

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

THIRD DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL BANQUET

South Bend, Indiana

June 28, 1976

I am delighted to be here in South Bend tonight to participate in the Third District Congressional Banquet.

It is a particular privilege to meet with you here at the pinnacle of American higher education, the pride and joy of millions of Americans, the University of Notre Dame.

But let me quickly add that the "Fighting Irish" are the thorn in the side of every aspiring politician who must be seen on national television rooting for his own State University and against Notre Dame. If there was ever a time to lay low in politics that is surely it.

Most of all, I am honored to have been asked to speak with you tonight by one of the outstanding leaders in the Congress, my good friend, John Brademas.

Being here this evening at Notre Dame with this fine audience and such distinguished guests as Father Hesburgh and Ara Parseghian makes me appreciate how fitting it is that John Brademas speaks on your behalf in Congress.

A quality constituency deserves quality representation, and in John Brademas you have the best.

First and foremost, Congressman Brademas has never forgotten that his purpose in Washington is to serve the people of the Third District of Indiana.

He has been your voice and your champion in Washington since 1958. He always has worked hard in Washington to see that the people of his district receive their fair share of Federal dollars and that their problems with Washington are resolved.

When Studebaker closed its doors, it was John Brademas who brought the White House to South Bend to revitalize the economy of your community. And it was your Congressman who championed pension reform designed to protect workers from the disastrous loss of pensions that occurred at Studebaker. John Brademas recently has helped AM General Corporation land both Postal Service and Mass Transit Bus contracts.

Your Congressman also has achieved a record in Washington in which you can take great pride.

-- As a leader on education, John Brademas has worked to give many Americans the opportunity to receive an education, who would otherwise never have had that chance.

-- As an outspoken advocate of integrity in government, John Brademas has authored major sections of our campaign reform laws.

-- As a member of the Majority leadership in the House, John Brademas is recognized by his peers for his great ability and hard work.

John Brademas has proven beyond a doubt that he deserves to remain your Congressman.

This year it is more important than ever that we put practical, active leaders to work for the nation -- men and women with a vision of the future of this country and the guts to get the job done.

As Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress, I have conducted a two year intensive examination of all aspects of the U.S. economy.

There is good news, and there is some that is not so good.

I am encouraged by what I believe to be the basic strength of our economic system. U.S. participation in world markets is increasing, and we have a basically healthy system for economic growth and stability.

But what disturbs me -- and it should disturb you -- is that millions of Americans are not benefiting from our economic system. This undermines this basic strength that I see in our economy.

The ultimate strength of our economy will depend on the participation of all our citizens. The people are the strength of our economic system -- their labor, their ingenuity, and their expertise. And our failure to allow some to participate robs all Americans of the kind of economic future that is within our grasp if we but make the effort.

I am convinced that we have the tools to bring about total economic integration and participation in this country.

I want to share with you my thoughts on two critical components of an economic agenda for America in the last quarter of the 20th century -- urban revitalization and full employment.

First, we must demand from our leaders a commitment to save America's cities.

Our great cities are in danger of financial and spiritual ruin -- these vital, throbbing centers of commerce, communications, transportation and entertainment that have supported this nation and made us great.

In recent years, an unthinking Administration has allowed our cities to come to the brink of disaster, and the response has been, at best, benign.

Our cities simply can't wait any longer for a positive commitment. I have said before that neglect of the cities works a terrible discrimination against the millions of people who live there.

Make no mistake about it: by the end of this century this nation will have over 250 million inhabitants. And 85 percent of them will be living in cities with populations of 50,000 or more. We are talking about the future of more than four out of five American citizens.

We are talking about the future of almost all our children and grandchildren. And yet there are some who want to retreat and say to the cities, in effect: You're on your own.

I have an entirely different message.

I believe that a massive commitment to our cities is needed -- a commitment that possesses all the scope, the vision, the financial backing, and the spirit of the Marshall Plan. In that program, we put our strength and our resources on the line, and we rebuilt the cities of Germany, Italy, and England -- to the wonder and admiration of the world.

Now, do you mean to tell me that we can't make the same effort to rebuild our own cities, right here in the United States?

Of course we can. Through a three-part program of economic recovery, physical rehabilitation, and institutional reform, we can make our cities livable and prosperous.

We can make them symbols of hope and opportunity, instead of despair and indifference.

Where they have been crumbling and dying, we can build and prosper.

Where there has been filth and infestation, we can make them clean and healthy.

