied directly together. We recognize that the granting of legal rights must be matched with economic opportunity. The tragedy of Los Angeles has made this painfully clear.

We have placed on the federal statute books a series of vital programs.

The Congress has just approved a doubling of the Economic Opportunity program. But this is only one battleground of our struggle. Congress has also passed historic legislation granting aid-to-education... it has passed Medicare... a voting rights law... a new housing program... aid to Appalachia... the Older Americans Act... and other laws aimed at one or another of poverty's causes and symptoms.

Hundreds of communities have organized their own wars on poverty.

More than 500 American communities have organized on their own. Tens of thousands of community leaders and citizens have joined the battle at home.

The poor themselves have been mobilized for their own help.

Unlike previous programs, we look today to the poor themselves for a substantial effort on their own behalf. They are no longer apart, as spectators. Literally tens of thousands of poor Americans are now at work helping other poor people to help themselves.

All parts of our society have joined in this task.

Hundreds of American corporations have undertaken affirmative programs of job recruitment and training. Business organizations, including the United States Chamber of Commerce and National Association of Manufacturers, have joined the effort as organizations and through their members.

The AFL-CIO, and its member unions, have opened the way for greater job opportunity.

All levels of American government, business and labor have become directly involved and are working in cooperation.

Our efforts have touched the lives of millions of individual Americans.

I have reported to you the progress made in programs authorized only a year ago. Today, in America, there are hundreds of thousands of our citizens who have played a role in civic action, in training programs, in volunteer work. There are other hundreds of thousands who know for the first time that their poverty is not

inevitable and that there are ways to be helped, trained, educated...ways to reach upward.

Yes, over the past year we have implemented a new law. But, even more important we have mobilized our country for work too-long delayed and pushed aside.

The people who came to this continent, and built this nation, set out to create a society in which each citizen would have unfettered opportunity to lift himself and his family to something better.

If we really believe in our past -- and our future -- we must dedicate ourselves to making each man, each woman, each child in America a full participant in American life. I mean a life not just of prosperity and security -- but a life in which self-expression and self-fulfillment are within the reach of all.

I came to Washington 17 years ago as a freshman Senator. During that first year a scene took place in a Senate hearing room that symbolized just what we mean by the Great Society.

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And cooperation must be the keynote -- cooperation between public and private sectors; among federal, state, and local governments; among all interested parties. Together there is little we cannot do, divided there is little that we can.

Yes, we wage war on poverty because it will make America stronger economically. But we attack poverty, too, in the spirit expressed by the author Thomas Wolfe:

"To every man his chance, to every man regardless of his birth, his shining golden opportunity -- to every man the right to live, to work, to be himself and to become whatever thing his manhood and his vision can combine to make him -- this ... is the promise of America."

With the grace of God, with the help of men like Sam Gibbons, with the example of cities like Tampa, we will fulfill the promise of America. We will win the war on poverty.

Transcript

REMARKS (AS RECORDED)

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR ON POVERTY

TAMPA, FLORIDA

AUGUST 27, 1965

Thank you very much! (Applause) Thank you, Congressman Gibbons! Thank you, Congressman Sam Gibbons, for your gracious and generous introduction. Thank you for introducing me to your people and also in a sense introducing your people and your constituents to me. I'm very grateful.

Governor Burns, I want to once again thank you for the gracious and generous welcome that you always give to me when I come to your beautiful state of Florida. You're doing a fine job, Governor, and it is a joy, as a member of the national administration to work with you and to work with your congressman here, Sam Gibbons.

Mayor Nuccio, I want to again take the opportunity to thank you for the key to the city. There must be an awfully lot of good things locked up in Tampa with that big key! (laughter) But I surely will cherish it, and when you come to the Vice President's office, Mr. Mayor, you'll find that key -- you'll find it there for you to see and for others to see.

