

There is hardly an area of human activity where the government has been able to meet the needs of all Americans.

But we must recognize that if government has failed to meet our needs, ~~the~~ people don't always recognize that government can't do the job of solving the nation's problems alone.

The great problems that beset America today need to be solved by a new partnership of government and people.

Today in America there is a cancer eating away at our society that can be cured only through a new partnership of government and people.

This cancer is increasing drug abuse and drug addiction particularly among the young.

-- THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 125,000 HARD CORE NARCOTICS ADDICTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

-- YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 21 ARE ARRESTED AT THE RATE OF ONE EVERY 5 MINUTES IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE, POSSESSION, OR TRANSACTION IN DRUGS.

-- THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY REPORTS NARCOTIC ARRESTS HAVE INCREASED 322 PERCENT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS DECADE.

-- DRUG ABUSE IS A SUBURBAN AS WELL AS AN URBAN PROBLEM. AND IT IS ALSO FOUND WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

-- THE ANNUAL COST OF NARCOTIC ADDICTION IN TERMS OF STOLEN PROPERTY ALONE MAY WELL BE OVER A BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR.

-- POLICE ESTIMATE THAT A HARD-CORE ADDICT MAY STEAL \$400 TO \$500 WORTH OF GOODS TO SUPPORT A \$75 A DAY HABIT, ASSUMING THAT HALF OF AMERICA'S ADDICTS STEAL TO SUPPORT THEIR HABITS, THE TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS STOLEN EVERY DAY BY HARD CORE ADDICTS IS APPROXIMATELY \$25 MILLION.

stop

~~THE DRUG PROBLEM IN AMERICA TODAY IS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROBLEM ALONE.~~

~~YES, THE GOVERNMENT MUST STRICTLY ENFORCE LAWS AGAINST THOSE INVOLVED IN THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS.~~

~~YES, THE GOVERNMENT MUST DO MUCH MORE HERE AND ABROAD TO HALT THE MANUFACTURE AND IMPORTATION OF DRUGS.~~

The government can and must do more to halt the importation of hard drugs and stop their distribution in the country.

It must establish a Drug Abuse Prevention Treatment and Rehabilitation Administration in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

But the real question is what are you going to do about this problem.

What are the people of Cleveland going to do about the drug problem, the hunger problem, the education problem and many other problems which affect millions of Americans.

Government alone can't do the job.

People such as yourselves--community leaders--must lead the way in making government more responsive to people's needs.

In the drug area you must urge that rehabilitation clinics be established, drug education courses started for junior high students and a renewed effort against drug pushers be led by local police.

We must all begin to think how we can fill the gap between 210 million Americans and ^a representative government staffed by a bureaucracy of millions.

I want to see government make its primary concern service and help for people.

It can and it must.

But a government that meets people's needs, that alleviates poverty, that builds homes, that educates children, that provides jobs must do these things with people--in a partnership of common purpose.

This is what I want to see happen in America.



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