

NOTES

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

DEMOCRATIC WORKERS LUNCHEON

SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT

OCTOBER 12, 1966

① Maple Syrup

Phil Hoff
100 years - Repul
+ H.H. Senate

Many people come to Vermont to hunt or fish or ski -- or simply to relax.

But I urge them to take advantage of the opportunity to watch a new concept of government at work here -- the concept of creative federalism -- and to see one of its ablest and most wide-awake practitioners, Governor Philip Hoff, in action.

As I cross the country, I encounter some people who think of Washington as a remote, strange, and possibly dangerous place.

They seem to fear that the federal government -- which is their government -- is out to dominate and control them.

That was never true, and it has never been less true than today.

Our new federal programs are framed so as to promote effective, timely, and productive cooperation among all levels of government -- federal, state, and local -- and with private organizations and individual people as well.

The best people to deal with local problems are those who know them best.

We seek to encourage local initiative, not to stifle it. We seek to stimulate and help state and local governments, not to dominate or supplant them.

That is what we mean by creative federalism. It means we make help available to our states and the cities -- but that initiative and leadership remain on the local level.

And I know of no one who has shown more initiative and leadership than Phil Hoff.

Vermont was the first state in the country to organize under the Community Action Program. Phil Hoff saw immediately that, with its emphasis upon local initiative and control, it is in close harmony with Vermont's own traditions and needs.

And it's not surprising that, from the first, you saw maximum participation of the poor not as a formality to be complied with, but as an opportunity to be grasped. As Clifford Vermilya, your town manager here in Springfield, has said: "The most encouraging and significant aspect of our work done to date (is) the activity and involvement of low-income people ... the most meaningful role we can play in this area is of helping to organize people to better themselves."

You've made a mistake now and then -- understandably, because we're breaking brand new ground in this war against poverty -- but you've learned from them and corrected them.

When I hear anyone claim that he hasn't made any mistakes, I doubt whether he's made anything.

↳ Phil Hoff has not only acted effectively -- he's done some hard thinking about poverty. He's seen that there is a poverty of the spirit as well as of the body. And he's put it in words which I find eloquent and telling: "Society has as much interest in eliminating a parched imagination as it does malnutrition."

With that level of thinking and action -- and with the running start you've got -- I shouldn't be surprised if you turned out to be the first of the fifty states to get rid of poverty for good.

You have another thing going for you toward this objective -- your vigorous rate of economic growth -- the third highest in the country.

And you are bound to keep going -- for you have made the soundest possible investment in your future by upgrading your educational system from top to bottom.

Just as this Congress deserves to be called "the education Congress," so Phil Hoff has earned the title, "the education Governor."

You have put a lot of your own hard-earned money into your schools and the federal government has been privileged to be of some assistance as well. Federal education grants to Vermont totalled almost 6.4 million dollars during the past year -- and of that, over 1.7 million dollars went to improve the education of under-privileged children.

↳ I am told that more than two thousand of them were enrolled in Head Start this summer.

I am impressed, too, that the last session of your General Assembly, at Phil Hoff's request, earmarked 1.45 million dollars to match federal aid for the construction and equipment of regional vocational training centers. This is the kind of investment in upgrading your human resources which should pay rich dividends in sustained economic growth.

↳ Already the Manpower and Development Training program, involving more than a million dollars in federal funds, has trained or is training more than two thousand Vermonters.

↳ And so on down the line. Wherever you look, Vermonters are involved in fruitful partnership with Washington. During nine months of 1966, for example, the Farmers Home Administration issued 720 loans totalling more than 6 million dollars, as compared with 120 such loans totalling 830 thousand dollars in 1962. In highway beautification, in pollution control and stream development, you are in the forefront of the nation.

Yes, Vermont is going places ... and the nation is going places as well.

Thanks to up-to-date economic policy, the vigor and creativity of our free enterprise system has at last been given full play. We're now in our 68th month of sustained economic growth.

This has been steady and continuous growth. We have junked the kind of stop-and-go policies that gave us three recessions in the eight years up to 1961.

And this hasn't been due to extravagant government spending, as some people would like to have you believe.

Even including the special costs of Vietnam, federal budget expenditures for the fiscal year which ended June 30 were the smallest percentage of our national output since 1951.

Despite this, in the past three years alone we have more than doubled our federal investment in the nation's schools and in the nation's health -- investment in human resources, the best kind of investment.

Since July 1, Medicare has been in effect -- relieving our senior citizens of one of their cruelest anxieties. And I commend you here in Vermont for the thorough way in which you carried out Medicare Alert, to bring full Medicare benefits to your people.

We've begun to make our cities better to live in ... our air more fit to breathe and our water more fit to drink ... our countryside more of a delight to the eye and a refreshment to the soul.

And we've made real progress -- not enough yet, but very real progress all the same -- in ensuring to all Americans their full rights and opportunities.

If there's one single theme that runs through all that we have done, it lies in the word "opportunity." What we are seeking is to assure to every American the fullest possible development and use of his talents and energies -- the maximum in self-fulfilment and service to his country.

That's what you are seeking here in Vermont and what we are seeking in Washington.

There are only a few days left between now and election day. I ask that you use those days to work for the re-election of Governor Phil Hoff ... for the election of Bill Ryan to the United States Congress ... for the election of the Democratic ticket in Vermont.

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