I know there are many mayors of the cities of Florida, the West Coast here, but I do want to pay my respects to a gentleman that received me so kindly when I visited St. Petersburg...and I refer, of course, to Mayor Goldner. (Applause) And I've got to thank him for his kindness to me.

And Congressman Pepper...I sort of lost my good friend down there in these lights...but there is no better friend of the people anywhere than Congressman Claude Pepper! (Applause)

Now let me for a moment, just pay my respects to Dr. Dixon and to Rev. Lowry.

Then to thank this chairman of the dinner...this gentleman that has made it possible for us to have this amazing, large gathering of good Floridians...and I speak of Bill Garcia (Applause) ...Bill! We're so grateful to you, and I know that everyone here joins me in this word of thanks that I have uttered tonight.

The governor has mentioned the auditorium. He didn't say to you what I said when I entered this place -- I said: "What a marvelous auditorium! This city of Tampa is really going places!" And then I looked across the street, and there was the University of Tampa. Then I saw a sign over there that said: "Welcome, Vice President Humphrey, University of Tampa." (Applause) So I feel doubly welcomed tonight.

I suppose we can almost break out in song about now, because I am sure you all know tonight that today we celebrate the birthday of the President of the United States! (Applause)

Last night I penned a note to our President, and I said there: "Mr. President, it is written somewhere by someone that happiness comes from sharing and giving. Mr. President, you must have a very happy birthday! Because the President of the United States, through his leadership, through his programs and his policies, through his personal detailed attention to the duties of government, has brought new hope, new promise, and great happiness to millions and millions of people across this land. So Mr. President, I say to you...and I wish that my voice could carry all the way to Johnson City, Texas... I say to you, 'Happy Birthday', for the happiness that you brought to so many of us!" (Applause)

When I accepted this invitation to come to Tampa, Congressman Sam Gibbons reminded me that this was the first anniversary of the War on Poverty -- the signing of the Economic Opportunity Act. And tonight, if you'll permit me, I want to visit with you just a little bit, about what this war on poverty is all about -- what we're trying to do and how we're trying to do it.

One year ago, this very week, it was my privilege, along with your Congressman, and many others, to be at the White House when President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. And at that time, President Johnson told this nation: "I firmly believe that as of this moment, a new day of opportunity is dawning, and a new era of progress is opening for all of us."

In other words, he recited a new charter of hope and freedom, for millions of people who were locked in -- so to speak, imprisoned -- in the walls of prejudice and poverty, helplessness, hopelessness,

and despair.

Tonight it's my privilege, on the first year of that new era of progress, to report to you how we're doing in the one war that we Americans really want to fight -- the War on Poverty.

I've been asked by the President to maintain a rather close and watchful eye on the efforts of Americans -- in government and outside of government -- who are fighting this war, not only against poverty, but are fighting for equality of opportunity, and for hope and for human dignity. I guess you can call me the sort of Presidential appointed inspector general and monitor of the War on Poverty.

I never did quite get my battle orders clearly in mind, but I knew that I was assigned to something, and I've been working side by side with Sargent Shriver, the Director of this War on Poverty, as we have sought to launch the legions and the divisions of our forces against this ancient old enemy -- an enemy, if you please, that has resisted every power on the face of the earth since the dawn of Man, because poverty has never been conquered up to this date...and efforts have been made in other generations to do something about it.

I think there is no better city in America -- no better place for the first anniversary report on the program and on this war, than your city -- your Tampa -- because Tampa's own experience serves as the model of a successful program of community self-help. And indeed, the mayor of this city, and the council members, the

commissioners, the people representing the people here, the Community Action groups, the religious groups, business and labor... you must feel, tonight, very proud and rather happy, for the achievements and the successes thus far.

Tampa, from its earliest moments in this program, has demonstrated the benefits which can come to a community which makes the necessary efforts to bring its less privileged citizens into full partnership with its more privileged citizens. In other words, you have decided that everybody has something to contribute -- if they're but asked, and if they're brought in to the struggle.

