

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

NATIONAL GROWTH POLICY AND HABITAT

Washington, D. C.

April 13, 1976

It is a pleasure to be here and to join with you in examining the future human environment of both our people and those throughout the world.

The upcoming United Nations Habitat Conference on Human Settlements is indeed an ambitious and worthwhile undertaking -- one which I not only support, but believe essential to future human progress.

Hopefully, Habitat will build upon and further expand what we already have learned from the UN Conferences held in Stockholm, Bucharest, Rome and Mexico City relating to man's natural environment, population growth, food and the role of women in the world.

While much has been learned in recent years about the importance of reconciling man's "built" environment with his "natural" environment, little has been done to translate such knowledge into providing a suitable living environment for most people on this earth.

To merely survive, man must have food for his body to grow and to maintain life. He also must have shelter and clothing to protect himself from the natural elements.

But obviously, if we believe in the "dignity of man" we must believe that he was meant to have and enjoy more than mere survival. We must believe that he has certain inalienable human rights which entitle him to develop his mind and talents within a framework of responsible freedom and personal liberty.

And we must believe that governments are to serve him, not to dominate or dictate to him.

As his numbers have increased, man has had to learn more about how to live in harmony with his natural environment and with others -- not only to survive, but to create and shape an acceptable living environment for himself and succeeding generations.

And in his historic quest to achieve that acceptable living environment, he has, among other things, created "the city" which today represents both the best and the worst of what he has to offer.

Cities here and elsewhere in the world continue to be of various sizes and shapes, ranging from small rural hamlets to huge metropolitan areas. They have served man well throughout history as gathering places and as centers of commerce, education, and cultural opportunity. But today, many cities, due to their rapid and unplanned growth, threaten the lives of their inhabitants with crime, slums, drugs, overcrowding and human suffering.

The continued growth and changes that are occurring in large urban places throughout the world today probably present man with one of his greatest and most serious challenges in his quest to achieve or maintain a suitable living environment.

We, and the other nations of the world, must meet this challenge head-on. The sunshine of social betterment and economic development must burn away the clouds of squalor that hang over large portions of our cities here and throughout the world, inflicting untold misery on people.

While rural-to-urban migration shifts and growth in overall population in this country have slowed considerably in recent years, major population shifts from center-city to suburbia and from our nation's northern and eastern regions to our southern and western regions continue to accelerate.

By the year 2000, it looks as if we will add another 50 million people to our nation's population, 85 percent of whom likely will be living in cities with populations of 50,000 or more.

By the year 2000, upwards to three billion people are likely to be added to the world's current four billion population. According to the World Bank, this would create over 200 cities exceeding one million each, and several over 20 million each.

And hidden behind these numbers is the fact that most of this growth and population concentration is likely to occur in the developing nations, many of whom already are falling behind in meeting even the most basic of human needs, such as food and shelter, for their present populations.

The creation of a desirable or suitable human environment within our nation requires that people be provided with the opportunity to develop life-styles and surroundings of their own choice, consistent with environmental integrity and the economic management of natural resources.

The intensifying debate between the advocates of "no growth" versus "growth at any price" within our country is an attempt to force Americans today to make a simple choice of accepting one or the other. However, I believe they will accept neither. Rather, I believe the American people, as they look anew at what kind of future they now are creating for themselves and future generations, will begin to move toward the goal of human relationships that is based upon the Greek idea of "balance".

Growth is seen by many as the opposite of stability. Yet both are desired. Novelty is prized, but man is overwhelmed by too much change. Technology is both feared and indispensable.

Liberty versus tranquility, defense versus welfare, present versus future, use versus preservation, are dichotomous or contradictory terms reflecting the on-going contest stimulated by the demands of growth in America's history upon the achievement of national goals and the preservation of national ideals.

Our challenge then is to reach out for the "balance" in human relationships that many of us believe attainable:

- between growth and stability;
- between individual free-choice and the common good;
- between economic needs and environmental protection;
- between rich and poor, rural and urban, young and old;
- and between international, national and local goals.

But "how" and through what "means" can we reach out for that "Balance?" What mechanisms and processes do we now have, or need to develop, that will encourage and help us and the rest of mankind to avoid and correct those imbalances that act as impediments to the attainment of a suitable human environment?

