

Address by  
Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey  
at the  
40th Annual Convention of the  
Future Farmers of America  
Kansas City, Missouri  
October 11, 1967





**GREETING VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY AT AIRPORT**  
Left to right, Keaton Vandemark, Ohio; Richard Morrison, Arizona; Harold Brubaker, Pennsylvania—Vice Presidents, Future Farmers of America and Gary Swann, New York, F. F. A. President.

Everybody nowadays is talking about some kind of power. It is atomic power, black power, white power, or some other kind of power. I would just like to talk about the "people power" of this country, and particularly about the "young people power."

This is the Fortieth Anniversary of the Future Farmers of America, and you know better than I that it is a very significant occasion. I can make a claim that none of you young FFA members can make today. I've followed your progress all forty years.

Let me hasten to add, however, that I cannot remember the passage of the Smith-Hughes Act for Vocational Training in Agriculture, which is responsible in a large measure for getting this wonderful movement started.

Just a few weeks ago, I had an excellent progress report from your National Officers who visited my office in Washington.

I know a great deal about what you are doing, and what I know about you is good. I have the greatest confidence in you. And I am confident, not out of sheer sentiment, but because I feel you have always had and continue to have a sense of the tremendous and exciting opportunities that are open to you.

## PREVIEW OF COMING DECADES

When I think of the possibilities of technology, and of what this nation may look like in the next quarter of a century, I am overwhelmed.

Communication satellites will bring us closer together as a people and as a world; the best of teaching and learning from every country of the world will be brought instantaneously into the classrooms of tomorrow; unbelievable developments will occur in the field of medicine, the extension of the span of life, the transplant of human organs, the conquest of many diseases. Space travel will become not just a dream and a plan for a scientist; it will be a matter of fact.

We will learn so much about our solar system. Our neighborhood was once our village; then it became our county or our city; then our state; then our nation; and then our world. But in your day, in the years between now and the year 2000, you

are going to learn about your real neighborhood, which is the solar system.

There are so many things ahead of us, and it is your world, your day. I know that faith in the future is characteristic of most of your generation. And since half of our citizens today are under twenty-five, I think it is a hopeful sign for this nation.

But what kind of a future are we going to build for ourselves and for America? Science and technology do not assure you of a good life. They just assure you of change.

One thing is certain: Whatever path we choose, we've got a lot to do, but we have much to work with.

Our country is rich, and it is going to grow a lot richer as we move through the last third of this Twentieth Century. Our country is strong. And it will grow stronger in these next thirty-three years.

American farms produce more and better food than any other farms anywhere in the world. Planes and cars will be faster. Communications will be quicker. Life will be longer. Our astronauts will move out into space, and our oceanographers will probe the depths of the sea.

## QUALITY OF LIFE

By every measure of quantity, size and speed, we shall move forward. But, my fellow Americans, what are we going to do with this abundance, this power? What will be the *quality* of our civilization?

A great President and a citizen of this very State of Missouri, Harry Truman, once said "Democracy is based on the conviction that man has the moral and the intellectual capacity, as well as the inalienable right, to govern himself with reason and justice."

## CHALLENGES TO AMERICA

So I ask you this morning: is it reasonable and just when smoke and waste from our automobiles and industries poison the air that we breathe and pollute the water that we drink?

Is it reasonable and just when one family in seven in this rich country doesn't have enough to eat or wear, decent health care or a decent place to live?

Is it reasonable and just when young people of your age cannot share in your hope in the future because they were born in poverty, because they had to leave school too soon, because they grew up in broken homes or in no homes at all?

## MIGRATION FROM RURAL AREAS

Is it reasonable and just that rural America, the heritage of our nation, should lose precious human resources while at the same time our cities grow larger, more congested, more burdened with slums and all the other problems of urbanization?

It is to this last question especially that I want to address myself today.

As young people, you have a personal stake in finding the right answer. You have a stake in proving that Americans do have the moral and intellectual capacity to govern themselves with reason and justice.

What are the hard facts about rural America, and about the migration from rural America to the cities.

Between 1950 and 1960 eleven million Americans moved from the countryside to the city. During that time the population of our rural areas was static. All the growth of American population occurred in the cities, and that trend has continued. We can expect to have one hundred million more Americans by the end of this century—just over thirty years from now. And if the present trend continues, almost all of them are going to be jammed together in a few sprawling metropolitan areas.

People leave the countryside for many reasons. Poverty is one.

## PROBLEMS OF NEGRO CITIZENS

Many who leave are Negro Americans who see their only chance in the city.

But these people, regrettably, often don't have the skills they need to hold a city job. They have little or no education, and they know nothing about urban life. They find themselves confined to crowded, rundown apartments and neighborhoods. Humiliated and frustrated in an alien world of unemployment,

welfare and crime, their dreams of hope turn into a nightmare of despair.

But these Americans are only part of the story.

## YOUNGSTERS' DRIFT TO CITIES

A lot of people leave perfectly comfortable homes in our small towns and on our farms because they think they have to go to the big city to enjoy a decent standard of living, to get a good education, to provide a better life for their families.

Most of those people are under thirty, and by far the largest group are young people who have just finished high school—people about your age with their whole productive lives ahead of them who say “I am leaving the farm. I am leaving my small town. I am going to the city.”

It is sad but true that those people often pack up and move with good reason.

## POVERTY IN RURAL AMERICA

One-third of the Americans who live on our farms today live below the line of poverty in terms of income. The figure is only one-seventh in the cities.

We talk about poverty in our cities, but there is more poverty in rural America.

The average rural teenager completes about nine years of school. The figure in our cities is more than twelve.

The proportion of people without jobs is twice as high among agricultural workers as it is among industrial workers. Some seventy-three percent of urban households, headed by a man with a job, have an automobile, telephone, hot and cold running water, sound housing. The figure is only sixty percent in the rural towns, and it is less than fifty percent on the farms.

## WHY THE CITIES ARE MAGNETS

Only a small percentage of small or medium sized towns in rural America offer live theater, an art gallery, an orchestra, first-rate medical care, good hospitals, and a variety of stores and shops. Almost all our metropolitan areas have all of these things.

Is it any wonder then that the city is like a powerful magnet that reaches out to bring in the young?

These facts about rural life are misleading, and they do not tell the whole story, but they do point to reasons why rural America continues to lose some of its best people.

## THE VICIOUS CYCLE

What does this migration mean to our nation? It means that fewer people remain to pay taxes in rural areas, that rural schools cannot afford the most modern equipment, that shops and businesses close. Then more people leave, and the vicious cycle continues.

A recent Gallup Poll showed that half of the American people would prefer to live in the country or in a small town. But most do not. They simply feel they do not have a real choice.

By now most of you are probably saying “I didn't know we had it so bad.”

Well, don't worry too much, because my speech isn't over, and before I get through with it, I hope to be able to show you that there is something we can do about the quality of life in America. We can do something about it in our cities and in our rural areas. We not only can, we must.

The late beloved Pope John XXIII said, “Where there is constant want, there is no peace.”

Peace isn't something that you just wish for. Our task in America is to build the conditions that make peace possible.

Our task is to demonstrate to the world that with our wealth, with our technology, with our science, with our know how, we can conquer deprivation and poverty. Because if we can't, who can?

Unlike any other nation in history, unlike almost any other nation in the world today, we have the technology and the resources to extend all of the benefits of modern living to every American, regardless of where he chooses to live. We can have a real freedom of choice in America. The challenge is to put our technology and our resources to work in the right combination in the right places.



VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY ADDRESSES OPENING SESSION OF 40TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA IN MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

The problems which we see in our cities require treatment now. Slums, pollution, congestion, crime, unemployment, lack of education require a direct attack.

These problems cannot be treated indirectly—with the trickle-down process. But many of our urban problems have their roots in rural America. We cannot save our cities by creating a better life in the country alone. It is too late for that. But it does seem to me if we make up for the past neglect of our farm communities, and of our middle-sized towns, we will be building a better America for all Americans wherever they live.

### BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY

But remember that you don't build a better America in Washington. We must build a better America from the bottom up, not from the top down. We must build a better America in every one of the thousands of cities and villages and townships and counties.

I call upon you young leaders to build your town, your county, your state. Make it socially conscious, progressive, reaching out to the future. If you don't it will die. And every time a village or a town dies in America, America dies a little bit too. Every time a part of America becomes depressed, the spirit of America is subdued just that much.

### PAST INADEQUACIES IN RURAL AMERICA

Now I don't want to talk to you about recreating those mythical "good old days" down on the farm. I lived in those "good old days," and some of them weren't so good.

