

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

TENTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF THE
OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTERS

Radisson Hotel -- Minneapolis, Minnesota

February 24, 1974

This evening we mark 10 years of progress in the name of greater human dignity and decency:

-- Ten years of helping people so that they can help themselves.

-- Ten years of providing opportunity and promise for tens of thousands of disadvantaged people.

-- Ten years of proving that the American system can work for those who are given the training and skills to participate and compete.

-- Ten years of effectively fighting public enemy No. 1 in America: Poverty, unemployment and hunger.

-- And during this decade of hope, OIC has been led by a man who has worked tirelessly on behalf of Americans in need of a job and a better future: The Reverend Leon H. Sullivan.

When I was Vice President, I took a special interest in Dr. Sullivan's work, because I saw the great potential it held for giving communities all over the nation a viable method for community economic self-development.

I remember that when I first met Dr. Sullivan, I was in the office of the Vice President, and he came to call. I had requested that when he come to Washington he stop by for a visit. As I visited with this remarkable man, I was deeply moved by what he had to say and by his deep courage, and received a sense of inspiration from his words and his works.

I was supposed to address, that evening, a group of industrialists and corporate directors who were involved in a voluntary organization known as "Plans for Progress," designed to promote equal-opportunity employment.

Well, anyway, after the visit, I looked at Dr. Sullivan, and I said, "Reverend Sullivan, I know you are supposed to be the man who gives the prayer tonight at the dinner," because he had been invited to give the invocation, "And I am supposed to be the man who makes the address."

I said, "I believe that the good Lord will forgive me for not being very good in prayer, but that audience needs to hear a real good speech. I suggest, therefore, that we change the program. Will you let me give the invocation in whatever inadequate manner I can express myself, in the hope that Divine Providence will receive that invocation with forgiveness and understanding, and will you then, Dr. Sullivan, make the speech? Because," I said, "you can speak to both the audience and the Lord, both will listen, and both will be moved and will act."

OIC came into being because government -- city, state, and federal -- was not successful in training disadvantaged people.

It was Reverend Sullivan who had the genius to come forward with a plan for job training that met the specific needs of the people it was designed to help, as well as the future employer.

It was Reverend Sullivan who brought the principles of self-help, self-determination and self-reliance to the manpower field.

OIC was born at a time of social ferment -- at a time when the federal government was launching a number of new initiatives to help disadvantaged Americans.

The year 1964 was the time of OEO, the Job Corps, and the War on Poverty.

Many of these programs have been discarded by an Administration that daily pledges its allegiance to "efficiency" but forgets and neglects those Americans in desperate need of training and a good job.

Richard Nixon vetoed the Manpower Bill of 1970. And he vetoed the minimum wage bill and the Vocational Rehabilitation Act and countless other measures designed to begin tackling the tough problems of poverty and unemployment in America.

But Richard Nixon will never be able to kill OIC.

Hubert Humphrey, Leon Sullivan, and thousands of OIC graduates won't let him.

A man like Leon Sullivan is not willing to rest on his past accomplishments.

We can't talk about the past decade without looking to the months and years ahead.

I can state today that OIC and others dedicated to providing jobs for disadvantaged Americans will have to double and triple their efforts in 1974.

Why? Because unemployment is rising at an alarming rate, an unacceptable rate, a tragic rate.

Last October, 4.6 percent of the labor force -- or a little more than 4 million Americans -- were without jobs.

Today, the unemployment rate has skyrocketed to 5.2 percent and another 700,000 Americans have been thrown out of work. By June 30, as many as 5.5 million Americans could be without work with a jobless rate at 6% or greater.

Add to this the ever-increasing inflation and serious cutbacks in manufacturing due to the energy crisis, and you have an economic crisis of great magnitude.

And all of us here know that when the economy slides into recession, black Americans and other minority groups are hit first and are hit hardest.

Black unemployment is now 9.2 percent. As the energy crisis takes its toll in manufacturing, trade and service industries -- areas where black workers are heavily represented -- joblessness is sure to worsen. Experts estimate that at least 600,000 jobs may be lost as a result of the energy crisis in 1974.

