

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

4TH ANNUAL HARRY S. TRUMAN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Independence, Missouri

May 6, 1977

I am delighted to be back in Independence once again. It is a pleasure to be here with the family, the friends and the community that gave to America and the world one of the most inspiring and courageous leaders of the 20th century -- Harry S. Truman.

It is a special honor to be selected to receive the award that has been established in his memory.

Harry Truman not only was my leader, my inspiration and my conscience, he was my friend. I always will remember with great pride the warmth of his friendship, particularly when he took my own parents on a personal tour of the White House when I was a young Senator.

For millions of Americans, the legacy of Harry Truman lives in their hopes and aspirations for America. The living reality of his courageous leadership is seen in the progress in civil rights and economic justice that touches their lives each day. And the strong impact of his personal example lives on in their expectations of what political leaders should be.

This is the legacy of Harry Truman, the lasting gift of this great man to us and to generations of Americans yet to be born.

It is no surprise that at this moment in our history, when America confronts the challenges of tragically high unemployment, decaying urban areas, energy shortages and erosion of public confidence, the spirit of Harry Truman has been reawakened in America. For to turn these challenges into achievements will take the bold imagination, political courage, human decency and tenacious leadership that this man epitomized.

When Harry Truman was faced with the staggering problem of converting from a wartime to a peacetime economy without throwing millions of people out of work, he responded by proposing the Full Employment Act.

Today, with nearly 7.5 million Americans "officially" unemployed, the work which was so ably begun by President Truman must be completed. We must establish in law the principle that no American who is able, willing and seeking to work should be denied that opportunity. And we must establish the process that will make that principle a reality for our people.

The Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Bill will complete this vision for America which Harry Truman implanted in the minds of our citizens.

But enacting such a bold proposal will not be easy. We must turn a deaf ear to the apostles of doom and gloom, those whose counsel is retrenchment and retreat. We must decide as a nation that we cannot afford the economic waste, the human indignity and the loss of social cohesion that are an inescapable result of our continuing unemployment crisis.

A famous British philosopher once said, "Ask a man to do nothing for his country, and he shall have no love for it." Unemployment says you are not needed, you have no value in society, you have no role to play. America cannot survive as we know it if we fail to meet this basic need of our people.

Harry Truman responded to another fundamental challenge to the survival of western democracy in a manner that should lead the way again today. The Marshall Plan restored the war-ravaged cities of Europe and laid the basis for their economic recovery and survival as democratic societies.

Today, America's cities require the same kind of bold and imaginative commitment of will and resources if they are to be restored.

Our cities have so much to offer us. They are the great centers of commerce, of government, of culture and diversity. Yet, they are decaying in a vicious cycle of urban flight, deterioration of services, ugliness and financial collapse. Our cities are becoming the home of the poor, the deprived minorities and the elderly.

If this process is allowed to continue, all of us will lose. Our smaller cities, our suburbs and our rural areas cannot remain strong when our cities suffer the social and economic cancer of blight and decay.

We must mount a Marshall Plan to restore America's cities. We must provide the financial resources to rebuild our cities, improve public services and encourage private investment in them. At the same time, we must reduce the staggering burden of social welfare from the shoulders of our hard pressed cities.

No one is naive enough to believe that this job will be easily done. But no thinking American can deny that the magnitude and importance of the problem demands that it be done.

A third great challenge to America -- the energy crisis -- is much on our minds today. For years we lived under an illusion of limitless supplies of cheap oil and gas. The lines at the gas pumps in 1973 and the factory closings and cold homes of this past winter are stark reminders that we were wrong.

We must adopt a tough but fair comprehensive national energy policy to put an end to our energy crisis. Certainly there is no painless solution to this problem. If there were one, the problem would have been resolved by now.

