

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Dallas, Texas

October 18, 1971

Today I want to talk to you about the future.

Now I'm interested in the past. I believe we can learn from history. But as a nation, I don't think we can afford to be preoccupied with the past at the expense of the future.

The past can hide and obscure the future.

And as a nation and a people, we have not planned well for the future.

We must begin to think more about designing solutions than merely solving problems. That's what the future is all about.

But who in America is thinking about the future?

Who is asking about the consequences of policies we adopt today on the quality of life in America tomorrow, next year or in 1990?

The President and his cabinet are content to deal with the crisis of the moment at home and abroad. Regrettably, they are not sufficiently future-oriented in my view, although the President's policies and programs now may affect America for decades to come.

And the Congress must react to the President, appropriating money, for example, on a yearly basis when it should be considering America's needs in the future.

State and local governments are preoccupied with their very survival that they have little time to consider the future.

Meanwhile, our air and water are becoming polluted, our cities are becoming unlivable, our neighborhoods unsafe, our schools outdated. Our sick are not cared for, our hungry are not fed, the poor remain poor and the unemployed are not given jobs.

These are some of the problems of today. They will not disappear by wishing them away.

We must begin to ask some hard questions about where are going and how we'll get there.

-- The population of this country is 208 million today. The state of Texas increased its population between 1960 and 1970 by nearly 17 percent while the national average was 13 percent.

We must ask: How will this nation provide for 219 million Americans by 1975, for 236 million Americans by 1980 and for 320 million Americans by the year 2000? How will cities like Dallas and Houston absorb this continued growth? Already 70 percent of our people live on less than two percent of the land.

-- Today there are 5.1 million Americans without a job. White unemployment is 6.1 percent. Black unemployment is 9.8 percent.

Texas receives more government awards of defense contracts than any state but one. But aerospace unemployment continues to climb here while the Nixon Administration fails to develop realistic conversion programs to provide jobs for the highly skilled.

We must ask: If so few jobs are being created today, how will our economy be able to provide 25 million new jobs that will be needed in nine years?

-- Air, noise and water pollution in America increasingly are becoming a threat to health and life. Texas has been unable to escape the pollution of its waterways and its air.

We must ask: How can this nation clean its air and water while increasing industrial production to keep pace with a growing population and increased consumer demands?

Few Americans can afford to be sick. Between 1960 and 1970, the cost of hospital care rose 122 percent and doctors' fees rose 45 percent. Texas ranks 26th among the states in the number of doctors per 100,000 population and 43rd among the states in the number of nurses.

We must ask: How can we guarantee all Americans the right to good health care? And how can we provide enough doctors, nurses, and hospitals, now and in the future, to provide for all Americans?

-- Americans today live in fear while crime increases at alarming rates. The FBI reports that in Texas the number of violent crimes increased by 4,000 and the number of property crimes increased by nearly 17,000 between 1969 and 1970.

We must ask: How can we make our cities, neighborhoods and towns safe again? When will we stop crime by attacking crime at its social and economic roots?

-- All of our children do not learn in school. Too many drop out. Colleges prepare students for careers which no longer exist. Forty-two other states spent more per pupil for public education than Texas spent in 1970.

We must ask: How will we be able to give all of our children, now and in the future, a quality education relevant to their needs?

These are some of the urgent questions that must be answered.

We must all ask: How can our tomorrows be made better than our yesterdays?

What I am asking is this: Is it sound policy for a nation of our size, our wealth and our potentia to be without a progressive, effective social policy, a population policy, a communications policy, a health policy, an energy policy, an educational policy or a financing policy?

We are a growing nation without a national policy to govern our growth.

Unplanned growth destroys the benefits that growing industries, growing incomes and growing communities can bestow on a nation.

In the 1970's, like the 1960's, we will continue to meet change with patchwork solutions unless we move quickly to develop institutions and policies that provide for future growth.

I intend to introduce shortly the National Growth Policy Act of 1971 which will provide some of the institutions to confront and plan for America's future growth.

Let me give you some examples of what is occurring because we lack planning and goal-setting machinery at the Federal level.

-- Because Washington, D.C. is our nation's capital, the federal government feels it must locate the majority of its new facilities in the District proper or in suburban Maryland or Virginia.

It so happens that the Washington metropolitan area is so overcrowded, so unprepared for additional growth that additional facilities overtax local services and aggravate the problems of overcrowding.

I believe the Federal government should search for areas elsewhere in the nation where new facilities could be built and have an advantageous impact on communities.

The legislation I am preparing would require the Federal government to examine alternate sites for the location of new facilities. Decentralization is a key to balanced national growth policies.