As an economic crisis looms on the horizon, as millions of American working families worry about their breadwinners being laid off, as the still unemployed face almost insurmountable obstacles to getting a job, the President proclaims there will be no recession in 1974. And his experts, while predicting a "mild recession," still are unwilling to take the steps needed to prevent widespread suffering throughout America.

We must take immediate action and not wait until the recession is upon us.

What can we do?

First, the Congress must move quickly to establish and fund a public service employment program. After more than 5 years, the Administration finally has accepted the principle of public service employment. But it has yet to propose an actual program.

Second, we must provide incentives to the private sector to expand private employment opportunities.

These are some of the essential new directions called for in the Energy Emergency Employment Act, which I have just introduced.

Third -- and it is by no means last -- job training and manpower programs modeled on the OIC approach deserve greater emphasis and greater funding by the federal government.

It is clear to me that we cannot halt recession and economic hardship by proclamation.

We must enact action programs without delay. If we can approve an \$80 billion military budget in just a few weeks, the Congress can put into place an emergency job program that will ease the impact of economic slowdown and growing inflation.

We are at a turning point. The severe recession of 1971 brought great suffering to disadvantaged Americans. The President's remedy of August 15 was too late to turn the tide. We can either let our economy decline and the lines of the jobless grow in the spring and summer, or act now to avert disaster.

I know that you join with me in endorsing an action employment program. To do otherwise would be to desert the principles of human dignity that OIC has stood for over the past ten years.

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- Award -
Nelson cuts all to move to Mini

Boyd Nelson
2 Farm Row
2 " Sun
but no
2 times!

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OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTERS

RADISSON HOTEL -- MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

FEBRUARY 24, 1974

7 Fletcher Amos
Exec Director
T. C. Oie

Mr Chairman -
Al. Hofstede
Sen Nelson
Gov Evans
Mr Sullivan

Cecil Newman

-- AND DURING THIS DECADE OF HOPE, OIC HAS BEEN LED BY A
MAN WHO HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY ON BEHALF OF AMERICANS IN NEED
OF A JOB AND A BETTER FUTURE: THE REVEREND LEON H. SULLIVAN.

↳ WHEN I WAS VICE PRESIDENT, I TOOK A SPECIAL INTEREST IN

DR. SULLIVAN'S WORK, BECAUSE I SAW THE GREAT POTENTIAL IT

HELD FOR GIVING COMMUNITIES ALL OVER THE NATION *a sound*

METHOD FOR COMMUNITY ECONOMIC SELF-DEVELOPMENT.

I REMEMBER THAT WHEN I FIRST MET DR. SULLIVAN, I WAS IN
THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, AND HE CAME TO CALL. I HAD

REQUESTED THAT WHEN HE CAME TO WASHINGTON HE STOP BY FOR A

VISIT ↳ AS I VISITED WITH THIS REMARKABLE MAN, I WAS DEEPLY

MOVED BY WHAT HE HAD TO SAY AND BY HIS ~~DEEP~~ COURAGE, AND

RECEIVED A SENSE OF INSPIRATION FROM HIS WORDS AND HIS WORKS.

↳ I WAS SUPPOSED TO ADDRESS, THAT EVENING, A GROUP
OF INDUSTRIALISTS AND CORPORATE DIRECTORS WHO WERE
INVOLVED IN A VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS "PLANS
FOR PROGRESS," DESIGNED TO PROMOTE EQUAL-OPPORTUNITY
EMPLOYMENT *in industry*

↳ WELL, ANYWAY, AFTER THE VISIT, I LOOKED AT DR. SULLIVAN,
AND I SAID, "REVEREND SULLIVAN, I KNOW YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE
THE MAN WHO GIVES THE PRAYER TONIGHT AT THE DINNER," BECAUSE
HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO GIVE THE INVOCATION, "AND I AM SUPPOSED
TO BE THE MAN WHO MAKES THE ADDRESS."