President Carter's proposals are in keeping with the determined and progressive tradition of Presidential leadership that we trace back to Harry Truman. Despite the fact that his proposals will not be popular in every detail to every American, he has recognized the need to act and he has done so. His leadership will be rewarded by an outpouring of public support, as long as all Americans are assured that the sacrifices called for will be shared by consumers and business, rich and poor alike.

Like President Truman and every great leader, President Carter knows that you cannot provide national leadership by responding to polls. If he were to do this, we would have no effective energy policy. And if Harry Truman had listened to the pollsters, we never would have had the benefit of his presidency.

Winston Churchill put it very clearly when he told the House of Commons in 1941:

"I see it said that leaders should keep their ears to the ground. All I can say is that the nation will find it very hard to look up to leaders who are detected in that ungainly posture."

I am an optimist. If that is a crime, I plead guilty. We always have faced difficult challenges and have been forced to make tough decisions. But we always have been blessed with leaders who had the courage to call upon the American people to tough it through. I see no reason to believe that all of a sudden we have become a nation of quitters.

We will listen to the predictions of the naysayers, we will let the pessimists have their say, but their views will be soundly rejected. America will draw on its greatest strength -- the common sense of its people -- and we will turn challenges into accomplishments, crises into opportunities, and problems into progress. I share the great faith of Harry Truman in the wisdom of our people, and I know that faith is well placed.

So my message to you today simply is this:

We face great problems in America, but we can and will lick them. And as we do, we will become a stronger people and move closer to fulfilling the promise of America -- a life with dignity in the pursuit of happiness for all our citizens in a free society.

For all of us, the legacy of wise and courageous leadership that lives with us through the spirit of the Great American we honor today convinces us that the greatest days for America are yet to come.

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(Rev clergy)

↳ Mayor Richard King
↳ Margaret Truman Daniel
↳ John Snyder - Clefton Daniel

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Averill Harriman

4TH ANNUAL HARRY S. TRUMAN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

St Gov Phelps

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

my colleagues in Congress

MAY 6, 1977

(Truman Scholarships
Lung Memorial to
President)

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE BACK IN INDEPENDENCE, ~~MISSOURI~~ IT

IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH THE FAMILY, THE FRIENDS AND THE

COMMUNITY THAT GAVE TO AMERICA AND THE WORLD ONE OF THE MOST

INSPIRING AND COURAGEOUS LEADERS OF THE 20TH CENTURY -- HARRY

S. TRUMAN. (BIRTHDAY - SUNDAY - MAY 8TH)

you a High Honor -

IT IS A SPECIAL HONOR TO BE SELECTED TO RECEIVE THE AWARD

THAT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN HIS MEMORY.

HARRY TRUMAN NOT ONLY WAS MY LEADER, ^{*my President*} MY INSPIRATION AND

MY CONSCIENCE, ^{*but*} HE WAS MY FRIEND. I ALWAYS WILL REMEMBER WITH

GREAT PRIDE THE WARMTH OF HIS FRIENDSHIP, ^{*How well I remember*} ~~PARTICULARLY WHEN~~

^{*when*} HE TOOK MY OWN PARENTS ON A PERSONAL TOUR OF THE WHITE HOUSE WHEN

I WAS A YOUNG SENATOR.

FOR MILLIONS OF AMERICANS, THE LEGACY OF HARRY TRUMAN LIVES
IN THEIR HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS FOR AMERICA. THE LIVING REALITY
OF HIS COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP IS SEEN IN THE PROGRESS IN CIVIL
RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE THAT TOUCHES THEIR LIVES EACH DAY,
AND THE STRONG IMPACT OF HIS PERSONAL EXAMPLE LIVES ON IN THEIR
EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT POLITICAL LEADERS SHOULD BE.

THIS IS THE LEGACY OF HARRY TRUMAN, THE LASTING GIFT OF THIS
GREAT MAN TO US AND TO GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS YET TO BE BORN.

