

001808

MEMORANDUM

April 13, 1972

To: Senator Humphrey  
From: Mark Epstein  
Subject: Central Park Rally  
Johnstown, Pennsylvania  
Friday, April 14

We have prepared selections from the text of the West Virginia COPE speech of last Saturday.

Please note that pages 2 and 7 are updated and include material on Johnstown and Pennsylvania.

The biggest local issue is unemployment -- the Johnstown rate is over 8 per cent. There is no new industry, no jobs for young people. And foreign import competition has taken away jobs.

We have been advised to caution you against speaking on the problems of blacks. The racial situation in Johnstown is touchy.

001809

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

CENTRAL PARK RALLY

JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

APRIL 14, 1972

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THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE IN AMERICA--THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE  
IN PENNSYLVANIA--TODAY IS JOBS.

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

TODAY WE ARE A NATION OF LOST OPPORTUNITIES.

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.

THE 20 MILLION FAMILY MEMBERS AFFECTED BY THE WIDESPREAD  
AND TRAGIC UNEMPLOYMENT WHICH IS SWEEPING THIS NATION DAILY  
LOOSE OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVED HEALTH CARE, ADEQUATE DIETS  
AND GOOD HOUSING.

HERE IN PENNSYLVANIA 290,000 PEOPLE WERE OUT OF WORK  
IN THE MONTH OF MARCH--THAT'S 5.8 PER CENT OF THE WORK FORCE.

--THAT'S THE HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT FOR MARCH IN EIGHT  
YEARS.

--AND THAT'S THE NINTH STRAIGHT MONTH THAT UNEMPLOYMENT  
IN PENNSYLVANIA HAS BEEN ABOVE FIVE PER CENT.

LOOK AT JOHNSTOWN. HERE'S A COMMUNITY THAT HAS A GREAT  
TRADITION OF MANUFACTURING--A GREAT TRADITION OF WORK.

THE PEOPLE OF JOHNSTOWN ARE PROUD AND TOUGH.

YOU DON'T WANT FOOD STAMPS.

YOU DON'T WANT WELFARE.

YOU WANT JOBS.

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,

THIS ENTERPRISING, CAN LET MORE THAN 5 MILLION AMERICANS

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

UNEMPLOYMENT IS THE SHAME OF THIS NATION.

IT'S WRONG THAT THE AMERICAN WORKER IS FORCED TO PAY  
WITH HIS JOB FOR THE ONE-SIDED, PRO-BIG BUSINESS FAILURES  
OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION.

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

AND HARD TIMES. TODAY THERE ARE 400,000 VETERANS LOOKING  
FOR WORK--THEIR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS 8.6 PERCENT.

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.

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.

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.



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

I PLEDGE TO YOU THAT JOHNSTOWN WILL GET THE JOBS  
AND INDUSTRY IT NEEDS. JOHNSTOWN MUST NOT DIE--WE WON'T  
LET IT DIE.

--WITH JOBS, THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF JOHNSTOWN WON'T HAVE  
TO LEAVE THEIR HOME TOWN IN SEARCH OF WORK.

--WITH JOBS, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO BUY THE THINGS YOU  
WANT--A NEW CAR, A NEW HOUSE, NEW APPLIANCES, AND NEW  
CLOTHES FOR YOUR CHILDREN.

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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