I SAID, "I BELIEVE THAT THE GOOD LORD WILL FORGIVE ME FOR
NOT BEING VERY GOOD IN PRAYER, BUT THAT AUDIENCE NEEDS TO HEAR A
REAL GOOD SPEECH, I SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT WE CHANGE THE
PROGRAM. WILL YOU LET ME GIVE THE INVOCATION IN WHATEVER
INADEQUATE MANNER I CAN EXPRESS MYSELF, IN THE HOPE THAT DIVINE
PROVIDENCE WILL RECEIVE THAT ~~INVOCATION~~ ^{prayer} WITH FORGIVENESS AND
UNDERSTANDING, AND WILL YOU THEN, DR. SULLIVAN, MAKE THE
SPEECH?

D

BECAUSE," I SAID, " YOU CAN SPEAK TO BOTH THE AUDIENCE

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WILL ACT."

LOIC CAME INTO BEING BECAUSE GOVERNMENT -- CITY, STATE, AND

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IT WAS REVEREND SULLIVAN WHO HAD THE GENIUS TO COME FORWARD

WITH A PLAN FOR JOB TRAINING THAT MET THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF THE

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IT WAS REVEREND SULLIVAN WHO BROUGHT THE PRINCIPLES OF

SELF-HELP, SELF-DETERMINATION AND SELF-RELIANCE TO THE MANPOWER

FIELD.

*— Making America better
opening new opportunities*

L OIC WAS BORN AT A TIME OF SOCIAL FERMENT -- AT A TIME WHEN
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS LAUNCHING A NUMBER OF NEW INITIATIVES
TO HELP DISADVANTAGED AMERICANS.

L THE YEAR 1964 WAS THE TIME OF OEO, THE JOB CORPS, AND THE
WAR ON POVERTY. Civil Rights Act

L MANY OF THESE PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN DISCARDED BY ^{the present} ~~AN~~ ADMINISTRATION THAT DAILY PLEDGES ITS ALLEGIANCE TO "EFFICIENCY" BUT FORGETS AND NEGLECTS THOSE AMERICANS IN DESPERATE NEED OF TRAINING AND A GOOD JOB.

L ^{President} ~~President~~ NIXON VETOED THE MANPOWER BILL OF 1970, AND HE VETOED THE MINIMUM WAGE BILL AND THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION ACT AND ^{many} ~~countless~~ OTHER MEASURES DESIGNED TO BEGIN TACKLING THE TOUGH PROBLEMS OF POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN AMERICA.

Administration
L BUT ~~REAGAN~~ WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO KILL OIC.

Haywood Nelson
L HUBERT HUMPHREY, LEON SULLIVAN, AND THOUSANDS OF OIC

GRADUATES WON'T LET HIM.

L A MAN LIKE LEON SULLIVAN IS NOT WILLING TO REST ON HIS PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

L WE CAN'T TALK ABOUT THE PAST DECADE WITHOUT LOOKING TO THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD.

L I CAN STATE TODAY THAT OIC AND OTHERS DEDICATED TO PROVIDING JOBS FOR DISADVANTAGED AMERICANS WILL HAVE TO DOUBLE AND TRIPLE THEIR EFFORTS IN 1974.

L WHY? BECAUSE UNEMPLOYMENT IS RISING AT AN ALARMING RATE, AN UNACCEPTABLE RATE, A TRAGIC RATE.

underemployment

LAST OCTOBER, 4.6 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE -- OR A LITTLE MORE THAN 4 MILLION AMERICANS -- WERE WITHOUT JOBS.

TODAY, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAS SKYROCKETED TO 5.2 PERCENT AND ANOTHER 700,000 AMERICANS HAVE BEEN THROWN OUT OF WORK. BY JUNE 30, AS MANY AS 5.5 MILLION AMERICANS COULD BE WITHOUT WORK WITH A JOBLESS RATE AT 6% OR GREATER.

ADD TO THIS THE EVER-INCREASING INFLATION AND SERIOUS CUTBACKS IN MANUFACTURING DUE TO THE ENERGY CRISIS, AND YOU HAVE AN ECONOMIC CRISIS OF GREAT MAGNITUDE.

dy...