Where our people are intimidated by crime and vandalism, we can recapture a sense of community and brotherhood.

We can accomplish these things -- and this must be a primary goal of our economic agenda.

A second element of our agenda -- and vital to the economic health of all Americans -- must be the establishment of a national full employment policy that guarantees to every American who is willing and able to work a decent job at a decent wage.

There can be no economic stability with burning high unemployment. The Joint Economic Committee has estimated that each one percent reduction in the unemployment rate would reduce welfare costs to the Federal government by \$1.5 to \$2 billion and save \$2.5 to \$3 billion in unemployment compensation benefits.

If we moved from an unemployment rate of 7.3 percent to even 4 percent, we could reduce expenditures by as much as \$17 billion at the Federal level alone.

For each one percent of unemployment you lose \$14 billion in revenues. That's the problem in our Federal budget.

Once you clear away all the bunk and the political diatribe, the central fact is that lost revenues because of joblessness are the major cause of budget deficits.

In 1975, state and local governments lost \$27 billion because of unemployment.

And it is estimated that by 1980, we will have lost \$1 trillion in production because of excessive unemployment.

That is money that will never appear in anyone's paycheck -- money that cannot be taxed -- money that cannot be used to buy goods and services that can keep business alive and the economy thriving.

But this is just the formal economic aspect of unemployment.

What concerns me even more is the social cost of sustained high unemployment -- the spiritual, emotional and physical destruction that lies in the wake of excessive joblessness.

It is this aspect that threatens our nation from within. Unemployment and official neglect of its victims are a cancer in America that must be arrested.

Until every American has a productive part to play in this society -- until each citizen can be involved through the sweat of his own work -- he or she will not feel a part of our national life.

I am convinced that most Americans who are able to work would rather have a paycheck than a welfare check.

Time and time again -- in our hearings before the Joint Economic Committee, I have been touched by the sad, anguished stories related to us by people who want so much to contribute to our nation.

It is no mere coincidence that the number of Americans living in poverty in the 1960's was reduced by 14 million while the unemployment rate dropped from an average of 6.7 percent in 1961 to 3.6 percent in 1968. We worked hard to achieve those goals.

But in 1974, the number of individuals living in poverty increased by 1.3 million. I shudder to think what the 1975 figures will show with the jobless rate last year jumping upwards to 9 percent.

The facts are clear.

We will not bring about a reduction in crime until we put people to work.

We will not straighten out the welfare mess while unemployment remains at 7, 8 or 9 million people.

We will not see any improvement in mental health or a reduction in alcoholism and drug abuse until people are working.

And no matter how well big business fares, you won't find real economic stability until the majority of Americans are working and producing -- able to buy goods and services and purchase homes.

Congressman Augustus Hawkins and I have introduced legislation that I believe to be among the most critical of my legislative career. The Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1976 can help to move us toward true economic freedom and stability for all Americans. I urge you to give it your support.

In this Bicentennial year our people are asking what legacy we will leave to future generations, and they are remembering the kind of goals that were important to the first Americans.

Our forebearers asserted the inalienable rights of people to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

They sought to create a new society that would stand for nothing less than a full measure of human freedom and opportunity.

Those are great ambitions. They challenge all of us to consider the kind of America that our children and grandchildren will inherit.

Will they live in a society which refuses to see that adequate health care is available to all?

Will they grow to adulthood without knowing the value of work, because we have too few jobs for them?

Will they learn only to distrust Government and to ask less of themselves in the process?

Will they live in an America that forgets its poor -- its needy -- its less fortunate?

They will not -- if we have the courage to live up to our beliefs.

If we believe in work and a productive America, then our government must be committed to full employment that assures decent jobs at decent wages. Work, not welfare -- paychecks, not the dole.

If we believe in the right of every American to a full life, then we need a national health care system that provides quality health care to all.

If we believe in our cities, we must have a program that replaces slums with decent homes and make home ownership a reality for the working people of America once again. We will produce one million fewer homes this year than we must have to meet our national housing goals.

If we believe in ending prejudice, then we must see that equal opportunity reaches into every aspect of American life.

If we believe in our young people, than let us champion the cause of education.

If we love and respect our senior citizens, then let us assure them of generous and decent care.

And, if we believe in the future of America, we must see that men and women guided by a sense of vision and fairness are elected to lead our nation. People like John Brademas with the wisdom to know what is right and the courage to pursue it.

