

001649

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

COPE LEADERSHIP MEETING

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

APRIL 8, 1972

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THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE IN AMERICA--THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE  
IN WEST VIRGINIA--TODAY IS JOBS.

*W.V. unemp. - Charlotte 6.6%*

*Wheeling - 8 1/2%  
Huntington 11 1/2*

JOBS IN OUR STEEL MILLS, IN OUR FACTORIES, IN OUR COAL  
MINES AND ON OUR FARMS.

*L* TODAY WE ARE A NATION OF LOST OPPORTUNITIES.

*L* FIVE AND A HALF MILLION UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS HAVE LOST

THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADD MEANING TO THEIR LIVES AND TO

CONTRIBUTE THEIR SKILLS AND TALENTS TO BUILDING A BETTER

AMERICA.

*L* ~~THE~~ 20 MILLION FAMILY MEMBERS AFFECTED BY ~~THE~~ WIDESPREAD  
*are directly*  
*It means lost*  
AND TRAGIC UNEMPLOYMENT ~~WHICH IS SLEEPING THIS NATION DAILY~~

~~LOSE~~ OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVED HEALTH CARE, ADEQUATE DIETS

AND GOOD HOUSING.

*We The People  
Want to the People.*

AND OUR NATION IS LOSING THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE  
FORWARD INTO THE PROSPERITY WHICH SHOULD BE OURS IF WE  
~~WERE A NATION AT WORK--IF OUR FACTORIES AND MINES WERE~~  
NOT IDLE. UNEMPLOYMENT IS COSTING THE AMERICAN ECONOMY  
*over* *a year* \$80 BILLION IN LOST PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY.

L IN JANUARY OF LAST YEAR PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON TOLD  
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT "REDUCTION OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
TO 4 PERCENT IN 1972 IS OUR GOAL. OUR GOAL IS FULL EMPLOYMENT  
BY THE END OF 1972."

L YESTERDAY, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ANNOUNCED THAT  
UNEMPLOYMENT ROSE .2 PERCENT LAST MONTH TO 5.9 PERCENT.

THE RHETORIC OF THIS REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION IS JOBS.

6%

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BUT THE RECORD OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS RISING  
UNEMPLOYMENT,

AND IN THE GAP BETWEEN RHETORIC AND RECORD, BETWEEN  
PROMISE AND PERFORMANCE ARE THE DISAPPOINTMENTS AND ANGUISH  
OF MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WHO ARE DOWN ON THEIR LUCK AND OUT  
OF WORK.

L IN THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA NEARLY 59,000 PEOPLE OR  
9 PERCENT OF THE WORK FORCE IS UNEMPLOYED.

*Vietnam Vets*  
*as 20-24 -*  
*13% unemp*

THE FIGURES ARE STARK AND TRAGIC. BUT THEY DON'T TELL  
US WHAT UNEMPLOYMENT MEANS TO WORKING FAMILIES ALL ACROSS  
THIS STATE.

WHAT IS UNEMPLOYMENT? I'LL TELL YOU:

--IT'S DRAWING YOUR LAST UNEMPLOYMENT CHECK WITH NO JOB  
IN SIGHT.

--IT'S SITTING IN THE DARK TO SAVE ON THE LIGHT BILL.

--IT'S MAKING SHOES LAST ANOTHER MONTH AND DRIVING ON  
BALD TIRES.

--IT'S EATING A LITTLE LESS SO THE KIDS CAN EAT A LITTLE  
MORE.

--IT'S BORROWING FROM YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW OR LETTING  
YOUR INSURANCE LAPSE.

--IT'S FACING EVICTION BECAUSE YOU CAN'T PAY THE RENT OR  
MEET THE MORTGAGE.

--IT'S FACING YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR AND ASKING, "WHY?"



AND "HOW MUCH LONGER?"

--IT'S FACING YOUR WIFE AND CHILDREN -- AND ASKING,

"WHAT KIND OF MAN AM I?"

--AND, FINALLY, IT'S WONDERING HOW A NATION THIS RICH,  
~~THE~~ <sup>and</sup> ENTERPRISING, CAN LET MORE THAN 5 1/2 MILLION AMERICANS

WHO WANT TO WORK, NEED TO WORK, GO WITHOUT WORK. !

L UNEMPLOYMENT IS THE SHAME OF america!

