

001622

MEMORANDUM

APRIL 5, 1972

TO: Senator Humphrey

FROM: Mark Epstein

SUBJECT: Bellevue-Stratford Rose Garden appearance
Philadelphia, Thursday, April 6

This is a labor organized event with an audience that will be mostly elderly.

You have information on inflation and rising prices, labor's fight for progressive legislation, the needs of the elderly and your programs for older Americans.

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REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

BELLEVUE-STRATFORD HOTEL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

APRIL 6, 1972

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L LET'S TALK A LITTLE THIS AFTERNOON ABOUT POCKETBOOKS
AND PRICES. L AND IF WE TELL IT LIKE IT IS, WE'LL HAVE TO
TALK ABOUT THIN POCKETBOOKS AND INFLATED PRICES.

L MANY OF YOU HAVE TO LIVE AND MAKE DO ON FIXED INCOMES--
PENSIONS, SOCIAL SECURITY, AND THE LIKE.

L WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PRICES GO UP AND UP[?]--YOU GET HIT THE
HARDEST! AND EVERYWHERE YOU TURN PRICES ARE SKYROCKETING. }

--FEBRUARY'S FOOD PRICES WERE UP 1.7 PERCENT--THE BIGGEST
MONTHLY INCREASE IN 14 YEARS. AND THE ANNUAL RATE OF
INCREASE FOR FOOD IS 24 PERCENT.

--AS GEORGE MEANY TOLD THE PRICE COMMISSION LAST WEEK,
IN A SURVEY OF 38 STORES FROM JANUARY TO MID-MARCH,
HAMBURGER WAS UP 29 PERCENT.

L AND, AS YOU WELL KNOW, FOOD PRICES HAVE LOTS OF
COMPANY IN OUR SKY-HIGH INFLATION.

--LOOK AT RENTS. L MANY RENTAL UNITS HAVE NO PRICE
CONTROLS--AND RENTS ARE UP IN MANY AREAS 10 PERCENT--IN
SOME PLACES 15 TO 20 PERCENT.

--MEDICAL COSTS ARE UP 6.6 PERCENT. L THE PRICE OF A
HOSPITAL BED IS \$100 A DAY OR HIGHER. EYEGLASSES CAN COST
\$50 OR MORE. AND, FOR ELDERLY AMERICANS, PRESCRIPTION
DRUGS ARE THE LARGEST SINGLE PERSONAL HEALTH EXPENDITURE--
AND DRUGS YOU MUST PAY FOR OUT OF YOUR THINNING POCKETBOOK--
UNLESS YOU'RE IN A HOSPITAL--AND THEN YOU HAVE TO HELP PAY
FOR YOUR BED AND BOARD.

--LOOK AT TRANSPORTATION COSTS. L AIRLINES ARE ASKING
FOR HIGHER PRICES, TRAIN TICKETS--FOR THE FEW TRAINS WE
HAVE LEFT--KEEP RISING L AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION--BUSES
AND SUBWAYS KEEP SKYROCKETING L YES, SOME CITIES HAVE
DISCOUNTS FOR OLDER PEOPLE--BUT THE DISCOUNTS ARE ONLY
GOOD FOR A FEW HOURS A DAY. AND USUALLY NOT IN RUSH HOUR.
L AND WHEN GEORGE MEANY RESIGNED FROM THE PAY BOARD HE
TOLD IT LIKE IT IS--"THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE BEING GOUGED
AT THE SUPERMARKET AND SQUEEZED IN THE PAYCHECK."
L BUT NOW THERE ARE SOME WHO SCORN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE
LABOR MOVEMENT--AND THE WORKING MEN AND WOMEN OF AMERICA.

L THEY SAY THAT LABOR HAS BECOME MUSCLE BOUND AND
UNRESPONSIVE TO PEOPLE'S NEEDS.

L I SAY HOW TRAGICALLY WRONG THEY ARE.

L LOOK OVER THE HISTORY OF RECENT PROGRESSIVE SOCIAL
LEGISLATION:

--WE COULD NOT HAVE PASSED MEDICARE WITHOUT THE BACKING
OF THE AMERICAN WORKING MAN L FOR TWO DECADES I FOUGHT TO
GET MEDICARE--AND LABOR WAS IN THE FIGHT ALL THE WAY.

L --WE COULD NOT HAVE PASSED THE WAR ON POVERTY, THE
VOTING RIGHTS ACT, THE FOOD STAMP BILL WITHOUT LABOR'S
SUPPORT.

L AND TODAY IT IS THE SAME: OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND
SAFETY, THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION,
SOCIAL SECURITY INCREASES, UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION,
MINIMUM WAGES AND FAIR LABOR STANDARDS--AND A HOST OF OTHER
VITAL PROGRAMS ARE BEING FOUGHT FOR BY THE AMERICAN LABOR

MOVEMENT.

and LABOR IS IN THE FIGHT TO PUT A LID ON PRICES LABOR
KNOWS THAT WE WON'T PROTECT THE SAVINGS OF AMERICANS YOUNG
AND OLD UNTIL WE GUARANTEE FAIRNESS AND EQUITY IN OUR
ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

L FIRST THINGS FIRST, IF WE HAVE CONTROLS, LET'S MAKE
THEM TOUGH ONES THAT REALLY WORK. AND FOR ALL AMERICANS--

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ESPECIALLY OLDER AMERICANS--LET'S GUARANTEE THEIR RIGHTS

TO FAIR AND ADEQUATE INCOMES.

Older Americans

THE FIRST PRIORITY FOR OUR 20 MILLION ELDERLY CITIZENS

IS CLEAR AS DAY--AN ADEQUATE AND DECENT INCOME THAT'S THE

REAL KEY TO GOOD DIETS AND QUALITY HOUSING. ONE OUT OF

EVERY FOUR OLDER AMERICANS--MORE THAN 5 MILLION--LIVE IN

POVERTY AND IF PRICES KEEP GOING UP, THAT NUMBER WILL

SURELY INCREASE DRAMATICALLY AND DRASTICALLY.