Dust storms, mortgage foreclosures, isolation, the one-room schoolhouse, dreams turned away—I'm not talking about that.

And I'm not talking about the pure, fresh, unpolluted air, the smell of fresh cut hay in the countryside.

You've got to have something more than clean air to live. There is more to life than that kind of remembrance. And I think we can all share the best.

In the 1930's, modernizing rural America meant rural electrification and a movie theater in every town.

In the 1940's, it meant many and well-paved roads.

### NEW NEEDS IN RURAL AMERICA

Now, in the 1960's, it means airports, small and large—some of them capable of handling short-hop jets.

It means community colleges, modern hospitals and good doctors, the very best in elementary and secondary education. It even means golf courses and ball parks, drama groups, orchestras and art classes in addition to quilting bees.

We know this can be done because we have seen it done.

### TRANSFORMATION IN RURAL ALABAMA

About two months ago, for example, I visited Huntsville, Alabama. Huntsville used to be a small Southern town—a place where people were born and died, but where they spent little time in between.

Then the TVA went into action. Huntsville got access to electric power. It got access to water for transport and for recreation.

Then came the scientific and space installations. Other industries followed. New stores began to meet the needs of new customers. New taxpayers built new schools. And today Huntsville, Alabama, is a good place, not only to be from, but to be.

Huntsville is the exception, however, not the rule. It tells us what can be done, if all things come together the right way.

### BALANCE IN RURAL AMERICA

A basic ingredient of success in building rural America, of course, is a prosperous, balanced agriculture. Perhaps the greatest job opportunity in America today is for trained agriculturists. So don't think you have to go into some other field.

But a prosperous rural community needs more than farms. It needs jobs based not only on agriculture, but on medium and small industry, on research facilities, on distribution centers, on enterprises which do not have to be in large metropolitan areas to prosper and grow.

There is a lot that government at all levels can do to help. We can use the economic weight of the Defense Department and other government contracts for research, development and

production. We can offer tax incentives, subsidies, new programs of cooperative partnership between government and private enterprise such as we are putting to work now in our big cities.

We can help provide the same things, on a smaller scale perhaps, that have made Huntsville such a positive example.

## ATTRACTING NEW INDUSTRY

But other initiatives will have to come from those who live in rural America, and especially its young people. You can work through rural community development groups to attract the kind of job-producing enterprises your communities need.

You can sell businessmen on the natural resources and the recreation opportunities available in your county and your town. Tell them about the manpower that is available—people who have handled machinery since childhood.

Show them clean communities. Show them that your town is alive. Show them good schools, churches and parks, and the things that prove you care about your future.

In the last analysis, it is the people themselves who know their own needs best and can best build the kind of a future that they want.

You have the chance as future leaders of your towns and communities, to help build an America that provides "every man a chance."

If you do, we are going to have a better America—where young people can find a rich and rewarding life in every community, where stimulating work, the best in education and health care, sports and recreation, music and the arts are as much a part of every day life in Kansas as in Chicago, in Nebraska as in New York.

By so doing you have the chance to help restore to all of America the sense of community and of neighborliness that are so much a part of our heritage.

## LIVING WHERE WE WISH

President Johnson said sometime ago that "History records a long hard struggle to establish man's rights to go where he pleases and lives where he chooses. It took many centuries—

and many bloody revolutions—to break the chains that bound him to a particular plot of land or confined him within the walls of a particular community."

We lose that freedom when our children are obliged to live someplace else if they want a job, or if they want a decent education.

"Not just sentiment demands that we do more to help our farms and rural communities," the President said. "The welfare of this nation demands it."

I am not here speaking in nostalgic memory of a little country town in which I was born. I have seen that town literally fade away. I am here to appeal to the young people of America in this time and place to restore some of the values of this nation, to create a successful thriving community life where you live.

## A LIFE OF CHOICE

Don't walk away from your problems; meet them head on. Call upon your government to help. Call upon American free enterprise to see the great opportunity that is waiting, if they'll but join you. But you must lead.

I have no doubt that if you do this, we shall meet the challenge of providing a true life of choice for all Americans. That is the opportunity that history has given us in the last third of the Twentieth Century.

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## OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

WEDNESDAY PM's

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

Kansas City, Missouri --- America has the technology and resources to improve the quality of life in rural areas, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey said Wednesday, 10/11/67.

The Vice President cited what he called "the hard facts of the emigration from rural America" in a speech before the 40th Anniversary meeting of the Future Farmers of America here.

"Is it reasonable and just that rural America should lose precious human resources while at the same time our cities grow ever larger, more congested, more burdened with slums?" he demanded.

Americans have been leaving the country and moving to the cities for many reasons, including rural poverty, unemployment, inadequate educational facilities and lack of cultural opportunities, the Vice President said.

But, he said, "there is something we can do" to improve the quality of life in both rural and urban America.

"Unlike any other nation in history -- unlike almost any other nation in the world today -- we have the technology and the resources to extend all the benefits of modern living to every American, regardless of where he chooses to live."

Many of the problems of the cities actually have their roots in rural conditions, the Vice President said. "It is far too late to save our cities by creating a better life in the country," he said. But Americans can "make up for our past neglect of farm communities."

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## OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

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The modernization of rural America, he said, "means airports capable of handling short-hop jets, community colleges, modern hospitals and good doctors, the very best in elementary and secondary education. It means golf courses and ball parks, it means drama groups and art classes in addition to quilting bees.

"A basic ingredient of success is obviously jobs -- jobs based not only on agriculture but on medium and small industry, on research facilities, on distribution centers, on enterprises which do not have to be in large metropolitan centers to prosper and grow," the Vice President continued.

The federal government can do much to help in this regard, he said, by channeling contracts to the country and by offering tax incentives and subsidies and "new programs of cooperative partnership between government and private enterprise, such as we are putting to work in our big cities."

But other initiatives must come from the residents of rural America themselves, and particularly the young people, who must make their communities attractive to business and culture, the Vice President said.

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## OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

WEDNESDAY PM

## REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY  
FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
October 11, 1967

This 40th anniversary of the Future Farmers of America is a great occasion for me. I can make a claim none of you young people can -- I have followed your progress for the full forty years.

Just a few weeks ago I had an excellent progress report from your national officers who visited me in Washington.

Let me hasten to add that I cannot remember the passage of the Smith-Hughes Act for vocational training in agriculture which got this whole movement started.

Because of what I know about you I have the greatest confidence in your future.

I am confident primarily for one reason -- I feel that you have always had, and continue to have, a sense of the tremendous and exciting opportunities open to you. Despite a bad impression created by a very few, I know that faith in the future is a characteristic of most of your generation. And since half of our citizens are under 25 today, it is a hopeful sign for this nation.

What kind of a future are we going to build for ourselves and for America? (I say "we" because I fully expect to be in this with you for a long time).

One thing is certain: Whatever path we choose, we will have a lot to work with.

Our country is rich, and it is going to grow a lot richer as we move through the last third of this twentieth century.

American farms produce a greater abundance than any other farms in the world, and that abundance will surely increase.

Planes and cars will be faster, communications quicker, life longer. Our astronauts will move farther out into space, our oceanographers will probe the depths of the sea.

By every measurement of quantity, size and speed we shall move forward.

But what about the quality of American life? How are we going to use our abundance?

A great American President -- and citizen of this state -- Harry Truman -- once said: "Democracy is based on the conviction that man has the moral and intellectual capacity, as well as the inalienable right, to govern himself with reason and justice."

Is it reasonable and just when smoke and waste from our automobiles and industries poison the air we breathe and pollute our water?

Is it reasonable and just when one family in seven in this rich country doesn't have enough to eat, enough to wear, a decent place to live?

Is it reasonable and just when young people your age cannot share your hope in the future because they were born in poverty...because they had to leave school too soon...because they grew up in broken homes?

Is it reasonable and just that rural America should lose precious human resources while at the same time our cities grow ever larger, more congested, more burdened with slums?

It is that last question I especially want to discuss with you today -- as young people who have a personal stake in finding the right answer...who have a stake in proving that Americans do have the "moral and intellectual capacity" to govern themselves with reason and justice.

What are the hard facts of the emigration from rural America?

Between 1950 and 1960, 11 million Americans moves from the countryside to the city. During that time, the population of our rural areas was static. All the growth of American population occurred in the cities, and that trend has continued. We can expect to have 100 million more Americans by the end of this century -- just over thirty years from now. And if the present trend continues, they are almost all going to be jammed together in a few sprawling metropolitan areas.

People leave the country for many reasons. Poverty is one. Many who leave are Negro Americans who see their only chance in the city.