But there's another reason why I'm here tonight -- and why this report is made in your city -- and that reason is just two chairs to my left, two chairs to your right -- the Congressman from this district... your unusual, remarkable, extraordinary congressman, Sam Gibbons!

(Applause)

Sam actually drew up the battle plans. Sam Gibbons was the author of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1965, and its floor manager in the successful fight in the House of Representatives to double its size and its potential. Sam took on critics and foes, and he won a victory the likes of which we haven't seen in the halls of Congress for a hundred years, and I surely want to salute him for his generalship, for his dedication, and for his success! (Applause)

Sam Gibbons deserves not only your gratitude, but truly this good friend of mine and yours deserves the gratitude of millions and millions of our fellow citizens of every state in this land.

I want to say for a moment, that when you elect a congressman, you're not just electing someone that votes for laws for you, or makes statements and speeches for you; you're electing a congressman of the United States of America. And every citizen of this nation has the responsibility in the selection of our national officers to think of the national good, as well as the district needs -- to think of the common objectives of this Republic, as well as the local interests of the area that he has been selected to serve.

I'm very, very happy tonight to tell you that on this platform are two congressmen who in the fullest meaning of the words, are congressmen of the United States of America, and not just of their districts! (Applause)

I believe I can say to you that Sam Gibbons knows that no greater opportunity faces us today than the opportunity to strengthen the economic and social structures of our communities and of our nation. Truly this opportunity knocks at our door.

We in America, without listing the details, know that we enjoy unprecedented peacetime economic growth and expansion. This expansion and this prosperity that is ours is the wonder of the world. Never in all of history has any nation known 54 consecutive months of continuous growth and expansion, larger profits for industry, better wages for workers, higher dividends for stockowners, per capita income on the rise, personal savings growing, every economic index telling us that this is the most unbelievable period of prosperity and growth that a nation has ever known.

As a matter of fact, I told some young people today in Miami, that were meeting there in their conference -- the Lutheran Youth Conference, that this America of ours today produces 50% of all the goods and services produced in the world. We today have better than 50% of the total gross national product of all the nations of the entire world.

We, 195 million Americans, are blessed with 50% of the produced wealth of this world. The other 3 billion, four or five million have the rest of it. How fortunate we are -- how blessed we are, and how humbly grateful we should be for this wonderful opportunity that is ours!

We know that this prosperity and this expansion did not come by accident. It has been created through a positive partnership between government and business and labor and farmer, and people everywhere. It isn't a prosperity from Washington; but Washington has had something to do with it, by its tax policies, the attitude of our President, a cooperation towards business and labor, the sense of national unity which is ours today.

We know that this expansion gives us the opportunity to make basic investments, to strengthen our country -- this blessed land of ours -- for the great long-term responsibility that we face at home and abroad. And I'll ask this audience tonight to keep that in mind.

We're not living just for today. Our America bears heavy responsibilities. This nation is known as the leader of the free world, and leadership is not blessed with privilege, nor luxury.

Leadership means responsibility. The banner of leadership is not the cloak of comfort. It is the robe of responsibility...therefore we must be strong every way -- strong in our faith, strong in our purpose, strong in our economy, strong in our determination, for the right, for opportunity, and for justice.

But we know that in all of this wealth -- a wealth that dazzles mankind -- in all of our power -- power the likes of which no man has ever dreamed...and may I assure you tonight that your nation is powerful -- there is no nation or combination of nations that can equal the power and the strength and the might of the United States of America...(Applause)...but with that wealth, and with that power, we seek not to dominate, not to conquer, not to enslave but rather to serve.

And in the midst of our rich society, we discovered that there is yet another America -- a different America -- two Americas. The America that you and I know, the one that I'm privileged to live in, the America of the good life, the America of the good home, the America of the good school, the America of the happy family -- that's my home -- the one that my wife and myself, and our children enjoy.