-- The federal government is a multi-billion dollar a year consumer. It buys everything from tanks and missiles to automobiles and farm products. But, there is no machinery to evaluate the social and economic impact on communities and industries of the government's procurement practices.

The National Growth Policy Act will establish a mechanism where the federal government would be forced to examine its procurement policies in light of what its billions of dollars of buying power could do for communities and regions across the nation that have been left off the government's shopping list.

-- Our lack of planning often leads to programs that duplicate each other or are counterproductive.

The government pays farmers billions to produce less. But at the same time we encourage increased agricultural production through conservation assistance and reclamation programs.

We have a number of programs to aid those in need -- welfare assistance, food stamps, and the many OEO poverty programs -- but each is in a different department of the government instead of being integrated into one efficient operation.

A new agency is needed that has the power to supervise and coordinate government programs and planning for the future. My legislation attempts to meet this need with the creation of an Office of National Growth and Planning within the Executive Office of the President. This new presidential office would help coordinate government programs, establish national growth policies, and would require agency and departmental compliance with its goals.

-- Should the government encourage continued rural out-migration? Should we build new communities in Montana or Vermont?

I believe that the Federal government has no effective way to answer this type of question and to gather information about the future in order to allow decision makers to consider alternatives and future options.

I have incorporated in the new growth policy legislation a semi-public Foundation on National Growth and the American future, patterned after the National Science Foundation to serve as the academic arm of the various national growth and planning operations in the Executive Branch and in the Congress.

-- Government sometimes forgets that it is in business for people. I continually hear heads of agencies and departments talk as if government is run for government and not for the people.

Have you ever tried to get money -- the public's tax money -- transferred from one agency to another in order to help people? Well, I have, and it's nearly impossible.

To correct the lack of citizen participation in government and especially in this new planning machinery I have discussed, this legislation will include a Citizens' Council on National Growth and the Future to enlist broad-based citizen involvement in problems and issues of national growth. This would not be another blue-ribbon panel. It would be designed to be broadly representative of various national interests. And the council would be empowered to establish local councils in each state.

I have provided some examples of what our lack of planning means for the quality of American life now and in the future.

But new structures and institutions are worthless without people who care enough to make them work.

I know that many of you are tired of hearing politicians ask you to get involved, to register, to vote, to organize and to fight for what you believe.

But if you don't, then you will be partly responsible for the unresponsiveness and lack of sensitivity that you believe that government -- whether federal, state, county, or city -- exhibits daily to your problems and needs.

We can no longer sit as a people unresponsive to trends and patterns that spell disaster, not for a way of life that we cherish -- but for life itself.

You can and must confront the future.

I believe that young people in this nation and in Texas must plan an important role in the formulation of programs and policies that not only make life better for all Americans today, but prevent the inevitable growth of tomorrow from destroying the good things that we created yesterday.

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SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

DALLAS, TEXAS

OCTOBER 18, 1971

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TODAY I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE FUTURE.

~~NOW I'M INTERESTED IN THE PAST. I BELIEVE WE CAN LEARN FROM HISTORY. BUT AS A NATION, I DON'T THINK WE CAN AFFORD TO BE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE PAST AT THE EXPENSE OF THE FUTURE.~~

~~THE PAST CAN HIDE AND OBSCURE THE FUTURE.~~

~~AND AS A NATION AND A PEOPLE, WE HAVE NOT PLANNED WELL FOR THE FUTURE.~~

~~WE MUST BEGIN TO THINK MORE ABOUT DESIGNING SOLUTIONS THAN MERELY SOLVING PROBLEMS. THAT'S WHAT THE FUTURE IS ALL ABOUT.~~

BUT WHO IN AMERICA IS THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE?

↳ WHO IS ASKING ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF POLICIES WE ADOPT TODAY ON THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN AMERICA TOMORROW, NEXT YEAR OR
IN 1990?

L THE PRESIDENT AND HIS CABINET ARE CONTENT TO DEAL WITH THE
CRISIS OF THE MOMENT AT HOME AND ABROAD. L REGETTABLY, THEY ARE NOT
SUFFICIENTLY FUTURE-ORIENTED IN MY VIEW, ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT'S
POLICIES AND PROGRAMS NOW MAY AFFECT AMERICA FOR DECADES TO COME,

h AND THE CONGRESS MUST REACT TO THE PRESIDENT, APPROPRIATING
MONEY, FOR EXAMPLE, ON A YEARLY BASIS WHEN IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERING
AMERICA'S NEEDS IN THE FUTURE.

h STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR
VERY SURVIVAL THAT THEY HAVE LITTLE TIME TO CONSIDER THE
FUTURE.