IT IS NO SURPRISE THAT AT THIS MOMENT IN OUR HISTORY, WHEN
AMERICA CONFRONTS THE CHALLENGES OF ~~THE~~ ^{CONTINUING} HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT,
DECAYING URBAN AREAS, ENERGY SHORTAGES AND EROSION OF PUBLIC
CONFIDENCE, THE SPIRIT OF HARRY TRUMAN HAS BEEN REAWAKENED IN
AMERICA.

FOR TO TURN THESE CHALLENGES INTO ACHIEVEMENTS WILL TAKE
THE BOLD IMAGINATION, POLITICAL COURAGE, HUMAN DECENCY AND
TENACIOUS LEADERSHIP THAT THIS MAN EPITOMIZED.

WHEN HARRY TRUMAN WAS FACED WITH THE STAGGERING PROBLEM
OF CONVERTING FROM A WARTIME TO A PEACETIME ECONOMY WITHOUT
THROWING MILLIONS OF PEOPLE OUT OF WORK, HE RESPONDED BY
PROPOSING THE FULL EMPLOYMENT ACT.

TODAY, WITH NEARLY 7.5 MILLION AMERICANS "OFFICIALLY"
UNEMPLOYED, THE WORK WHICH WAS SO ABLY BEGUN BY PRESIDENT
TRUMAN MUST BE COMPLETED. WE MUST ESTABLISH BY LAW THE PRINCIPLE
THAT NO AMERICAN WHO IS ABLE, WILLING AND SEEKING TO WORK
SHOULD BE DENIED THAT OPPORTUNITY. AND WE MUST ESTABLISH THE
PROCESS THAT WILL MAKE THAT PRINCIPLE A REALITY FOR OUR PEOPLE.

Keep

fulfill

THE HUMPHREY-HAWKINS FULL EMPLOYMENT BILL ~~WILL COMPLETE~~ *is designed to*

THIS VISION FOR AMERICA WHICH HARRY TRUMAN ~~PROPOSED IN~~ *proposed in*
1946.
~~MINDS OF OUR CITIZENS.~~

frustrate

BUT ENACTING SUCH A BOLD PROPOSAL WILL NOT BE EASY. ~~WE~~

MUST TURN A DEAF EAR TO THE APOSTLES OF DOOM AND GLOOM, THOSE

WHOSE COUNSEL IS RETRENCHMENT AND RETREAT WE MUST DECIDE AS

A NATION THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD THE ECONOMIC WASTE, THE HUMAN

INDIGNITY AND THE LOSS OF SOCIAL COHESION THAT ARE AN

INESCAPABLE RESULT OF OUR CONTINUING UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS.

A FAMOUS BRITISH PHILOSOPHER ONCE SAID, "ASK A MAN TO DO

NOTHING FOR HIS COUNTRY, AND HE SHALL HAVE NO LOVE FOR IT."

UNEMPLOYMENT SAYS YOU ARE NOT NEEDED, YOU HAVE NO VALUE IN

SOCIETY, YOU HAVE NO ROLE TO PLAY.

*This is the prescription
for cynicism and bitterness, and*

AMERICA CANNOT SURVIVE AS WE KNOW IT IF WE FAIL TO MEET THIS
BASIC NEED OF OUR PEOPLE.

↳ HARRY TRUMAN RESPONDED TO ANOTHER FUNDAMENTAL CHALLENGE
TO THE SURVIVAL OF WESTERN DEMOCRACY IN A MANNER THAT SHOULD
LEAD THE WAY AGAIN TODAY. ↳ THE MARSHALL PLAN RESTORED THE
WAR-RAVAGED CITIES OF EUROPE AND LAID THE BASIS FOR THEIR
ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND SURVIVAL AS DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES.

↳ TODAY, AMERICA'S CITIES REQUIRE THE SAME KIND OF BOLD
AND IMAGINATIVE COMMITMENT OF WILL AND RESOURCES IF THEY ARE
TO BE RESTORED.

