

## Senator Hubert H. Humphrey

### *'An attitude of Public Service begins at the top'*

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Minneapolis and to our beautiful State of Minnesota. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to get around and see our wonderful countryside and to get to know our people.

This is a special year for every American. It is a time to celebrate the success of the American experiment in democracy—the greatest force for freedom since the dawn of time.

Yet our Bicentennial should be more than a mere celebration of the longevity of our political system. It should be a time when we reflect on where we as a Nation have been and where we are going.

The greatest lesson of our Bicentennial can come from what Albert Einstein once said. We as a people are "always becoming, never being"—always dynamic, never static.

We have good cause to celebrate what we have been in 200 years of independence.

It has not been a history of all goodness and light. Yes, we Americans have our scars. But time and time again, we see in our history a record of a people overcoming defeat, surpassing expectations. Ours is a history of Americans who saw the wrong of slavery and abolished it—who understood the deprivation of poverty and sought to eliminate it.

We are a people who have fought tyranny abroad and opened our arms to those who have sought peace and freedom within our borders.

So we Americans are filled with the Bicentennial spirit.

But the men of 1776 are sending us this message: Freedom is never a resting place. It is not a reward for having been born an American. It must be won by every generation—earned by every citizen or it will be lost.

The Founding Fathers did not guarantee success. They spoke only of opportunity. The Declaration of Independence did not guarantee rights. It described them.

And the Constitution does not guarantee the welfare of every citizen. Instead, it lays down, in the simplest and most eloquent terms, the right of every American to pursue his or her full potential.

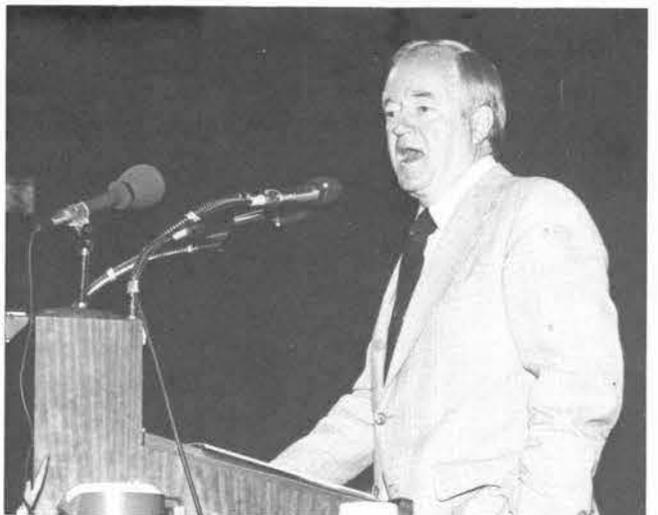
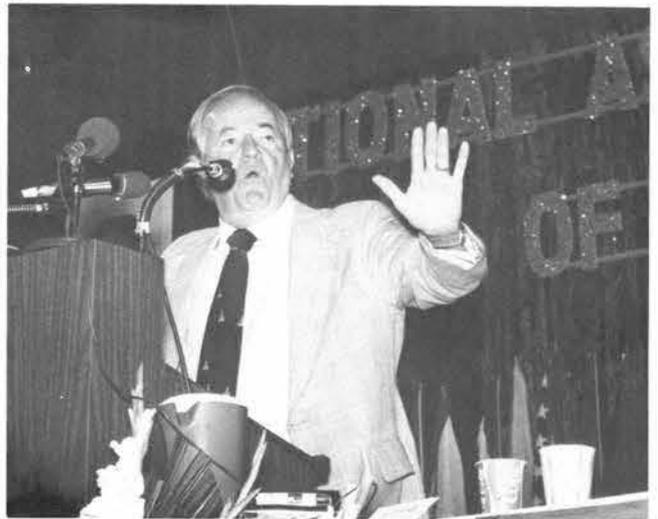
Every generation of Americans has its own call to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And it remains for every generation to do its part to bring about the realization of the promises we hold so dear.

The future will require the best that is in us. And we can give it no less.

Americans always have believed that a Democratic government must be an active force for the betterment of human life.

The American promise compels us to make this Bicentennial year a new beginning and to rededicate ourselves to the goals we share.

The Founders did not tell us how we could solve the problems that would come to light from time to time. They didn't predict what they would be.



Instead, they gave us a political system with the flexibility to deal with new and different problems. And they gave us a philosophy to guide our ways.

They did not tell us that government could do everything. Instead, I've always believed that government can make a positive contribution toward helping each person live a secure, happy, and satisfying life.

Government can be a partner in building a more just society.

