

MEMORANDUM

April 19, 1972

TO: Senator
FROM: Dan and Bob
SUBJ: AFL-CIO Luncheon

*Sent
5 P.M.
April 19*

We have prepared a new theme which we feel you can use on many occasions: The Nixon Administration's failure to guard the security of American working families. We have obtained from the government a precise breakout of what it costs a family of 4 to live in the Southern New Jersey-Philadelphia region.

We document these costs and show the tremendous squeeze on the American worker under the Nixon Administration. We feel this is good stuff and really illustrates the unfair economic policies of this Administration.

001889

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

AFL-CIO

CHERRY HILL, NEW JERSEY

APRIL 20, 1972

WE HEAR A LOT TODAY ABOUT THE FAILURES OF THE NIXON
ADMINISTRATION:

--THE FAILURE TO HALT CRIME IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

--THE FAILURE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR CITIES AND SMALL
TOWNS

--THE FAILURE TO END THE WAR

--THE FAILURE TO STAND UP FOR THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF ALL
AMERICANS

--THE FAILURE TO PROVIDE DECENT ^{income} ~~pay~~ FOR 20 MILLION
SENIOR CITIZENS

THESE ARE ONLY SOME OF THE FAILURES -- THERE ARE MANY
OTHERS.

BUT THERE'S ONE FAILURE THAT STANDS OUT ABOVE ALL
OTHERS.

THERE'S ONE FAILURE THAT TOUCHES NEARLY EVERY MAN,
WOMAN AND CHILD IN THE UNITED STATES;

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS UTTERLY FAILED TO GUARD
THE ECONOMIC SECURITY OF AMERICAN WORKING FAMILIES.

TODAY IN AMERICA THERE ARE TOO MANY FAMILIES WHO WILL
FACE THE UNEMPLOYMENT LINE, THE WELFARE ROLLS, THE FOOD
STAMP LINES, REPOSSESSED HOMES AND CARS AND ECONOMIC RUIN.

THERE ARE FAR TOO MANY FAMILIES A PAY DAY AND A HALF
AWAY FROM BANKRUPTCY AND FORCED TO BORROW FROM FINANCE AND
CREDIT COMPANIES TO PAY THEIR BILLS.

YES, UNEMPLOYMENT AND SERIOUS ILLNESS CAN WIPE A
FAMILY OUT -- AND QUICK.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A JOB YOU CAN'T PAY THE BILLS.

AND HEALTH COSTS ARE SO DEVASTATING IT'S CHEAPER
TO SPEND A WEEK IN EUROPE THAN IT IS TO STAY A WEEK IN
ANY GOOD HOSPITAL.

IF A FAMILY IS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE A JOB AND
AVOID SERIOUS ILLNESS, IT STILL FACES A STAGGERING AND
UNPRECEDENTED SQUEEZE ON THE WEEKLY PAYCHECKS.

LET'S LOOK AT AN AVERAGE FAMILY IN THE SOUTHERN
NEW JERSEY AND PHILADELPHIA AREA.

WHAT DOES IT COST THIS FAMILY TO LIVE? HOW BAD IS
THE SQUEEZE?

HERE ARE SOME FIGURES FROM THE GOVERNMENT:

FOR A BARE BONES FAMILY BUDGET WITHOUT FRILLS, WITHOUT
VACATIONS AND A NEW CAR, IT WILL COST 4 PERSONS \$6,958
TO LIVE -- AND THAT'S PRETTY CLOSE TO SURVIVAL -- NOT LIVING.

LET ME TELL YOU HOW THE NIXON SQUEEZE WORKS. LET'S
ADD IT UP:

--IT COSTS \$2,000 FOR FOOD

--\$1,400 FOR HOUSING (RENTS & MORTGAGES)

--\$467 FOR YOUR CAR OR BUS FARES

--\$790 FOR CLOTHING AND PERSONAL CARE FOR YOUR FAMILY

--\$547 FOR FAMILY MEDICAL CARE

--\$356 FOR FAMILY GOODS

--\$341 FOR MINIMAL RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

--\$338 FOR SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES

--\$814 FOR INCOME TAXES

BUT WHAT DOES THE AVERAGE FAMILY MAKE? THEY HAVE A
WEEKLY TAKE-HOME PAY OF \$115.60. IF A MAN IS LUCKY ENOUGH
TO WORK FULLTIME ALL YEAR ROUND HE CAN TAKE HOME \$6,011.20
A YEAR AFTER TAXES.

HE CAN'T EVEN MEET THE BARE BONES BUDGET.

ACCORDING TO THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S OWN FIGURES,
THIS FAMILY CAN'T AFFORD TO LIVE IN THIS AREA,

BUT IT'S REALLY WORSE THAN THAT.

SINCE NIXON CAME INTO OFFICE, THE RISING COST OF
LIVING HAS DEVoured HIS PAYCHECK,

IN TERMS OF PURCHASING POWER, THE \$115.60 WEEKLY
PAYCHECK IS WORTH ONLY \$98.42 OR ABOUT \$5,200 A YEAR IN
REAL DOLLARS,

[THINGS ARE SO ~~RIGHT~~ FOR THIS FAMILY -- THE SQUEEZE
IS SO SEVERE -- THAT IT MAY FORCE HIM TO CUT BACK ON HIS
FOOD BUDGET.

IT MAY FORCE HIM TO SEND HIS WIFE OR KIDS TO WORK
TO HELP PAY THE BILLS. HIS CHILDREN MAY NOT SEE A DENTIST
FOR ONE OR TWO YEARS, THERE ARE NO VACATIONS AND NO NEW
CLOTHES.

THE ECONOMIC SQUEEZE ON AN AVERAGE AMERICAN FAMILY
IS UNFAIR.

IT'S NOT RIGHT.

I BELIEVE NO AMERICAN SHOULD BE FORCED TO PAY WITH HIS
JOB OR LIVE ON THE BORDER OF ECONOMIC RUIN, BECAUSE OF THE
ONE-SIDED, BIG BUSINESS POLICIES OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION.

AND I BELIEVE IT IS WRONG THAT AMERICAN WORKING
FAMILIES ARE FORCED TO SHOULDER THE BURDEN OF HIGH TAXES
AND FROZEN WAGES WHILE LAST YEAR THE PROFITS OF THE
100 LARGEST CORPORATIONS INCREASED 75 PERCENT.

DURING THE WAGE FREEZE ITSELF THE PROFITS OF
JOHN PIERPORT MORGAN AND COMPANY -- ONE OF THE NATION'S
GIANT BANKING BUSINESSES -- INCREASED THEIR PROFITS
35 PERCENT.

A 35 PERCENT INCREASE IN PROFITS FOR THIS GIANT BANK
DURING THE SAME 3 MONTHS THAT YOU WERE FROZEN.

THIS IS WRONG. THIS IS UNFAIR AND UNJUST.

YOU ELECT HUBERT HUMPHREY PRESIDENT AND THESE UNFAIR
POLICIES WILL END, THE SQUEEZE ON THE AMERICAN WORKING
FAMILY WILL END, AND THE PEOPLE WILL HAVE JUSTICE.



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