You know we must dream -- we have to promise -- for it is the effort to fulfill promises that has brought progress under the constitutional system whose longevity we celebrate in 1976.

I believe you can tell a great deal about a society by looking at the nature of its promises.

And the American promise is a reaffirmation of the God-given rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Our government was created to secure these rights, not to equivocate or bargain them away. The government exists not to do the minimum for its citizens -- but to guarantee by every means necessary that citizens have the opportunity to do everything of which they are capable.

We can make good on these promises. We can make the future ours.

# # # #

X Mrs Paul Butcher

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

THIRD DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL BANQUET

John Brademus - 3rd Dist  
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

Mrs Beatrice Brademus -

JUNE 28, 1976

"Digger" Phelps  
(Basketball)

Ara Parseghian

John Armstrong - ch. citizen

Father Hesbrey

Rev Joseph Balsley - co-ch  
Citizen for Brad

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE IN SOUTH BEND TONIGHT TO PARTICIPATE  
IN THE THIRD DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL BANQUET.

IT IS A PARTICULAR PRIVILEGE TO MEET WITH YOU HERE AT THE  
PINNACLE OF AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION, THE PRIDE AND JOY OF  
MILLIONS OF AMERICANS, THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME!

BUT LET ME QUICKLY ADD THAT THE "FIGHTING IRISH" ARE THE THORN  
IN THE SIDE OF EVERY ASPIRING POLITICIAN WHO MUST BE SEEN ON NATIONAL  
TELEVISION ROOTING FOR HIS OWN STATE UNIVERSITY AND AGAINST NOTRE

DAME. IF THERE WAS EVER A TIME TO LAY LOW IN POLITICS THAT IS  
SURELY IT.

MOST OF ALL, I AM HONORED TO HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SPEAK WITH  
YOU TONIGHT BY ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING LEADERS IN THE CONGRESS, MY

GOOD FRIEND, JOHN BRADEMAS.

*John Brademas*

*(1958) I came elected 1948*

Father Hesburgh - Ara Parseghian  
-2-

BEING HERE THIS EVENING AT NOTRE DAME ~~WITH THIS FINE AUDIENCE~~  
*wish*  
AND SUCH DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AS FATHER HESBURGH AND ARA PARSEGHIAN  
MAKES ME APPRECIATE HOW FITTING IT IS THAT JOHN BRADEMAS SPEAKS ON  
YOUR BEHALF IN CONGRESS.

A QUALITY CONSTITUENCY DESERVES QUALITY REPRESENTATION, AND IN  
JOHN BRADEMAS YOU HAVE THE BEST.

*Let me tell you  
about John-*

FIRST AND FOREMOST, CONGRESSMAN BRADEMAS HAS NEVER FORGOTTEN

THAT HIS PURPOSE IN WASHINGTON IS TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THE THIRD  
DISTRICT OF INDIANA.

HE HAS BEEN YOUR VOICE AND YOUR CHAMPION IN WASHINGTON SINCE

1958 HE ALWAYS HAS WORKED HARD IN WASHINGTON TO SEE THAT THE

PEOPLE OF HIS DISTRICT RECEIVE THEIR FAIR SHARE OF FEDERAL

DOLLARS AND THAT THEIR PROBLEMS WITH WASHINGTON ARE RESOLVED.

L WHEN STUDEBAKER CLOSED ITS DOORS, IT WAS JOHN BRADEMAS WHO BROUGHT THE WHITE HOUSE TO SOUTH BEND TO <sup>help</sup> REVITALIZE THE ECONOMY

OF YOUR COMMUNITY. L AND IT WAS YOUR CONGRESSMAN WHO CHAMPIONED PENSION REFORM DESIGNED TO PROTECT WORKERS FROM THE DISASTROUS

LOSS OF PENSIONS THAT OCCURRED AT STUDEBAKER. <sup>It is</sup> JOHN BRADEMAS <sup>who</sup>

<sup>Amer. Motors</sup> RECENTLY HAS HELPED AM GENERAL CORPORATION LAND BOTH POSTAL

SERVICE AND MASS TRANSIT BUS CONTRACTS. !! John works for you!