But they don't have the skills they need to hold a city job, and they know nothing about city life. They find themselves confined to crowded, run-down apartments and neighborhoods...humiliated and frustrated in an alien world of unemployment, welfare and crime. And their dream of hope turns into a nightmare of despair.

But these Americans are only part of the story. A lot of people leave perfectly comfortable homes in our small towns and on our farms because they think they have to go to the big city to enjoy a decent standard of living...get a good education...provide a better life for their families.

Most of those people are under thirty, and by far the largest group are young people who have just finished high school -- people about your age whose whole productive lives are ahead of them.

It is sad but true that those people often pack up and move with good reason.

One third of the Americans who live on farms, live in poverty. The figure is only one-seventh in the cities -- not good, but a little better.

The average rural teenager completes about 9 years of school. The figure is over 12 in the cities.

The proportion of people without jobs is twice as high among agricultural workers as it is for industrial workers. Some 73 percent of urban households, headed by a man with a job, have an automobile, telephone, hot-and-cold running water, and sound housing. The figure is 60 percent in rural towns, and less than 50 percent on the farm.

Only a small percentage of small or middle-sized towns offer live theater, and art gallery, an orchestra, first-rate medical care, a variety of stores and shops. Almost all our metropolitan areas do.

We know these facts are misleading and do not tell the whole story. But they do point to reasons why rural America continues to lose some of its best people.

They leave, and what does it mean?

It means there are fewer people to pay taxes in the rural areas...that the schools cannot afford the most modern equipment... that shops and businesses close. More people leave, and the vicious cycle continues.

A recent Gallup Poll showed that half of the American people would prefer to live in the country or in a small town; but most do not. They simply feel they do not have a choice.

By now, most of you are probably saying, "I didn't know we had it so bad."

Well, don't worry. My speech is not over, and before I am done you may feel a little better about it.

Because there is something we can do about the quality of life in America -- both urban and rural America.

Unlike any other nation in history -- unlike almost any other nation in the world today -- we have the technology and the resources to extend all the benefits of modern living to every American, regardless of where he chooses to live.

We can have real freedom of choice in America.

The challenge is to put our technology and resources to work in the right combination, in the right places.

The problems which we see in our cities need treatment now. Slums...pollution...congestion...crime...unemployment...lack of education, require a direct attack.

They cannot be treated indirectly with trickle-down progress.

But many of our urban problems have their roots in the rural problems which I have mentioned.

We cannot save our cities by creating a better life in the country. It is far too late for that.

But it does mean that if we make up for our past neglect of farm communities...and of the middle-sized towns of 10-thousand, 30-thousand, 50-thousand people that dot this country, we will be building a better America for all Americans, wherever they live.

I am not talking about recreating those mythical "good old days" down on the farm. I lived those good old days -- dust storms, mortgage foreclosures, isolation, the one-room schoolhouse, life on the fringe, and dreams turned away.

I am not even talking about unpolluted air and the smell of fresh cut hay.

There is more to life than that and I think we can all share the best.

In the 1930's modernizing rural America meant rural electrification and a movie theatre in every town.

In the 1940's, it meant many and well-paved roads.

Now, it means airports capable of handling short-hop jets...community colleges...modern hospitals and good doctors... the very best in elementary and secondary education.

It means golf courses and ballparks, it means drama groups and art classes in addition to quilting bees.

We know it can be done, because we have seen it done. To make my point, let me give you an extreme example: Huntsville, Alabama.

Huntsville used to be a small Southern town -- a place where people were born and died, but where they spent little time in-between.

Then the TVA went into action. Huntsville got access to electric power. It got access to water for transport and for recreation.

Then scientific and space installations moved in. Other industries followed. New stores began to meet the needs of new customers. New taxpayers built new schools.

Huntsville is today a good place not only to be from, but to be.

But Huntsville is the exception and not the rule.

It tells us what can be done, if all things come together in the right way.

A basic ingredient of success is obviously jobs -- jobs based not only on agriculture but on medium and small industry...on research facilities...on distribution centers...on enterprises which do not have to be in large metropolitan areas to prosper and grow.

There is a lot that government at all levels can do to help. We can use the economic weight of the Defense Department and other government contracts for research, development, and production. We can offer tax incentives, subsidies, new programs of cooperative partnership between government and private enterprise, such as we are putting to work in our big cities.

We can help provide the same things, on a smaller scale, that have made Huntsville such a positive example.

But other initiatives will have to come from those who live in rural America -- and especially its young people.

You can work through rural community development groups to attract the kind of job-producing enterprises your communities need.

Sell businessmen on the natural resources and recreation opportunities available in your town. Tell them about the manpower available -- manpower that has handled machinery since childhood.

Show them clean communities. Show them active civic groups. Show them schools, churches and parks -- the things that prove you care about your future.

For in the last analysis it is the people themselves who know their own needs best and can best build the kind of future they want.

You have the chance now, as future leaders of your towns and communities, to help build an America that truly does offer freedom of choice:

Where young people can find a rich and rewarding life in every community.

Where stimulating work...the best in education and health care...sports and recreation...music and the arts, are as much a part of everyday life in Kansas as in Chicago, Nebraska as in New York.

And, by so doing, you have the chance to help restore, too, to urban America the sense of community and of neighborliness...the human values that have been so much a part of American heritage.

In the words of President Johnson:

"History records a long hard struggle to establish man's right to go where he pleases and live where he chooses. It took many centuries -- and many bloody revolutions -- to break the chains that bound him to a particular plot of land, or confined him within the walls of a particular community.

"We lose that freedom when our children are obliged to live someplace else...if they want a job or if they want a decent education.

"Not just sentiment demands that we do more to help our farms and rural communities...the welfare of this Nation demands it."

I have no doubt that we shall meet this challenge of providing a true life of choice for all Americans.

That is the opportunity history has given us in the last third of the Twentieth Century.

We can do it.

In the words, again, of Harry Truman: "It is not our nature to shirk our obligations. We have a heritage that constitutes the greatest resource of this nation. I call it the spirit and character of the American people."

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REMARKS  
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY  
FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
OCTOBER 11, 1967

Sen Harry Darby - Sen Carlson

L This 40th anniversary of the Future Farmers of America is a great occasion for me. I can make a claim none of you young people can -- I have followed your progress for the full forty years.

Just a few weeks ago I had an excellent progress report from your national officers who visited me in Washington.

But L Let me hasten to add that I cannot remember the passage of the Smith-Hughes Act for vocational training in agriculture which got this whole movement started.

~~Because of what~~ I know about you I have the greatest confidence in your future.

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What kind of a future are we going to build for ourselves and for America? (I say "we" because I fully expect to be in this with you for a long time).

One thing is certain: Whatever path we choose, we will have a lot to work with. —

Our country is rich, and it is going to grow a lot richer as we move through the last third of this twentieth century.

American farms produce a greater abundance than any other farms in the world, and that abundance will surely increase.

∟ Planes and cars will be faster; communications quicker; life longer. ∟ Our astronauts will move farther out into space; our oceanographers will probe the depths of the sea.

∟ By every measurement of quantity, size and speed we shall move forward.

∟ But what about the quality of American life? ?  
How are we going to use our abundance? —

∟ A great American President -- and citizen of this state -- Harry Truman -- once said: "Democracy is based on the conviction that man has the moral and intellectual capacity, as well as the inalienable right, to govern himself with reason and justice."

∟ Is it reasonable and just when smoke and waste from our automobiles and industries poison the air we breathe and pollute our water?

↳ Is it reasonable and just when one family in seven in this rich country doesn't have enough to eat, enough to wear, a decent place to live?

↳ Is it reasonable and just when young people your age cannot share your hope in the future because they were born in poverty. . . because they had to leave school too soon. . . because they grew up in broken homes?

↳ Is it reasonable and just that rural America should lose precious human resources while at the same time our cities grow ever larger, more congested, more burdened with slums?

*and* ↳ It is that last question I especially want to discuss with you today -- as young people who have a personal stake in finding the right answer. . . who have a stake in proving that Americans do have the "moral and intellectual capacity" to govern themselves with reason and justice.

∟ What are the hard facts of the emigration from rural America?

∟ Between 1950 and 1960, 11 million Americans moved from the countryside to the city. During that time, the population of our rural areas was static. ∟ All the growth

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↳ But they don't have the skills they need to hold a city job, and they know nothing about city life. They find themselves confined to crowded, run-down apartments and neighborhoods. . . humiliated and frustrated in an alien world of unemployment, welfare and crime. And their dream of hope turns into a nightmare of despair.

↳ But these Americans are only part of the story. A lot of people leave perfectly comfortable homes in our small towns and on our farms because they think they have to go to the big city to enjoy a decent standard of living. . . get a good education. . . provide a better life for their families.

