

001393

MEMORANDUM

March 15, 1972

TO: Senator

FROM: Dan S.

SUBJECT: Address at the University of Wisconsin *March 16*
Stevens Point.

Stevens Point is a town of approximately 11,000. The campus enrollment is about 8,000.

The students are quite unlike the ones encountered in Madison. Almost all of them come from towns under 1,000 population from the central Wisconsin area. They are more worried about jobs and education than campus disruptions and dropping out.

Stevens Point is a semi-industrialized area and has a strong labor movement and is in a Polish area. The area surrounding the town is small farm and dairy farm.

The speech is about young people beginning to get involved in the problems of rural and small-town America. We talk about national growth, urban-rural imbalance, and a need for greater opportunity in rural America. Our advance people tell us that this type of theme should go over well with the students.

001394

I VIEW THIS ELECTION AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN
TO WORK ON THE UNFINISHED AGENDA OF HUMAN NEEDS STILL FACING
AMERICA. - End War - Arms control!

--THE NEED FOR JOBS

--THE NEED TO END POVERTY AND HUNGER

--THE NEED FOR A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

--THE NEED FOR IMPROVED HEALTH CARE

--THE NEED FOR BETTER HOMES + neighborhoods

--THE NEED FOR IMPROVED FARM INCOME

The need to Reentitize + modernize Rural America

THESE ARE ONLY SOME OF THE NEEDS OF THE AMERICAN

PEOPLE--PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED BY GOVERNMENT AT ALL
LEVELS.

YOUR FIRST OBLIGATION IN 1972 IS TO MAKE SURE THAT
YOUR POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT HAS AN IMPACT ON THE LOCAL AND
STATE LEVEL WHERE THE PEOPLE AND THEIR NEEDS ARE.

TOO OFTEN WE BECOME PREOCCUPIED WITH GOVERNMENT IN
WASHINGTON. BUT THERE ARE GOVERNMENTS IN WAUSAU, BLACK
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN RAPIDS AND MANY MORE CITIES AND
TOWNS IN WISCONSIN.

AND THIS IS WHERE IT'S AT--THIS IS WHERE THINGS ARE
HAPPENING.

YOUR JOB IN 1972 IS NOT JUST TO REGISTER, NOT JUST
TO ORGANIZE, NOT JUST TO VOTE, BUT TO BEGIN TO MAKE GOVERNMENT
RESPONSIVE TO PEOPLE OF ALL AGES.

AND HERE IN CENTRAL WISCONSIN ONE OF OUR GOALS MUST
BE TO MAKE REVITALIZATION OF RURAL AND SMALL TOWN AMERICA
ONE OF THE TOP PRIORITIES OF GOVERNMENT.

L WHY SHOULD YOUNG PEOPLE SUCH AS YOURSELVES BE FORCED
TO LEAVE A SMALL COMMUNITY FOR A BIG AND OVERCROWDED CITY
BECAUSE OF A LACK OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES?

L AND WHEN YOU LEAVE YOUR HOMETOWNS YOU TAKE YOUR TALENTS,
SKILLS AND LEADERSHIP ABILITIES WITH YOU.

L WHY SHOULD FAMILIES BE FORCED OFF THEIR FARMS IN GROWING
NUMBERS?

L WHY SHOULD HEALTH CARE FACILITIES IN RURAL AREAS BE
INFERIOR TO THE ONES WE FIND IN URBAN AMERICA?

L WHY SHOULD ALMOST 50 PERCENT OF THE NATION'S POOR
LIVE IN A RURAL AMERICA WHICH CONTAINS ONLY 35 PERCENT OF
THE TOTAL POPULATION?

L THERE ARE NO EASY ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS, BUT
ONE FACT IS CLEAR,

L IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR MILLIONS OF AMERICANS
LIVING IN SMALL TOWNS AND ON FARMS TAKES RESOURCES--NOT
PROMISES.

AND I DO NOT SEE ^{that} ~~TODAY THE COMMITMENT OF THE RESOURCES~~
~~FROM AN ADMINISTRATION THAT SAYS IT CARES ABOUT THE FARMER,~~
~~THE WORKER AND THE STUDENT.~~

AND I DO NOT SEE POSITIVE ACTION FROM AN ADMINISTRATION
THAT SAYS RURAL AMERICA MUST NOT BE EMPTIED OF PROMISE.