And yet, we have discovered that there is another America in which there are 30 some million Americans living, or should I say, existing. These are fellow citizens, and they have been shunted aside, or they've been lost in the back waters as America surged ahead like a mighty stream and full tide and full flood.

For these Americans in that other America, our national prosperity that I've talked of tonight is something that is seldom shared and little understood. These Americans are the ones that Sam Gibbons was thinking about as he handled that legislation this year in the Congress of the United States. These are the Americans that your President is talking about. These Americans belong to families earning an average of less than \$1800 a year, from all sources, and yet living in this rich and prosperous land. These are the Americans that have been riding in the back of the bus...these are the Americans whose schools are hardly worthy of being called schools...who live in the ghettos, and the slums and the dirt...who had never known America, the beautiful -- much less to sing of it -- who had never known that there was to be liberty and justice for all because they had never enjoyed it.

Thank goodness that our great country can recognize this limitation. The greatest thing about our nation is the fact that we still have a conscience -- that we still care -- that we are a people of compassion and concern. We haven't accepted materialism as our standard. We're still idealists. We are yet people who believe in social justice for all.

Now these Americans that I speak of -- these better than 30 million -- they're asked to get by on or live on less than \$35 a week -- to feed that family...to clothe it...to house that family...to provide for education and transportation and health...care for that family.

Of course they can't. So they're forced to accept welfare... relief...and like anything else, it can get to be a habit. And regrettably, hundreds of thousands of families are today locked in

an addiction by dope or narcotics that holds them in the grips of public assistance...relief...unemployment...unwanted, generation after generation.

The poverty of these 30 million Americans is not to be measured in dollars alone. There are many kinds of poverty. It must be measured in the poverty of hopelessness of the spirit, of helplessness...a poverty of resentment and rejection, and despair, and distrust, and loss to our nation of valuable human resources.

And let me say to you that no matter how rich we are -- how strong -- this America cannot afford to lose the valuable potential of human resources to be found in 30 million of our fellow citizens. Our trials and tribulations in the years ahead are too great for that. There are too many that will destroy us -- powerful forces at work in this world that would like to overcome us. What makes you think that we can win this struggle working, if you please, in about $3/4$ the capacity with some 30 million -- yes, almost 15% or better -- of the total population of this land, not being contributories and partners, but rather being takers and users? Out of sheer economic need, we must do better!

Now no one knows better than you the cost of these lost resources. I can speak to your city officials here and the governor of this state, and believe me, they know the cost of lost resources -- the largest bill in your state and every state is for welfare. County governments are staggering under the load of welfare payments -- even in rich America. Cities are without adequate revenues, adequate resources,

because too many people yet are not producers but rather are only consumers.

The other Americans that I speak of are taxeaters -- not taxpayers. They're receivers -- not givers...but they want to be. And they can be brought into wanting to be doers and givers and taxpayers.

Now there are estimates which indicate that hundreds of millions of dollars each year -- yes, millions could be added to our economy... that hundreds of millions of dollars can be subtracted from public budgets through greater investments now to break the "other Americans'" cycle of poverty.

And that is what the War on Poverty is about -- to break the chains that hold people imprisoned in these walls of poverty, to break them out of the darkness of their past and their present.

Just imagine what it would mean to this community, and this state, and this nation -- if these 30 million that I speak of could become real, productive citizens...could become for our communities pluses and not minuses?

You see, these are some of the real challenges facing all Americans today. And they're the challenges that tonight we talk about as we seek to fight our War on Poverty and understand its purpose. And I want Mr. Poverty to know that we are looking for unconditional surrender.

We're not fighting a limited war here...nor are we seeking to make those who live in poverty -- to make their poverty more tolerable, less painful. Not on your life! We are not seeking to alleviate just

the pain of it -- we're seeking to destroy the shame of it. We're seeking to get at the root causes -- to find out why and how to break this sickness of poverty.