In our country, it is through our national, state and local government, of the people, by the people and for the people -- operating as a part of a capitalistic, free enterprise society.

Internationally, it is through sovereign nation states and their governments, and the international organizations of which they are members, such as the United Nations, and through international trade and commerce.

But the fundamental problem that we must answer for ourselves today was posed sharply over a century ago by Abraham Lincoln in his famous "House Divided" speech:

"If we would first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do and how to do it."

At this critical stage in our national and international development we must create the means and institutional processes within government required to identify at an early point the vital questions likely to confront us as the future unfolds, so that we might better understand, anticipate, and yes, plan for bringing about orderly change in a peaceful manner.

In short, we must create a policy planning capability at the highest levels of our national government, based upon sound information and expert analysis, and assuring the involvement of our nation's citizenry and their state and local governments.

It must address all combinations of political, economic, social and environmental concerns.

It must help public and private decision makers improve their insights and understandings of the immediate and long-term implications of proposed actions.

And it must help them to better understand the "general" impacts of specialized policy proposals, or what some call their "cross-impacts".

Putting it in the words of our young people, it's time, "to get-it-all-together."

This is good advice, both for our nation and the rest of the world.

The major product of national policy planning-- or "getting-it-all-together" -- can and should be the development of a national growth policy, which among other things, should spell out our nation's policies and goals relating to urban growth and to our nation's rural areas.

We must develop a comprehensive national urban policy that combines the commitment of the 1960's with a New Partnership that actively involves all levels of government and the private sector. Such a partnership cannot be built upon empty promises or unattainable aspirations. It must be based upon a solid and massive commitment that possess all of the scope, the vision, the financial backing and spirit that the Marshall Plan embodied.

A New Partnership, a Marshall Plan for American Cities, requires coordinated planning at all levels of government. It means that ideas must flow from the bottom up as well as from the top down. And it means that promises made must be promises kept, especially as it relates to resources being made available on a continuing basis -- not in a stop and go manner.

If our nation's cities are to have a future, we must make a binding commitment to the people who live in them that their government, working in cooperation with the private sector, will maintain full employment.

There are other essential parts of a comprehensive national urban policy:

-- We must have a steady and expansive monetary policy.

-- We must reduce mortgage interest rates to make home ownership available to a larger number of American families.

-- We also must make it possible for young families and low and moderate-income families to acquire a decent home.

-- We need community development as well as housing and economic development.

-- We need loans and grants to rehabilitate and repair existing housing and community infrastructure, as well as programs to build new facilities.

In short, we must arrest present policies which encourage the throw-away city, and embark on a new conservation approach: conservation of housing; conservation of neighborhoods; conservation of infrastructure; and yes, conservation of cities.

Now let us turn our attention to our nation's rural areas, which continue to suffer from neglect and decline.

During the period of the 1930's to the 1960's, 30 million Americans left our nation's farms and countryside for the bright lights and sidewalks of Urban USA.

This massive flight of largely young adults from our nation's rural areas left those areas with a reduced labor force and tax base, the essential elements for sustaining growth and community services.

It also left these areas with the very young and the very old to care for, and as I said before, with less tax revenue.

As a result, we find that two-thirds of our nation's substandard housing today exists in our rural areas and communities.

We find doctors and adequate health care difficult, if not impossible, to obtain in many of these communities.

We find quality education lacking.

We find central water and sewer systems and solid waste disposal facilities in thousands of these communities either non-existent or totally inadequate.

We find the availability of credit, on reasonable terms, very difficult to obtain, especially to buy a new home, or to start a new business.

And the list goes on!

Here again, as is the case with our nation's great cities, a New Partnership must be formed between government at all levels and the private sector to meet these essential needs of our rural citizenry.

I must remind you that our rural citizenry, while very small in number, are of enormous importance to all of us. They produce the food we eat, the fiber we wear, the timber for our homes, the minerals for our machines, and the chemicals for our medicines, paints and plastics.

Therefore, rural Americans are entitled to a suitable living environment as are urban Americans.

As so often is the case, we now have programs to help accomplish such objectives on our nation's law books -- programs both for urban and rural people. But they are not being implemented, or if so, only half-heartedly.

The Rural Development Act of 1972, of which I was the chief sponsor, is a classic example. Only a few of its provisions are being adequately funded or implemented today.