AGRICULTURE ~~AS THE ESSENTIAL ECONOMIC FOUNDATION OF~~
~~RURAL AMERICA~~ IS IN TROUBLE TODAY, ^{Many Rural} ~~AFFECTING~~ COMMUNITIES AS
^{are} ~~THIS ONE WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE IS~~ THREATENED BY FALLING FARM
PRICES.

IT IS WRONG THAT THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE ~~AND~~ NOT JUST FARMERS,
BUT BUSINESSMEN, STUDENTS, WORKING PEOPLE AND PROFESSIONALS--
SHOULD BE LOW ON THE LIST OF ADMINISTRATION PRIORITIES.

LOOK AT THE FACTS AND FIGURES. IN THE PRESIDENT'S NEWLY
ANNOUNCED BUDGET:

--THERE WAS AN 8 PERCENT CUT IN FUNDS FOR RURAL WATER,
SEWER AND SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

--A \$50 MILLION REDUCTION IN RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION ASSISTANCE

--A DEEP CUT IN THE PROJECTED ^{FUNDING} RATE FOR AREA AND DISTRICT
DEVELOPMENT

--A \$150 MILLION CUT IN LOANS FOR FARM AND EMERGENCY

CREDIT

L ALL OF THESE CUTBACKS SAY THE NEGLECT WILL CONTINUE AND
THE LIFE OF THE PEOPLE IN CENTRAL WISCONSIN, MINNESOTA AND
OTHER RURAL STATES WILL NOT IMPROVE.

L WHEN RURAL AND SMALL TOWN AMERICA ARE NEGLECTED, THE
ENTIRE NATION SUFFERS.

URBAN AMERICA CAN NO LONGER COPE WITH THE PRESSURE OF
MILLIONS OF AMERICANS LEAVING FARMS AND SMALL TOWNS AND
MOVING TO CITIES. SERVICES IN OUR CITIES ARE BREAKING DOWN,
OUR URBAN ENVIRONMENT IS BADLY DETERIORATING AND THE QUALITY
OF LIFE IS DECLINING FOR ALL.

SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE CROWDING
ON TO 2 PERCENT OF THE LAND.

A QUESTION OF BALANCED NATIONAL GROWTH IS INVOLVED.

YET THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND PROGRAMS CONTINUE
TO FOSTER CONCENTRATIONS OF PEOPLE, JOBS AND RESOURCES IN
LARGE CITIES AND METROPOLITAN REGIONS OF THE NATION.

ALTHOUGH CLOSE TO 70 MILLION AMERICANS LIVE OUTSIDE
METROPOLITAN AREAS TODAY, THEY ARE BEING SHORT-CHANGED BY
ALMOST ALL FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

IF WE FAIL TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE IMBALANCE OF OUR
GROWTH MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF THE NATION'S POPULATION BY
THE YEAR 2000 WILL BE LIVING ALONG THE UPPER ATLANTIC COAST,
AROUND THE GREAT LAKES AND ALONG THE SOUTH CALIFORNIA
COASTLINE.

L THESE TRENDS AND THE PROBLEMS THEY CREATE ARE NOT
INEVITABLE.

THEY CAN BE STOPPED. NOT BY A MASSIVE BACK-TO-THE-
FARM MOVEMENT, BUT BY PROVIDING MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES,
DECENT INCOMES, GOOD SCHOOLS, AND HOSPITALS IN RURAL AND
SMALL TOWN AMERICA.

BUT THESE THINGS ARE NOT A PRIVILEGE OF RURAL AMERICANS,
THEY ARE A RIGHT.

THE PROBLEMS OF STATES LIKE MINNESOTA AND WISCONSIN CAN
NO LONGER BE ISOLATED BECAUSE WHAT HAPPENS IN HIBBING OR
STEVENS POINT AFFECTS CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE AND MINNEAPOLIS.

IT IS NOT A LIBERAL ISSUE OR A CONSERVATIVE ISSUE. IT
IS NOT NORTHERN, SOUTHERN, MIDWESTERN OR WESTERN. IT IS THE
VERY LIFE OF OUR COUNTRY.

001403

10

AND YOU HAVE TO BEGIN TO CARE, AND YOU MUST BEGIN
TO USE YOUR NEW-FOUND POLITICAL MUSCLE TO SEE THAT WE BEGIN
THE JOB OF MEETING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE NO MATTER WHERE THEY
LIVE.



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