L YOUR CONGRESSMAN ALSO HAS ACHIEVED A RECORD IN WASHINGTON IN WHICH YOU CAN TAKE GREAT PRIDE, (Record)

Edus

-- AS A LEADER ON EDUCATION, JOHN BRADEMAS HAS WORKED TO GIVE MANY AMERICANS THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE AN EDUCATION, WHO WOULD OTHERWISE NEVER HAVE HAD THAT CHANCE. - Elementary,

Secondary - Higher Edus - Voc Ed -

⊗ The Arts + Humanities - John a leader

Principal + Morality in Foreign Policy  
-4- Against John Brademas.

↳ AS AN OUTSPOKEN ADVOCATE OF INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT, JOHN

BRADEMAS HAS AUTHORED MAJOR SECTIONS OF OUR CAMPAIGN REFORM LAWS.

Leadership

↳ AS A MEMBER OF THE MAJORITY LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE, JOHN

BRADEMAS IS RECOGNIZED BY HIS PEERS FOR HIS GREAT ABILITY AND

HARD WORK.

↳ JOHN BRADEMAS HAS PROVEN BEYOND A DOUBT THAT HE DESERVES TO

REMAIN YOUR CONGRESSMAN.

~~THIS YEAR IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT WE PUT PRACTICAL,  
ACTIVE LEADERS TO WORK FOR THE NATION -- MEN AND WOMEN WITH A VISION  
OF THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY AND THE GUTS TO GET THE JOB DONE.~~

↳ AS CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE OF THE CONGRESS,

I HAVE CONDUCTED A TWO YEAR INTENSIVE EXAMINATION OF ALL ASPECTS

OF THE U.S. ECONOMY.

# The Economy -5-

L THERE IS GOOD NEWS, AND THERE IS SOME THAT IS NOT SO GOOD.

L I AM ENCOURAGED BY WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE THE BASIC STRENGTH

OF OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM. L U.S. PARTICIPATION IN WORLD MARKETS

IS INCREASING, AND WE HAVE A BASICALLY HEALTHY SYSTEM FOR ECONOMIC

GROWTH AND STABILITY.

L BUT WHAT DISTURBS ME -- AND IT SHOULD DISTURB YOU -- IS THAT

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS ARE NOT BENEFITING FROM OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

L *They are suffering from inflation and unemployment.*  
THIS UNDERMINES THIS BASIC STRENGTH THAT I SEE IN OUR ECONOMY.

L THE ULTIMATE STRENGTH OF OUR ECONOMY WILL DEPEND ON THE

PARTICIPATION OF ALL OUR CITIZENS. L THE PEOPLE ARE THE STRENGTH

OF OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM -- THEIR LABOR, THEIR INGENUITY, AND

THEIR EXPERTISE. L AND OUR FAILURE TO ALLOW SOME TO PARTICIPATE

ROBS ALL AMERICANS OF THE KIND OF ECONOMIC FUTURE THAT IS WITHIN

OUR GRASP IF WE BUT MAKE THE EFFORT.

⑩ Ford in Puerto Rico - Dorado Beach  
3070 unemp. Poverty

L I AM CONVINCED THAT WE HAVE THE TOOLS TO BRING ABOUT TOTAL  
ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THIS COUNTRY.

#  
L I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU MY THOUGHTS ON TWO CRITICAL COMPONENTS  
OF AN ECONOMIC AGENDA FOR AMERICA IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE 20TH  
CENTURY -- URBAN REVITALIZATION AND FULL EMPLOYMENT.

6 FIRST, WE MUST DEMAND FROM OUR LEADERS A COMMITMENT TO SAVE  
AMERICA'S CITIES.

*to make them liveable and  
economically sound*

L OUR GREAT CITIES ARE IN DANGER OF FINANCIAL AND SPIRITUAL  
RUIN -- THESE VITAL, THROBING CENTERS OF COMMERCE, COMMUNICATIONS,  
TRANSPORTATION AND ENTERTAINMENT THAT HAVE SUPPORTED THIS NATION  
AND MADE US GREAT.

L IN RECENT YEARS, AN UNTHINKING ADMINISTRATION HAS ALLOWED OUR  
CITIES TO COME TO THE BRINK OF DISASTER, AND THE RESPONSE HAS

BEEN, AT BEST, ~~DEFERRED~~ *weak, timid, late and too little*

*OUR CITIES SIMPLY CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER FOR A POSITIVE COMMITMENT. ~~I HAVE SAID BEFORE THAT~~ THE NEGLECT OF THE CITIES WORKS*

A TERRIBLE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE

THERE.