For the remainder of this century and beyond, there is much to do to make the dreams of the Founders reality in a new and changing world.

In some cases, it will mean that we have to shed the dead weight of the past—replace old ideas and solutions with new ones. At other times, it will mean that we need to recapture the lessons of the past and apply them to new situations.

I want to talk just a bit here about the problems we will face these coming years. There are no simple solutions. But we must make the effort, knowing that failure to do so can result in disaster for the American way of life.

We must develop a national urban-rural policy. Many of our great cities are crumbling in decay. They are burdened by growing crime and unemployment, by deteriorating physical structure, pollution and fiscal crisis.

We must realize that neglect of our great cities is a new and insidious brand of discrimination which takes its toll on the elderly, minorities, and the handicapped—those who make their lives in the cities.

We need a new partnership, involving all levels of government and the private sector. This new partnership must have as its goal the revitalization of urban centers through a National Domestic Development Bank, anti-recession grants to state and local governments, the upgrading of housing and public facilities, targeted Federal procurement and employment poli-

cies, and institutional reform that can make state and local governments a part of the Federal budget and planning processes.

Basic to our efforts to save America's cities—and basic to the well-being of millions of Americans—is the urgent need to maintain and enhance the quality of life in rural America.

Enactment of the National Rural Development Act was an important milestone in these efforts. I am the author of that law. It represents a commitment on the part of the Federal Government to have as national policy the well-being of our rural areas.

Those who live in rural America provide all of us with basic and essential products necessary for survival and prosperity—food, fibre, lumber, and basic minerals. A healthy, productive and prosperous America will require the rejuvenation, revitalization and modernization of the vast areas of rural America.

If we are going to save the cities, we are going to have to make a good life in the countryside possible. Our people are beginning to move back to rural areas, but we cannot expect this to continue unless we guarantee that they will have basic services. We must provide the resources necessary to have a decent life—education, health care, transportation, housing, communications; in short, we must make it possible for Americans to *choose* to live in rural areas, and not just be resigned to it.

Next, we must realize that the future well-being of this Republic is tied in large measure to one simple promise: that every adult American who is willing and able to work can have a job at decent wages.

More than 40 years since the Great Depression brought this country to its knees, we still have not found a way to ensure our prosperity or provide every American with a productive place in this society.

Over seven million persons today are officially unemployed. Another four million either have become so

Goodman, Grubb, Senator Humphrey and admiring onlookers.



discouraged that they have dropped out of the labor force completely, or can find only part-time jobs.

The costs of unemployment are beyond calculation. Millions of American families have seen their aspirations of a generation vanish. Confidence has been replaced by fear—fear of losing a job; fear of unmet mortgage payments; fear of sky-rocketing medical bills; fear of crime and violence, and fear of a destitute old age. For millions, fear has replaced hope. Doubt has replaced confidence. And despair has replaced optimism.

In hard economic terms, unemployment has meant:

—\$500 billion in lost production between 1970 and 1975. By the end of the decade, recession will have cost us some \$1.5 trillion.

—“Stagflation” has produced \$176 billion in Federal deficits since fiscal year 1970;

—State and local governments lost \$27 billion in revenues last year alone; and

—welfare costs rose some 20 percent in 1975.

Unemployment means lost revenues, higher social program costs, billions for unemployment compensation, and untold misery for millions of jobless Americans and their families.

I have introduced legislation—the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act—which would require that we bring adult unemployment down to three percent in four years. This bill represents sound economic policy, and we need leadership that recognizes the fundamental truths about unemployment. Until we assure that every American has an opportunity to contribute to our society, we cannot call ourselves truly free.

Yes, we have a whole agenda of unfinished business—human priorities which have gone unmet in the last eight years.

Our people are calling out for leadership:

—to improve the educational system in this country;

—to make good health care available to every citizen;

—to upgrade and expand public transportation;

—to curb pollution and protect our environment against current and future depletion of our natural resources;

—to fight crime in the streets, in the corporate offices, and, indeed, in public offices around the nation;

—to reform the welfare system so that those who need help can get it, and those who don't can't take advantage of it;

—regulatory reform—meaningful reform that reflects the needs of consumers and others who rely on government to protect their interests against the encroachment of those who would reap private gain at public expense.

Finally, we need to take a good look at just what government can do—what role it should play in our future efforts.

We have heard a lot of talk lately about so-called big government, but what we *need* to hear is what *kind* of government we can expect to have—what kinds of services it should provide.

And you have a part to play in that debate. Because, whether you like it or not, *you* represent the government in many of the cities and towns across America.

Very often the post office is the only government agency besides the Internal Revenue Office that our people know.