Now what are the dimensions, therefore, in numbers and in programs, of our first year's effort under the Economic Opportunity Act? Well, I don't want to bore you with too many statistics, but let me say this...that under the Community Action programs -- and that's what they are -- communities organized, acting together -- in the past year, more than 800 separate grants have been made in nearly 750 American cities and counties and every one of the states in this republic, directly benefitting more than three million people.

And remember, we've had less than really six months of active work because we had to tool up -- we had to first recruit this army in this war -- we had to find the officers to command the forces -- we had to rally the troops -- we had to define the battlefield, and as you know, nearly five million dollars have been earmarked by the Office of Economic Opportunity for Tampa's anti-poverty efforts alone. And these funds will be channelled in your community through six local sponsoring agencies -- agencies which have already set aside more than \$400,000 of their own funds to meet their share of the cost.

And you know too that we have two great programs operating here -- two complementary programs -- the Neighborhood Youth Corps and the Job Corps.

And tonight I met young people from the Neighborhood Youth Corps before I came to this dinner. And I want to say right now... if I've ever needed an inspiration for my continued enthusiasm for

this program, I had that inspiration tonight. I saw young people -- working, learning -- fine looking young people -- proud Americans -- members of our Neighborhood Youth Corps and Job Corps right here in your city.

Oh I know, I know...some people will point out that all these programs don't work. Well, I'm here to tell you that every new automobile doesn't work either -- and every new washing machine, and every new electrical refrigerator, and even every new airplane and a lot of things don't always work, just like you want them to.

I heard people say not long ago -- I heard a Member of Congress say: "Why, there's a 10 to 15% drop-out rate in the Job Corps." Well, as Vice President, I'm not permitted to talk back, but I was talking to myself and here's what I said. I said: "Mr. Senator, there may have been a 10% to 15% drop-out rate, but there were still 85% to 90% in those camps...and had it been for your vote, they would still have been on the street corners, doing nothing!" (Applause)

It's a pretty good average, if you can come up with a 850% batting average. I don't want to be too much of a braggart tonight, but the Minnesota Twins don't even have that good an average and they're $8\frac{1}{2}$ games out in front! (Laughter & applause)

Now these programs are trying to answer one of America's most urgent challenges...the challenge of finding useful, productive, gainful employment for our young people.

The Neighborhood Youth Corps will serve more than 300,000 young people this year. And over 300,000 more have applied to the Job Corps.

Don't tell me young people don't want to work. Don't tell me they don't want a chance.

I was chairman of the President's Youth Employment Opportunity Campaign this summer. We started that program to employ young people this summer -- school drop-outs, young people from high school and college -- and by the end of the month...by the middle of August, the third week in August to be exact -- over 880,000 young men and women had jobs that there was no indication would have jobs had we not have gone to work to find them for them. It can be done. And America was the better for it too. And the young people were the better.

There is VISTA -- Volunteers in Service to America -- young people that are willing to give up their life for just a pittance -- \$50 a month, when they could go on out and do almost anything in almost any kind of a job for five, ten times that amount...college trained young people.

VISTA has already attracted the volunteer services of over 20,000 young Americans, or should I say, people young at heart -- of all ages, of all background in every part of our land. The first 1,000 of these fine citizens are now on the job in training. They're working in the Appalachian hollows, on Indian reservations, in urban and rural slums -- they're serving humanity -- serving America -- fighting the war right here, and by the end of this year they will number more than 2,000 -- working in 40 states.

And there's Project Head Start...and every time I say it, I smile. I feel better just to mention the works. Developed only in February of this year, this program is based on the simple propo-

sition that if we give some special attention to these four and five year-olds, entering school for the first time this fall -- youngsters who might otherwise have difficulty adjusting. We can not only alleviate some of their problems -- problems already afflicting these children -- but can prevent their tragic accumulation in the years ahead.