*The Blacks, the Puerto Rican, the Chicago  
the low income, the Handicapped, the youth  
the Elderly.*

MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT: BY THE END OF THIS CENTURY THIS

NATION WILL HAVE OVER 250 MILLION INHABITANTS. AND 85 PERCENT

OF THEM WILL BE LIVING IN CITIES WITH POPULATIONS OF 50,000

*when most of cities, are*

OR MORE. ~~WE~~ ARE TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MORE THAN FOUR

OUT OF FIVE AMERICAN CITIZENS.

WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF ALMOST ALL OUR CHILDREN

AND GRANDCHILDREN. ~~BLACK AND WHITE ALIKE~~ AND YET THERE ARE

SOME WHO WANT TO RETREAT AND SAY TO THE CITIES, IN EFFECT: "YOU'RE

ON YOUR OWN."

I HAVE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MESSAGE.

*Popul*

I BELIEVE THAT A MASSIVE COMMITMENT TO OUR CITIES IS NEEDED --

A COMMITMENT THAT POSSESSES ALL THE SCOPE, THE VISION, THE

FINANCIAL BACKING, AND THE SPIRIT OF THE MARSHALL PLAN. IN THAT

PROGRAM, WE PUT OUR STRENGTH AND OUR RESOURCES ON THE LINE,

AND WE REBUILT THE CITIES OF GERMANY, ITALY, AND ENGLAND -- TO

THE WONDER AND ADMIRATION OF THE WORLD.

Now, DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT WE CAN'T MAKE THE SAME EFFORT

TO REBUILD OUR OWN CITIES, RIGHT HERE IN THE UNITED STATES?

OF COURSE WE CAN. THROUGH A THREE-PART PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC

RECOVERY, PHYSICAL REHABILITATION, AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM, WE

CAN MAKE OUR CITIES LIVABLE AND PROSPEROUS.

*can you imagine  
what one city  
defence budget for  
cities would do..!*

WE CAN MAKE THEM SYMBOLS OF HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY, INSTEAD OF

DESPAIR AND ~~INDIFFERENCE~~

*Poverty*

WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN CRUMBLING AND DYING, WE CAN BUILD AND

PROSPER.

↳ WHERE THERE HAS BEEN FILTH AND INFESTATION, WE CAN MAKE THEM

CLEAN AND HEALTHY.

↳ WHERE OUR PEOPLE ARE INTIMIDATED BY CRIME AND VANDALISM, WE CAN

RECAPTURE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND BROTHERHOOD.

↳ WE CAN ACCOMPLISH THESE THINGS -- AND THIS MUST BE A PRIMARY

GOAL OF OUR ECONOMIC AGENDA.

#2 A SECOND ELEMENT OF OUR AGENDA -- AND VITAL TO THE ECONOMIC

HEALTH OF ALL AMERICANS -- MUST BE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL

FULL EMPLOYMENT POLICY THAT GUARANTEES TO EVERY AMERICAN WHO IS

WILLING AND ABLE TO WORK A DECENT JOB AT A DECENT WAGE.

↳ THERE CAN BE NO ECONOMIC STABILITY WITH ~~VERY~~ <sup>COSTLY</sup> HIGH

UNEMPLOYMENT.

1%  
          

THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE HAS ESTIMATED THAT EACH ONE PERCENT  
REDUCTION IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WOULD REDUCE WELFARE COSTS TO  
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BY \$1.5 TO \$2 BILLION AND SAVE \$2.5 TO \$3  
BILLION IN UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS.

~~Each 1% costs 1.6 Billion in Revenue~~

IF WE MOVED FROM AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 7.3 PERCENT TO EVEN  
4 PERCENT, WE COULD REDUCE EXPENDITURES BY AS MUCH AS \$17 BILLION  
AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL ALONE.

*and* FOR EACH ONE PERCENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT YOU LOSE \$14 BILLION IN  
REVENUES. THAT'S THE PROBLEM IN OUR FEDERAL BUDGET.

ONCE YOU CLEAR AWAY ALL THE BUNK AND THE POLITICAL DIATRIBE,  
THE CENTRAL FACT IS THAT LOST REVENUES BECAUSE OF JOBLESSNESS ARE  
THE MAJOR CAUSE OF BUDGET DEFICITS.