↳ OUR CITIES HAVE SO MUCH TO OFFER US. ↳ THEY ARE THE GREAT
CENTERS OF COMMERCE, OF GOVERNMENT, OF CULTURE AND DIVERSITY.

LET, THEY ARE DECAYING IN A VICIOUS CYCLE OF URBAN FLIGHT,
DETERIORATION OF SERVICES, UGLINESS AND FINANCIAL COLLAPSE.

OUR CITIES ARE BECOMING THE HOME OF THE POOR, THE DEPRIVED
MINORITIES AND THE ELDERLY.

IF THIS PROCESS IS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, ALL OF US WILL

LOSE. OUR SMALLER CITIES, OUR SUBURBS AND OUR RURAL AREAS
CANNOT REMAIN STRONG WHEN OUR CITIES SUFFER THE SOCIAL AND

ECONOMIC CANCER OF BLIGHT AND DECAY.

In the spirit of HST
WE ~~MUST~~ ^{need to} MOUNT A MARSHALL PLAN TO RESTORE AMERICA'S CITIES,
yes, a long-term plan of action, backed by
~~WE MUST PROVIDE~~ THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO REBUILD OUR CITIES,

TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SERVICES AND ENCOURAGE PRIVATE INVESTMENT.

~~THEM.~~ AT THE SAME TIME, WE MUST REDUCE THE STAGGERING BURDEN
OF SOCIAL WELFARE FROM THE SHOULDERS OF OUR HARD PRESSED CITIES.

h NO ONE IS NAIVE ENOUGH TO BELIEVE THAT THIS JOB WILL
BE EASILY DONE. h BUT NO THINKING AMERICAN CAN DENY THAT THE
MAGNITUDE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE PROBLEM DEMANDS THAT IT BE
DONE. b

h A THIRD GREAT CHALLENGE TO AMERICA -- THE ENERGY CRISIS --
IS MUCH ON OUR MINDS TODAY. h FOR YEARS WE LIVED UNDER AN
ILLUSION OF LIMITLESS SUPPLIES OF CHEAP OIL AND GAS. h THE LINES
AT THE GAS PUMPS IN 1973 AND THE FACTORY CLOSINGS AND COLD HOMES
OF THIS PAST WINTER ARE STARK REMINDERS THAT WE WERE WRONG.

h WE MUST ADOPT A TOUGH BUT FAIR COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL
ENERGY POLICY TO PUT AN END TO OUR ENERGY CRISIS. h CERTAINLY
THERE IS NO PAINLESS SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM. IF THERE WERE
ONE, THE PROBLEM WOULD HAVE BEEN RESOLVED BY NOW.

↳ PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSALS ARE IN KEEPING WITH THE
DETERMINED AND PROGRESSIVE TRADITION OF PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP
THAT WE TRACE BACK TO HARRY TRUMAN. ↳ DESPITE THE FACT THAT HIS
PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE POPULAR IN EVERY DETAIL TO EVERY AMERICAN,
HE HAS RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO ACT AND HE HAS DONE SO. ↳ HIS
LEADERSHIP WILL BE REWARDED BY AN OUTPOURING OF PUBLIC SUPPORT,
AS LONG AS ALL AMERICANS ARE ASSURED THAT THE SACRIFICES CALLED
FOR WILL BE SHARED BY CONSUMERS AND BUSINESS, RICH AND POOR ALIKE.

↳ LIKE PRESIDENT TRUMAN AND EVERY GREAT LEADER, PRESIDENT
CARTER KNOWS THAT YOU CANNOT PROVIDE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP BY
RESPONDING TO POLLS. ↳ IF HE WERE TO DO THIS, WE WOULD HAVE NO
EFFECTIVE ENERGY POLICY. ↳ AND IF HARRY TRUMAN HAD LISTENED TO THE
POLLSTERS, WE NEVER WOULD HAVE HAD THE BENEFIT OF HIS PRESIDENCY.