"Getting-it-all-together" then, to secure a suitable living environment for all our citizens -- urban and rural -- requires:

-- new leadership

-- new national policy planning processes

-- new commitments, and

-- a New Partnership of national, state and local governments, the private sector and the involvement of our nation's citizens.

"Getting-it-all-together" to secure a suitable living environment for people throughout the world requires:

-- a new leadership of the type that will be provided through Habitat, and that already has been provided through recent similar UN Conferences;

-- a New Partnership within and among the have and have-not nations to attack basic causes of hunger, disease, ignorance and poverty;

-- a new international understanding of our interdependencies relating to such things as energy, food, capital, minerals and technology;

-- a new commitment to bring about orderly change in a peaceful manner through government and international trade; and, finally,

-- a new international effort to anticipate and plan for the future of mankind.

At this critical stage in man's development we must provide the means and institutional processes required to answer the classic problem stated by Abraham Lincoln, to identify at an early point the vital questions likely to confront the world as the future unfolds with its potent and rapid changes resulting from exploding population growth and from the onrush of science and technology.

Time, said Saint Augustine, is a three-fold present; the present as we experience it, the past as present memory, and the future as present expectation.

"By this criterion", stated Daniel Bell, "the world of the year 2000 has already arrived, from the decisions we make now, in the way we design our environment and thus sketch the lines of constraints, the future is committed . . . for the future is not an overarching leap into the distance, it begins now!"

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WHILE MUCH HAS BEEN LEARNED IN RECENT YEARS ABOUT THE  
IMPORTANCE OF RECONCILING MAN'S "BUILT" ENVIRONMENT WITH HIS  
"NATURAL" ENVIRONMENT, LITTLE HAS BEEN DONE TO TRANSLATE SUCH  
KNOWLEDGE INTO PROVIDING A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR MOST  
PEOPLE ON THIS EARTH.

h TO MERELY SURVIVE, MAN MUST HAVE FOOD FOR HIS BODY TO GROW  
AND TO MAINTAIN LIFE. HE ALSO MUST HAVE SHELTER AND CLOTHING TO  
PROTECT HIMSELF FROM THE NATURAL ELEMENTS.

↳ BUT OBVIOUSLY, IF WE BELIEVE IN THE "DIGNITY OF MAN" WE MUST  
BELIEVE THAT HE WAS MEANT TO HAVE AND ENJOY MORE THAN MERE

+ SURVIVAL. WE MUST BELIEVE THAT HE HAS CERTAIN INALIENABLE HUMAN  
RIGHTS WHICH ENTITLE HIM TO DEVELOP HIS MIND AND TALENTS WITHIN

A FRAMEWORK OF RESPONSIBLE FREEDOM AND PERSONAL LIBERTY,

*Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness*

AND WE MUST BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENTS ARE TO SERVE HIM, NOT  
TO DOMINATE OR DICTATE TO HIM. (*Secure these Rights*)

AS HIS NUMBERS HAVE INCREASED, MAN HAS HAD TO LEARN MORE  
ABOUT HOW TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH HIS NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND  
WITH OTHERS -- NOT ONLY TO SURVIVE, BUT TO CREATE AND SHAPE AN  
ACCEPTABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR HIMSELF AND SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS.

AND IN HIS HISTORIC QUEST TO ACHIEVE THAT ACCEPTABLE LIVING  
ENVIRONMENT, HE HAS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CREATED "THE CITY" WHICH  
TODAY REPRESENTS BOTH THE BEST AND THE WORST OF WHAT HE HAS TO  
OFFER.

CITIES HERE AND ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD CONTINUE TO BE OF  
VARIOUS SIZES AND SHAPES, RANGING FROM SMALL RURAL HAMLETS TO  
HUGE METROPOLITAN AREAS.

h THEY HAVE SERVED MAN WELL THROUGHOUT HISTORY AS GATHERING PLACES  
AND AS CENTERS OF COMMERCE, EDUCATION, AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITY,

h BUT TODAY, MANY CITIES, DUE TO THEIR RAPID AND UNPLANNED GROWTH,  
THREATEN THE LIVES OF THEIR INHABITANTS WITH CRIME, SLUMS, DRUGS,  
OVERCROWDING AND HUMAN SUFFERING.

h THE CONTINUED GROWTH AND CHANGES THAT ARE OCCURRING IN LARGE  
URBAN PLACES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TODAY PROBABLY PRESENT MAN WITH  
ONE OF HIS GREATEST AND MOST SERIOUS CHALLENGES IN HIS QUEST TO  
ACHIEVE OR MAINTAIN A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT.

h WE, AND THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD, MUST MEET THIS CHALLENGE  
HEAD-ON. h THE SUNSHINE OF SOCIAL BETTERMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
MUST BURN AWAY THE CLOUDS OF SQUALOR THAT HANG OVER LARGE PORTIONS  
OF OUR CITIES HERE AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, INFLECTING UNTOLD  
MISERY ON PEOPLE.