The Postal Service has been criticized a great deal lately, and no doubt some of that criticism is deserved.

But, postmasters don't deserve the blame for the mess the Postal Service is in.

Efficiency begins at the top!

An attitude of public service begins at the top!

Accountability and fiscal responsibility begin at the top!

You know it, and I know it.

We need to take a good hard look at the Postal Service to see what needs to be done to keep it solvent and to keep the mail moving.

—This will mean that we have the Postmaster General appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

—It will mean that Congress has oversight of what's going on at the Postal Service.

—It will have to mean that postmasters get decent pay and fair treatment;

—And it will mean that we have to keep post offices open! The people of America will not sit still while some semi-corporate, semi-bureaucrat comes around and says, “Now, I think we're going to have to close your little post office here.”

No, our people know they are entitled to good service; they know they are entitled to community identity.

They don't understand all this corporate efficiency business. What they *do* understand is that they want to be able to mail a letter and have it delivered. It's simple.

You can play a great role in reforming the Postal Service, and we need your help.

These are just a few of the things I believe we need to do in the coming years. They won't all be easy. But one thing we know: we ignore these issues at our peril.

I want to leave you with these inspiring words from Franklin Roosevelt: “The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith.” △



Chairman Gondola, Editor Suel, Senator Humphrey and Exec. member Syers.

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

1976 NATIONAL CONVENTION

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTMASTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Minneapolis, Minnesota

August 30, 1976

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Minneapolis and to our beautiful State of Minnesota. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to get around and see our wonderful countryside and to get to know our people.

This is a special year for every American. It is a time to celebrate the success of the American experiment in democracy -- the greatest force for freedom since the dawn of time.

Yet our Bicentennial should be more than a mere celebration of the longevity of our political system. It should be a time when we reflect on where we as a Nation have been and where we are going.

The greatest lesson of our Bicentennial can come from what Albert Einstein once said. We as a people are "always becoming, never being" -- always dynamic, never static.

We have good cause to celebrate what we have been in 200 years of independence.

It has not been a history of all goodness and light. Yes, we Americans have our scars. But time and time again, we see in our history a record of a people overcoming defeat, surpassing expectations. Ours is a history of Americans who saw the wrong of slavery and abolished it -- who understood the deprivation of poverty and sought to eliminate it.

We are a people who have fought tyranny abroad and opened our arms to those who have sought peace and freedom within our borders.

So we Americans are filled with the Bicentennial spirit.

But the men of 1776 are sending us this message: Freedom is never a resting place. It is not a reward for having been born an American. It must be won by every generation -- earned by every citizen or it will be lost.

The Founding Fathers did not guarantee success. They spoke only of opportunity. The Declaration of Independence did not guarantee rights. It described them.

And the Constitution does not guarantee the welfare of every citizen. Instead, it lays down, in the simplest and most eloquent terms, the right of every American to pursue his or her full potential.

Every generation of Americans has its own call to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And it remains for every generation to do its part to bring about the realization of the promises we hold so dear.

The future will require the best that is in us. And we can give it no less.

Americans always have believed that a Democratic government must be an active force for the betterment of human life.

The American promise compels us to make this Bicentennial year a new beginning and to rededicate ourselves to the goals we share.

The Founders did not tell us how we could solve the problems that would come to light from time to time. They didn't predict what they would be.

Instead, they gave us a political system with the flexibility to deal with new and different problems. And they gave us a philosophy to guide our ways.

They did not tell us that government could do everything. Instead, I've always believed that government can make a positive contribution toward helping each person live a secure, happy, and satisfying life.

Government can be a partner in building a more just society.

For the remainder of this century and beyond, there is much to do to make the dreams of the Founders reality in a new and changing world.

In some cases, it will mean that we have to shed the dead weight of the past -- replace old ideas and solutions with new ones. At other times, it will mean that we need to recapture the lessons of the past and apply them to new situations.

I want to talk just a bit here about the problems we will face these coming years. There are no simple solutions. But we must make the effort, knowing that failure to do so can result in disaster for the American way of life.

We must develop a national urban-rural policy. Many of our great cities are crumbling in decay. They are burdened by growing crime and unemployment, by deteriorating physical structure, pollution and fiscal crisis.

We must realize that neglect of our great cities is a new and insidious brand of discrimination which takes its toll on the elderly, minorities, and the handicapped -- those who make their lives in the cities.

We need a new partnership, involving all levels of government and the private sector. This new partnership must have as its goal the revitalization of urban centers through a National Domestic Development Bank, anti-recession grants to state and local governments, the upgrading of housing and public facilities, targeted Federal procurement and employment policies, and institutional reform that can make state and local governments a part of the Federal budget and planning processes.