L MEANWHILE, OUR AIR AND WATER ARE BECOMING POLLUTED, OUR CITIES
ARE BECOMING UNLIVABLE, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS UNSAFE, OUR SCHOOLS
OUTDATED OUR SICK ARE NOT CARED FOR, OUR HUNGRY ARE NOT FED,
THE POOR REMAIN POOR AND THE UNEMPLOYED ARE NOT GIVEN JOBS,

L THESE ARE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS OF TODAY, THEY WILL NOT
DISAPPEAR BY WISHING THEM AWAY.

WE MUST BEGIN TO ASK SOME HARD QUESTIONS ABOUT WHERE ARE we
GOING AND HOW WE WILL GET THERE.

-- THE POPULATION OF THIS COUNTRY IS 208 MILLION TODAY. THE
STATE OF TEXAS INCREASED ITS POPULATION BETWEEN 1960 AND 1970
BY NEARLY 17 PERCENT WHILE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE WAS 13 PERCENT.

WE MUST ASK: HOW WILL THIS NATION PROVIDE FOR 219 MILLION
AMERICANS BY 1975, FOR 236 MILLION AMERICANS BY 1980 AND FOR
300 MILLION AMERICANS BY THE YEAR 2000? HOW WILL CITIES LIKE
DALLAS AND HOUSTON ABSORB THIS CONTINUED GROWTH? ALREADY 70
 PERCENT OF OUR PEOPLE LIVE ON LESS THAN TWO PERCENT OF THE LAND.

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then too

-- TODAY THERE ARE 5.1 MILLION AMERICANS WITHOUT A JOB, WHITE
 UNEMPLOYMENT IS 6.1 PERCENT, BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT IS 9.8 PERCENT.

~~TEXAS RECEIVES MORE GOVERNMENT AWARDS OF DEFENSE CONTRACTS
 THAN ANY STATE BUT ONE. BUT AEROSPACE UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES TO
 CLIMB HERE WHILE THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION FAILS TO DEVELOP
 REALISTIC CONVERSION PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE JOBS FOR THE HIGHLY
 SKILLED.~~

WE MUST ASK: IF SO FEW JOBS ARE BEING CREATED TODAY, HOW WILL
OUR ECONOMY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE 25 MILLION NEW JOBS THAT WILL BE
NEEDED IN NINE YEARS?

-- AIR, NOISE AND WATER POLLUTION IN AMERICA INCREASINGLY ARE
BECOMING A THREAT TO HEALTH AND LIFE, ~~TEXAS HAS BEEN UNABLE TO~~
~~ESCAPE THE POLLUTION OF ITS WATERWAYS AND ITS AIR.~~

L WE MUST ASK: HOW CAN THIS NATION CLEAN ITS AIR AND WATER
WHILE INCREASING INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION TO KEEP PACE WITH A GROWING
POPULATION AND INCREASED CONSUMER DEMANDS?

its cost -

What Plans - how

h FEW AMERICANS CAN AFFORD TO BE SICK BETWEEN 1960 AND 1970.

THE COST OF HOSPITAL CARE ROSE 122 PERCENT AND DOCTORS' FEES

ROSE 45 PERCENT. TEXAS RANKS 26TH AMONG THE STATES IN THE NUMBER

OF DOCTORS PER 100,000 POPULATION AND 43RD AMONG THE STATES IN THE

NUMBER OF NURSES.

*Calif 19,000 applications
Only accept 246 Calif*

WE MUST ASK: HOW CAN WE GUARANTEE ALL AMERICANS THE RIGHT

TO GOOD HEALTH CARE? AND HOW CAN WE PROVIDE ENOUGH DOCTORS,

NURSES, AND HOSPITALS, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, TO PROVIDE FOR

ALL AMERICANS?

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-- AMERICANS TODAY LIVE IN FEAR WHILE CRIME INCREASES

AT ALARMING RATES.

THE FBI REPORTS THAT IN TEXAS THE NUMBER OF VIOLENT CRIMES INCREASED BY 4,000 AND THE NUMBER OF PROPERTY CRIMES INCREASED BY NEARLY 17,000 BETWEEN 1969 AND 1970.

↳ WE MUST ASK: HOW CAN WE MAKE OUR CITIES, NEIGHBORHOODS AND TOWNS SAFE AGAIN? WHEN WILL WE STOP CRIME BY ATTACKING CRIME AT ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ROOTS?