*L* IN 1975, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS LOST \$27 BILLION BECAUSE  
OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

2 AND IT IS ESTIMATED THAT BY 1980, WE WILL HAVE LOST \$1 TRILLION  
IN PRODUCTION BECAUSE OF EXCESSIVE UNEMPLOYMENT.

4 THAT IS MONEY THAT WILL NEVER APPEAR IN ANYONE'S PAYCHECK --  
MONEY THAT CANNOT BE TAXED -- MONEY THAT CANNOT BE USED TO BUY GOODS  
AND SERVICES THAT CAN KEEP BUSINESS ALIVE AND THE ECONOMY THRIVING.

4 BUT THIS IS JUST THE FORMAL ECONOMIC ASPECT OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

WHAT CONCERNS ME EVEN MORE IS THE SOCIAL COST OF SUSTAINED  
HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT -- THE SPIRITUAL, EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL  
DESTRUCTION THAT LIES IN THE WAKE OF EXCESSIVE JOBLESSNESS.

*Crime*  
*Disease*  
*Suicide*

4 IT IS THIS ASPECT THAT THREATENS OUR NATION FROM WITHIN.  
UNEMPLOYMENT AND OFFICIAL NEGLECT OF ITS VICTIMS ARE A CANCER IN  
AMERICA THAT MUST BE ARRESTED.

(John Stuart Mill)

L UNTIL EVERY AMERICAN HAS A PRODUCTIVE PART TO PLAY IN THIS SOCIETY -- UNTIL EACH CITIZEN CAN BE INVOLVED THROUGH THE SWEAT OF HIS OWN WORK -- HE OR SHE WILL NOT FEEL A PART OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE.

L I AM CONVINCED THAT MOST AMERICANS WHO ARE ABLE TO WORK WOULD RATHER HAVE A PAYCHECK THAN A WELFARE CHECK.

TIME AND TIME AGAIN -- IN OUR HEARINGS BEFORE THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, I HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY THE SAD, ANGUISHED STORIES RELATED TO US BY PEOPLE WHO WANT SO MUCH TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NATION.

L IT IS NO MERE COINCIDENCE THAT THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS LIVING IN POVERTY IN THE 1960'S WAS REDUCED BY 14 MILLION WHILE THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPPED FROM AN AVERAGE OF 6.7 PERCENT IN 1961 TO 3.6 PERCENT IN 1968. WE WORKED HARD TO ACHIEVE THOSE GOALS.

↳ BUT IN 1974, THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN POVERTY  
INCREASED BY 1.3 MILLION. ↳ I SHUDDER TO THINK WHAT THE 1975 FIGURES  
WILL SHOW WITH THE JOBLESS RATE LAST YEAR JUMPING UPWARDS TO  
9 PERCENT.

↳ THE FACTS ARE CLEAR.

↳ WE WILL NOT BRING ABOUT A REDUCTION IN CRIME UNTIL WE PUT  
PEOPLE TO WORK.

*Crime*

↳ WE WILL NOT STRAIGHTEN OUT THE WELFARE MESS WHILE UNEMPLOYMENT  
REMAINS AT 7, 8 OR 9 MILLION PEOPLE.

*welfare*

↳ WE WILL NOT SEE ANY IMPROVEMENT IN MENTAL HEALTH OR A REDUCTION  
IN ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE UNTIL PEOPLE ARE WORKING.

*Mental Health*

↳ AND NO MATTER HOW WELL BIG BUSINESS FARES, YOU WON'T FIND REAL  
ECONOMIC STABILITY UNTIL all ~~THE MAJORITY OF~~ AMERICANS ARE WORKING AND  
PRODUCING -- ABLE TO BUY GOODS AND SERVICES AND PURCHASE HOMES.

CONGRESSMAN AUGUSTUS HAWKINS AND I HAVE INTRODUCED LEGISLATION  
 THAT I BELIEVE TO BE AMONG THE MOST CRITICAL OF MY LEGISLATIVE  
 CAREER. THE FULL EMPLOYMENT AND BALANCED GROWTH ACT OF 1976  
 CAN HELP TO MOVE US TOWARD TRUE ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND STABILITY FOR  
 ALL AMERICANS. I URGE YOU TO GIVE IT YOUR SUPPORT.

#  
 IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR OUR PEOPLE ARE ASKING WHAT LEGACY

WE WILL LEAVE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS, AND THEY ARE REMEMBERING THE  
KIND OF GOALS THAT WERE IMPORTANT TO THE FIRST AMERICANS.

OUR FOREBEARERS ASSERTED THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE TO  
LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

*They drew to  
 Pioneer, to promise -  
 Optimism - faith*

THEY SOUGHT TO CREATE A NEW SOCIETY THAT WOULD STAND FOR  
NOTHING LESS THAN A FULL MEASURE OF HUMAN FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY.