↳ Most of those people are under thirty, and by far the largest group are young people who have just finished high school -- people about your age whose whole productive lives are ahead of them.

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∟ It is sad but true that those people often pack up and move with good reason.

∟ One third of the Americans who live on farms, live in poverty. The figure is only one-seventh in the cities -- not good, but a little better.

∟ The average rural teenager completes about 9 years of school. The figure is over 12 in the cities.

∟ The proportion of people without jobs is twice as high among agricultural workers as it is for industrial workers. ∟ Some 73 percent of urban households, headed by a man with a job, have an automobile, telephone, hot-and-cold running water, and sound housing. The figure is 60 percent in rural towns, and less than 50 percent on the farm.

↳ Only a small percentage of small or middle-sized towns offer live theater, an art gallery, an orchestra, first-rate medical care, a variety of stores and shops.

↳ Almost all our metropolitan areas do.

↳ We know these facts are misleading and do not tell the whole story. But they do point to reasons why rural America continues to lose some of its best people.

↳ They leave, and what does it mean?

↳ It means there are fewer people to pay taxes in the rural areas. . . that the schools cannot afford the most modern equipment. . . that shops and businesses close.

↳ More people leave, and the vicious cycle continues.

↳ A recent Gallup Poll showed that half of the American people would prefer to live in the country or in a small town; but most do not. They simply feel they do not have a choice.

↳ By now, most of you are probably saying, "I didn't know we had it so bad."

↳ Well, don't worry. My speech is not over, and before I am done you may feel a little better about it.

↳ Because, there is something we can do about the quality of life in America -- both urban and rural America.

↳ Unlike any other nation in history -- unlike almost any other nation in the world today -- we have the technology and the resources to extend all the benefits of modern living to every American, regardless of where he chooses to live.

↳ We can have real freedom of choice in America.

↳ The challenge is to put our technology and resources to work in the right combination, in the right places.

↳ The problems which we see in our cities need treatment now. Slums. . . pollution. . . congestion. . . crime. . . unemployment. . . lack of education. require a direct attack. !

↳ They cannot be treated indirectly with trickle-down progress.

↳ But many of our urban problems have their roots in the rural problems which I have mentioned.

↳ We cannot save our cities by creating a better life in the country. It is far too late for that.

↳ But it does mean that if we make up for our past neglect of farm communities. . . and of the middle-sized towns of 10-thousand, 30-thousand, 50-thousand people that dot this country, we will be building a better America for all Americans, wherever they live.

↳ I am not talking about recreating those mythical "good old days" down on the farm. ↳ I lived those good old days -- dust storms, mortgage foreclosures, isolation, the one-room schoolhouse, life on the fringe, and dreams turned away.

∟ I am not even talking about unpolluted air and the smell of fresh cut hay.

∟ There is more to life than that and I think we can all share the best.

∟ In the 1930's, modernizing rural America meant rural electrification and a movie theatre in every town.

∟ In the 1940's, it meant many and well-paved roads.

∟ Now, it means airports capable of handling short-hop jets. . . community colleges. . . modern hospitals and good doctors. . . the very best in elementary and secondary education.

∟ It means golf courses and ballparks, it means drama groups and art classes in addition to quilting bees.

∟ We know it can be done, because we have seen it done. To make my point, let me give you an extreme example: Huntsville, Alabama.

Huntsville used to be a small Southern town -- a place where people were born and died, but where they spent little time in-between.

↳ Then the TVA went into action. Huntsville got access to electric power. It got access to water for transport and for recreation.

↳ Then scientific and space installations moved in.

↳ Other industries followed. New stores began to meet the needs of new customers. New taxpayers built new schools.

↳ Huntsville is today a good place not only to be from, but to be.

↳ But Huntsville is the exception and not the rule.

↳ It tells us what can be done, if all things come together in the right way.

∟ A basic ingredient of success is obviously jobs -- jobs based not only on agriculture but on medium and small industry. . .on research facilities. . .on distribution centers. . .on enterprises which do not have to be in large metropolitan areas to prosper and grow.

∟ There is a lot that government at all levels can do to help. ∟ We can use the economic weight of the Defense Department and other government contracts for research, development, and production. ∟ We can offer tax incentives, subsidies, new programs of cooperative partnership between government and private enterprise, such as we are putting to work in our big cities.

∟ We can help provide the same things, on a smaller scale, that have made Huntsville such a positive example.

↳ But other initiatives will have to come from those who live in rural America -- and especially its young people.

↳ You can work through rural community development groups to attract the kind of job-producing enterprises your communities need.

↳ Sell businessmen on the natural resources and recreation opportunities available in your town. Tell them about the manpower available -- manpower that has handled machinery since childhood.

↳ Show them clean communities. ↳ Show them active civic groups. ↳ Show them schools, churches and parks -- the things that prove you care about your future.

↳ For in the last analysis it is the people themselves who know their own needs best and can best build the kind of future they want.

↳ You have the chance now, as future leaders of your towns and communities, to help build an America that truly ~~do~~es offer freedom of choice.

↳ Where young people can find a rich and rewarding life in every community,

↳ Where stimulating work. . . the best in education and health care. . . sports and recreation. . . music and the arts, are as much a part of everyday life in Kansas as in Chicago, in Nebraska as in New York.

↳ And, by so doing, you have the chance to help restore, too, to urban America the sense of community and of neighborliness. . . the human values that have been so much a part of American heritage.

In the words of President Johnson:

↳ "History records a long hard struggle to establish man's right to go where he pleases and live where he chooses. It took many centuries -- and many bloody revolutions -- to break the chains that bound him to a particular plot of land, or confined him within the walls of a particular community.

"We lose that freedom when our children are obliged to live someplace else. . .if they want a job or if they want a decent education.

"Not just sentiment demands that we do more to help our farms and rural communities. . .the welfare of this Nation demands it."

↳ I have no doubt that we shall meet this challenge of providing a true life of choice for all Americans.

That is the opportunity history has given us in the last third of the Twentieth Century.

↳ We can do it.

In the words, again, of Harry Truman: "It is not our nature to shirk our obligations. We have a heritage that constitutes the greatest resource of this nation. I call it the spirit and character of the American people." 2

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MILLEN BARR  
EZEKIAH  
ADDRESS

Vice-President Hubert A. Humphrey  
Before the 40th Annual Convention  
of The Future Farmers of America  
Wednesday Morning Session  
October 11, 1967

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I spend most of my present life saying "Mr. President" and saying "Thank you, Mr. President". But, President Gary, I just want you to know how much I appreciate your kindly and considerate, friendly introduction.

I notice that the Future Farmers of America has many vice-presidents.

The President of the United States has only one Vice-President. The President of the United States sometimes thinks he has one too many Vice-Presidents. (Laughter)

I can well imagine how the National President of the Future Farmers of America must feel when he has so many vice-presidents. I don't know what the rule of succession is in the Future Farmers of America, but I hope it is what I think it is. And if it is, then it is a mighty good rule for all vice-presidents. Now I figured you would get that.

There are so many distinguished guests on this platform today that it would be impossible for me in your time and my time to acknowledge all of them, but how pleased I was this morning to be met by a very fine young man from the state of

Minnesota, from the great and metropolitan center of Halstead, Minnesota. I am not sure just how many folks they have up in Halstead, but it isn't quite as many as they have in Kansas City, that I know. To Dan Olson and my fellow FFAers from Minnesota, I want to salute you. I hope you will hold your ground against those boys from Texas. I try to do the same in Washington.

I trust that you will give a good accounting of yourself here in your efforts at this great meeting.

And how good it was to be greeted last evening by the illustrious and distinguished Mayor, Mayor Davis of Kansas City, and I had a chance to spend a few moments with him in pleasant conversation. He told me, as he told Gary Swan, that the finest convention that ever comes to Kansas City is the meeting of the Future Farmers of America. He paid you high praise, and I am sure well deserved. I noticed that you were behaving rather well last night. A few of you were out a little late. I won't tell your mothers, but I was told how wonderfully you conduct yourself.

Now this morning, up to my hotel came a very dear friend of mine and one of the finest of the public officials of this land. He is here on this platform with me today. We agree on most everything except politics, and we agree on a lot of that. I am very proud to be in the company once again of Senator Frank Carlson from the great State of Kansas, a

wonderful friend of the FFA and a remarkable United States Senator. Frank, it is good to be with you. (Applause)

Sitting to his right and to your left is another dear friend of mine of many years. Again as strange as it may seem to some of you that politics is always cloak-and-dagger, always bitter, let me say that I think we will dispel that thought from your minds this morning, because one of the leaders of the Republican Party and one of the outstanding citizens of the United States and of his own great State of Kansas is Harry Darby, former United States Senator. He is here and, Harry, I want you to know how happy I am to see you once again. (Applause)

I do thank the Governors who have sent their representatives here - Governor Hearnes, I want particularly to thank the Governor of Kansas for having so thoughtfully sent his representative here this morning, and the others who have taken time to show their friendship and their respects.

