

ADDRESS BY MAYOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY - UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS, LAWRENCE, KANSAS  
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Institutions of government must justify themselves by the rule or yardstick of service to the people. A governmental agency becomes a bureaucracy when its major interest is directed towards the welfare of its own institution or organization. A governmental agency is an instrumentality of the people when its energies are directed towards serving the people.

Americans have traditionally held an attitude about government that would be stated in the negative. We have used such phrases as "that government is best which governs least." We talk about minimum essentials of government service. It is as if there were a conspiracy about the use of government for the public welfare.

We have developed to a point in our knowledge of the use of governmental institutions where we should look upon our agencies of self-government as partners to the people and as an integral part of our economy and social structure. Government today must plan for the long range economic development of this country. Government today must take an active interest in and be a generous participant in such services as public health, housing, labor-management relations, the protection of human resources, the conservation of our soil and forests along with the development and utilization of our vast storehouse of natural resources.

It is imperative that there be a closer relationship and a better understanding between the three levels of governmental organization in this nation. All too often we have had one policy on a national level and a contrary policy on a state and local level. We have not developed a means of

coordination and consultation between the local governmental official and the high administrative and policy making officials on a national level. We waste our energy. We deplete our treasury when such policy and administrative contradictions exist.

There is an urgent need for vast extension of the program of adult education. I speak of that type of adult education which brings through discussion and the forum a clearer understanding of the economic and political forces that are constantly molding and directing our official policies. Our demoncracy on a structural basis has outdistanced our appreciation and understanding of the details of programs and policies which are being conceived and ultimately enacted. There is a gap between the people and their government representatives. There is a lack of faith which destroys the hope of wholesome respect for governmental responsibility and authority. There is likewise on the political level a lack of appreciation of the innate intelligence of the voter and his ability to comprehend what are seemingly complex and difficult problems. It is a challenge to political leaders to practice the art of teachings. Leadership today must be conceived in terms of creating understanding and developing sound information before a policy or program is established. This is what we call "grass roots democracy."



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