

Clyde Ellis

✓ PAUL Tidwell

REMARKS CLYDE ELLIS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY Jerry Anderson

NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 20, 1967

NORMAN CLAPP
ORVILLE FREEMAN
MRS. H. BIRTHDAY

MRS. H.

① 1959 - was DC - LBJ substituted for me!

I am honored to be with you here where rural electrification has made its mark ... here in the community that typifies grassroots America: rural San Francisco.

More seriously, Mrs. Humphrey and I are honored to be with so many old friends with whom we have shared so many good times and bad.

Glad to be here.

It hardly seems that 25 years have gone by since we were struggling to turn on the lights of rural America.

25 yrs

But the important thing is that those lights are on, and that you have kept them burning brightly.

Lites on!

Now a new challenge lies ahead -- to Develop Rural

America to banish poverty from rural America.

Rural Poverty

↳ In our rich nation it is all too easy to overlook the persistence of poverty, even in our cities -- where it may be only a few blocks from glittering skyscrapers.

↳ Poverty in rural America is much harder to seek out. It is up dusty roads ... hidden in hollows in the hills ... deep in the old cotton country -- out of sight of the network television cameras and national magazines.

↳ But it is there. You know it and I know it.

In fact, well over two-fifths of America's poverty is in rural areas. And a large part of the poverty in our cities is transplanted rural poverty.

↳ We have had^a revolution in agricultural productivity. And a by-product of that revolution has been the flow of rural people to our cities.

↳ No one knows better than you that many of these people become truly "lost" ... that the statistics hide thousands of personal tragedies -- the tragedy of people thrust into the urban labor market without the right skills or training to make their way.

∟ The sad fact is that many of these people would like to stay where they are if there were only work for them to do and money for them to earn.

∟ I know this is something you are concerned with.

∟ Now that you have lit the lights of rural America, you are busy bringing jobs to its people.

∟ I have seen your advertisements. You make country living -- and working -- sound more than attractive to corporation executives.

Supplementary Financing ∟ But you need new weapons. ∟ The supplementary financing proposal you have put forward is a sound one. It will insure co-ops access to the amounts of money needed to meet growing power requirements not only on the farm, but in the rural towns where -- thanks in good part to you -- industry is moving in.

∟ You are plowing new ground for the rural electrification program here. ∟ But the credit pattern you have proposed is not a new or revolutionary one.

∟ It has been used successfully for many years in meeting the specialized credit needs of American agriculture by the banks of the Farm Credit System.

∟ And, like the Farm Credit Banks, the proposed Rural Electric Bank would repay the initial federal capital investment and eventually become completely-owned and controlled by the rural electric systems themselves.

∟ The present REA 2 per cent interest program should be continued. *- This year budget cut \$350,000,000*

∟ It is needed to fill the capital requirements of the systems which cannot pay a higher interest rate because of the nature of the territory they serve.

∟ I have noticed that those rural electric co-ops which can afford a higher interest rate are supporting the establishment of the Rural Electric Bank. By this action, you have shown a healthy concern for the fiscal burdens of the federal government --

as well, might I add, as an equally healthy desire for financial independence.

↳ In an effort such as this you must have leadership. The NRECA staff is one of the very best in Washington -- and, of course, there is only one Clyde Ellis.

↳ Clyde has demonstrated his courageous leadership on countless occasions. But he never has done so more dramatically than when, after suffering an enormous physical setback, he returned to the helm of a program which has become his life.

Muriel and I were delighted recently when we had the opportunity to extend congratulations to him both on his return to active duty at NRECA and on his marriage to the charming Camille Fitzhugh.

↳ Besides leadership you must have strong support.

↳ I know a founder of an electric cooperative in Johnson City, Texas, who is one of your strongest supporters

His name is Lyndon Johnson.

↳ He may turn out the lights in the White House. But he wants them kept on in rural America.

FBJ

↳ In his Budget Message to the Congress, President Johnson made it clear that he considers the passage of this legislation vital -- vital to the rural electrics, to rural America and to the entire nation.