Basic to our efforts to save America's cities -- and basic to the well-being of millions of Americans -- is the urgent need to maintain and enhance the quality of life in rural America.

Enactment of the National Rural Development Act was an important milestone in these efforts. I am the author of that law. It represents a commitment on the part of the Federal Government to have as national policy the well-being of our rural areas.

Those who live in rural America provide all of us with basic and essential products necessary for survival and prosperity -- food, fibre, lumber, and basic minerals. A healthy, productive and prosperous America will require the rejuvenation, revitalization and modernization of the vast areas of rural America.

If we are going to save the cities, we are going to have to make a good life in the countryside possible. Our people are beginning to move back to rural areas, but we cannot expect this to continue unless we guarantee that they will have basic services. We must provide the resources necessary to have a decent life -- education, health care, transportation, housing, communications; in short, we must make it possible for Americans to choose to live in rural areas, and not just be resigned to it.

Next, we must realize that the future well-being of this Republic is tied in large measure to one simple promise: that every adult American who is willing and able to work can have a job at decent wages.

More than 40 years since the Great Depression brought this country to its knees, we still have not found a way to ensure our prosperity or provide every American with a productive place in this society.

Over seven million persons today are officially unemployed. Another four million either have become so discouraged that they have dropped out of the labor force completely, or can find only part-time jobs.

The costs of unemployment are beyond calculation. Millions of American families have seen their aspirations of a generation vanish. Confidence has been replaced by fear -- fear of losing a job; fear of unmet mortgage payments; fear of sky-rocketing medical bills; fear of crime and violence, and fear of a destitute old age. For millions, fear has replaced hope. Doubt has replaced confidence. And despair has replaced optimism.

In hard economic terms, unemployment has meant:

-- \$500 billion in lost production between 1970 and 1975. By the end of the decade, recession will have cost us some \$1.5 trillion.

-- "Stagflation" has produced \$176 billion in Federal deficits since fiscal year 1970;

-- State and local governments lost \$27 billion in revenues last year alone; and

-- welfare costs rose some 20 percent in 1975.

Unemployment means lost revenues, higher social program costs, billions for unemployment compensation, and untold misery for millions of jobless Americans and their families.

I have introduced legislation -- the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act -- which would require that we bring adult unemployment down to three percent in four years. This bill represents sound economic policy, and we need leadership that recognizes the fundamental truths about unemployment. Until we assure that every American has an opportunity to contribute to our society, we cannot call ourselves truly free.

Yes, we have a whole agenda of unfinished business -- human priorities which have gone unmet in the last eight years.

Our people are calling out for leadership:

-- to improve the educational system in this country;

-- to make good health care available to every citizen;

-- to upgrade and expand public transportation;

-- to curb pollution and protect our environment against current and future depletion of our natural resources;

-- to fight crime in the streets, in the corporate offices, and, indeed, in public offices around the nation;

-- to reform the welfare system so that those who need help can get it, and those who don't can't take advantage of it;

-- regulatory reform -- meaningful reform that reflects the needs of consumers and others who rely on government to protect their interests against the encroachment of those who would reap private gain at public expense.

Finally, we need to take a good look at just what government can do -- what role it should play in our future efforts.

We have heard a lot of talk lately about so-called big government, but what we need to hear is what kind of government we can expect to have -- what kinds of services it should provide.

And you have a part to play in that debate. Because, whether you like it or not, you represent the government in many of the cities and towns across America.

Very often the post office is the only government agency besides the Internal Revenue Office that our people know.

The Postal Service has been criticized a great deal lately, and no doubt some of that criticism is deserved.

But, postmasters don't deserve the blame for the mess the Postal Service is in.

Efficiency begins at the top!

An attitude of public service begins at the top!

Accountability and fiscal responsibility begin at the top!

You know it, and I know it.

We need to take a good hard look at the Postal Service to see what needs to be done to keep it solvent and to keep the mail moving.

-- This will mean that we have the Postmaster General appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

-- It will mean that Congress has oversight of what's going on at the Postal Service.

-- It will have to mean that postmasters get decent pay and fair treatment;

-- And it will mean that we have to keep post offices open! The people of America will not sit still while some semi-corporate semi-bureaucrat comes around and says, "Now, I think we're going to have to close your little post office here."

No, our people know they are entitled to good service; they know they are entitled to community identity.

They don't understand all this corporate efficiency business. What they do understand is that they want to be able to mail a letter and have it delivered. It's simple.

You can play a great role in reforming the Postal Service, and we need your help.