Now we started out hoping that Head Start will reach about 100,000 children this year, but Head Start reached this summer, almost 600,000 of these children, in 13,000 child development centers across the nation. And it's been so successful that the parents are appealing to their government to continue it. And what looked like would only be a summer program will now be extended through the year, to help our young children. (Applause)

And there's the College Work Study Program, under which 40,000 students from 750 colleges worked this summer. It's grown.

There's the Work Experience Program under which 88,000 unemployed parents are participating in projects in 42 states.

Adult Education...Aid to Migrants...Rural Loan Programs -- you're familiar with these programs right here in this city.

Small Business Administration has gone to work too. In communities across the nation, local citizens have formed Small Business Development Centers as a focal point for local efforts to expand jobs and to build new businesses.

Today, your congressman, the governor, and myself, were able to report to the people of this area, that the Small Business Administration has approved a Small Business Development Center for Tampa --

the first in Florida -- Tampa, first again! (Applause)

I've given you on this anniversary just a few statistics to show the scope of what is being done, but I want to remind you -- it's only the beginning. The beginnings are important. I've been with people who just keep talking about when we are going to get started, may never get their foot on the gas...they never shift gears. They just continue to spin the motor. But, the beginnings tell the story. The longest journey is the first step. And the first step is the longest journey. The progress made this past year is only a part of the progress our nation has made in awakening to the past at hand, and turning this country's will and resources to poverty's final elimination.

What's happened in America? Well, our conscience has been aroused and disturbed. You cannot see a hungry child -- you cannot see a little one that is emotionally disturbed because of a lack of parental care or community facilities, and not want to do something.

Americans care too much. We now as a nation, believe the fact that poverty exists. Some people didn't believe it, but now they know.

And there's a greater understanding too that the War on Poverty and the effort for full human rights and civil rights are tied directly together. We recognize that the granting of these legal rights, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, must be matched -- with economical opportunity, with education, with better living standards. The tragedy of Los Angeles has made this painfully clear.

And lest I be misunderstood, let me make it quite clear -- that those who participate in violence and disorder, committing arson and murder, and loot -- looting other people's property -- they do not serve the cause of civil rights as human rights. They serve the enemy. They serve only violence. Respect for law and order in a nation that has the processes of freedom and the processes of representation, respect for law and order is expected, and must be observed.

We placed on the federal statute books a whole series of vital programs. You know, I had somebody say to me the other day: "What's happened to all those liberal programs that people used to advocate?" This chap was saying that to me to sort of chide me, and I said: "Well, I want to tell you what's happened. We quit talking about them and started to pass them." (Applause)

Congress has just approved the doubling of the Economic Opportunity Program, and here's the champion right here -- your congressman. But this is only one battleground. The Congress has passed historic legislation, granting unprecedented aid to education -- and most of that aid going to our underprivileged. It has passed Medicare.

Claude Pepper, let me say right now in the presence of the people of this great state of Florida, that Claude Pepper fought for Medicare 20 years ago! (Applause) When I came to the Senate in 1949, I joined with him in that fight, and I'm happy to say that both of us have lived in government, and lived to see not only the bill that we wanted passed, but a much better bill. And America today is all the better, because our senior citizens, our elderly, will have the opportunity for hospital

and nursing home care under decent, honorable conditions under Social Security -- what a great improvement that is in the life of this nation! (Applause)

We passed the Voting Rights Law, the new Housing Program, Aid to Appalachia, the Economic Development Act, the Older Americans Act, massive programs of Public Health Research.

We're going to find the answer to this dread disease of cancer. We're going to bring the miracles of modern medicine more widely available to America through these great regional medical complexes. We honor our medical profession. And the government of the United States stands there, not to take it over, but to be its partner -- to help it, to sustain it, to give it that extra that it needs, for research, to find cure to the diseases that cripple mankind -- heart disease, stroke, cancer -- just think what a happy day that will be!