Well, I didn't come here just for social niceties. I came here to talk to you wonderful young people. I came to talk to the most explosive and the most dynamic force of this nation, the "Youth Power" of America, the "Young People" power of America.

Everybody nowadays has some kind of power he is talking about. It is either atomic power, black power, white power, or some other kind of power. I would just like to talk

to the "people power" of this country, and particularly to the young people.

This is the Fortieth Anniversary of the Future Farmers of America, and you know better than I that it is a very significant occasion, - a fortieth birthday - . I can make a claim that none of you young FFA members can make here today - after all, remember up there in Minnesota you made me an Honorary Member of the FFA, so I include myself in your ranks. (applause) I can make a claim that none of my fellow members can make. I've followed your progress all forty years, and it has been quite a story. Let me hasten to add, however, that I cannot remember the passage of the Smith-Hughes Act. It passed while I was still breathing, but I wasn't doing much thinking! That Smith-Hughes Act for Vocational Training in Agriculture, which is responsible in a large measure for getting this whole wonderful movement of our young agriculturists on the go.

Just a few weeks ago, I had an excellent progress report from your National Officers, as was indicated by your very splendid President here today. Those officers visited with me in my office in Washington. I think now I know a good deal about you. I read your publication. I visit with your young friends as they come by the hundreds to Washington, D.C. every year, and I have done so, as I am sure my friends of the Senate here have done, while I served in the Senate and as they served there.

I have seen you in state meetings, and in my home State of Minnesota for years when I served in the United States Senate I would attend meetings of the FFA all around my great State and got to know much about what you are doing. And what I know about you is good and, therefore, I have the greatest confidence in you. Now, I am confident, not out of sheer sentiment, but I am confident out of the realities of your work. I feel you have always had and continue to have a sense of the tremendous and exciting opportunities that are open to you in the days ahead.

Let me just give you a figure that should be of some meaning to you. You are in the last third of the Twentieth Century. The group that I am talking to here today is going to live to see Century Twenty-One. You are going to be around here in the full vigor of your maturity when the year 2000 arrives. Between now and that time more things will happen in this world, and I trust it will be for the good, than have happened in the last thousand years. Surely more will happen in America than has happened here in the last few hundred years. Our own population will grow almost a hundred million people in these next thirty-three years, and when I think of the possibilities of science and technology I am literally overwhelmed.

I was saying to Dan Olson today and to Senator Carlson as we came in, and I spoke to Gary Swan about it yesterday, I attended meetings in California yesterday in my capacity as

Chairman of the Space Council and Chairman of the Council on Oceanography.

Maybe I should mention to you a little bit about that. I frequently do this because it gives me a chance to say a word about Congress. The Vice-President doesn't have too many duties under the Constitution. One duty is to preside over the Senate, and the other is to check up on the health of the President every day, but that is about all that the Constitution provides. But the practice of the office of Vice-President provides many responsibilities. And now the Congress has added its own measure of duties. Two of those areas are in the field of science and technology.

I am, by Act of Congress, or the Vice-President is by Act of Congress, Chairman of the National Aeronautics and Space Council dealing with the problems of research and the infinity of space research and development. I am also by Act of Congress the Chairman of the Marine Resources and Engineering Development Council, dealing with and working with those agencies of government and those private groups that are concerned about the ocean.

You will notice that whenever Congress gives the Vice-President anything to do it is either out of this world or in the bottom of the ocean. (Laughter) Now I don't know whether I could interpret anything into that message or not. I thought they liked the Vice-President better than that, but it is a

fascinating experience. It gives me a chance to be with you and with others. What this nation may look like in terms of many of its science and engineering developments in the next quarter of a century, and what I see is just unbelievable! Communication satellites that will bring us closer together as a people and as a world; the bringing of the best of teaching and learning from every country of the world instantaneously into the classrooms of tomorrow; unbelievable developments in the field of medicine, the extension of the span of life, the transplant of human organs, the conquest of many diseases. - There will be so many great changes. - Space travel will become no longer just an excursion for a scientist; it will become a matter of fact.

We will learn so much about our solar system and, by the way, the solar system is our neighborhood. Once before our neighborhood was our village, then it became our county or our city, then our state, then our nation, and then our world. But in your day, in the years between now and the year 2000, you are going to learn about your real neighborhood, which is the solar system. You are the "Children of the Sun", so to speak, and you will learn about that which controls our lives, this full great system. So there are so many things ahead of us, and it is your world, your day, not mine. - Yours - You see, I know that faith in the future is characteristic of most of your generation. And

since half of our citizens today are under twenty-five, I think it is a hopeful sign for this nation.

What kind of a future though are we going to build for ourselves and for America? Science and technology do not assure you of a good life. They just assure you of a change in life. Will that change be for the good? I say what kind of a future are we going to build, because I fully expect to be with you for quite a long time. Somebody said to me the other day, some young fellow, "Mr. Vice-President, the trouble with you is, you're of the older generation."

I said "I'm not older than you are young man. I've just been around a little longer."

And there is a great deal of difference. I have had students in my classroom, when I was a teacher, - students at the age of 18 - that should have been collecting their social security, considering their attitude, and I have seen some old folks. I met a lady yesterday in San Francisco at the Catholic Charities, who was ninety years old. She was a teacher, a nun, ninety years of age from Maryland, and she had more zip and more go than some of the young people I met on a college campus the day before. So age doesn't tell you what your attitude is. That is a matter of heart, soul and mind.

Now one thing is certain though. Whatever path we choose, we've got a lot to do, but we have much to do with. We are

well equipped. Our country is rich, and it is going to grow a lot richer, as we move through the last third of this Twentieth Century. Our country is strong. And it will grow stronger if we but so will it in these next thirty some years.

American farms are the miracle of production, producing more and better food than any similar unit anywhere in the world. So abundance will characterize our future. Planes and cars will be faster. Communications will be quicker. Life will be longer. Our Astronauts will move out into space and our oceanographers will probe the depth of the sea.

By every measure of quantity, size and speed, we shall move forward, but my fellow Americans, what are we going to do with this speed? To what use are we going to put this size, this wealth, this abundance, this power? What will be the quality of our civilization?

We know that the quantity will be tremendous. We know that science and technology will make fantastic breakthroughs. But what will be the quality of our life? Because make no mistake about it, size and power and wealth do not determine greatness. The question is as the great philosopher said "What shall ye do with these things?" To what purpose? A great President and a citizen of this very state of Missouri, Harry Truman, once said "Democracy is based on the conviction that man has the moral and the intellectual capacity, as well as the inalienable right, the

natural right to govern himself with reason and justice." Now that is a fine declaration of faith by a man of faith.

So I ask you some questions this morning. Is it reasonable and just when smoke and waste from our automobiles and industries poison the air that we breathe and pollute the water that we drink?

Is it reasonable and just when one family in seven in this rich country of ours doesn't have enough to eat or to wear, or decent health care or a decent place to live? - And that is the story of poverty in America - .

Is it reasonable and just, my young friends, when young people of your age cannot share in your hope in the future because they were born in poverty, because they had to leave school too soon, because they grew up in broken homes or in no homes at all?

Is it reasonable and just that rural America, rural America the heritage of our nation, should lose precious human resources while at the same time our cities grow even larger, more congested, more burdened with slums and all the problems of urbanization?

Now it is to that last question especially that I want to address myself today.

As young people you have a personal stake in finding the right answer. You have a stake in providing and

proving that Americans do have the moral and intellectual capacity to govern themselves with reason and justness.

This is your world. This is your country. It belongs to you, and you must protect it. Not only with your weapons, not only with your military service, but with your service - with your service to one another - with your service to the people, with your dedication to all that this America stands for.

Now what are some of the facts about rural America, and about our America? What about this migration from rural America to the cities? Between 1950 and 1960 eleven million Americans moved from the countryside to the city. Eleven million. During that time the population of our rural areas was static. All the growth of American population occurred in the cities, and that trend has continued and it mounts with an accelerated rate. We can expect, as I said, to have one-hundred million more Americans by the end of this century. - Just over thirty years from now. - And if the present trend continues, unless we do something about it, that one-hundred million, almost all of them are going to be jammed together in a few sprawling metropolitan areas along our coast lines, along the great lakes. Is this what we want? Now people leave the rural areas, the countryside for many reasons. Poverty is one. Many who leave

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CONTENT

are Negro Americans who see their only chance, - their last chance - as they put it, in the city. But those people regretably in many instances didn't have the skills that they needed to hold a city job. They had little or no education, and they knew nothing about urban life. They found themselves confined, and they find themselves today confined and crowded in rundown apartments and tenements and neighborhoods. Humiliated and frustrated in an alien world of unemployment, welfare and crime, and their dreams of hope turned into a nightmare of despair. Those are the kind of city areas that I visited as your Vice-President in forty-nine states.

