

Davis & Elkins College
(Presbyterian College)

Gov. Hulett Smith
Sen - Jennings Randolph
Mayor Ralph Shepler

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

WEST VIRGINIA FOREST FESTIVAL

ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA

OCTOBER 7, 1966

Queen Silvia XXX
Mrs. Laura Anne Humphries

Congressman
Staggers
Col. Lawrence E
Spears

John Muir, one of our great naturalists, once said:

"The forests of America, however slighted by man, must have been a great delight to God; for they were the best he ever planted".

State. Some of the very best are right here in the Mountain
- (Minnesota - Chippewa - Superior National Forests
22 million Acres - Paul Bunyon Country)

The conservationists have long preached the gospel that timber can be saved from almost any calamity -- except from the hands of fools.

And they are right.

We have learned some bitter lessons. We have learned that the incredible natural resources of this country are neither limitless nor self-perpetuating if they are abused.

The men who brought night to the Cumberlands were
~~themselves~~ blind to the needs of others. Their
 thoughtless destruction of forests and good land came quickly
 and easily.

But repairing this damage . . . replanting and recultivating --
these are long-term, complex programs. We pay a dear price

~~We~~ have not always been kind or wise in caring for
 our natural resources. But we are today determined to rebuild and
replant and replace the rich bounties that are part of our American
birthright.

Coact
 +
 Private
 enterprise
 working
 together

Today, we are a nation of builders.

We are working today, not only to reclaim our precious
natural resources, but also our human resources. And nowhere is
 this work more inspiring than right here in West Virginia.

Emphasis on Education - Training

West Virginia is on the move. You are doing the things ~~that must be done to bring progress.~~ *you are building - growing.*

~~West Virginia is filled with people~~ -- your community leaders, your progressive businessmen and labor leaders, your concerned public officials ^{are} trying new ways and exploring new opportunities to bring West Virginia into the mainstream of our American prosperity. #

We now possess the means to bring economic and social development into every city, town and mountain community in this state. And we also possess something equally powerful and persuasive -- the determined will to succeed.

and, I see this determination reflected in a number of dramatic ways.

I see it in the bold leadership of Governor Smith and Bob Byrd, Jennings Randolph and Harley Staggers.

Elkins Memorial

↳ I see it in your new hospital here in Elkins -- built through the combined efforts of local, state and federal agencies.

↳ I see it in the downward trend in statewide unemployment -- down 10 per cent in only 6 years.

↳ I see it in the number of new and expanding industries that have already increased 30 per cent this year over last.

↳ I see it in the rise of per capita income -- up 27 per cent since 1960 -- and in the vastly increased amounts you are now spending on elementary and secondary education.

I see it in new schools, in your colleges & university.

↳ I see it in the nearly 200 Community Action Programs *started*

~~begun~~ across this state and in ^{the} large-scale economic development

projects that are creating new ^{enterprises} industrial development, new access roads and business facilities.

I see progress in your fighting spirit of independence and your optimism.

yes! ↳ We are making a promising start. But it is only a beginning.

But ↳ Economic development demands a true partnership between

all sectors of the economy -- both public and private. We have attained

this partnership and we are working toward three principal objectives.

[Large handwritten signature]

(1) ~~First~~, we must continue to create ^{an economic & political} a climate conducive and friendly to the development of private enterprise and capital investment.

This means new roads and schools, hospitals and community facilities. It means programs to educate your children, administer to your sick and elderly, and provide incentives and opportunities for those who have had little reason to hope for better days.

You are doing this!

(2) ~~Second~~, we must continue to expand local initiative - local leadership designing and implementing its own development in ^{the plans for the West Virginia of tomorrow} in partnership with ^{+ federal} government. - *You are doing this.*

Today there are thousands of new leaders in communities throughout your state. They are men and women serving on community action boards -- people who previously have gone unrecognized, unheard, unheeded.

~~Today they meet, consult and make decisions along with bankers, labor leaders and public officials.~~

And, as you know, the Economic Development Administration will only make technical assistance and development grants to communities that have designed and implemented their own development programs.

~~Third,~~ We must develop the economic potentials of localities ~~localities~~ that have been neglected and forgotten for too long. *you are doing this.*

Let me emphasize: The work of economic development is a matter of close cooperation between private enterprise and the federal government -- working together with state and local authorities.

Your National
~~This~~ Administration does not intend to supplant private enterprise or local initiative -- we believe in both and are working to strengthen them.

Nor do we intrude where we are not wanted: Economic development loans are made available only after a community is eligible, requests participation, and independently produces a detailed blueprint for future growth to realize its potential for new industry and new jobs.

Your voices are being heard. Your plans are being approved. Your projects are being supported. You are the architects of your own progress.

the future -

yes, I'm optimistic about

For if you cannot succeed - who in the world can?

↳ If we, the most productive and resourceful nation in history, cannot build a society that offers all our citizens the opportunity to live free and useful lives -- what nation can?

↳ The world is watching to see if we -- the nation of peaceful, democratic ~~revolution~~ *progressive revolution* -- can achieve what those who preach violent, totalitarian revolution have only been able to promise.

↳ Throughout the world, men want jobs and dignity. They want schools for their children and food and medical care for their families.

↳ They want the chance to show what they can do...to go as far as their abilities take them.

↳ They want a life that is full and free and useful.

↳ President Johnson has said that in our own country, conditions of poverty can and must be righted and that, in this generation, they will be righted.

↳ West Virginia has always led the nation in responding to calls to battle. This was true in 1914 and 1941. It was true during the Korean conflict. And it is true today in the conflict in Vietnam.

↳ West Virginia is also leading us in another call to arms -- against the forces that block the way toward social and economic progress.

I have no doubt about your future.

You are fighting the good fight to win a new era of social and economic progress.

We stand with you. And we shall not be satisfied until that progress is achieved.



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