I helped work this out

↳ To win this fight, you will need a great deal of support from a great many places. The only way you are going to get the support is to earn it. And the only way you can earn it is to participate.

That is why I was so pleased when Clyde told me about ACRE, the Action Committee for Rural Electrification. The rural electrification movement always has been non-partisan. But I congratulate you for making the distinction between non-partisan and non-political.

ACRE after this meeting

Remember that the greatest danger to our democratic institutions comes not from groups attempting to influence legislation, but from the apathy or indifference of the people who should be taking an active interest in the operations of their government.

You as individuals have a common interest in the rural electrification program. As a group, you can advance this interest by identifying it with community interests and the national interest in the minds of Congressmen and the general public.

That is political education.

In addition, you need to support those who support you in Congress, in the state legislatures, in the governors' offices and in the Presidency. In short, love your enemies, but support your friends.

That is political action.

↳ By looking after your common interest in a strong and progressive rural electrification program, you also are looking after the best interests of rural America:

↳ -- One in which young men and women can pursue the careers of their choice and make a good living at the crossroads or in the nearby village or town.

↳ -- One in which educational, health, and cultural facilities are as good as the best in the cities.

↳ -- One which is prosperous enough to provide good customers for the urban factories.

↳ -- One in which urban and rural people alike can replenish their spirits and bodies through recreation.

↳ -- One in which all that is beautiful in rural America is developed and preserved.

This is a job you can do. — *we must do.*

In Washington we are trying to coordinate the various federal programs designed to build rural America. But you have the ability and experience to do much of the coordination locally.

In Washington we can try to spot the needs of rural areas and meet them. But your view is closer and clearer.

↳ From Washington we can provide the resources,
the fuel for the tractor. But the hand on the wheel, and
the brain behind it, must be supplied by you in your
communities.

↳ You have an economic incentive to accept this
challenge.

↳ Opportunities for jobs and the good life in your
areas will mean more people living there.

↳ Recreation and beauty will bring extra dollars
into your communities.

\$1000

↳ Increasing the income of a family from one thousand dollars a year -- the pitiful sum many of your members are earning -- to a mere 3000 dollars a year doubles the amount of money spent on electricity.

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Finally, may I say this: What we have learned here in the war on rural poverty has meaning overseas as well.

↳ For in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the great majority of the poor -- hundreds of millions of them -- live in rural areas.!

↳ And, in helping them to help themselves, we can draw upon the lessons we have learned here at home, particularly in organizing people for cooperative effort.

↳ Earlier this month, I addressed a conference celebrating the fifth anniversary of the Humphrey Amendment to our Foreign Assistance Act. This amendment opened the door to participation by cooperatives in the nation's foreign aid program.

↳ AID now has contractual arrangements with ten major cooperative organizations -- including yours *ANRECA*

↳ It reports 123 projects in 39 countries and 40 thousand cooperatives with 16 million members.

↳ These are people helping themselves by helping one another.

↳ You can take pride in the fact that the rural electric cooperatives were among the first to volunteer for service in the world-wide war against want. You have proven yourself good neighbors to the rural people of the developing countries.

↳ The rural cooperatives you have helped to organize in these countries have given their members the opportunity -- often their first opportunity -- to have a voice and a vote in determining their own economic futures.

↳ I want to commend you particularly for the work you have done in one developing country -- South Vietnam.

on your hearts

↳ You have gone where the action is -- out in the countryside. (Viet-REA)

↳ The peasants of Vietnam are hard workers. They want to learn better techniques and develop new crops.

↳ For example, they have requested help in planting 50 thousand new acres of soybeans.

↳ Pork production has doubled, and the average hog goes to the market 70 per cent heavier than in 1963.

↳ The South Vietnamese people have organized over 250 farmers' and fishermen's cooperatives, with your help.

Yes, the South Vietnamese people are gaining economically -- as they are gaining militarily -- in their struggle against Communist force.

