

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Seafood Festival

Grant, Florida

February 20, 1972

The other day I saw a bumper sticker which said:
"Come see Florida while it's still here."

Well, my friends, the Florida which we all know and love so well is threatened.

Millions of Americans have come to Florida in search of a healthy climate, clean air and water, beautiful beaches and bays, great recreational opportunities and some of the best seafood in the nation.

Florida has meant for young and old a place to find shelter from the cold North -- a place to start a new life.

But like the rest of the nation, Florida's rapid growth in some areas is endangering nature's wonders which have made the state so great.

We need balanced growth and development in this nation and in this state.

Right now, we don't have it.

Nationally, we have crowded 70 percent of our people on only 2 percent of the land. Congestion, smog, traffic jams, miles of concrete ribbons have become a way of life for too many Americans.

Here in Florida, we're somewhat better off. The population increased 37 percent in the last decade -- and there have been nearly one and a half million newcomers. But 70 percent of Florida's population lives on 20 percent of the land -- not two percent.

Florida is growing. But I wonder if anybody is asking the tough questions:

-- Where are you going to put the millions who want to come here to live?

-- Will there be enough jobs? Enough good homes? Enough doctors? Enough clean water to drink? Enough parks for recreation?

Growth in America today is helter-skelter, unplanned and unmanageable.

-- And what are the consequences? We can see examples right here in Florida:

-- We see Escambia and Pensacola Bays suffering from industrial and municipal pollution.

-- We see Tampa Bay threatened by oil spills and slicks.

-- We see a once beautiful St. Johns River heavily polluted from oil, chemical and industrial wastes.

-- We see dredging and filling threatening such preserves as the Big Cypress Swamp.

-- We see South Florida facing shortages from water quality and water resources.

I do not believe that this is the kind of record Floridians want.

What are the answers?

Zero growth or no growth is not an answer.

The answer is planned growth, people-oriented growth, reasoned growth and growth which protects the environment -- not destroys it.

How are we going to get it?

First, we need to begin to plan our growth. We must consider the environmental impact of government programs and of private development.

We cannot continue to allow developers and real estate speculators to destroy the delicately balanced wetlands and marshes. It's time to stop the fast buck developers and quick profit seekers from overriding the public interest.

Second, we must recognize that improving our environment through planning our growth will not be cheap. Are we willing to pay the bill? We must.

Third, we have to be resolute. Doing something about pollution, planning our growth, is not a one night stand. It takes sustained effort. It takes a sustained effort to see that laws are enforced.

It takes commitment -- not just from the leaders. But, more importantly, from the people.

I believe we can do it. I believe we can protect our oceans from dumping.

I believe we can understand growth, development and nature.

And I believe if nature wins, man wins.

Finally, we need solid programs.

I am going to introduce National Growth Policy legislation to set up the framework for orderly, planned growth.

We must move immediately to tax the polluter -- to make it costly to pollute the people's air and water.

We need stiff and unbending pesticide legislation.

We must begin a massive program to recycle tons and tons of reusable solid waste.

I have already introduced legislation that would begin a comprehensive program of waste and sewage treatment facilities.

I will soon introduce legislation creating environmental savings bonds and an environmental trust fund to finance environmental protection programs.

And we must say to all polluters: You cannot take from the land, the water and the air unless you return that land, that water and that air to its original source unpolluted, uncontaminated and unscarred.

Florida can be saved for you, for your children, and grandchildren.

I want to join with you in an effort to guarantee that from Pensacola to Key West government will join hands with the people in protecting Florida's natural treasures -- its beaches, its bays, its rivers, its land, and its air.

In ten years I want to read a bumper sticker which says: "Come see Florida, its' beautiful, it's still here -- the people saved it."

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SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

GRANT, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 20, 1972

001087

L THE OTHER DAY I SAW A BUMPER STICKER WHICH SAID:

"COME SEE FLORIDA WHILE IT'S STILL HERE."

WELL, MY FRIENDS, THE FLORIDA WHICH WE ALL KNOW AND LOVE
SO WELL IS THREATENED.

L MILLIONS OF AMERICANS HAVE COME TO FLORIDA IN SEARCH OF
A HEALTHY CLIMATE, CLEAN AIR AND WATER, BEAUTIFUL BEACHES AND
BAYS, GREAT RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SOME OF THE BEST
SEAFOOD IN THE NATION.

L FLORIDA HAS MEANT FOR YOUNG AND OLD A PLACE TO FIND SHELTER
FROM THE COLD NORTH → A PLACE TO START A NEW LIFE.

L BUT LIKE THE REST OF THE NATION, FLORIDA'S RAPID GROWTH IN
SOME AREAS IS ENDANGERING NATURE'S WONDERS WHICH HAVE MADE THE
STATE SO GREAT.

WE NEED BALANCED GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THIS NATION AND
IN THIS STATE.

RIGHT NOW, WE DON'T HAVE IT.

NATIONALLY, WE HAVE CROWDED 70 PERCENT OF OUR PEOPLE
ON ONLY 2 PERCENT OF THE LAND. CONGESTION, SMOG, TRAFFIC JAMS, noise,
MILES OF CONCRETE RIBBONS HAVE BECOME A WAY OF LIFE FOR TOO MANY
AMERICANS.

HERE IN FLORIDA, WE'RE SOMEWHAT BETTER OFF. THE POPULATION
INCREASED 37 PERCENT IN THE LAST DECADE -- AND THERE HAVE BEEN
NEARLY ONE AND A HALF MILLION NEWCOMERS. BUT 70 PERCENT OF
FLORIDA'S POPULATION LIVES ON 20 PERCENT OF THE LAND -- NOT
TWO PERCENT.