WINSTON CHURCHILL PUT IT VERY CLEARLY WHEN HE TOLD THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN 1941:

"I SEE IT SAID THAT LEADERS SHOULD KEEP THEIR EARS TO THE GROUND. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT THE NATION WILL FIND IT VERY HARD TO LOOK UP TO LEADERS WHO ARE DETECTED IN THAT UNGAINLY POSTURE."

I AM AN OPTIMIST. *about America.* THAT IS A CRIME, I PLEAD GUILTY.

WE ALWAYS HAVE FACED DIFFICULT CHALLENGES AND HAVE BEEN FORCED TO MAKE TOUGH DECISIONS. BUT WE ~~WAS~~ HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH LEADERS WHO HAD THE COURAGE TO CALL UPON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO TOUGH IT THROUGH. I SEE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ALL OF

A SUDDEN WE HAVE BECOME A NATION OF QUITTERS.

The Story of America is one of never expanding opportunity and freedom.

can we do all of this - yes

*We need to remember that even
in the dark Days of War,*

HARRY TRUMAN AND FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT OFTEN SPOKE TO

AMERICA OF A SECOND BILL OF RIGHTS, AN ECONOMIC MANIFESTO FOR
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THEY REMINDED US THAT OUR DEMOCRACY HAS
GROWN AND PROGRESSED ON A FOUNDATION OF UNALIENABLE POLITICAL
RIGHTS -- FREEDOM OF SPEECH, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, FREEDOM TO
WORSHIP, FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND TRIAL BY A JURY OF OUR PEERS.

↳ BUT, THESE GREAT LEADERS ALSO REALIZED THAT POLITICAL
RIGHTS DO NOT ASSURE ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.
~~IN THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS~~ ↳ THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT NO MAN OR
WOMAN IS FREE WHO IS SHACKLED ^{TO} POVERTY AND DESPAIR. ↳ THEY
UNDERSTOOD THAT NO FAMILY IS TRULY OUT OF BONDAGE THAT HAS
NEITHER FOOD ON THE TABLE NOR A DECENT ROOF OVERHEAD. ↳ THEY
UNDERSTOOD THAT NO CHILD HAS A CHANCE IN LIFE IF HE IS DENIED

A GOOD EDUCATION. AND, THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT NO AMERICAN HAS AN
ECONOMIC FUTURE, IF HE OR SHE ~~HAS NO JOB.~~ *is denied gainful employment.*

↳ ON JANUARY 11, 1944 PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT PROCLAIMED AN
"ECONOMIC BILL OF RIGHTS," FOR ALL AMERICANS AND FOR ALL TIMES.

HE SAID,

"IN OUR DAY THESE ECONOMIC TRUTHS HAVE BECOME ACCEPTED AS
SELF-EVIDENT. WE HAVE ACCEPTED, SO TO SPEAK, A SECOND BILL OF
RIGHTS UNDER WHICH A NEW BASIS OF SECURITY AND PROSPERITY CAN BE
ESTABLISHED FOR ALL, REGARDLESS OF STATION, RACE OR CREED.

"AMONG THOSE ARE--

↳ "THE RIGHT TO A USEFUL AND REMUNERATIVE JOB IN THE INDUSTRIES,
OR SHOPS OR FARMS OR MINES OF THE NATION;

↳ "THE RIGHT TO EARN ENOUGH TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FOOD AND
CLOTHING AND RECREATION;

↳ "THE RIGHT OF EVERY FARMER TO RAISE AND SELL HIS PRODUCTS
AT A RETURN WHICH WILL GIVE HIM AND HIS FAMILY A DECENT LIVING;

↳ "THE RIGHT OF EVERY BUSINESSMAN, LARGE AND SMALL, TO TRADE
IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF FREEDOM FROM UNFAIR COMPETITION AND DOMINATION
BY MONOPOLIES AT HOME OR ABROAD;

↳ "THE RIGHT OF EVERY FAMILY TO A DECENT HOME;

↳ "THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO
ACHIEVE AND ENJOY GOOD HEALTH;

↳ "THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE PROTECTION FROM THE ECONOMIC FEARS
OF OLD AGE, SICKNESS, ACCIDENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT;

↳ "THE RIGHT TO A GOOD EDUCATION.