WHILE RURAL-TO-URBAN MIGRATION SHIFTS AND GROWTH IN OVERALL  
POPULATION IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE SLOWED CONSIDERABLY IN RECENT  
YEARS, MAJOR POPULATION SHIFTS FROM CENTER-CITY TO SUBURBIA AND  
FROM OUR NATION'S NORTHERN AND EASTERN REGIONS TO OUR SOUTHERN  
AND WESTERN REGIONS CONTINUE TO ACCELERATE.

BY THE YEAR 2000, IT LOOKS AS IF WE WILL ADD ANOTHER 50 MILLION  
PEOPLE TO OUR NATION'S POPULATION, 85 PERCENT OF WHOM LIKELY WILL  
BE LIVING IN CITIES WITH POPULATIONS OF 50,000 OR MORE.

BY THE YEAR 2000, UPWARDS TO THREE BILLION PEOPLE ARE LIKELY  
TO BE ADDED TO THE WORLD'S CURRENT FOUR BILLION POPULATION.

ACCORDING TO THE WORLD BANK, THIS WOULD CREATE OVER 200 CITIES  
EXCEEDING ONE MILLION EACH, AND SEVERAL OVER 20 MILLION EACH.

AND HIDDEN BEHIND THESE NUMBERS IS THE FACT THAT MOST OF  
THIS GROWTH AND POPULATION CONCENTRATION IS LIKELY TO OCCUR IN  
THE DEVELOPING NATIONS, MANY OF WHOM ALREADY ARE FALLING BEHIND  
IN MEETING EVEN THE MOST BASIC OF HUMAN NEEDS, SUCH AS FOOD AND  
SHELTER, FOR THEIR PRESENT POPULATIONS,

THE CREATION OF A DESIRABLE OR SUITABLE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT  
WITHIN OUR NATION REQUIRES THAT PEOPLE BE PROVIDED WITH THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP LIFE-STYLES AND SURROUNDINGS OF THEIR OWN  
CHOICE, CONSISTENT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY AND THE ECONOMIC  
MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,

THE INTENSIFYING DEBATE BETWEEN THE ADVOCATES OF "NO GROWTH"  
VERSUS "GROWTH AT ANY PRICE" WITHIN OUR COUNTRY IS AN ATTEMPT TO  
FORCE AMERICANS TODAY TO MAKE A SIMPLE CHOICE OF ACCEPTING ONE OR  
THE OTHER,

HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THEY WILL ACCEPT NEITHER RATHER, I BELIEVE  
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AS THEY LOOK ANEW AT WHAT KIND OF FUTURE THEY  
NOW ARE CREATING FOR THEMSELVES AND FUTURE GENERATIONS, WILL BEGIN  
TO MOVE TOWARD THE GOAL OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS THAT IS BASED UPON THE  
GREEK IDEA OF "BALANCE".

GROWTH IS SEEN BY MANY AS THE OPPOSITE OF STABILITY. YET BOTH  
ARE DESIRED. NOVELTY IS PRIZED, BUT MAN IS OVERWHELMED BY TOO MUCH  
CHANGE. TECHNOLOGY IS BOTH FEARED AND INDISPENSABLE.

LIBERTY VERSUS TRANQUILITY, DEFENSE VERSUS WELFARE, PRESENT  
VERSUS FUTURE, USE VERSUS PRESERVATION, ARE DICHOTOMOUS OR CONTRADICTORY  
TERMS REFLECTING THE ON-GOING CONTEST STIMULATED BY THE DEMANDS OF  
GROWTH IN AMERICA'S HISTORY UPON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF NATIONAL GOALS  
AND THE PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL IDEALS.

