

001776

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

JOINT SESSION OF THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL

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Mr Speaker - Bob Moretti
members of the ~~Legislature~~ - Ladies
Senate, members of the Assembly - Gentlemen.
↳ The Federal system is in crisis.

↳ Government has become musclebound and increasingly
unmanageable.

↳ The different levels of government are not working
together and functioning as a total governmental system.

Public services in all too many areas are breaking
down. People -- the taxpayers -- feel that government is
unresponsive, slow to act, and just doesn't perform. There
is bitterness, protest and frustration, ^{and} In many areas, a
full-fledged taxpayers' revolt.

↳ These are the political facts of today -- and they demand

001777

prompt and effective action.

I speak to you today not as a teacher or an expert, but, as a fellow legislator. And I shall concentrate my attention on three imperatives: revenues, planning, and intergovernmental cooperation.

Revenues

Administration representatives have travelled the

Nation speaking in behalf of revenue-sharing. I do support revenue

Sharing

any constructive program to secure additional funding

for states and localities.

~~as citizens of the~~

But these funds must be above and beyond present

Federal assistance.

L And as to "special revenue-sharing," it should be judged
 not on the basis of a slogan, caption or catch-word, but,
 whether or not it will promote better use of public funds for
 stated goals and purposes.

Use know that
 L In some cases block grants are preferable, In other
 cases, we need categorical grants. But above all, the
 programs need full and timely funding.

L A new name is no substitute for program and money.
 The eleven and a half billion dollars of appropriated funds
now impounded
 for Fiscal '71, if released and put to work, would be of great
 help—

L We also need federalization of welfare costs.

Population mobility and recent court decisions on
 residency requirements make welfare a national problem *and Responsibility*

~~Federalization will come, but it will not come over
 night.~~

Federal payment in the
~~The~~ categories of the blind, aged and disabled
 should come immediately, and other categories, including
 aid to mothers with dependent children, will come in stages.

But we will still need state participation.

The Federal government should set a floor on welfare
payments. But the states should be able to set their own
 higher standards if they so desire.

Planning

The United States is the only industrialized nation that has no established, ascertainable, understandable

goals, priorities or planning. *This is wasteful and intolerable.*

↳ We must decide now what kind of nation we want in the 'Seventies and beyond.

↳ We must decide now what priorities will get us there.

↳ We must summon the vision now, and we must create mechanisms for planning on a national scale.

↳ But there is today no planning or coordinating agency that looks to America's needs ten, twenty, or more years

ahead.

For example,

Who in government is asking what will be the needs of America in the year 2000 -- with some 100 million more Americans?

What will our needs ~~be in transportation~~ for 300,000,000 Americans ^{*in transportation*} -- in housing, education, national growth distribution plans, energy requirements, environmental protection, communications, recreation, jobs, health care?

↳ There are no plans! There is no structure, public or private, that provides us with even the most basic and limited information.

↳ Yet, projections of what we will need are staggering

if only we look at the obvious facts of population growth and where our people will live.

But the United States limps along with the Federal budget as the only focus for national planning. And what a weak focus it is.

↳ California is now the largest state in population and your growth rate seems to show no sign of slackening to any great degree.

↳ Has anyone working on the Federal budget ever come to you and asked you about the present and projected needs for California in health, education, housing, transportation?

I respect the gentlemen in the ^{Federal} Office of Management

and Budget. But they are neither prophets nor planners.

They allocate national resources for a fiscal year or

two. Their concern is not the next decade -- it is the next

fiscal year. America simply can't fulfill its potential with

such an inadequate system. *and limited perspective.*

The budget process itself must be opened ~~yes,~~

opened to the suggestions and proposals of mayors, governors,

county officials and state legislators. It is not good

enough to try to change a budget after it has been presented *to the*
Congress.

~~The Congress can only tinker with the budget after its~~

~~emphasis and priorities are established.~~

~~What is needed is to combine careful national planning and priorities with an open budget process.~~

~~Let the legislatures participate. Bring the people in on this fundamental document of public policy.~~

~~This will give us a beginning of understanding and planning for the needs of Americans in the decades ahead.~~

Cooperation

But Planning is not enough | Sufficient funding is not enough | ~~Nothing effective and lasting will be achieved in meeting the new challenges unless we have the means to change our rhetoric into reality.~~

We need effective and up-to-date governments at all levels. A recent evaluation of state legislatures, as you know, had California at the top of the list in effectiveness. I commend you ~~for that~~.

But we need more than governing bodies functioning smoothly in isolation. We need to get all governments - *Local, State + Federal* - ~~working~~ working together in cooperation. This calls for structural changes and immediate action.

I suggest these possibilities:

I. Regular meetings of the President with governors and other local government officials -- not for the purpose

of Federal domination, but for fostering cooperation. through frank & open discussion.

2. Regular meetings of state and local legislative

leaders with congressional leaders -- not to achieve uniformity

or conformity -- but to achieve a sense of joint purpose and

cooperation.

*yes, to protect, or prevent
~~prevent~~ Federal legislation,*

3. A complete opening of the Federal budget process

to the suggestions and advice of state and local officials.

This will make Federal budget proposals a more accurate

reflection of citizen concern.

4. The appointment of domestic White House

ambassadors or Presidential representatives to be assigned

to regions to coordinate various Federal-state-local

cooperative programs.

*to act through
such a panel to set processes and
action.*

They would not make policy. They would facilitate action. They would be the "action brokers" to make sure that things get done and get done on time.

Clearly, we have much to do in updating our Federal system. This is our challenge -- to make this venture, the system, work. !

"The best politics is the politics of service."

With sufficient resources, proper planning, effective cooperation, we can have the kind of America we want in the decades ahead -- an America that fulfills its promise for all its citizens.



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