

REMARKS BY SENATOR
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

COPE DINNER
PARMA, OHIO

APRIL 29, 1972

ALL ACROSS OHIO PRICES HAVE BEEN GOING
UP.

EVERYWHERE YOUR FAMILY GOES--THE SUPERMARKET,
THE APPLIANCE STORE, THE SHOE STORE, THE DRUG STORE
THE REAL ESTATE OFFICE--PRICES ARE ON THE RISE.
ALONG WITH HIGH TAXES AND INFLATED DOLLARS, THEY
DEVOUR YOUR PAY CHECKS.

AT THE SAME TIME THAT PRICES HAVE BEEN
SKYROCKETING, NEWSPAPERS IN OHIO AND ACROSS THIS
NATION HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH HEADLINES ANNOUNCING
BOLD, NEW PRICE ROLLBACKS AND REFUNDS.

OHIO FAMILIES HAVE READ THESE STORIES, AND
THEY ARE WONDERING WHEN THE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF
DOLLARS IN ANNOUNCED REFUNDS WILL BE ROLLING IN
AND WHEN THE PRICE ROLLEBACKS WILL BE TAKING PLACE.

I'LL TELL YOU: NEVER! THE DRAMATIC A
ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE A MONUMENTAL FRAUD THAT ONCE AGAIN
GIVE BUSINESS A BREAK AT THE EXPENSE OF WORKING
FAMILIES.

RICHARD NIXON HAS TRIED TO GIVE THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE PRICE CONTROL, PRICE REFUNDS AND PRICE ROLLEBACKS
BY PRESS RELEASE. IT WON'T WORK AND WE KNOW BETTER.

HE TRIED TO GIVE US JOBS WITH PRESS RELEASES
AND PEACE WITH PRESS RELEASES. IT CAN'T BE DONE
THAT WAY. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE TOO SMART.

THE NIXON CONTROLS ARE NOTHING BUT A
COLLECTION OF BOLD STATEMENTS AND HEADLINE GRABBING
SPEECHES BY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS.

IF WE TAKE MR. NIXON AT HIS WORD, HOW
ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET THESE REFUNDS?

I FOUND OUT. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN PRICE
REFUNDS FROM COMPANIES WHO HAVE VIOLATED THE LAW
BY OVERCHARGING YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE, YOU
HAVE TO GO TO COURT AND AT YOUR OWN EXPENSE.

FAMILIES WILL HAVE TO PROVE THEY'VE BEEN
OVERCHARGED WHEN ALL OF US KNOW THAT WE ARE OVERCHARGED
EVERY DAY.

LET ME ASK YOU, HOW MANY WORKING FAMILIES
IN OHIO CAN AFFORD TO GO TO COURT TO GET THEIR REFUNDS?

H HERE'S WHAT REALLY HAPPENS: BIG BUSINESS
GETS TO KEEP ITS INFLATED PROFITS THAT IT ILLEGALLY
MADE WHILE WORKING FAMILIES HAVE TO GO TO COURT--IF
THEY WANT--AT THEIR EXPENSE AND IF THEY CAN EVEN
FIND OUT THAT THEY PAID TOO HIGH A PRICE FOR THEIR
PURCHASES. WHY SHOULD WE HAVE TO GO TO COURT? WHY
SHOULDN'T THE GOVERNMENT GO TO COURT FOR US?

IS THIS FAIR? IS THIS RIGHT? AND WHO
IS ACTUALLY BEING HELPED BY THIS REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION?

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS SHOWN ONCE AGAIN
THAT IT WANTS TO PROTECT ITS FRIENDS, AND THE WORKING
FAMILIES HERE IN PARMA, HERE IN OHIO, ARE NOT THE
FRIENDS.

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION REFUSES TO TAKE
THE STEPS NECESSARY TO BRING INFLATION UNDER
CONTROL:

--GIANT CORPORATIONS RECEIVE AUTOMATIC
CLEARANCE FOR PRICE INCREASES WHILE THE WAGES OF
THE AVERAGE WORKING FAMILY ARE HELD DOWN.

--OVER 300 OF THE NATION'S 3,000 LARGEST
FIRMS HAVE MADE WINDFALL PROFITS UNDER THE NIXON
PROGRAM. WINDFALL PROFITS--THAT'S SOMETHING THAT
BIG BUSINESS RECEIVES AND WORKING MEN AND WOMEN PAY
FOR WITH UNCONTROLLED PRICES.

AND ALL THE TIME PRICES CONTINUE TO CLIMB
THE PRICE COMMISSION PLANS NO HELP. IT DOES NOT
HAVE THE MACHINERY TO ROLL BACK PRICES. IT DOES
NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO HELP FAMILIES GET THEIR
REFUNDS. AND IT DOES NOT PROSECUTE VIOLATORS.

IT JUST ISSUES PRESS RELEASES AND PREDICTIONS
THAT INFLATION WILL BE UNDER CONTROL BY NOVEMBER.

RICHARD NIXON DOESN'T SHOP IN SUPERMARKETS
SO HE PROBABLY DOESN'T KNOW THAT INFLATION CONTROL
IN HIS ADMINISTRATION MEANS PRICE INCREASES AND
WAGE FREEZES.

I SAY THAT A PRICE COMMISSION THAT CAN
GRIND OUT A PRESS RELEASE CAN GRIND DOWN HIGH PRICES.

IF THIS ADMINISTRATION SPENT AS MUCH TIME
THINKING UP WAYS TO COMBAT INFLATION AS IT
SPENDS ON DECEIVING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, WE MIGHT
BE ON THE ROAD TO HALTING SPIRALING INFLATION.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE:

1. THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD GO TO COURT
ON BEHALF OF CONSUMERS TO OBTAIN PRICE REFUNDS.

2. ENFORCEMENT OF UNJUSTIFIED PRICE INCREASES
MUST BE TOUGH.

3. BIG BUSINESS SHOULD BE MADE TO
ABSORB A GREATER SHARE OF COST INCREASES INSTEAD
OF PASSING THEM ON TO CONSUMERS.

4. PRICE INCREASES SHOULD BE PUBLICLY
JUSTIFIED.

001997

April 28, 1972

MEMORANDUM

TO: SENATOR

FROM: DAN

SUBJECT: COPE DINNER

Bob and I found out that in order to get the price refunds that have been announced by the Price Commission, you have to go to court. We point this out in a cost of living speech. We believe you should hit hard on the theme that the administration is deceiving American families and if that they have to go to court to get refunds, the government should go to court for them. (We checked this out from the legal point of view and it is a responsible position.)

Other information: Most people at the dinner will be from the building trades. You should use "building a better America theme--homes, schools, hospitals, etc. "you fellows are builders of America and I want to build America too. You build with your skills and your hands--I want to build as your President by providing this country with the type of leadership that will get this country moving again."

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