-- ALL OF OUR CHILDREN DO NOT LEARN IN SCHOOL, TOO MANY DROP OUT. COLLEGES PREPARE STUDENTS FOR CAREERS WHICH NO LONGER EXIST. FORTY-TWO OTHER STATES SPENT MORE PER PUPIL FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION THAN TEXAS SPENT IN 1970.

L WE MUST ASK: HOW WILL WE BE ABLE TO GIVE ALL OF OUR CHILDREN,
NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, A QUALITY EDUCATION RELEVANT TO THEIR
NEEDS?

L THESE ARE SOME OF THE URGENT QUESTIONS THAT MUST BE ANSWERED.

WE MUST ALL ASK: HOW CAN OUR TOMORROWS BE MADE BETTER THAN
OUR YESTERDAYS?

WHAT I AM ASKING IS THIS: IS IT SOUND POLICY FOR A NATION
OF OUR SIZE, OUR WEALTH AND OUR POTENTIAL TO BE WITHOUT A
PROGRESSIVE, EFFECTIVE SOCIAL POLICY, A POPULATION POLICY, A
COMMUNICATIONS POLICY, A HEALTH POLICY, AN ENERGY POLICY, AN
EDUCATIONAL POLICY OR A FINANCING POLICY?

L WE ARE A GROWING NATION WITHOUT A NATIONAL POLICY TO GOVERN
OUR GROWTH.

L UNPLANNED GROWTH DESTROYS THE BENEFITS THAT GROWING
INDUSTRIES, GROWING INCOMES AND GROWING COMMUNITIES CAN BESTOW
ON A NATION.

L IN THE 1970's, LIKE THE 1960's, WE WILL CONTINUE TO MEET
 CHANGE WITH PATCHWORK SOLUTIONS UNLESS WE MOVE QUICKLY TO
 DEVELOP INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES THAT PROVIDE FOR FUTURE GROWTH.

L I INTEND TO INTRODUCE SHORTLY THE NATIONAL GROWTH POLICY
 ACT OF 1971 WHICH WILL PROVIDE SOME OF THE INSTITUTIONS TO
CONFRONT AND PLAN FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE GROWTH.

LET ME GIVE YOU SOME EXAMPLES OF WHAT IS OCCURRING BECAUSE WE LACK PLANNING AND GOAL-SETTING MACHINERY AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL.

-- BECAUSE WASHINGTON, D.C. IS OUR NATION'S CAPITAL, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FEELS IT MUST LOCATE THE MAJORITY OF ITS NEW FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT ~~FOUR~~ OR IN SUBURBAN MARYLAND OR VIRGINIA.

IT SO HAPPENS THAT THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA IS SO OVERCROWDED, SO UNPREPARED FOR ADDITIONAL GROWTH THAT ADDITIONAL FACILITIES OVERTAX LOCAL SERVICES AND AGGRAVATE THE PROBLEMS OF OVERCROWDING.

I BELIEVE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD SEARCH FOR AREAS ELSEWHERE IN THE NATION WHERE NEW FACILITIES COULD BE BUILT AND HAVE AN ADVANTAGEOUS IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES.

THE LEGISLATION I AM PREPARING WOULD REQUIRE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO EXAMINE ALTERNATE SITES FOR THE LOCATION OF NEW FACILITIES. DECENTRALIZATION IS A KEY TO BALANCED NATIONAL GROWTH POLICIES.

-- THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR A YEAR CONSUMER. IT BUYS EVERYTHING FROM TANKS AND MISSILES TO AUTOMOBILES AND FARM PRODUCTS BUT, THERE IS NO MACHINERY TO EVALUATE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES AND INDUSTRIES OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROCUREMENT PRACTICES.

-12-

h THE NATIONAL GROWTH POLICY ACT WILL ESTABLISH A MECHANISM
 WHERE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FORECED TO EXAMINE ITS
PROCUREMENT POLICIES IN LIGHT OF WHAT ITS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS
 OF BUYING POWER COULD DO FOR COMMUNITIES AND REGIONS ACROSS
 THE NATION THAT HAVE BEEN LEFT OFF THE GOVERNMENT'S SHOPPING

LIST.

h 4
 -- OUR LACK OF PLANNING OFTEN LEADS TO PROGRAMS THAT
 DUPLICATE EACH OTHER OR ARE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

h THE GOVERNMENT PAYS FARMERS BILLIONS TO PRODUCE LESS.
 BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE ENCOURAGE INCREASED AGRICULTURAL
 PRODUCTION THROUGH CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE AND RECLAMATION
 PROGRAMS.