I have been into the bowels of our cities. Oh, I know that most of our cities are beautiful. There are so many better things than there are bad things. But regretably in the slums, or the ghettos as they call them, of some of our great metropolitan areas are to be found conditions that are beneath human dignity. And regretably millions of our fellow Americans find themselves locked into these conditions like a prison. They are enslaved in frustration and tension and bitterness and hate and hopelessness and despair, and it breeds violence and crime. And above all it breeds indifference and apathy. And most of those people are in trouble. But these Americans are only part of our story.

A lot of people leave perfectly comfortable homes

in our countryside, in our small towns and from our farms because they think they have to go to the big city to enjoy a decent standard of living. To get an education. A good one. To provide a better life for their families. Most of those people, not poor, not deprived, but most of those people are under thirty, and by far the largest group are young people who have just finished high school. People about your age who say "I am leaving the farm. I am leaving my small town. I am going to the city." And they are leaving their heritage, their homes, their friends, and they have a whole productive life ahead of them. It is sad, but it is true that those people often pack up, and move with good reason. Now what are the reasons?

We are a big enough country my dear friends to face the truth. We are a strong enough country to face our limitations. Only the weak are afraid to face the truth. Only the weak and the timid are afraid to talk about their inadequacies. Let America never be afraid to face up to its deficiencies. Not because we want to criticize, but because we want to improve. Not to be critical for the sake of criticism, not to be negative for the sake of attention, but to examine, to find out our problems for the purpose of seeking a solution. And what are some of those problems.

Well one-third of the Americans who live on our farms today, live below the line of poverty in terms of income.

One-third! We talk about poverty in our cities. There is more poverty in rural America. The figure is only one-seventh in our cities. The average rural teenager completes about nine years of school. The figure in our cities is twelve.

The proportion of people without jobs is twice as high among agricultural workers as it is amongst industrial workers. Some seventy-three percent of urban households headed by a man with a job, have an automobile, telephone, hot and cold running water, sound housing. That figure is only sixty percent in the rural towns, as compared to seventy-three percent of the cities and it is less than fifty percent on the farms.

Only a small percentage of small or medium sized towns in rural America have a theater, an art gallery, an orchestra, first-rate medical care, good hospitals, and a variety of stores and shops. Almost all the metropolitan areas, the cities have all of these things.

Is it any wonder that the city is like a powerful magnet that reaches out to bring in the young. They say it is the bright lights. I think not. I think what it is is the knowledge of young people who have had an education. That there are jobs. There is opportunity. There is culture. There is a better life waiting for them in the great urban centers. At least that is what they believe. We know these facts are misleading, and do not tell the whole story. But they do point to reasons why rural

America continues to lose some of its best people. The brain drain from rural America to metropolitan America. The population drain from the hinterland to the coastal areas.

We do know that young people are leaving rural America, and what does this mean to our nation? Well, it means that fewer people remain to pay taxes in rural areas. Thereby reducing revenues for improvement. That the schools cannot afford to buy and find the most modern equipment. That shops and businesses close, and that more people leave, and the vicious cycle continues.

A recent Gallup Poll showed that half of the American people would prefer to live in the country or in a small town. That is what they would prefer to do. But most do not. They simply feel that they do not have a real choice.

By now most of you are probably saying "I didn't know we had it so bad, Mr. Vice-President. I thought it was pretty good." Well, it is pretty good for many of you. It is good for me. But in this country, my dear friends, we must make it good for everybody! Not easy! I didn't say that! But good! The whole spirit of America must be that every man has his chance.

Thomas Wolfe, a great American author and poet of the Thirties, put it very distinctly, and listen to these words, because I think it tells what we are talking about. "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."

We are not talking about a handout. We are not talking about making life easy. We are talking today about "every man his chance", every man his opportunity to make something of himself. And the duty of government, and its only duty is to see to it that as many impediments as possible are removed from the path of that "road of opportunity", so that people can make the most of themselves.

So, as I say, even though you may have wondered if all of this that I have been telling you is true, since you feel that you are living in a pretty good world, and a very great country, just remember that there are other Americans, that are Americans that are our fellow citizens who do not have this chance that is the "promise of America".

Now don't worry about all that I have said too much though, because my speech isn't over, and before I get through with it, I hope to be able to show you that there is a great chance for everybody. And there is a way to do what we need to do, because there is something that we can do about the quality of life in America. We can do something about it in our cities, and we can do something about it in our rural areas, and we not only can, we must.

Listen my fellow Americans, the late beloved Pope John 23rd said "Where there is constant want, there is no peace." And the highest ambition, the noblest aspiration of civilized man is peace.

But peace isn't something that you just wish for or hope for. It is a condition in which man lives and thinks, and if this condition is one of constant deprivation, and poverty that Churchman said "There is no peace.". So our task is to build the conditions that make it possible for peace.

Our task is to, in America, demonstrate with our wealth, with our technology, with our science, with our knowhow, with our abundance, to demonstrate to the world, that we can conquer deprivation and poverty. Because if we can't, who can?

Two-thirds of the children of this earth, two-thirds of God's children today, this morning, are sick, hungry, depressed, poor, poverty stricken and ignorant. Two-thirds of humanity. And yet they want to be something. They want to be people. They want to have a meaningful life. The transistor radio, modern communication has told them that there is something better. They aspire. It is what we call rising expectations.

My fellow Americans, the best thing we can do for this world today is to show the world that it can be done. To show the world that we do know how. That we do know how not only in terms of our processes, but in terms of our commitments. Not

only in terms of our science and technology and our economy, but in terms of our morals. That we know how to conquer poverty.

Then what Abraham Lincoln said will be truly tested. Do you remember what he said? "We shall either meanly lose, or nobly save the last best hope on earth." And he was speaking of the United States of America.

And the issue is here now in 1967 just as it was in 1865 when he spoke those immortal words. "We shall either meanly lose or nobly save the last best hope on earth." That is what we are talking about. And if we can save that "last best hope", this America, if we can make it strong, if we can conquer its injustices and its inequities, then this ray of hope will shine throughout the world. And mankind everywhere will feel the more secure and the better.

Unlike any other nation in history, unlike any other nation in the world today, we have the technology; we have the resources to extend all of the benefits of modern living to every American, regardless of where he chooses to live. We can have a real freedom of choice in America. The challenge is to put our technology and our resources to work in the right combination in the right places at the right time.

The problems which we see in our cities require treatment now, not a hundred years from now, not twenty years from now. Get at it now! Slums and pollutions and congestion and

crime, and unemployment, lack of education. They require a direct attack. Mobilize our resources now.

If you can justify, and I do justify it, make no mistake about it, that we should resist aggression and lawlessness and subversion on the international front, before it becomes the pattern of international conduct, before it becomes an accepted pattern of life. If we can put our men in the battlefields to resist that kind of crime, then we must be willing to fight aggression, lawlessness and violence and crime and disease and poverty right here at home, before it becomes an accepted pattern of our life. They are not separate at all. They are related. What we do at home conditions what we do abroad. And what we do abroad may very well determine what we can do at home.

You see these problems that I speak of cannot be treated with the trickle-down process or indirectly. Many of our urban problems have their roots in rural America. We cannot save our cities by creating a better life in the country alone. It is too late for that. But it does seem to me if we make up for the past neglect of our farm communities, and of the middle-sized towns of five, ten and twenty thousand, thirty, fifty thousand. We will be building a better America for all Americans wherever they live, and remember you don't build a better America in Washington. You build a better America where you live boys. It is where you live

that the test of civilization is made.

Will your town have better schools? Good or bad schools? Will your town have decent housing? Good or bad housing? Will you have jobs for young people coming along regardless of race, color or creed, or will you discriminate and deny them jobs?

Will there be peace and order, law and order on your streets? Or will there be violence? Will you have law enforcement, or will you condone crime?

This isn't something you decide in Washington. Sure the Nation's government must take its stand. But the homes and the schools of America are where you live. The people of America are in your towns, in your cities and your farms. We build a better America from the bottom up, not from the top down.