↳ But the corner will not be turned in Vietnam until political progress matches military and economic progress.

↳ Despite the best -- or rather, the worst -- the Communists could do, the people of South Vietnam voted in overwhelming numbers last year.

↳ They elected a constituent assembly which is at work today writing a constitution.

↳ Village and district elections will be held this spring. A national election will be held this fall.

↳ This is the hard work of nation-building. This is the work that, in combination with military and economic efforts, can in time inoculate a nation against terror, subversion and political agitation waged by a disciplined minority.

↳ This is the work that is causing Hanoi and the National Liberation Front to have some second thoughts.

↳ For Hanoi and the Viet Cong know that the greatest single threat to their plans is a freely - elected, representative government in South Vietnam.

↳ Your work in nation-building -- in building economic and political participation at grass-roots level -- is helping to inoculate many nations against aggression around the world.

① Blessed are the PEACE MAKERS — ^{CCP's} where constant want - no Peace
↳ Social Justice At Home
↳ War on Hungry Ec. Develop
↳ Peace Corps — VISTA — Help the Poor
NOT FARRIDE

↳ You are helping to ensure that your sons will not have to fight in other Vietnams in the years ahead.

↳ I am confident that you will keep the lights shining brightly in rural America, that you will take the lead in building a better rural society, and that you will continue your efforts to turn on the lights in all the dark places of the world.

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L The sums allotted to the total attack on poverty in the President's new budget add up to \$25 billion -- an increase of \$3 billion over last year. Of the \$25 billion, the Office of O&D accounts for only \$2 billion.

L The War on Poverty includes FDR programs such as Social Security, National Labor Relations Act, and the Minimum Wage. It includes also the full employment economic policies of the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations which have brought us to our 71st straight month of economic growth. The War on Poverty includes poverty, the Appalachian Regional Development Program, the Economic Development Administration, and the new Federal programs for education.

L Five million more Americans are at work today than were at work a year ago.

Wages are the highest in our history, and unemployment is at its lowest point in 13 years.

Station -

Bick Daffield

Sam Goddard

John Kruegluck

Mildred Larson

NO Hill (X)

Stu Udall (X)

John Evans - AHL CIO

Sen Carl Hayden (X)

Ernest McFarland

Ed Johnson

Hungry Democrats!!

men taking me!

Phadomang

State -
check on
what day r. & D! (X)

Commit-

30 yrs (X)

Mail -

TPC -

Regulation -

(X)

~~Wages~~ 17 months growth

750 Billion

Our Gross National Product has reached 3/4 of a trillion dollars. - 5 million more at work than

a year ago - 9 million over 1961

More than 1 million persons are receiving job training under Federal programs compared to none only six years ago.

1 million persons in Training

Of the 6 million young Americans in college today, that 1 million are there because of Federal assistance.

6 million in college

Medicare
Senior citizens

More than 3 1/2 million elderly Americans have already received help under Medicare.

3 1/2 million

The War on Poverty has created 1,100 community action agencies serving half the nation and touching all the 50 most poverty-afflicted metropolitan areas.

It has enlisted more than 56,000 citizens for community action boards, more than 1/3 of them from the poor.

It has helped prepare 1.2 million preschoolers for the first grade through the Head Start Program.

Head Start

Education - Health - Jobs = Opportunity
- Conservation

↳ It has given work and training to 500,000 young people through the Neighborhood Youth Corps.

↳ It has helped 35,000 high school youngsters through the Slum-to-College Upward Bound Program.

↳ It has graduated 16,000 young people from residential Job Corps Centers with 31,000 more now in training in 113 centers. (13,000 Jobs - 5/21 center)

It has utilized 5,000 senior citizens as foster grandparents to 10,000 children in public and private institutions.

↳ Finally, there are 7 million fewer people living in poverty than there were six years ago. Then the poor amounted to almost 21% of our people -- today they are less than 16%.

7,000,000 fewer people living in poverty than 6 yrs ago

Program

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