These are just a few of the things I believe we need to do in the coming years. They won't all be easy. But one thing we know: we ignore these issues at our peril.

I want to leave you with these inspiring words from Franklin Roosevelt: "The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith."

#

#

#

#

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

1976 NATIONAL CONVENTION

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTMASTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

AUGUST 30, 1976

Hugh H. H. H.  
Sept 1976

President - John Goodman  
Cong. Jim Hanley  
Cormac Seal - Editor of  
"Postmasters Gazette"  
& "Grapher Postmaster"

Postmaster meet. L. A. L. L. L.  
meet. P. M. M. M. M.

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO MINNEAPOLIS  
AND TO OUR BEAUTIFUL STATE OF MINNESOTA. I HOPE YOU WILL  
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GET AROUND AND SEE  
OUR WONDERFUL COUNTRYSIDE AND TO GET TO KNOW OUR PEOPLE.

↳ THIS IS A SPECIAL YEAR FOR EVERY AMERICAN. (IT IS A  
TIME TO CELEBRATE THE SUCCESS OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT IN  
DEMOCRACY -- THE GREATEST FORCE FOR FREEDOM SINCE THE DAWN  
OF TIME.

↳ YET OUR BICENTENNIAL SHOULD BE MORE THAN A MERE CELEBRATION  
OF THE LONGEVITY OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM. (IT SHOULD BE A TIME  
WHEN WE REFLECT ON WHERE WE AS A NATION HAVE BEEN AND WHERE  
WE ARE GOING.

↳ THE GREATEST LESSON OF OUR BICENTENNIAL CAN COME FROM WHAT ALBERT EINSTEIN ONCE SAID. WE AS A PEOPLE ARE "ALWAYS BECOMING,  
NEVER BEING" -- ALWAYS DYNAMIC, NEVER STATIC.

↳ WE HAVE GOOD CAUSE TO CELEBRATE WHAT WE HAVE BEEN IN 200 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE.

↳ IT HAS NOT BEEN A HISTORY OF ALL GOODNESS AND LIGHT. ↳ YES, WE AMERICANS HAVE OUR SCARS ↳ BUT TIME AND TIME AGAIN, WE SEE IN OUR HISTORY A RECORD OF A PEOPLE OVERCOMING DEFEAT, SURPASSING EXPECTATIONS ↳ OURS IS A HISTORY OF AMERICANS WHO SAW THE WRONG OF SLAVERY AND ABOLISHED IT -- WHO UNDERSTOOD THE DEPRIVATION OF POVERTY AND SOUGHT TO ELIMINATE IT.

WE ARE A PEOPLE WHO HAVE FOUGHT TYRANNY ABROAD AND OPENED  
OUR ARMS TO THOSE WHO HAVE SOUGHT PEACE AND FREEDOM WITHIN OUR  
BORDERS.

SO WE AMERICANS ARE FILLED WITH THE BICENTENNIAL SPIRIT.

↳ BUT THE MEN OF 1776 ARE SENDING US THIS MESSAGE: FREEDOM  
IS NEVER A RESTING PLACE. ↳ IT IS NOT A REWARD FOR HAVING BEEN  
BORN AN AMERICAN. IT MUST BE WON BY EVERY GENERATION -- EARNED  
BY EVERY CITIZEN OR IT WILL BE LOST.

↳ THE FOUNDING FATHERS DID NOT GUARANTEE SUCCESS ↳ THEY SPOKE  
ONLY OF OPPORTUNITY ↳ THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE DID NOT  
GUARANTEE RIGHTS. IT DESCRIBED THEM.

AND THE CONSTITUTION DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE WELFARE OF EVERY  
CITIZEN. INSTEAD, IT LAYS DOWN, IN THE SIMPLEST AND MOST ELOQUENT  
TERMS, THE RIGHT OF EVERY AMERICAN TO PURSUE HIS OR HER FULL  
POTENTIAL.

EVERY GENERATION OF AMERICANS HAS ITS OWN CALL TO LIFE,  
LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. AND IT REMAINS FOR EVERY  
GENERATION TO DO ITS PART TO BRING ABOUT THE REALIZATION OF  
THE PROMISES WE HOLD SO DEAR.

THE FUTURE WILL REQUIRE THE BEST THAT IS IN US, AND WE  
CAN GIVE IT NO LESS.

AMERICANS ALWAYS HAVE BELIEVED THAT A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT  
MUST BE AN ACTIVE FORCE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF HUMAN LIFE.

↳ THE AMERICAN PROMISE COMPELS US TO MAKE THIS BICENTENNIAL  
YEAR A NEW BEGINNING AND TO REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE GOALS  
WE SHARE.