We build a better America in every one of the thousands of cities and villages and townships and counties in America. And I call upon the young leaders to recognize that this is where their life begins and ends. Build your town, your county, your state. Make it socially conscious, progressive, reaching out to the future. If you don't it will die. And every time a village or a town dies in America, America dies a little bit too. Every time a part of America becomes depressed, becomes despairing, the spirit of America is subdued and broken just that much.

This nation is not as wealthy as the money in its

banks, nor is it as powerful as its armies, nor is it as rich as its industries. This nation is as strong and as rich and as powerful as its people. The people educated. The people motivated. The people with faith and confidence in this nation, and in all that it stands for. And how do we get that? From our leaders. From those of us who have been privileged to have it a little better. We must help others. The whole spirit of the FFA is to serve. It comes with scripture itself. "He who would be first, let him be last." "I come not to be ministered unto, but to minister." Serve, share, and when you serve and share you are better. You are stronger. You are richer. It is only when you are selfish, and when you look inward, when you reject your social responsibilities, your civic duties that you start to shrivel up and become flesh and bone, withered and tired and torn, rather than a man or a woman full of the good life and the good spirit.

Now I have said that we must build and rebuild this America. And my whole life's purpose can be summarized in just a few words - building a better America - . We are a nation of builders.

And you know a famous Jewish philosopher, Mr. Weizmann, once said "That the Walls of Jericho came tumbling down by the shouts and the clamor of Joshua." But he said he never knew of any walls being raised, any walls or any cities being erected by shouts, by noise and by clamor. I guess that is another way of

saying that it isn't enough to be critical. It isn't enough to prove that you are a bright and scintillating personality by pointing out all the weaknesses. What you need to do is to have some faith, that you can find some reasonable alternative to build - build - build - .

America's story is the story of a nation that builds, that constructs, that progresses. We are natural builders at home and abroad. And never let us lose that great desire and great quality of Americans.

Well now I don't want to talk to you about recreating those mythical "good old days" down on the farm. I have lived in some of those "good old days". Let me just tell you, I didn't like some of them. Some of you haven't had to do that and I am happy for you.

I had my young son, a nineteen year old boy, call me up when he was in his first year in college last year, and he said "Dad, do you know anything about the depression?"

I said "Are you kidding me, Douglas?" I said "Are you pulling my leg?"

He said "No, dad, I've got to write a theme. I have to write a paper on the depression. I thought maybe you might have some pamphlets down there at the office that you could let me have and I could study them up."

I said "son, I've been telling you about the depression that your dad went through for the last fifteen years."

"yea" but he said "Dad, I just figured that was some more of your talk. I didn't pay any attention to it."

(Laughter) Then he had to write a theme!

Well you didn't have to live through a depression. But I lived through those "good old days". And by the way, I am not recommending that you live through it either. I want you to know that.

Dust storms. I saw more real estate move than any man ever ought to see. I saw all of South Dakota blow into North Dakota on one week end, and all of North Dakota blow into South Dakota on the next week end, and then we spread it out in Minnesota and Iowa and Kansas the balance of the week. The dust storms! I think they remember. Mortgage foreclosures. One-room school houses. Dreams turned away. Now I am not talking about that. And I am not even talking about the pure fresh air, the unpolluted air, the smell of fresh cut hay out on the countryside. I like that. But that isn't enough. You've got to have something more than clean air to live. There is more to life than that kind of remembrance. And I think we can all share the best.

In the 1930's modernizing rural America meant rural electrification, the REA. It meant a movie theater in every town.

In the 1940's it meant many and well-paved hard

surfaced roads.

Now in the 1960's, the fifties and sixties, it means airports, small and large. Some of them capable of handling short-hop jets.

It means community colleges, modern hospitals and good doctors, the very best in elementary and secondary education. That is what we mean by a modern community. And it can even mean golf courses and ball parks, lighted ball parks. It can mean drama groups and orchestras and art classes in addition to quilting bees.

And we know it can be done because we have seen it done. And I want to make my point crystal clear here what I am talking about.

About two months ago I visited Huntsville, Alabama. I saw some of my friends here from Alabama today. Let me say a word about Huntsville.

It used to be a small southern town about fifteen years ago. A place where people were born and died. But where they spent little time in between. Its population was static.

Then the TVA went into action. - Power. - Huntsville got access to electric power. It got access to water for transport and for recreation.

Then came the scientific and space installation. Because it is a great space center. Doctor Wernher Von Braun is there. Other industries followed. New stores began to grow to

meet the needs of the new customers. New taxpayers built new schools. And today Huntsville, Alabama is a good place, not only to be from, but it is a good place to be. It is a beautiful modern up-to-date, aggressive, thriving community, showing what can be done.

Huntsville is the exception, however, not the rule. It tells us what can be done. And it tells us what ought to be done if all things come together the right way. It shows you how you can prevent the mass migration of hundreds of thousands, yes millions of people pouring into our metropolitan centers that are poorly equipped to handle more.

A basic ingredient of success in building rural America is a prosperous agriculture, a balanced agriculture.

Let me say I spent the day before yesterday with the Dean of The School of Agriculture at Fresno State College, Fresno, California. You know what he told me boys. He told me that for every graduate of their State Agriculture College, they had from two to three jobs, two to three requirements. He said "Mr. Vice-President, if you could take a message to the FFA boys." He said "What we need are men that will go to our agricultural colleges because America is crying out, begging for trained agriculturalists." The greatest job opportunity in America today is a trained agriculturist. So don't think that you have to just

go into some other discipline or occupation. Agra-business, husbandry, forestry, farm management. There is a host of opportunities lying ahead of you, if you are trained, - if you are educated -. If you are developed. If you want to make something out of your lives. Every school of agriculture in America today will tell you the same thing. For every graduate that they have, there are from two to three jobs awaiting them. Not only jobs, but management positions.

And for those of you that want to have your own farms, your own agra-business - unlimited opportunities - in the days ahead.

But then, too, a rural community needs more than farms. It depends somewhat upon jobs. Jobs based not only on agriculture, but on medium and small industry. On research facilities, on distribution centers, on enterprises which do not have to be in large metropolitan areas to prosper and grow. And success depends upon education.

If I could address my remarks now to the state officials and the federal officials, every community in America of any size needs a community college. It needs cultural centers, because when a boy or a girl is graduated from high school in modern education, they do have rising expectations. They do have a dream of a better world. They don't want to slip back. They

want to go ahead.

And American industry ought to move many of its new plants out into the hinterland and give that part of America its chance to help solve the pressing human problems of our time.

And there is a lot that government at all levels can do to help. We can use the economic weight of the Defense Department with its vast purchases, and other government contracts for research, development and production.

We can offer tax incentives, subsidies, new programs of cooperative partnership between government and private enterprise such as we are putting to work now in our big cities.

We can help provide the same things on a smaller scale or a larger scale that have made Huntsville, Alabama such a positive example of what can be done, of what can be done for good living. But other initiatives will have to come from those who live in rural America. We are not a nation who wants to depend on government alone. We must have self help, initiative, creativity of our own. If the government could do it all alone, even then, it shouldn't do it, because this country is not government. This is a nation of people, individuals, who by voluntary effort by their own free action, their own freedom of choice must build a better America.

We don't want America to be planned on top. We want America to be inspired from the bottom.

Thomas Jefferson once said "That if the time to reap and the time to sew were planned in Washington, we should be without bread." And what he meant was that if you depend on people who are only your representatives to do everything for your future, you'll be with nothing. We must plan for ourselves, - together - a partnership between people and government, a partnership between private enterprise and government. Not the dominance of government. Not even the dominance, may I say, of any private group - but a partnership - .

You can work through Rural Community Development groups. My young American friends, you can work through rural community development groups to attract the kind of jobs producing enterprises your communities need. You are just at the right time of life now to think about what you want your town to be like, your county to be like. Do you want it to be a sort of retreat for the elderly alone? Do you want it to wither on the economic vine? Or do you want it to bear fruit? It is in your hands. Nobody else's.

You can sell businessmen on the natural resources and the recreation opportunities available in your county and your town. Tell them about the manpower that is available. Yes, the womanpower too. Humanpower that has handled machinery since childhood, the greatest single untapped resource of human energy

in America is in rural America, and it needs to be given a greater opportunity for productive work. Show them clean communities. Show them that your town is alive, up and at it. Clean, wholesome. Not only clean air, and clean water, but a sense of decency and a sense of alertness and life that makes somebody want to be a part of it. Show them good schools, churches and parks, and the things that prove you care about your future, and I guarantee young Americans that if you show people in the business world some of these assets in your county, if you have those assets, and if you haven't, develop them, your county will flourish. Your community will thrive. Your future will be guaranteed and no longer will there be the bleeding from America's hinterland of its lifeline of young people lost and gone forever from where they were born, from where they were reared. For in the last analysis, it is the people themselves who know their own needs the best, and can best build the kind of a future that they want.