-13-

↳ WE HAVE A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS TO AID THOSE IN NEED --
WELFARE ASSISTANCE, FOOD STAMPS, AND THE MANY OEO POVERTY
PROGRAMS -- BUT EACH IS IN A DIFFERENT DEPARTMENT OF THE
GOVERNMENT INSTEAD OF BEING INTEGRATED INTO ONE EFFICIENT
OPERATION. 0

↳ A NEW AGENCY IS NEEDED THAT HAS THE POWER TO SUPERVISE
AND COORDINATE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND PLANNING FOR THE
FUTURE. MY LEGISLATION ATTEMPTS TO MEET THIS NEED WITH THE
CREATION OF AN OFFICE OF NATIONAL GROWTH AND PLANNING WITHIN
THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT. THIS NEW PRESIDENTIAL
OFFICE WOULD HELP COORDINATE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, ESTABLISH
NATIONAL GROWTH POLICIES, AND WOULD REQUIRE AGENCY AND DEPARTMENTAL
COMPLIANCE WITH ITS GOALS.

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-14-

L -- SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGE CONTINUED RURAL OUT-
MIGRATION? SHOULD WE BUILD NEW COMMUNITIES IN MONTANA OR VERMONT?

h I BELIEVE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NO EFFECTIVE WAY
TO ANSWER THIS TYPE OF QUESTION AND TO GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT
THE FUTURE IN ORDER TO ALLOW DECISION MAKERS TO CONSIDER
ALTERNATIVES AND FUTURE OPTIONS.

I HAVE INCORPORATED IN THE NEW GROWTH POLICY LEGISLATION
A SEMI-PUBLIC FOUNDATION ON NATIONAL GROWTH AND THE AMERICAN
FUTURE, PATTERNED AFTER THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION TO SERVE
AS THE ACADEMIC ARM OF THE VARIOUS NATIONAL GROWTH AND PLANNING
OPERATIONS IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND IN THE CONGRESS.

and

-- GOVERNMENT SOMETIMES FORGETS THAT IT IS IN BUSINESS

FOR PEOPLE, I CONTINUALLY HEAR HEADS OF AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS
TALK AS IF GOVERNMENT IS RUN FOR GOVERNMENT AND NOT FOR THE
PEOPLE.

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO GET MONEY -- THE PUBLIC'S TAX
MONEY -- TRANSFERRED FROM ONE AGENCY TO ANOTHER IN ORDER TO
HELP PEOPLE? WELL, I HAVE, AND IT'S NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE.

TO CORRECT THE LACK OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT
AND ESPECIALLY IN THIS NEW PLANNING MACHINERY I HAVE DISCUSSED,
THIS LEGISLATION WILL INCLUDE A CITIZENS' COUNCIL ON NATIONAL
GROWTH AND THE FUTURE TO ENLIST BROAD-BASED CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT
IN PROBLEMS AND ISSUES OF NATIONAL GROWTH.

THIS WOULD NOT BE ANOTHER BLUE-RIBBON PANEL. IT WOULD BE
DESIGNED TO BE BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE OF VARIOUS NATIONAL INTERESTS.
AND THE COUNCIL WOULD BE EMPOWERED TO ESTABLISH LOCAL COUNCILS
IN EACH STATE.

I HAVE PROVIDED SOME EXAMPLES OF WHAT OUR LACK OF PLANNING
MEANS FOR THE QUALITY OF AMERICAN LIFE NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

BUT NEW STRUCTURES AND INSTITUTIONS ARE WORTHLESS WITHOUT
PEOPLE WHO CARE ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM WORK.

I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU ARE TIRED OF HEARING POLITICIANS
ASK YOU TO GET INVOLVED, TO REGISTER, TO VOTE, TO ORGANIZE AND
TO FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE.

BUT IF YOU DON'T, THEN YOU WILL BE PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE UNRESPONSIVENESS AND LACK OF SENSITIVITY THAT YOU BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT -- WHETHER FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, OR CITY -- EXHIBITS DAILY TO YOUR PROBLEMS AND NEEDS.

WE CAN NO LONGER SIT AS A PEOPLE UNRESPONSIVE TO TRENDS AND PATTERNS THAT SPELL DISASTER, NOT FOR A WAY OF LIFE THAT WE CHERISH -- BUT FOR LIFE ITSELF.

YOU CAN AND MUST CONFRONT THE FUTURE.

I BELIEVE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE IN THIS NATION AND IN TEXAS MUST PLAN AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE FORMULATION OF PROGRAMS AND POLICIES THAT NOT ONLY MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR ALL AMERICANS TODAY, BUT PREVENT THE INEVITABLE GROWTH OF TOMORROW FROM DESTROYING THE GOOD THINGS THAT WE CREATED YESTERDAY.



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