Xh

AND ALL OF US HERE KNOW THAT WHEN THE ECONOMY SLIDES INTO RECESSION, BLACK AMERICANS AND OTHER MINORITY GROUPS ARE HIT FIRST AND ARE HIT HARDEST. !

POOR + restriction

~~unemployment~~

BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT IS NOW 9.4 PERCENT. AS THE ENERGY CRISIS
TAKES ITS TOLL IN MANUFACTURING, TRADE AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES
-- AREAS WHERE BLACK WORKERS ARE HEAVILY REPRESENTED --
JOBLESSNESS IS SURE TO WORSEN. EXPERTS ESTIMATE THAT AT LEAST
600,000 JOBS MAY BE LOST AS A RESULT OF THE ENERGY CRISIS IN
1974.

AS AN ECONOMIC CRISIS LOOMS ON THE HORIZON, AS MILLIONS
OF AMERICAN WORKING FAMILIES WORRY ABOUT THEIR BREADWINNERS
BEING LAID OFF, AS THE STILL UNEMPLOYED FACE ALMOST INSUR-
MOUNTABLE OBSTACLES TO GETTING A JOB, THE PRESIDENT PROCLAIMS
THERE WILL BE NO RECESSION IN 1974.

AND HIS EXPERTS, WHILE PREDICTING A "MILD RECESSION," STILL
ARE UNWILLING TO TAKE THE STEPS NEEDED TO PREVENT WIDESPREAD
SUFFERING THROUGHOUT AMERICA.

↳ WE MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION AND NOT WAIT UNTIL THE
RECESSION IS UPON US.

↳ WHAT CAN WE DO?

↳ FIRST, THE CONGRESS MUST MOVE QUICKLY TO ESTABLISH AND
FUND A PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM, AFTER MORE THAN 5
YEARS, THE ADMINISTRATION FINALLY HAS ACCEPTED THE 'PRINCIPLE
OF PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT, BUT IT HAS YET TO PROPOSE
AN ACTUAL PROGRAM.

2 SECOND, WE MUST PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR
TO EXPAND PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

↳ THESE ARE SOME OF THE ESSENTIAL NEW DIRECTIONS CALLED FOR
IN THE ENERGY EMERGENCY EMPLOYMENT ACT, WHICH I HAVE JUST
INTRODUCED.

↳ THIRD -- AND IT IS BY NO MEANS LAST -- JOB TRAINING AND
MANPOWER PROGRAMS MODELED ON THE OIC APPROACH DESERVE
GREATER EMPHASIS AND GREATER FUNDING BY THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT.

↳ IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT WE CANNOT HALT RECESSION AND
ECONOMIC HARDSHIP BY PROCLAMATION.

WE MUST ^{have} ~~EMIT~~ EMIT ACTION PROGRAMS WITHOUT DELAY. IF WE CAN APPROVE AN \$80 BILLION MILITARY BUDGET IN JUST A FEW WEEKS, THE CONGRESS CAN PUT INTO PLACE AN EMERGENCY JOB PROGRAM THAT WILL EASE THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN AND GROWING INFLATION.

WE ARE AT A TURNING POINT! THE SEVERE RECESSION OF 1971 BROUGHT GREAT SUFFERING TO DISADVANTAGED AMERICANS. THE PRESIDENT'S REMEDY OF AUGUST ¹⁹⁷¹ 15 WAS TOO LATE TO TURN THE TIDE.

WE CAN EITHER LET OUR ECONOMY DECLINE AND THE LINES OF THE JOBLESS GROW IN THE SPRING AND SUMMER, OR ^{we can} ACT NOW TO AVERT DISASTER.

- Housing -
- Health
- Food

I KNOW THAT YOU JOIN WITH ME IN ENDORSING AN ACTION EMPLOY-
MENT PROGRAM. TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD BE TO DESERT THE PRINCIPLES
OF HUMAN DIGNITY THAT OIC HAS STOOD FOR OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS.

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