OUR CHALLENGE THEN IS TO REACH OUT FOR THE "BALANCE" IN HUMAN

RELATIONSHIPS THAT MANY OF US BELIEVE ATTAINABLE:

-- BETWEEN GROWTH AND STABILITY;

-- BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL FREE-CHOICE AND THE COMMON GOOD;

-- BETWEEN ECONOMIC NEEDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION;

-- BETWEEN RICH AND POOR, RURAL AND URBAN, YOUNG AND OLD;

-- AND BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOALS.

L BUT "HOW" AND THROUGH WHAT "MEANS" CAN WE REACH OUT FOR THAT  
"BALANCE?" WHAT MECHANISMS AND PROCESSES DO WE NOW HAVE, OR NEED  
TO DEVELOP, THAT WILL ENCOURAGE AND HELP US AND THE REST OF MANKIND  
TO AVOID AND CORRECT THOSE IMBALANCES THAT ACT AS IMPEDIMENTS TO THE  
ATTAINMENT OF A SUITABLE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT?

L IN OUR COUNTRY, IT IS THROUGH OUR NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT, OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE --  
OPERATING AS A PART OF A CAPITALISTIC, FREE ENTERPRISE SOCIETY,

L INTERNATIONALLY, IT IS THROUGH SOVEREIGN NATION STATES AND  
THEIR GOVERNMENTS, AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF WHICH  
THEY ARE MEMBERS, SUCH AS THE UNITED NATIONS, AND THROUGH  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND COMMERCE.

L BUT THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM THAT WE MUST ANSWER FOR OURSELVES  
TODAY WAS POSED SHARPLY OVER A CENTURY AGO BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN  
HIS FAMOUS "HOUSE DIVIDED" SPEECH:

"IF WE WOULD FIRST KNOW WHERE WE ARE, AND WHITHER WE ARE  
TENDING, WE COULD THEN BETTER JUDGE WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO  
DO IT."

L AT THIS CRITICAL STAGE IN OUR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT WE MUST CREATE THE MEANS AND INSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES  
WITHIN GOVERNMENT REQUIRED TO IDENTIFY AT AN EARLY POINT THE  
VITAL QUESTIONS LIKELY TO CONFRONT US AS THE FUTURE UNFOLDS, SO THAT  
WE MIGHT BETTER UNDERSTAND, ANTICIPATE, AND YES, PLAN FOR BRINGING  
ABOUT ORDERLY CHANGE IN A PEACEFUL MANNER.

L IN SHORT, WE MUST CREATE A POLICY PLANNING CAPABILITY AT THE  
HIGHEST LEVELS OF OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, BASED UPON SOUND INFORMATION  
AND EXPERT ANALYSIS, AND ASSURING THE INVOLVEMENT OF OUR NATION'S  
CITIZENRY AND THEIR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

L IT MUST ADDRESS ALL COMBINATIONS OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC,  
SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS.

IT MUST HELP PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DECISION MAKERS IMPROVE THEIR  
INSIGHTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS OF THE IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM  
IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSED ACTIONS.

AND IT MUST HELP THEM TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE "GENERAL"  
IMPACTS OF SPECIALIZED POLICY PROPOSALS, OR WHAT SOME CALL THEIR  
"CROSS-IMPACTS".

PUTTING IT IN THE WORDS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, IT'S TIME, "TO  
GET-IT-ALL-TOGETHER."

THIS IS GOOD ADVICE, BOTH FOR OUR NATION AND THE REST OF  
THE WORLD.

THE MAJOR PRODUCT OF NATIONAL POLICY PLANNING-- OR "GETTING-IT-  
ALL-TOGETHER" -- CAN AND SHOULD BE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL  
GROWTH POLICY, WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS, SHOULD SPELL OUT OUR  
NATION'S POLICIES AND GOALS RELATING TO URBAN GROWTH AND TO OUR  
NATION'S RURAL AREAS.

↳ WE MUST DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL URBAN POLICY THAT  
COMBINES THE COMMITMENT OF THE 1960's WITH A NEW PARTNERSHIP THAT  
ACTIVELY INVOLVES ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

↳ SUCH A PARTNERSHIP CANNOT BE BUILT UPON EMPTY PROMISES OR UNATTAINABLE  
ASPIRATIONS. ↳ IT MUST BE BASED UPON A SOLID AND MASSIVE COMMITMENT  
THAT POSSESS ALL OF THE SCOPE, THE VISION, THE FINANCIAL BACKING AND  
SPIRIT THAT THE MARSHALL PLAN EMBODIED.

