

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

SYNOPSIS OF REMARKS, Speech by Hubert Humphrey before National
Conference of American Indians, Chicago, Illinois April 9, 1969

SUBJECT: Indian Industrial Development

FACTS:

- 1) As Mayor of Minneapolis, Humphrey appointed first Indians on the city's Human Rights Commission.
- 2) As Senator, Humphrey worked with Minnesota Indians and became member of the Red Lake Chippewa Band.
- 3) As Vice President, Humphrey was first Chairman of National Council on Indian Opportunity.
- 4) 31 major Indian reservations have 48 industrial or commercial operations located within or near their boundaries. More than $\frac{1}{2}$ of these began operations in the last two years.
- 5) Of 150 plants located on Indian land in the U.S., only about 10,000 jobs will be provided under best economic conditions. Over $\frac{1}{2}$ those jobs do not now exist.
- 6) Indian unemployment is 38% , or 10 times the national average.
- 7) Largest employer in State of New Mexico is Fairchild Semi-Conductor, employing nearly 1,000 Navajo workers in Shiprock, New Mexico.

QUOTATIONS:

ON DIFFICULTY IN ATTRACTING INDUSTRY TO RESERVATIONS "Any casual observer of Indian affairs could dwell at some length on the difficulties of attracting manufacturing or industrial activity to Indian country and sites are often relatively isolated. Transportation is not as readily available as it is in some other places. Adequate housing and public facilities for rapid community expansion frequently do not exist."

ON REASON FOR INDIAN UNEMPLOYMENT "Unemployment is high among Indians not because Indians seek that manner of life, but because no real alternatives exist."

ON INDIAN INITIATIVE IN ATTRACTING INDUSTRY "Indian communities cannot expect the government to create all the conditions which are necessary for thriving industrial development. Neither can private industry shoulder the entire burden. In the end, Indians themselves, must take the initiative."

ON POTENTIAL INDIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDUSTRY "The Indian people are, after all, bringing a great deal to the bargaining table. They are bringing vast land resources amounting to two percent of the land area of the U.S. They are bringing labor and they are bringing some capital."

ON HUMPHREY'S PLEDGE TO INDIANS "I pledge myself to work with you... to the realization of the goal we all seek: full and equal participation of Indian Americans in the bounty of this great country."



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