↳ THE FOUNDERS DID NOT TELL US HOW WE COULD SOLVE THE PROBLEMS  
THAT WOULD COME TO LIGHT FROM TIME TO TIME. THEY DIDN'T PREDICT  
WHAT THEY WOULD BE.

↳ INSTEAD, THEY GAVE US A POLITICAL SYSTEM WITH THE  
FLEXIBILITY TO DEAL WITH NEW AND DIFFERENT PROBLEMS AND  
THEY GAVE US A PHILOSOPHY TO GUIDE OUR WAYS.

↳ THEY DID NOT TELL US THAT GOVERNMENT COULD DO EVERYTHING.  
INSTEAD, I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT GOVERNMENT CAN MAKE A  
POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TOWARD HELPING EACH PERSON LIVE A  
SECURE, HAPPY, AND SATISFYING LIFE.

↳ GOVERNMENT CAN BE A PARTNER IN BUILDING A MORE JUST  
SOCIETY.

↳ FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS CENTURY AND BEYOND, THERE IS  
MUCH TO DO ~~TO MAKE THE DREAMS OF THE FOUNDERS REALITY IN A~~  
~~NEW AND CHANGING WORLD.~~

↳ IN SOME CASES, IT WILL MEAN THAT WE HAVE TO SHED THE  
DEAD WEIGHT OF THE PAST -- REPLACE OLD IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS  
WITH NEW ONES. ↳ AT OTHER TIMES, IT WILL MEAN THAT WE NEED TO  
RECAPTURE THE LESSONS OF THE PAST AND APPLY THEM TO NEW SITUATIONS.

↳ I WANT TO TALK JUST A BIT HERE ABOUT THE PROBLEMS WE WILL  
FACE THESE COMING YEARS. ↳ THERE ARE NO SIMPLE SOLUTIONS. BUT  
WE MUST MAKE THE EFFORT, KNOWING THAT FAILURE TO DO SO CAN  
RESULT IN DISASTER FOR THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE.

WE MUST DEVELOP A NATIONAL URBAN-RURAL POLICY. MANY OF OUR GREAT CITIES ARE CRUMBLING IN DECAY. THEY ARE BURDENED BY GROWING CRIME AND UNEMPLOYMENT, BY DETERIORATING PHYSICAL STRUCTURE, POLLUTION AND FISCAL CRISIS.

Neglect of our cities

WE MUST REALIZE THAT NEGLECT OF OUR GREAT CITIES IS A NEW

AND INSIDIOUS BRAND OF DISCRIMINATION WHICH TAKES ITS TOLL *Especially*

*re* THE ELDERLY, MINORITIES, AND THE HANDICAPPED -- ~~THOSE WHO MAKE~~  
THEIR LIVES IN THE CITIES.

WE NEED A NEW PARTNERSHIP, INVOLVING ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THIS NEW PARTNERSHIP MUST HAVE AS ITS GOAL THE REVITALIZATION OF URBAN CENTERS THROUGH A NATIONAL DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT BANK, ANTI-RECESSION GRANTS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, THE UPGRADING OF HOUSING AND PUBLIC FACILITIES, TARGETTED FEDERAL PROCUREMENT AND EMPLOYMENT POLICIES, AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM THAT CAN MAKE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS A PART OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND PLANNING PROCESSES.

4 BASIC TO OUR EFFORTS TO SAVE AMERICA'S CITIES -- AND BASIC TO THE WELL-BEING OF MILLIONS OF AMERICANS -- IS THE URGENT NEED TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL AMERICA.

ENACTMENT OF THE NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT WAS AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN THESE EFFORTS. I AM THE AUTHOR OF THAT LAW. It REPRESENTS A COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO HAVE AS NATIONAL POLICY THE WELL-BEING OF OUR RURAL AREAS.

~~THOSE WHO LIVE IN RURAL AMERICA PROVIDE ALL OF US WITH BASIC AND ESSENTIAL PRODUCTS NECESSARY FOR SURVIVAL AND PROSPERITY -- FOOD, FIBRE, LUMBER, AND BASIC MINERALS. A HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE AND PROSPEROUS AMERICA WILL REQUIRE THE REJUVENATION, REVITALIZATION AND MODERNIZATION OF THE VAST AREAS OF RURAL AMERICA.~~

Yes, ~~IF WE ARE GOING TO SAVE THE CITIES, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE~~  
~~TO MAKE A GOOD LIFE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE POSSIBLE.~~ OUR PEOPLE  
ARE BEGINNING TO MOVE BACK TO RURAL AREAS, BUT WE CANNOT EXPECT  
THIS TO CONTINUE UNLESS WE GUARANTEE THAT THEY WILL HAVE BASIC  
SERVICES. WE MUST PROVIDE THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO HAVE A  
DECENT LIFE -- EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING,  
COMMUNICATIONS; IN SHORT, WE MUST MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR AMERICANS  
TO CHOOSE TO LIVE IN RURAL AREAS, AND NOT JUST BE RESIGNED TO IT.