↳ A NEW PARTNERSHIP, A MARSHALL PLAN FOR AMERICAN CITIES, REQUIRES  
COORDINATED PLANNING AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. ↳ IT MEANS THAT  
IDEAS MUST FLOW FROM THE BOTTOM UP AS WELL AS FROM THE TOP DOWN.

↳ AND IT MEANS THAT PROMISES MADE MUST BE PROMISES KEPT, ESPECIALLY  
AS IT RELATES TO RESOURCES BEING MADE AVAILABLE ON A CONTINUING  
BASIS -- NOT IN A STOP AND GO MANNER.

↳ IF OUR NATION'S CITIES ARE TO HAVE A FUTURE, WE MUST MAKE  
A BINDING COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THEM THAT THEIR  
GOVERNMENT, WORKING IN COOPERATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WILL  
MAINTAIN FULL EMPLOYMENT.

*and -*

↳ THERE ARE OTHER ESSENTIAL PARTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL  
URBAN POLICY:

↳ WE MUST HAVE A STEADY AND EXPANSIVE MONETARY POLICY.

↳ WE MUST REDUCE MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES TO MAKE HOME

OWNERSHIP AVAILABLE TO A LARGER NUMBER OF AMERICAN FAMILIES.

↳ WE ALSO MUST MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOUNG FAMILIES AND

LOW AND MODERATE-INCOME FAMILIES TO ACQUIRE A DECENT HOME.

↳ WE NEED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS HOUSING AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

↳ WE NEED LOANS AND GRANTS TO REHABILITATE AND REPAIR

EXISTING HOUSING AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE, AS WELL AS PROGRAMS  
TO BUILD NEW FACILITIES.

↳ IN SHORT, WE MUST ARREST PRESENT POLICIES WHICH ENCOURAGE

↳ THE THROW-AWAY CITY, AND EMBARK ON A NEW CONSERVATION APPROACH:

CONSERVATION OF HOUSING; CONSERVATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS;

CONSERVATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE; AND YES, CONSERVATION OF CITIES.

↳ NOW LET US TURN OUR ATTENTION TO OUR NATION'S RURAL AREAS,

WHICH CONTINUE TO SUFFER FROM NEGLECT AND DECLINE.

↳ DURING THE PERIOD OF THE 1930'S TO THE 1960'S, 30 MILLION

AMERICANS LEFT OUR NATION'S FARMS AND COUNTRYSIDE FOR THE BRIGHT

LIGHTS AND SIDEWALKS OF URBAN USA.

L THIS MASSIVE FLIGHT OF LARGELY YOUNG ADULTS FROM OUR NATION'S  
RURAL AREAS, LEFT THOSE AREAS WITH A REDUCED LABOR FORCE AND TAX  
BASE, THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR SUSTAINING GROWTH AND COMMUNITY  
SERVICES.

L IT ALSO LEFT THESE AREAS WITH THE VERY YOUNG AND THE VERY OLD  
TO CARE FOR, AND AS I SAID BEFORE, WITH LESS TAX REVENUE.

L AS A RESULT, WE FIND THAT TWO-THIRDS OF OUR NATION'S SUBSTANDARD  
HOUSING TODAY EXISTS IN OUR RURAL AREAS AND COMMUNITIES.

L WE FIND DOCTORS AND ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE DIFFICULT, IF NOT  
IMPOSSIBLE, TO OBTAIN IN MANY OF THESE COMMUNITIES.

L WE FIND QUALITY EDUCATION LACKING.

L WE FIND CENTRAL WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS AND SOLID WASTE  
DISPOSAL FACILITIES IN THOUSANDS OF THESE COMMUNITIES EITHER  
NON-EXISTENT OR TOTALLY INADEQUATE.

↳ WE FIND THE AVAILABILITY OF CREDIT, ON REASONABLE TERMS,  
VERY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN, ESPECIALLY TO BUY A NEW HOME, OR TO  
START A NEW BUSINESS,

↳ AND THE LIST GOES ON!