↳ "ALL OF THESE SPELL SECURITY. ↳ AND AFTER THE WAR IS WON WE
MUST BE PREPARED TO MOVE FORWARD, IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE

RIGHTS, TO NEW GOALS OF HUMAN HAPPINESS AND WELL-BEING.

L "AMERICA'S OWN RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE WORLD DEPENDS IN LARGE PART UPON HOW FULLY THESE AND SIMILAR RIGHTS HAVE BEEN CARRIED INTO PRACTICE FOR OUR CITIZENS. / FOR UNLESS THERE IS SECURITY HERE AT HOME, THERE CANNOT BE LASTING PEACE IN THE WORLD."

L HARRY TRUMAN AND FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT ^{*Knew*} ~~KNOW~~ THAT OUR NATION'S SECURITY LIES IN THE STRENGTH OF OUR PEOPLE -- OUR PEOPLE AT WORK, OUR PEOPLE IN PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES, OUR PEOPLE IN GOOD HOMES IN DECENT NEIGHBORHOODS, OUR PEOPLE IN SOUND MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH. / THIS IS WHERE OUR ^{*True*} ~~VITAL~~ NATIONAL SECURITY LIES. — THIS IS THE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH -- MORAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC.

L THIRTY-THREE YEARS AGO OUR "ECONOMIC BILL OF RIGHTS" WAS PROCLAIMED. AND THE PROMISE THAT IT HOLDS OUT TO EVERY AMERICAN

IS WHAT MAKES OUR NATION SO GREAT FOR AMERICA IS HOPE, AMERICA
IS PROMISE, AMERICA IS THE CONVICTION THAT THE FUTURE WILL BE BETTER
FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN THIS "ECONOMIC BILL OF RIGHTS"
STANDS TODAY AS THE UNFINISHED AGENDA OF OUR NATION, OF THE
CHALLENGE TO OUR DEMOCRATIC FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM THAT MUST BE
OVERCOME.

TRUE, WE STILL HAVE NOT ERADICATED POVERTY, ENDED THE
BLIGHT OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR PROVIDED DECENT HOUSING TO ALL OUR
FAMILIES. BUT, WE HAVE MADE GREAT PROGRESS TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF OUR "ECONOMIC BILL OF RIGHTS" SINCE 1944 AND, I BELIEVE WE
ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF ANOTHER ERA OF GREAT PROGRESS IN TURNING
PROMISES AND HOPES INTO REALITIES FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

WE WILL LISTEN TO THE PREDICTIONS OF THE NAYSAYERS, WE
WILL LET THE PESSIMISTS HAVE THEIR SAY, BUT THEIR VIEWS WILL
BE SOUNDLY REJECTED. AMERICA WILL DRAW ON ITS GREATEST STRENGTH --
THE COMMON SENSE OF ITS PEOPLE -- AND WE WILL TURN CHALLENGES INTO
ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CRISES INTO OPPORTUNITIES, AND PROBLEMS INTO
PROGRESS. I SHARE THE GREAT FAITH OF HARRY TRUMAN IN THE WISDOM
OF OUR PEOPLE, AND I KNOW THAT FAITH IS WELL PLACED.

So MY MESSAGE TO YOU TODAY SIMPLY IS THIS:

yes. WE FACE GREAT PROBLEMS IN AMERICA, BUT WE CAN AND WILL ~~BE~~ ^{overcome}

THEM. AND AS WE DO, WE WILL BECOME A STRONGER PEOPLE AND MOVE

CLOSER TO FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF AMERICA -- A LIFE WITH DIGNITY
IN THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS FOR ALL OUR CITIZENS IN A FREE SOCIETY.



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