Jobs

L NEXT, WE MUST REALIZE THAT THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF THIS  
REPUBLIC IS TIED IN LARGE MEASURE TO ONE SIMPLE PROMISE: THAT  
EVERY ADULT AMERICAN WHO IS WILLING AND ABLE TO WORK CAN HAVE  
A JOB AT DECENT WAGES.

MORE THAN 40 YEARS SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION BROUGHT THIS COUNTRY TO ITS KNEES, WE STILL HAVE NOT FOUND A WAY TO ENSURE OUR PROSPERITY OR PROVIDE EVERY AMERICAN WITH A PRODUCTIVE PLACE IN THIS SOCIETY.

↳ OVER SEVEN MILLION PERSONS TODAY ARE OFFICIALLY UNEMPLOYED.

ANOTHER FOUR MILLION EITHER HAVE BECOME SO DISCOURAGED THAT THEY HAVE DROPPED OUT OF THE LABOR FORCE COMPLETELY, OR CAN FIND ONLY PART-TIME JOBS.

growth unemployment:

↳ THE COSTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT ARE BEYOND CALCULATION. MILLIONS OF AMERICAN FAMILIES HAVE SEEN THEIR ASPIRATIONS OF A GENERATION VANISH.

↳ CONFIDENCE HAS BEEN REPLACED BY FEAR -- FEAR OF LOSING A JOB; FEAR OF UNMET MORTGAGE PAYMENTS; FEAR OF SKY-ROCKETING MEDICAL BILLS; FEAR OF CRIME AND VIOLENCE, AND FEAR OF A

DESTITUTE OLD AGE. ↳ FOR MILLIONS, FEAR HAS REPLACED HOPE. ↳ DOUBT HAS REPLACED CONFIDENCE. AND DESPAIR HAS REPLACED OPTIMISM.

IN HARD ECONOMIC TERMS, UNEMPLOYMENT HAS MEANT:

-- \$500 BILLION IN LOST PRODUCTION BETWEEN 1970 AND 1975.

BY THE END OF THE DECADE, RECESSION WILL HAVE COST US SOME \$1.5 TRILLION.

↳ "STAGFLATION" HAS PRODUCED <sup>\$240</sup>~~\$175~~ BILLION IN FEDERAL

DEFICITS SINCE FISCAL YEAR 1970;

↳ STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS LOST \$27 BILLION IN REVENUES

LAST YEAR ALONE; AND

↳ WELFARE COSTS ROSE SOME 20 PERCENT IN 1975.

↳ UNEMPLOYMENT MEANS LOST REVENUES, HIGHER SOCIAL PROGRAM COSTS, BILLIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION, AND UNTOLD MISERY  
FOR MILLIONS OF JOBLESS AMERICANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

I HAVE INTRODUCED LEGISLATION -- THE FULL EMPLOYMENT AND  
BALANCED GROWTH ACT -- WHICH WOULD ~~REQUIRE THAT WE BRING ADULT~~ *launch a major*  
*attack on unemployment*  
~~UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN TO THREE PERCENT IN FOUR YEARS.~~ THIS BILL  
REPRESENTS SOUND ECONOMIC POLICY, AND WE NEED LEADERSHIP THAT  
RECOGNIZES THE FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT. UNTIL WE  
ASSURE THAT EVERY AMERICAN HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO  
OUR SOCIETY, WE CANNOT CALL OURSELVES TRULY FREE.

YES, WE HAVE A WHOLE AGENDA OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS -- HUMAN  
PRIORITIES WHICH HAVE GONE UNMET IN THE LAST EIGHT YEARS.