HERE AGAIN, AS IS THE CASE WITH OUR NATION'S GREAT CITIES,  
A NEW PARTNERSHIP MUST BE FORMED BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS  
AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO MEET THESE ESSENTIAL NEEDS OF OUR RURAL  
CITIZENRY. (*Rural Development Act*)

↳ I MUST REMIND YOU THAT OUR RURAL CITIZENRY, WHILE VERY SMALL  
IN NUMBER, ARE OF ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE TO ALL OF US. ↓ THEY PRODUCE  
THE FOOD WE EAT, THE FIBER WE WEAR, THE TIMBER FOR OUR HOMES, THE  
MINERALS FOR OUR MACHINES, AND THE CHEMICALS FOR OUR MEDICINES,  
PAINTS AND PLASTICS.

L THEREFORE, RURAL AMERICANS ARE ENTITLED TO A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT AS ARE URBAN AMERICANS.

h AS SO OFTEN IS THE CASE, WE NOW HAVE PROGRAMS TO HELP ACCOMPLISH SUCH OBJECTIVES ON OUR NATION'S LAW BOOKS -- PROGRAMS BOTH FOR

URBAN AND RURAL PEOPLE BUT THEY ARE NOT BEING IMPLEMENTED, OR IF SO, ONLY HALF-HEARTEDLY.

L THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1972, OF WHICH I WAS THE CHIEF SPONSOR, IS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE. ONLY A FEW OF ITS PROVISIONS ARE BEING ADEQUATELY FUNDED OR IMPLEMENTED TODAY.

"GETTING-IT-ALL-TOGETHER" THEN, TO SECURE A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL OUR CITIZENS -- URBAN AND RURAL --REQUIRES:

- NEW LEADERSHIP
- NEW NATIONAL POLICY PLANNING PROCESSES
- NEW COMMITMENTS, AND

-- A NEW PARTNERSHIP OF NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS,  
THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF OUR NATION'S CITIZENS.

"GETTING-IT-ALL-TOGETHER" TO SECURE A SUITABLE LIVING  
ENVIRONMENT FOR PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD REQUIRES:

-- A NEW LEADERSHIP OF THE TYPE THAT WILL BE PROVIDED  
THROUGH HABITAT, AND THAT ALREADY HAS BEEN PROVIDED THROUGH  
RECENT SIMILAR UN CONFERENCES;

-- A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITHIN AND AMONG THE HAVE AND HAVE-NOT  
NATIONS TO ATTACK BASIC CAUSES OF HUNGER, DISEASE, IGNORANCE AND  
POVERTY;

-- A NEW INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF OUR INTERDEPENDENCIES  
RELATING TO SUCH THINGS AS ENERGY, FOOD, CAPITAL, MINERALS AND  
TECHNOLOGY;

-- A NEW COMMITMENT TO BRING ABOUT ORDERLY CHANGE IN A PEACEFUL MANNER THROUGH GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE; AND, FINALLY,

-- A NEW INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO ANTICIPATE AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF MANKIND.

At THIS CRITICAL STAGE IN MAN'S DEVELOPMENT WE MUST PROVIDE THE MEANS AND INSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES REQUIRED TO ANSWER THE CLASSIC PROBLEM STATED BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN, TO IDENTIFY AT AN EARLY POINT THE VITAL QUESTIONS LIKELY TO CONFRONT THE WORLD AS THE FUTURE UNFOLDS WITH ITS POTENT AND RAPID CHANGES RESULTING FROM EXPLODING POPULATION GROWTH AND FROM THE ONRUSH OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Time, SAID SAINT AUGUSTINE, IS A THREE-FOLD PRESENT; THE PRESENT AS WE EXPERIENCE IT, THE PAST AS PRESENT MEMORY, AND THE FUTURE AS PRESENT EXPECTATION.

"BY THIS CRITERION", STATED DANIEL BELL, "THE WORLD OF THE YEAR  
2000 HAS ALREADY ARRIVED, <sup>FOR</sup> ~~FROM~~ THE DECISIONS WE MAKE NOW, IN THE  
WAY WE DESIGN OUR ENVIRONMENT AND THUS SKETCH THE LINES OF CONSTRAINTS,  
THE FUTURE IS COMMITTED . . . FOR THE FUTURE IS NOT AN OVERARCHING  
LEAP INTO THE DISTANCE, IT BEGINS NOW!"

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