Now you have that chance as future leaders, future farmers of America, future leaders of your towns and communities to help build an America that provides "every man a chance". "Every man his chance". Listen to those words. "To every man regardless of his birth, his shining golden opportunity. To every man the right to live and to work and to be himself, and to become whatever thing his manhood and his vision can combine to make him. This is the promise of America."

Now make it true. Don't recite poetry alone. And if we do, we are going to have a better America where young people can find a rich and rewarding life in every community, where stimulating work, the best in education and health care, sports and recreation, music and the arts are as much a part of every day life in a rural village and city in Kansas or community in Kansas as in Chicago.

Or in a country town in Nebraska, as in New York. By so doing you have the chance to help restore to urban America a sense of community and of neighborliness.

Rural America is the citizenship training laboratory for this nation. There is where we learn the great lessons of neighborliness and of sharing and of service. There is where we have inculcated into our souls, seared into them, a spirit of service, of community leadership and community dedication. The human values. The human values that makes democracy humane, and makes America worthwhile.

President Johnson said sometime ago that history records a long hard struggle to establish man's rights to go where he pleases and live where he chooses. It took many centuries and many bloody revolutions to break the chains that bound him to a particular plot of land and confined him within the walls of a particular community. We lose that freedom when our children are obliged to live someplace else if they want a job, or if they want a

decent education. "Not just sentiment demands that we do more to help our farms and rural communities," said the President. "The welfare of the nation demands it."

I am not here speaking in nostalgic memory of a little country town in which I was born. I have seen that town literally fade away. I am here to appeal to the young of America in this time and place to restore some of the values of this nation, to create a successful thriving community life where you live. Don't walk away from your problems. Meet those problems head on. Call upon your government to act responsibly. Call upon American enterprise to see the great opportunity that is there waiting for them, if they'll but join you. But you must lead.

A nation is no better than its people and its people are no better than its leaders.

I call upon the Future Farmers of America to not only lead in your organizations, in your chapters, but to lead in our nation. I have no doubt that if you do this, we shall meet the challenge of providing a true life choice for all Americans. That is the opportunity that history has given us in the last third of the Twentieth Century.

And now let me leave you with these words. We are not trying to create in this country an easy-going, self-indulgent society. We are trying to build in this country, a nation that

has purpose that is firm without being belligerent, that is resolute without being bellicose. That is compassionate without being soft. That has the spirit of charity without being just a soft-hearted, lackadaisical, indifferent people.

We are trying to build an America, a nation that is just and that is fair. We are trying to build an America, not a welfare state. That is not the goal of this nation. Oh yes, we are interested in people's well-being, their chance. But our goal is not a welfare state. Our goal is a state of opportunity where everybody can get in and work and make something out of his or her life. That is a far cry from a welfare state.

The poverty that afflicts this nation, my young friends, is not the poverty of the purse alone. That poverty can be corrected quickly, or alleviated promptly by a check, by money. And a rich nation can pass out the money, they say.

But it solves nothing. It temporarily alleviates pain and suffering. Checkbook diplomacy, checkbook family relations, checkbook compassion is no answer to human problems, international problems or family problems. You do not solve the problems of your family when your children are in trouble by giving them money. You solve them by giving them love and attention. You do not solve the problems of the world by just bailing out money, important as money may be. You solve those problems by service. You solve those problems by diplomacy, by careful attention to the needs of human beings.

You do not solve the problems of this nation of its poor by just dishing out money. We are not merely trying to alleviate the pain of misery and deprivation. We are trying to find its causes. We are trying to dig deeper. And every time a young man or a young woman is training for a job and gets one, that's a victory for democracy. Every time a family goes off relief and becomes self-sustaining and productive, that is a victory for them and for our nation.

Every time that we tear down the barriers of racial prejudice and discrimination we fulfill the highest aspirations of this nation. Every time that free men let bigotry and intolerance stand uncontested, we defeat our purpose. We are conquered by our own evil.

You young men have stood time after time, and I imagine you will during this convention to quote and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

I want you the next time that you recite it to ponder every word. Do not repeat it as if it was something you put to memory and that you just muttered it to get it over with.

That Pledge of Allegiance is a commitment and a prayer. It is a solemn contract between yourself, your country and your God. So don't take it lightly.

Most adults regrettably repeat it and don't even know what they are saying. It has become so commonplace. It is taken for granted. I have travelled this world over since I have

been your Vice-President, in twenty-six countries and four continents. I have been in forty-nine of the fifty states, and will be in the fiftieth one this coming month. I have been in over five-hundred of the great cities and towns and villages of this nation, and let me tell you ladies and gentlemen, that Abraham Lincoln was right. This is "The last best hope on earth." Oh, how good it is.

And if you don't think so take a trip someplace else sometime, and come home, as I told another group the other day and buy yourself a hot dog and a hamburger and see what it means to live in a free country. It is a great place! And that is not sentimentality. It is a fact.

There is something wrong in this nation when people can no longer act patriotic.

What's wrong with patriotism? This country of ours is not the sum total of fools and mistakes. It is the sum total of people. Little people. Big people. Some great people, who have put together a remarkable record of achievement, a remarkable record of social progress, a remarkable record of economic success, a remarkable record of service to humanity. No other country has done so much. No other country has had so much!

But maybe because we have done so much we have had so much. Isn't this interesting? The more that we have shared, the more we've had. The time that we didn't share was when we

started to lose everything.

I said now, that pledge. Remember every word because this is one country. We profess a great faith in Divine Providence. We say we believe in the power of prayer, and we talk about human equality and justice under the law. Let's see what it says:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States and to the Republic for which it stands.

That's the opening. And then comes your contract, your commitment, your solemn oath.

One Nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

It means every word of it. Not two nations, not north and south, not east and west. Not rich and poor, not capital and labor, not city and rural, but one nation. Not under the American Farm Bureau or the Chamber of Commerce or the AFL or CIO or the Farmers Union or whatever else it is. But "Under God", recognizing that our dignity as people comes because God created man in his own image.

And then "indivisible". Not torn by separatism. Not torn by segregation. Not rent and torn apart by bigotry and intolerance. But "indivisible". And "with liberty and justice for all".

Because my dear friends and fellow Americans, if

there isn't liberty and justice for all, there is no liberty or justice for anyone. Because if any man's freedom is diminished, so is yours. If any man's liberty is denied, so is yours.

Benjamin Franklin, that great philosopher and statesman was right. "We either hang together or we hang separately." This is either "one nation" or it is none. It is either "indivisible" or it is torn apart. It is either a nation of "liberty and justice for all" or it is a mockery. And I call upon the young men of America to bring a whole new birth of freedom to this country, a whole new meaning to our country, or at least to re-establish the old meaning of America, which is always new. That old meaning of the preciousness of our individualism. But at the same time the responsibility of our citizenship.

Not only our rights, but our duties. Not only our privileges, but our responsibilities. That's what makes a great country. That's what makes a great people.

And I think I have had the privilege this morning in this vast auditorium of talking to people who have the qualities of greatness, if they but will it.

May you give of yourself to this country. May you give of yourself to this sorry and sick world that needs your help so much.

But above all, make something of yourself. Be a man. And remember that in so doing you fulfill the promise of America.

Thank you, very much.

... The Audience Arose and Applauded ...

PRESIDENT SWAN: Mr. Vice-President, this is a day that we are going to long remember. You have honored us with your presence and you have inspired us so much with your words.

Fellow Future Farmers of America, I know have now an even more profound appreciation for the support and interest that you so much render in our own behalf. And we too, I think are so much more aware of the challenges that face us as youth of this country.

You have placed upon our shoulders your hand very firm with confidence, making us all the more aware of our objectives, and all the more vital our work.

We pay our thanks as best we can with the welcome this morning, that we hope you are long going to remember, and too with special recognition.

Would you please come to the stand.

Mr. Vice-President in behalf of Future Farmers all across this land, it is a special honor and distinct privilege to confer upon you the highest honor our organization can bestow,

The Honorary American Farmer Degree together with this citation.  
Congratulations!

... The Audience Arose and Applauded ...

VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I just want to thank you, Gary, and the Future Farmers for this wonderful citation. It will be a cherished possession of mine, and I want my friends in the FFA to know that if they will visit me in my office down at Washington, over in the capital, where I love to be, this citation will be prominently displayed, and will be held in high esteem and great respect and honor.

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MILLERS FALLS

ERASE

COTTON CONTENT



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