Just think if you look around this room and one out of every four people in this room will be stricken with that dread disease cancer. Why shouldn't the government be concerned about it? What kind of a government is it -- that could ignore a killer in our midst -- a government that seeks to track down murderers ought to also track down the murderer of disease.

And we're doing it, and we're going to do it. We're going to live longer. We're going to be happier. And we're going to be better because of it. What a happy day -- I just can't tell you how grateful I am to be alive at this time -- to be a partner in this program of progress where we can work together.

And you know that hundreds of communities throughout this land have organized their own wars on poverty and disease, and the poor themselves have been mobilized in this struggle. Unlike other programs, we look to the poor, to give us substantial amount of effort on their own behalf. They're no longer pushed off to the side to be spectators. They're brought down on the field in the battle and literally tens of thousands of poor Americans are now working and helping other poor people, to help themselves.

What I'm saying is that everybody is in this program...all parts of America. Hundreds of American business corporations have undertaken affirmative programs of job placement, war on discrimination in employment. Let me pay tribute tonight to the National Association of Manufacturers, to the United States Chamber of Commerce -- two great business organizations, that this past two years have been carrying on an intensive program for equal employment opportunity without discrimination. That's the kind of cooperation we're getting. America isn't divided any longer. We're pulling together. We're uniting our people. We're uniting our forces in this country. And we're making substantial progress. A.F. of L. and CIO, and its member unions have opened the way for greater job opportunities. All levels of government, business and labor, are on the same team, and our efforts have touched the lives of millions.

We're saving human resources, and when I hear people talk about waste...I ask you, what greater waste is there than an unemployed man who wants to work -- what greater waste is there than youth, without a

job, without an education, without a purpose in life? What greater waste is there than 30 million of your fellow Americans doing much less than they could do if but given a chance, and were trained, educated, and motivated to be partners and participants? It's this waste that we seek to destroy and eliminate.

Today in America, thousands of our fellow citizens are joining together in community action efforts, and hundreds of thousands know for the first time that their poverty is not inevitable, and that there are ways to be helped, trained and educated, and ways to reach upward.

Yes, we've come a long way. The people who came to this continent and built this nation set out to create a society in which each citizen would have an unfettered opportunity to lift himself and his family to something better.

Let me make it abundantly clear to you. Your President and your Vice President and this government are not advocating to you a society in which the government provides everyone with a good living -- just dishes it out. You don't build a nation that way. You demoralize it. You don't build character that way -- you destroy it.

What we are trying to do is not to build a welfare state but rather a state of opportunity. What we're trying to do is to put the government and the private economy on the side of the people, to remove the impediments, the rocks in the pathway of opportunity. And we're saying that we owe to every American -- young or old -- rich or poor -- black or white -- whatever his religion or his ethnic origin...we owe

to every person in this land the opportunity to make something out of his life if he but wills it. And to this we are dedicated unqualifiedly! (Applause)

Now we don't want just economic blessings -- we want the blessings of a richer and a fuller life. I want to tell you a little story as I leave you tonight, and this is a true story; in fact, I found it in the Congressional -- in the hearings before the Labor and Public Welfare Committee, Claude, in which you and I served...and you were there -- as senator when this happened.

I came to Washington 17 years ago, as a freshman senator. I sat right alongside of the senator from Florida, and during that first year, I served on the committee known as the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. And a scene took place in the Senate Hearing Room that symbolized just what we mean by the Great Society -- not a society only of bigger bank accounts, but a society of better hearts, cleaner and more wholesome spirits, enlightened minds.

There was a woman that came there from Tennessee. She was a garment worker -- belonged to the textile union or the garment union. And she was testifying before seven U.S. senators -- that's the number that was present that day -- and she was speaking on behalf of raising the minimum wage to 75 cents an hour -- and what a witness! No one had written her testimony. She just came there and talked to us. I believe, that is, I recollect, that there was a young congressman that brought her over, and anyway I remember that the late Senator Kefauver was her sponsor at this hearing.

