

[Sept 12, 1966]

REMARKS BY HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TO

PUBLIC WORKS AND EQUIPMENT SHOW

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

SEPTEMBER 12, 1966

I want to extend my very best wishes and warmest greeting to you, the participants in this outstanding Public Works Congress and Equipment Show. I had strongly hoped to be with you today but regrettably other commitments prevented my visiting you in person. I have, therefore, resorted to this means of saying "Hello" to all, and of telling you how very pleased I am for the interest, cooperation, and active support you folks in the American Public Works Association have given to the numerous Federal Programs which we are developing and designing to make our cities and our Country a better place in which to live.

Much of the progress that has been made in raising the standard of living of peoples all over the world is a result of "Government and Industry in Action" - the theme of your 1966 Public Works Congress and Equipment Show.

Under the fine leadership of your President Bob Hopson, the Public Works engineers, administrators, contractors and suppliers of equipment and materials who make up the membership of the APWA have played a major role in the task of molding and shaping urban communities of which we can all be justly proud.

Now I want to tell you briefly about one of the most pleasant assignments President Johnson has given me. I have a couple of others, as you know, but this one is one which I truly relish and enjoy. Many of you are aware of the fact that I have long

been President Johnson's liaison between our Government in Washington and Mayors, City Managers and other local and State Government officials - liaison with those people who wrestle with the challenge of Urban America on a day-by-day basis, people like you.

We have made tremendous progress in this great nation of ours. We have good reason to be proud of our accomplishments, but the needs, measured by our present-day capabilities, are very great indeed.

The lack of adequate housing, water supply, transportation and sanitation systems in many communities in the United States serves as an unmet challenge for all of us. The needs - and the opportunities - to constructively serve mankind are tremendous.

To attain the kind of life we Americans should have, we must accept the challenges in the great metropolitan centers and move boldly, to shape and re-shape, until we have communities where all Americans, without regard to race, origin or creed, can live in security, in health, in comfort and in happiness.

I am not suggesting that we can do this over night, but we have the resources, we have the manpower, we have the know-how, and further, we have the will.

I understand at this Congress, my old friend Hugh Erickson will be installed as your new President. You know perhaps that he was City Engineer when I was Mayor of Minneapolis.

Minneapolis can be rightfully proud of his many accomplishments and the honor which you are about to bestow upon him.

I extend to him my congratulations and best wishes and look forward to working with him to develop the kind of relationship with your organization that will enable us to fully utilize the great wealth of experience within the ranks of the American Public Works Association.

We are moving, and we are moving well. And with your continued support and cooperation, we together, will build a truly great America.

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cc: Vice Pres. Conf.-2 ✓



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