

MEMORANDUM

APRIL 10, 1972

TO: Senator Humphrey
FROM: Mark Epstein
SUBJECT: Press Conference - Holiday Inn
Erie, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, April 11

These suggested remarks are directed at both Erie's environmental concerns and our national transportation needs.

After the press conference, you will be visiting a General Electric plant where you will see the new mass transit railroad car referred to in the opening paragraph.

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

PRESS CONFERENCE - HOLIDAY INN

ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

APRIL 11, 1972

THIS AFTERNOON I WILL SEE THE RAILROAD CAR OF THE FUTURE--AND
IT WORKS, IT WORKS BECAUSE IT'S CLEAN. IT WORKS BECAUSE
IT SHOWS THAT WE CAN CLEAN UP OUR ENVIRONMENT--OUR AIR,
OUR LAND, AND OUR WATER--IF WE ARE WILLING TO COMMIT OUR
ENERGIES AND OUR RESOURCES TO FIGHTING POLLUTION.

AND HERE IN ERIE THE PEOPLE KNOW HOW DESPERATELY WE
NEED TO MAKE THAT COMMITMENT.

TODAY, THE GREATEST INLAND BODIES OF WATER ARE BEING
THREATENED WITH ECOLOGICAL DISASTER, THE GREAT INDUSTRIAL
MIGHT AND THE GROWING POPULATIONS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION
TAKE THEIR TOLL EVERY DAY.

LAKE ERIE IS IN MORTAL DANGER. THERMAL POLLUTION, PESTICIDES, MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTES POSE A GRAVE THREAT TO THE FUTURE OF THE LAKE AS A LIVING BODY OF WATER. WE MUST CLEAN IT UP. BUT THE COST WILL BE GREAT--BILLIONS OF DOLLARS AT THE MINIMUM.

AND THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF ERIE ARE DOING THEIR PART. THE PEOPLE OF ERIE ARE PUTTING OUT A TREMENDOUS EFFORT TO FIGHT POLLUTION--ESPECIALLY IN SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES. AND THE PEOPLE ARE BEARING MUCH OF THE LOAD--OF THE \$24 MILLION RECENTLY SPENT FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT EXPANSION, \$15 MILLION WAS RAISED BY A LOCAL BOND ISSUE.

BUT, I ASK YOU, IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOING ALL
IT CAN TO HELP US CLEAN UP OUR AIR, LAND AND WATER?

SADLY, THE ANSWER IS "NO." JUST LOOK AT PRESIDENT
NIXON'S NEW ENVIRONMENTAL BUDGET;

ONLY 1 PERCENT OF THE PROPOSED NEW BUDGET IS ALLOTTED
FOR POLLUTION CONTROL, AND THE PRESIDENT PROPOSES CUTTING
MOST ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS ACROSS THE BOARD. THE BUDGET
CALLS FOR:

--A REDUCTION OF \$1.2 MILLION IN PROGRAMS FOR OPERATION,
RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY.

--A REDUCTION OF \$5.4 MILLION FOR WASTE WATER TREATMENT
AND CONTROL.

--A REDUCTION OF \$15.4 MILLION FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.

IN ADDITION, THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS REQUESTED ONLY
\$171.5 MILLION FOR IMPLEMENTING THE 1970 CLEAN AIR ACT--
\$300 MILLION LESS THAN CONGRESS AUTHORIZED. AND THE
ADMINISTRATION IS PLANNING NO INCREASE WHATSOEVER IN ASSISTING
LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN SEWAGE TREATMENT--ASSISTANCE THE PEOPLE
OF ERIE DESPERATELY NEED.

YES, THE CRISIS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT IS A FINANCIAL ONE--
AND IT INCLUDES NOT JUST POLLUTION BUT THE USE WE MAKE OF
OUR RESOURCES AND HOW WE LIVE.

JUST LOOK AT OUR TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES--BY 1977--
JUST 5 YEARS FROM NOW--WE WILL NEED \$35 BILLION TO PAY FOR
TRANSIT MAINTENANCE, OPERATING SUBSIDIES FOR MASS TRANSIT,
AND HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS.

AND WITHIN THE NEXT 2 YEARS, ALMOST HALF OF ALL THE
BUSES IN THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE TO BE REPLACED.

IN SHORT, WE ARE NOT ADEQUATELY FUNDING OR PLANNING
OUR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS. AND WE ARE NOT ADEQUATELY
CONSIDERING THE ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC COST
OF HOW THIS NATION MOVES ITS PEOPLE.

FOR TRANSPORTATION, FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT WE NEED STRONG
NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN WASHINGTON. AND THERE ARE THINGS WE
CAN DO--WE MUST DO--RIGHT NOW.

--FIRST, I CALL UPON THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION TO SUPPORT THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1972--WHICH I RECENTLY INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE.

MY BILL WILL CRACK OPEN THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND. IT WILL USE THE IDLE BILLIONS FROM THIS FUND TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MASS TRANSIT FACILITIES, THE PREPARATION OF LOCALLY APPROVED COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF CITY STREETS, AND FOR TRANSIT OPERATING SUBSIDIES.

--SECOND, THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION MUST IMMEDIATELY RELEASE THE \$300 MILLION FOR MASS TRANSIT NOT BEING SPENT BY NIXON'S BUDGET BUREAU. CITIES AND COMMUNITIES BADLY NEED THIS MONEY,

THE CONGRESS HAS APPROPRIATED IT. THE TAXPAYERS HAVE PAID IT. THE PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE THIS MONEY SPENT ON THEIR TRANSIT SYSTEMS.

BUT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION REFUSES TO SPEND THESE FUNDS. IT REFUSED TO LISTEN TO EITHER THE CONGRESS OR THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.

--THIRD, I CALL UPON THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION TO DROP ITS OPPOSITION TO HAVING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO OUR BUS, SUBWAY AND COMMUTER SYSTEMS SO THAT THEY CAN STAY ALIVE. WE MUST PROVIDE OUR CITIES AND STATES WITH THE KIND OF EMERGENCY FUNDING THEY NEED TO KEEP THEIR TRANSIT SYSTEMS GOING.

AN EFFICIENT MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM MEANS SIGNIFICANTLY
REDUCED LEVELS OF AIR POLLUTION, IT MEANS GETTING TO WORK
ON TIME AT PRICES YOU CAN AFFORD AND IT MEANS AN END TO
CROWDED, CONGESTED AND UNSAFE HIGHWAYS.

CITIES AND STATES ARE NOT FALLING DOWN ON THE JOB OF
PROVIDING THIS NATION WITH AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE AND
BALANCED TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN SUPPLYING THEIR SHARE OF
THE MONEY TO BUILD AND OPERATE THESE SYSTEMS.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS AT FAULT FOR FALLING DOWN
ON THE JOB.

THE TIME HAS COME TO REVERSE THAT POLICY.

IT IS TIME TO GET ON WITH THE JOB OF MAKING THIS NATION'S
HIGHWAY SYSTEM, BUSLINES, RAILROADS AND MASS TRANSIT SYSTEMS
SECOND TO NONE.

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REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

PRESS CONFERENCE - HOLIDAY INN

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APRIL 11, 1972

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