What a magnificent Promise!

L THOSE ARE GREAT AMBITIONS, L THEY CHALLENGE ALL OF US TO

CONSIDER THE KIND OF AMERICA THAT OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

WILL INHERIT.

*We need to ask some questions.*

L WILL THEY LIVE IN A SOCIETY WHICH REFUSES TO SEE THAT

ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL?

L WILL THEY GROW TO ADULTHOOD WITHOUT KNOWING THE VALUE OF WORK,

BECAUSE WE HAVE TOO FEW JOBS FOR THEM?

L WILL THEY LEARN ONLY TO DISTRUST GOVERNMENT AND TO ASK LESS  
OF THEMSELVES IN THE PROCESS?

L WILL THEY LIVE IN AN AMERICA THAT FORGETS ITS POOR -- ITS  
NEEDY -- ITS LESS FORTUNATE?

*My answer -*

*They need not and*

~~THEY~~ WILL NOT -- IF WE HAVE THE COURAGE TO LIVE UP TO OUR

BELIEFS. - our values.

IF WE BELIEVE IN WORK AND A PRODUCTIVE AMERICA, THEN OUR  
GOVERNMENT MUST BE COMMITTED TO FULL EMPLOYMENT THAT ASSURES

DECENT JOBS AT DECENT WAGES. WORK, NOT WELFARE -- PAYCHECKS,

NOT THE DOLE.

IF WE BELIEVE IN THE RIGHT OF EVERY AMERICAN TO A FULL LIFE,  
THEN WE NEED A NATIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES QUALITY

HEALTH CARE TO ALL.

IF WE BELIEVE IN OUR CITIES, WE MUST HAVE A PROGRAM THAT  
REPLACES SLUMS WITH DECENT HOMES AND MAKES HOME OWNERSHIP A

REALITY FOR THE WORKING PEOPLE OF AMERICA ONCE AGAIN. ~~WE WILL~~

PRODUCE ONE MILLION FEWER HOMES THIS YEAR THAN WE MUST HAVE TO  
MEET OUR NATIONAL HOUSING GOALS.

*could be and 7-*

L IF WE BELIEVE IN ENDING PREJUDICE, THEN WE MUST SEE THAT

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY REACHES INTO EVERY ASPECT OF AMERICAN LIFE.

*From the school, to the factory, to the ~~government~~ government*

IF WE BELIEVE IN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, THAN LET US CHAMPION

THE CAUSE OF EDUCATION,

h IF WE LOVE AND RESPECT OUR SENIOR CITIZENS, THEN LET US ASSURE

~~THEM OF GENEROUS AND DECENT CARE,~~

h AND, IF WE BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE OF AMERICA, WE MUST SEE

THAT MEN AND WOMEN GUIDED BY A SENSE OF VISION AND FAIRNESS ARE

ELECTED TO LEAD OUR NATION, PEOPLE LIKE JOHN BRADEMAS WITH THE

WISDOM TO KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT AND THE COURAGE TO PURSUE IT,

h YOU KNOW WE MUST DREAM -- WE HAVE TO PROMISE -- FOR IT IS THE

EFFORT TO FULFILL PROMISES THAT HAS BROUGHT PROGRESS UNDER THE

CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM WHOSE ~~LONGEVITY~~ *Birthday* WE CELEBRATE IN 1976.

L I BELIEVE YOU CAN TELL A GREAT DEAL ABOUT A SOCIETY BY  
LOOKING AT THE NATURE OF ITS PROMISES.

L AND THE AMERICAN PROMISE IS A REAFFIRMATION OF THE GOD-GIVEN  
RIGHTS TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

L OUR GOVERNMENT WAS CREATED TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS, NOT TO  
EQUIVOCATE OR BARGAIN THEM AWAY. THE GOVERNMENT EXISTS NOT TO  
DO THE MINIMUM FOR ITS CITIZENS -- BUT TO GUARANTEE BY EVERY  
MEANS NECESSARY THAT CITIZENS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO  
EVERYTHING OF WHICH THEY ARE CAPABLE.

L WE CAN MAKE GOOD ON THESE PROMISES. L WE CAN MAKE THE FUTURE  
OURS. ~~BUT THE STRUGGLE IS NOT FOR THE FAINT HEARTED.~~

###



# Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)