IT IS WRONG AND IT IS GROSSLY UNFAIR THAT OUR SOCIETY

SHORT-CHANGES THOSE WHO IN THEIR PRODUCTIVE YEARS HAVE

CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH. AND THE TIME FOR CHANGE--THE TIME

FOR A FAIR CHANCE FOR OLDER AMERICANS--IS NOW.

✓ I PROPOSE A NEW DEAL FOR THE ELDERLY CITIZENS OF
AMERICA:

1. I CALL AGAIN FOR A 25 PERCENT INCREASE IN SOCIAL
SECURITY BENEFITS, WITH A \$100 A MONTH MINIMUM PROVISION,
AND A COST OF LIVING ESCALATOR FOR REAL AND PERMANENT
INFLATION PROTECTION

2. I HAVE PROPOSED INCREASES IN THE OLD AGE ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM TO FEDERALLY-FUNDED MINIMUM LEVELS OF \$165 A MONTH
FOR A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL AND \$215 FOR A COUPLE. ✓ THESE
INCREASES WILL HELP TO LIFT THE 5 1/2 MILLION ELDERLY AS
WELL AS THE MORE THAN 1 1/2 MILLION BLIND AND DISABLED ABOVE
THE POVERTY LINE.

L 3. I HAVE PROPOSED AND INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE THE
"HUMPHREY HOME HEALTH SERVICES PLAN FOR ELDERLY AMERICANS."

THIS COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM WILL CLOSE A MAJOR GAP IN
MEDICARE AND PUT A NEW EMPHASIS ON PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE.

L AS THE AUTHOR OF THE ORIGINAL MEDICARE LEGISLATION, I
TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS. L BUT THE PROGRAM
MUST BE REFORMED AND EXPANDED IF WE ARE TO TRULY EXTEND
TO THE ELDERLY THE RIGHTS AND REWARDS TO WHICH THEY ARE
ENTITLED.

L WE MUST ACT NOW TO REFORM THE MEDICARE SYSTEM WHICH
SAYS TO THE ELDERLY WE WILL RECOGNIZE SOME OF YOUR NEEDS,
BUT NOT ENOUGH TO ASSURE YOU OF GOOD ACCESS TO ALL YOUR
HEALTH NEEDS.

L THE HARSH FACT IS THAT 67 PERCENT OF HEALTH CARE
COSTS OF OLDER AMERICANS IS FOR HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES.

L AND THE FACT IS THAT HEALTH CARE COSTS ~~OF OLDER AMERICANS~~
ARE RISING TWICE AS FAST FOR OLDER AMERICANS ^{as} ~~than~~ FOR YOUNG
PERSONS--AND MEDICARE COVERS LESS THAN HALF THE COST.

^{Prices}
L THE BURDEN OF PRICES IS ON YOU--AND IT'S GETTING
HEAVIER EVERY DAY. L THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST CARRY MORE
OF THE LOAD. IT MUST MAKE THE NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY A HIGH
PRIORITY, AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS WITH MONEY.

L WE CAN AND MUST GREATLY EXPAND JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR OLDER AMERICANS. AMERICANS DON'T

JUST WANT PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY--YOU WANT PROGRAMS
THAT INVOLVE THE ELDERLY--THAT INVOLVE THEM IN THE LIFE
OF THEIR COMMUNITIES.

OLDER AMERICANS DON'T WANT CHARITY. ALL AMERICANS
WANT A FAIR SHARE AND AN EQUAL CHANCE TO LIVE AND PROSPER.

BUT WE MUST FACE THE FACT THAT YOU ARE THE FIRST AND
FOREMOST VICTIMS OF INFLATION AND RECESSION.

ALL WE CAN DO--ALL WE MUST DO--IN PROVIDING HEALTH
CARE, HOUSING ASSISTANCE, TAX RELIEF, DECENT DIETS,
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES ARE JUST PART OF WHAT OLDER
AMERICANS NEED.

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L IN THE FACE OF THESE GREAT NEEDS, WHAT IS THIS
ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE--A LENGTHY MESSAGE TO CONGRESS
ON OLDER AMERICANS THAT SHAMEFULLY IGNORES THE REAL NEEDS
OF 20 MILLION ELDERLY AMERICANS. ~~MY FRIENDS,~~ THE
ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE IS A MONUMENTAL SHAM.

--THE PRESIDENT SAYS NOTHING ABOUT A NATIONAL HOUSING
POLICY FOR THE ELDERLY OR THEIR IMMEDIATE HEALTH CARE NEEDS.

--HE PROPOSES A MERE 5 PERCENT INCREASE IN SOCIAL
SECURITY BENEFITS--A MEAGRE INCREASE THAT IS SHOCKINGLY
INADEQUATE.

--AND HE SIMPLY IGNORES THE JUST DEMANDS OF THE 3,400
DELEGATES TO THE PRESIDENT'S OWN WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE
ON THE AGING--WHO POINTEDLY CALLED FOR ACTION, NOT EMPTY
PROMISES.

YOU NEED AND ALL AMERICANS NEED A GOVERNMENT THAT CARES. A GOVERNMENT THAT CARES ABOUT THE PEOPLE--ABOUT THE PRICES THEY PAY AND THE JOBS THEY NEED.

THIS ELECTION YEAR YOU MUST PLAY YOUR PART-- YOU MUST VOTE AND ORGANIZE--IF WE ARE TO GET A GOVERNMENT THAT CARES ABOUT YOU, ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS, AND ABOUT YOUR HOPES.



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