

NEWS RELEASE HUMPHREY FOR PRESIDENT

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FOR RELEASE -- 8 p.m., MARCH 9, 1972

HUMPHREY ACCUSES ADMINISTRATION OF
BLIND INDIFFERENCE TO POOR AND URBAN
AMERICANS

CONTACT: JACK MACDONALD

TAMPA, March 9--Senator Hubert H. Humphrey today accused the Nixon Administration of "callous cutbacks, broken promises, and blind indifference to the American poor and the city dweller after a decade of progress under Democratic administrations."

In an address to the Conference of the Florida Association of Community Action Agencies here, Humphrey said:

"The position of the Nixon Administration is simply this: If it's for the cities or if it's for the poor, cut it out. And the budget of the Administration proves it. The President's message to the poor is 'wait--wait a little longer.

"In housing and community development, the Nixon Administration would spend \$1.3 billion less than Congress appropriated last year.

"That means \$465 million less for rebuilding our cities. It means no increase at all in the Model Cities program. It means cutting rent supplements and rental assistance.

"It means new construction starts in public housing will fall way below national goals.

"And in human terms, it means that too many people will continue to live in dilapidated housing, shabby, unhealthy apartments, rundown neighborhoods in deteriorating inner cities."

Humphrey said the Administration is in full-scale retreat in the anti-poverty program with a proposal to cut \$140 million.

"It plans no expansion of the food stamp program. It plans to slash the Community Action Program--your program--by \$56 million.

"And they've tried before, and they'll try again to eliminate the emergency food and medical service program.

"These budget cuts are callous, restrictive, and punitive. They show nothing but blind indifference to the needs of the poor."

Humphrey said that after a steady decline in the number of Americans living in poverty under Democratic Administrations, the number rose last year for the first time in a decade.

"In the 1960s, we began a food stamp program that has gone from 100,000 participants to over 10 million," he said.

"We began Medicaid so that those who have less can have decent health care.

"We began the Neighborhood Youth Corps so that the sons and daughters of the poor could participate in worthwhile work.

"We began Headstart and the Job Corps and legal services and community action agencies.

"The time has come to renew that commitment to end poverty and hunger in America.

"The time has come for President to pledge that he will undertake that task. Until we have new leadership, we will remain a Nation of 25 million Americans, ill-fed, ill-housed, ill-clothed and ill-cared for."

March 8, 1972

MEMORANDUM

TO: SENATOR

FROM: DAN

SUBJECT: TAMPA APPEARANCE BEFORE THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES

The basis of this speech--in terms of the Nixon budget--was prepared for us by the League of Cities.

Here are some points you should consider:

1. The Community Action Programs are suffering from these fund cutbacks.
2. The CAP's are often controversial agencies in the communities where they work because they have often mobilized the poor to fight against the local power structure.
3. I think you should emphasize the fact that the poor do have rights, that the poor have something to contribute to this nation and that no one can speak for the ~~poor~~ except the poor. These are themes that will go over very well before this group.

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES

TAMPA, FLORIDA

MARCH 9, 1972

TWELVE YEARS AGO WE DISCOVERED POVERTY IN AMERICA--
HUNGER IN OUR CITIES, DEPRIVATION IN RURAL AMERICA AND
40 MILLION INVISIBLE PEOPLE LOCKED IN A BONDAGE OF DESPAIR
AND WANT.

IN THE LAST DECADE WE BEGAN AN EFFORT TO FEED THE
HUNGRY AND GIVE ADEQUATE INCOMES TO THE POOR.

--WE BEGAN A FOOD STAMP PROGRAM THAT HAS GONE FROM
100,000 PARTICIPANTS TO OVER 10 MILLION.

--WE BEGAN MEDICAID SO THAT THOSE WHO HAVE LESS CAN HAVE
HEALTH CARE.

--WE BEGAN THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS SO THAT THE SONS
AND DAUGHTERS OF THE POOR COULD WORK.

--WE BEGAN HEADSTART AND JOB CORPS AND LEGAL SERVICES,

--WE BEGAN COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES.

THESE PROGRAMS ARE NOT DREAMS, THEY'RE NOT PLANS ON PAPER. THEY'RE HERE, THEY'RE REAL. AND THEY MUST BE CONTINUED AND STRENGTHENED.

THERE WAS ANOTHER SIDE TO OUR ANTI-POVERTY EFFORTS OF THE 1960'S. IT WAS A BELIEF THAT SOMETHING COULD BE DONE. IT WAS A BELIEF THAT HERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS, WHAT ONE PERSON DID, MADE A DIFFERENCE.

AND THESE BELIEFS WERE ECHOED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAD A BELIEF IN PEOPLE AND WERE COMMITTED TO AIDING THE POOR IN AMERICA.

AS WE BEGIN A NEW DECADE I SENSE A LESSENING IN OUR STRUGGLE TO AID THE POOR, A SLACKING OF THE PACE TO END HUNGER. IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE WILL HAS GONE OUT OF OUR FIGHT IN THE BATTLE AGAINST POVERTY.

AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE NOT TO BLAME FOR THEY STILL HAVE THE COMPASSION AND SENSITIVITY TO CARE.

BUT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION WITH ITS CUTBACKS AND BROKEN PROMISES HAS FAILED TIME AND TIME AGAIN TO EQUAL THE PEOPLE'S COMPASSION AND SENSITIVITY TO THE NEEDS OF THE POOR.

AND WE CAN SEE THE EVIDENCE CLEARLY IN THE PRESIDENT'S NEW BUDGET. FOR A BUDGET IS MORE THAN DOLLARS AND CENTS-- IT'S A MEASURE OF WHERE A GOVERNMENT PLACES ITS PRIORITIES-- IT'S A MEASURE OF NEEDS AND COMMITMENTS.

LET'S LOOK AT THAT BUDGET IN THE AREAS WHERE MOST OF YOU
WORK--THE CITIES.

THE POSITION OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS SIMPLY
THIS: IF IT'S FOR THE CITIES AND IF IT'S FOR THE POOR, CUT
IT OUT. AND THE BUDGET INK OF THE ADMINISTRATION PROVES THIS.

IN HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THE NIXON
ADMINISTRATION WANTS \$1.3 BILLION LESS THAN CONGRESS
APPROPRIATED LAST YEAR.

THIS MEANS THERE WILL BE \$465 MILLION LESS FOR
REBUILDING OUR CITIES.

IT MEANS THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE IN MODEL CITIES.

IT MEANS CUTTING RENT SUPPLEMENTS AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE.

IT MEANS NO FUNDS FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED MONEY TO IMPROVE THEIR HOMES.

IT MEANS NEW CONSTRUCTION STARTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING WILL FALL WAY BELOW NATIONAL GOALS.

AND IN HUMAN TERMS THESE CUTBACKS MEAN THAT TOO MANY PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE IN DELAPIDATED HOMES, SHABBY APARTMENTS, RUNDOWN NEIGHBORHOODS IN DETERIORATING INNER CITIES.

IN SERVICES TO THE POOR--THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY BUDGET--IS UNDER ATTACK.

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS PROPOSED A \$140 MILLION CUTBACK IN POVERTY FIGHTING FUNDS.

IT PLANS NO EXPANSION OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM.

IT PLANS TO SLASH THE COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM--YOUR
PROGRAM-BY \$56 MILLION.

AND THEY'VE TRIED BEFORE AND THEY'LL TRY AGAIN
TO ELIMINATE THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND MEDICAL SERVICE PROGRAM.

THESE BUDGET CUTS ARE CALLOUS, RESTRICTIVE, REGRESSIVE
AND SHOW NOTHING BUT BLIND INDIFFERENCE TO THE NEEDS OF THE
POOR.

CUTBACKS IN THE COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM MEAN THAT AN
IMPORTANT VOICE OF THE POOR WILL BE SILENCED.

IT MEANS PROGRAMS--YOUR PROGRAMS--THAT WOULD HELP THE
PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOODS--WILL BE CUT BACK OR ELIMINATED
ALTOGETHER.

CUTBACKS IN THE EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM WILL MEAN THAT MORE CHILDREN WILL GO TO BED WITHOUT AN EVENING MEAL.

THESE CUTBACKS IN SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE POOR MAKE ONE WONDER: DOES RICHARD NIXON WANT THE POOR TO BECOME INVISIBLE AGAIN? DOES HE CARE?

WHAT EXCUSE DOES HE GIVE THAT IT WAS HIS ADMINISTRATION THAT BROUGHT ABOUT THE FIRST INCREASE IN POVERTY IN A DECADE. THE PRESIDENT SAYS TO THE POOR: WAIT LONGER.

I SAY THE POOR HAVE WAITED LONG ENOUGH.

THE POVERTY BUDGET MUST BE INCREASED, NOT DECREASED.

THE POOR IN AMERICA MUST HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS TO MAKE THEIR OWN CHOICES AS YOU AND I DO.

AND ALL OF US MUST BEGIN TO TREAT THE POOR AS HUMAN BEINGS WHO HAVE A CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE TO THE COUNTRY, WHO HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY.

THE TIME HAS COME TO RENEW A NATION'S COMMITMENT TO END POVERTY AND HUNGER IN AMERICA.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR A PRESIDENT TO PLEDGE THAT HE WILL UNDERTAKE THIS TASK.

UNLESS HE DOES, WE WILL REMAIN A NATION OF 25 MILLION AMERICANS, ILL-FED, ILL-HOUSED, ILL-CLOTHED AND ILL-CARED FOR.

March 8, 1972

001326

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REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES

001327

TAMPA, FLORIDA

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NOTE

1960s - Dissent - Decision 001328

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Job Corps Model Cities
Vista
Teacher Corps

WE BEGAN HEADSTART AND JOB CORPS AND LEGAL SERVICES *for the Poor*

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New Deal

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Wolfe



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