OUR PEOPLE ARE CALLING OUT FOR LEADERSHIP:

- TO IMPROVE THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN THIS COUNTRY;
- TO MAKE GOOD HEALTH CARE AVAILABLE TO EVERY CITIZEN;
- TO UPGRADE AND EXPAND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION;

-- TO CURB POLLUTION AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT AGAINST  
CURRENT AND FUTURE DEPLETION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES;

-- TO FIGHT CRIME IN THE STREETS, IN THE CORPORATE OFFICES,  
AND, INDEED, IN PUBLIC OFFICES AROUND THE NATION;

-- TO REFORM THE WELFARE SYSTEM SO THAT THOSE WHO NEED HELP  
CAN GET IT, AND THOSE WHO DON'T CAN'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT;

-- REGULATORY REFORM -- MEANINGFUL REFORM THAT REFLECTS THE  
NEEDS OF CONSUMERS AND OTHERS WHO RELY ON GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT  
THEIR INTERESTS AGAINST THE ENCROACHMENT OF THOSE WHO WOULD REAP  
PRIVATE GAIN AT PUBLIC EXPENSE.

  
L FINALLY, WE NEED TO TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT JUST WHAT GOVERNMENTS  
CAN DO -- WHAT ROLE IT SHOULD PLAY IN OUR FUTURE EFFORTS.

WE HAVE HEARD A LOT OF TALK LATELY ABOUT SO-CALLED BIG  
GOVERNMENT, BUT WHAT WE NEED TO HEAR IS WHAT KIND OF GOVERNMENT  
WE CAN EXPECT TO HAVE -- WHAT KINDS OF SERVICES IT SHOULD PROVIDE.

Post office

AND YOU HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN THAT DEBATE. ~~BECAUSE,~~

~~WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT~~ YOU REPRESENT THE GOVERNMENT IN MANY  
OF THE CITIES AND TOWNS ACROSS AMERICA.

↳ VERY OFTEN THE POST OFFICE IS THE ONLY GOVERNMENT AGENCY  
BESIDES THE INTERNAL REVENUE OFFICE THAT OUR PEOPLE KNOW.

↳ THE POSTAL SERVICE HAS BEEN CRITICIZED A GREAT DEAL LATELY,  
AND NO DOUBT SOME OF THAT CRITICISM IS DESERVED.

↳ BUT -- POSTMASTERS DON'T DESERVE THE BLAME FOR THE MESS  
THE POSTAL SERVICE IS IN.

EFFICIENCY BEGINS AT THE TOP!

AN ATTITUDE OF PUBLIC SERVICE BEGINS AT THE TOP!

ACCOUNTABILITY AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY BEGIN AT THE TOP!

YOU KNOW IT, AND I KNOW IT.

*Then to, Postal Service  
is not corporate business  
it is Service, Public Service*

↳ WE NEED TO TAKE A GOOD HARD LOOK AT THE POSTAL SERVICE TO SEE

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO KEEP IT SOLVENT AND TO KEEP THE MAIL  
MOVING.

-- THIS WILL MEAN THAT WE HAVE THE POSTMASTER GENERAL APPOINTED  
BY THE PRESIDENT AND CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE.

-- IT WILL MEAN THAT CONGRESS HAS OVERSIGHT OF WHAT'S GOING  
ON AT THE POSTAL SERVICE.

-- IT WILL HAVE TO MEAN THAT POSTMASTERS GET DECENT PAY AND  
FAIR TREATMENT;

-- AND IT WILL MEAN THAT WE HAVE TO KEEP POST OFFICES OPEN!

~~THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA WILL NOT SIT STILL WHILE SOME SEMI-CORPORATE  
SEMI-BUREAUCRAT COMES AROUND AND SAYS, "NOW, I THINK WE'RE GOING  
TO HAVE TO CLOSE YOUR LITTLE POST OFFICE HERE."~~

h No, OUR PEOPLE KNOW THEY ARE ENTITLED TO GOOD SERVICE; THEY  
KNOW THEY ARE ENTITLED TO COMMUNITY IDENTITY.

THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND ALL THIS CORPORATE EFFICIENCY BUSINESS.

h WHAT THEY DO UNDERSTAND IS THAT THEY WANT TO BE ABLE TO MAIL A  
LETTER AND HAVE IT DELIVERED. IT'S <sup>that</sup> SIMPLE.

YOU CAN PLAY A GREAT ROLE IN REFORMING THE POSTAL SERVICE,  
AND WE NEED YOUR HELP.

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE THINGS I BELIEVE WE NEED TO DO  
IN THE COMING YEARS. THEY WON'T ALL BE EASY. BUT ONE THING WE  
KNOW: WE IGNORE THESE ISSUES AT OUR PERIL.

I WANT TO LEAVE YOU WITH THESE INSPIRING WORDS FROM FRANKLIN  
ROOSEVELT: "THE ONLY LIMIT TO OUR REALIZATION OF TOMORROW WILL BE  
OUR DOUBTS OF TODAY. LET US MOVE FORWARD WITH STRONG AND ACTIVE  
FAITH."

#

#

#

#



# 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)