FLORIDA IS GROWING, BUT I WONDER IF ANYBODY IS ASKING THE

TOUGH QUESTIONS:

-- WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO PUT THE MILLIONS WHO WANT TO COME
HERE TO LIVE?

-- WILL THERE BE ENOUGH JOBS? ENOUGH GOOD HOMES? ENOUGH
DOCTORS? ENOUGH CLEAN WATER TO DRINK? ENOUGH PARKS FOR RECREATION?

-- GROWTH IN AMERICA TODAY IS HELTER-SKELTER, UNPLANNED AND
UNMANAGEABLE

-- AND WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES? WE CAN SEE EXAMPLES RIGHT
HERE IN FLORIDA:

-- WE SEE ESCAMBIA AND PENSACOLA BAYS SUFFERING FROM
INDUSTRIAL AND MUNICIPAL POLLUTION.

↳ -- WE SEE TAMPA BAY THREATENED BY OIL SPILLS AND SLICKS.

↳ -- WE SEE A ONCE BEAUTIFUL ST. JOHNS RIVER HEAVILY POLLUTED

FROM OIL, CHEMICAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTES.

↳ -- WE SEE DREDGING AND FILLING THREATENING SUCH PRESERVES

AS THE BIG CYPRUS SWAMP.

↳ -- WE SEE SOUTH FLORIDA FACING SHORTAGES ~~of~~ WATER QUALITY

AND WATER RESOURCES.

↳ I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE KIND OF RECORD FLORIDIANS

WANT.

↳ WHAT ARE THE ANSWERS?

ZERO GROWTH OR NO GROWTH IS NOT AN ANSWER. !

↳ THE ANSWER IS PLANNED GROWTH, PEOPLE-ORIENTED GROWTH, REASONED
GROWTH AND GROWTH WHICH PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT -- NOT DESTROYS
IT.

↳ HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET IT?

↳ FIRST, WE NEED TO BEGIN TO PLAN OUR GROWTH ↳ WE MUST CONSIDER
THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND OF PRIVATE
DEVELOPMENT.

↳ WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO ALLOW DEVELOPERS AND REAL ESTATE
SPECULATORS TO DESTROY THE DELICATELY BALANCED WETLANDS AND
MARSHES. ↳ IT'S TIME TO STOP THE "FAST BUCK DEVELOPERS" AND QUICK
PROFIT SEEKERS FROM OVERRIDING THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

L SECOND, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT THROUGH PLANNING, OUR GROWTH WILL NOT BE CHEAP. L ARE WE WILLING TO PAY THE BILL? WE MUST!

L THIRD, WE HAVE TO BE RESOLUTE. DOING SOMETHING ABOUT POLLUTION, PLANNING OUR GROWTH, IS NOT A ONE NIGHT STAND. IT TAKES SUSTAINED EFFORT. IT TAKES A SUSTAINED EFFORT TO SEE THAT LAWS ARE ENFORCED.

L IT TAKES COMMITMENT -- NOT JUST FROM THE LEADERS. BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, FROM THE PEOPLE.

I BELIEVE WE CAN DO IT. I BELIEVE WE CAN PROTECT OUR OCEANS FROM DUMPING. (*International agreement*)

L we we need world wide anti-pollution efforts.
L we must forbid dumping of sewage into waterways.

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I BELIEVE WE CAN UNDERSTAND GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND NATURE,
AND I BELIEVE IF NATURE WINS, MAN WINS.

FINALLY, WE NEED SOLID PROGRAMS.

I AM GOING TO INTRODUCE NATIONAL GROWTH POLICY LEGISLATION

TO SET UP THE FRAMEWORK FOR ORDERLY, PLANNED GROWTH

~~we must not need water~~

WE MUST MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO TAX THE POLLUTER -- TO MAKE

IT COSTLY TO POLLUTE THE PEOPLE'S AIR AND WATER.

~~we must offer 10 per centures to industry -~~

WE NEED STIFF AND UNBENDING PESTICIDE LEGISLATION.

~~The upper beds of the Delta of the Apalachicola River~~

WE MUST BEGIN A MASSIVE PROGRAM TO RECYCLE TONS AND TONS

~~are threatened with pesticide
Pollution.~~

OF REUSABLE SOLID WASTE.

I HAVE ALREADY INTRODUCED LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ~~provide a~~

COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF WASTE AND SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES ~~on~~

~~a Regional River basin scope.~~

L I WILL SOON INTRODUCE LEGISLATION CREATING ENVIRONMENTAL
SAVINGS BONDS AND AN ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND TO FINANCE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS

L AND WE MUST SAY TO ALL POLLUTERS! YOU CANNOT TAKE FROM
THE LAND, THE WATER AND THE AIR UNLESS YOU RETURN THAT LAND,
THAT WATER AND THAT AIR TO ITS ORIGINAL SOURCE UNPOLLUTED,
UNCONTAMINATED AND UNSCARRED.

L FLORIDA CAN BE SAVED FOR YOU, FOR YOUR CHILDREN, AND *your*
GRANDCHILDREN!

L I WANT TO JOIN WITH YOU IN AN EFFORT TO GUARANTEE THAT FROM
PENSACOLA TO KEY WEST GOVERNMENT WILL JOIN HANDS WITH THE PEOPLE
IN PROTECTING FLORIDA'S NATURAL TREASURES -- ITS BEACHES, ITS
BAYS, ITS RIVERS, ITS LAND, AND ITS AIR.

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"COME SEE FLORIDA, ITS' BEAUTIFUL, IT'S STILL HERE -- THE PEOPLE
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in America
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~~become~~ And what are the consequences? We can see examples right here in Florida:
suffering
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--Escambia and Pensacola Bays ~~are polluted because of inadequate~~ from
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~~Third~~

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