L IT'S WRONG THAT THE AMERICAN WORKER IS FORCED TO PAY  
WITH HIS JOB ~~by~~ <sup>by</sup> THE ONE-SIDED, PRO-BIG BUSINESS FAILURES  
OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION.

L IT'S WRONG THAT OUR VIETNAM VETERANS WHO HAVE GIVEN  
SO MUCH TO THIS COUNTRY ARE NOW REWARDED WITH UNEMPLOYMENT

AND HARD TIMES. L TODAY THERE ARE 400,000 VETERANS LOOKING

FOR WORK--~~THEIR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS 8.6 PERCENT~~

L I WANT TO PUT A MILLION AMERICANS BACK TO WORK NOW

THROUGH AN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM. GOVERNMENT

MUST BE THE EMPLOYER OF FIRST OPPORTUNITY AS WELL AS LAST

RESORT.

L I WANT TO CUT THE WELFARE FOLLS AND THE UNEMPLOYMENT  
COMPENSATION LINES BY PUTTING AMERICANS ON THEIR FEET.

L I WANT TO PROVIDE 250,000 JOBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE  
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS NOW.

L I WANT TO HAVE JOB TRAINING THAT LEADS TO A JOB--NOT  
TO MORE TRAINING.

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AND I WANT TO PROVIDE OUR STATES WITH THE TOOLS  
TO COORDINATE AND EVALUATE OUR NATIONAL MANPOWER PROGRAMS.

THESE AREN'T IDLE HOPES, THESE AREN'T THE PLANS OF  
A DREAMER.

I'VE INTRODUCED THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF  
1972 TO PUT 1 MILLION AMERICANS BACK TO WORK AND PUT PAYCHECKS  
INTO THE HOMES OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF WORKING FAMILIES.

*Cost*  
SOME PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT WE CAN'T AFFORD AN  
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM THAT COULD PUT 1 MILLION  
AMERICANS BACK TO WORK.

THEY SAY THAT IT WILL COST TOO MUCH.

I SAY WE CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO DO IT.



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THE COST OF THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

I HAVE SPONSORED IS <sup>the cost of</sup> ~~3~~  $\frac{1}{3}$  ~~TIMES LESS THAN~~ THE TOTAL NATIONAL  
COST OF WELFARE.

EVERY DAY IN AMERICA AS UNEMPLOYMENT RISES, THE DOORS  
TO FULL OPPORTUNITY AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE ARE CLOSING TO  
MORE AND MORE WORKING AMERICANS.

TOO MANY WORKING FAMILIES ARE A PAY DAY OR TWO FROM  
BANKRUPTCY.

TOO MANY WORKING FAMILIES KNOW THAT THEY ARE ON AN  
ECONOMIC TREADMILL.

THEY CAN'T GET AHEAD.

THEY CAN'T MAKE ENDS MEET.

THEY CAN'T BUY THE THINGS THEY WANT--A NEW CAR, A NEW HOUSE, NEW APPLIANCES, AND NEW CLOTHES FOR THEIR CHILDREN. THEY ARE FACED EACH DAY WITH BILLS THEY CAN'T PAY AND TAXES THEY CAN'T AFFORD.

AMERICANS ARE FED UP WITH A SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS A PRIVILEGED FEW TO REAP VAST BENEFITS AT THE EXPENSE OF WORKING AMERICANS.

I PLEDGE TO THE PEOPLE OF WEST VIRGINIA THAT I WILL END THE INJUSTICE AND UNFAIRNESS OF AN ADMINISTRATION WHICH SACRIFICES JOBS TO FIGHT INFLATION.

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I PLEDGE TO YOU A FAIR SOCIETY THAT WILL NEVER LET  
PRICES AND PROFITS SKYROCKET WHILE WAGES ARE FROZEN.

I PLEDGE TO YOU A FAIR SOCIETY THAT WILL HAVE A TAX  
SYSTEM WHICH IS NOT RIGGED AGAINST WORKING AMERICANS.

I PLEDGE A FAIR SOCIETY THAT USES THE PRODUCTIVE  
RESOURCES OF THIS NATION TO SOLVE THE NEEDS OF ALL THE  
PEOPLE--A SOCIETY THAT MAKES ALL THE PEOPLE THE BENEFICIARIES  
OF OUR WEALTH AND OUR RESOURCES, NOT THE VICTIMS OF RECESSION  
AND HARD TIMES.



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