At one point, here's what she said: "My youngest girl, she's 9 now, she goes straight to the piano when we go to a house where they have one. She does want to play the piano so badly. I thought that maybe I could save 50 cents or a dollar a week to buy a second-hand piano for her...but I haven't found a way yet to do it. Now maybe I'm foolish to talk to you -- talk to you people (that's we senators who she was speaking of) about music for one of my children when the main question is getting enough to eat and to wear, or blankets for our bed, or a chair to sit on. But down in Tennessee, we love music, and factory workers don't live by bread alone any more than anyone else does."

Now that's not the Gettysburg address, and that's not one of the great state papers of this government. And I'm here to tell you that that was that woman's definition of the Great Society. She wants something for her baby...for her child...she wanted what I have, and what you have. She wanted a little music. She wanted some love in her family -- something of art and culture -- something besides just money.

That's what we're trying to do. We're trying to build an America in which little girls can have piano lessons, and in which a worker can buy a piano, and in which these 30 million can also enjoy the beauty of life and not just live in its ugliness...piano lessons for a little Tennessee girl...full, productive lives for our citizens and places where they live -- and these, my friends, are what the War on Poverty is all about...it's what the Great Society is all about. It's

what I'm here to talk to you about.

For the elderly, the sick, the disabled -- we believe in compassion and we have concern...for the young -- an equal start in life, an education, a chance -- a decent neighborhood, parents with jobs, and families that understand family responsibility...for all Americans we seek the opportunity to raise themselves not only to wealth or even greater productive efficiency, but to a life of satisfaction and fulfillment.

Twentieth century America, I think, has come to realize that the worth of a nation is no more than the worth of the individuals composing it. We're a country of individuals, and every individual is important. This is why we repudiate the totalitarian and his doctrines of the mass and the proletariat. This is why we believe that government is here to serve...and not man, to serve the government.

Thus we are determined, and I come to you with a heart and a mind and a body full of determination, to help free millions of Americans from the bondage of that tragic equation which has too often decreed that the poor shall beget the poor and ignorance shall beget misery.

Thus it is that we seek to heal for all time the emotional scars of the experience which the Book of Job so poignantly describes...what wisdom in these great books -- in these words of Scripture...the Book of Job says: "The poor of the earth hide themselves together."

And thus it is that we are increasingly aware that, of those to whom much is given, much is expected...that as the abundance of worldly

goods provides us with the tools and the knowledge and the resources to wage this war, so it also imposes upon us the moral imperative -- the obligation -- to wage it...and to wage it with resolution.

Cooperation must be our keynote -- cooperation for opportunity -- cooperation between the public and the private...among federal and state and local governments...among all interested parties. Together there is very little that we cannot do, but divided there is very little that we can do.

Yes, we wage our war on poverty because it will make America stronger, economically...but we attack poverty, too, in the spirit expressed by that American author Thomas Wolfe. And he gave us sort of a creed for our time. He said: "To every man his chance, to every man regardless of his birth, his shining golden opportunity -- to every man the right to live, to work, to be himself and to become whatever thing his manhood and his vision can combine to make him -- this...is the promise of America."

And with the grace and the help of God, and with the help of men like Sam Gibbons, your governor, Claude Pepper, your mayor...with the example of cities like Tampa, I think we'll fulfill the promise of America. I believe that we will do what Thomas Wolfe said: "Give to every man his chance, his shining golden opportunity, his right to live, and to work, and to be himself.

Frankly, I haven't the slightest doubt, if we but will it, if we're but determined, if we are what Franklin Roosevelt asked us to be -- we must move forward with a strong and active faith -- if we have that

strong and active faith, and if we move forward, we'll win the War on Poverty. And we'll build America the Beautiful, America the Just, one nation, under God and indivisible, and with liberty and justice for all -- the America we love! (Applause)



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