

*metropolitan living
traffic, housing, urban*

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

DOUGLAS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC BANQUET
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The lack of national leadership in the United States today is compounding the seriousness of a host of new challenges crowding in on our nation. Nothing is being done about them.

New Challenges

Allow me to list a few of these major challenges, these major problems. They are the product of an age of rapid technological and scientific advance. Unfortunately the Republican leadership has no plans to meet them. The Republican leadership has no design for tomorrow. It struggles on, equipped with the tools of yesterday -- and not even using them.

Give me Better Deal

America deserves a better deal than it's getting.

Domestic problems and their solutions are tied in tightly with foreign policy.

We can do little to help insure world peace if we allow pockets of distress, depression and despair to exist in the U.S. -- and fail to realize the nation's full potential.

Now, the challenges:

Cities First, this country is sorely beset by the new problems of metropolitan living. Our cities are in trouble. Transportation is snarled, housing is inadequate,

metropolitan

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suburban areas are outrunning facilities, delinquency is on the rise, no plans are made to receive the people shoved off the farms and who must live and look for work in strange surroundings. 7

Agric changed

out Second, and closely related, the impact of technological change on agriculture is almost totally ignored. Whole farms are being put into the soil bank, and whole communities in the rural areas are dying out. The Republican leadership has failed even to study the changing rural scene, much less come up with any plans to solve the problems being created.

While the Administration has failed to meet these challenges, some of us in Congress are pushing for quick steps to meet them.

A Rural Life Commission is an important part of my Family Farm Program Development Bill pending in Congress. This Commission would study the sociological and technological changes taking place in rural America and would make recommendations for assistance.

I have joined Senator Clark of Pennsylvania in pressing for an act to create a Commission on Metropolitan Problems, which would study the problems peculiar to large cities. We hope this attains quick passage.

And finally, Congress has created the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations,

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which will study the whole problem of government and its interrelationship at the national, state and local levels.

*Labor
mgt*
Third, labor-management relations are having a greater impact on the national economy, and this impact will grow in the years ahead. I cite the steel strike as an example of how the public interest can be affected. Yet the whole thrust of the Administration's efforts in this field is to punish the few wrong-doers in the ranks of labor leadership and let the larger problems grow into unmanageable proportions.

What we must do here, first off, is to amend the new labor act to get rid of the obviously bad features and then start to deal with labor-management relations in a positive manner. Automation, for example, cries out for serious study and program planning.

Aged
Fourth, there are the problems of the aged. As a nation we need to invest more in geriatric research and other medical research. But this Administration, with characteristic short-sightedness induced by a desire for a "balanced budget," will probably ~~not~~ hold the line on such investments.

I have often said you can judge a government by its help to three groups -- the young, the handicapped, and the aged. Republican leadership has fallen down on all three counts.

Agriculture!

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What lies behind the inaction on all these problems? Why aren't we looking ahead, planning programs and activities to solve them or ~~at~~ at least soften their impact?

The key lies in that word -- planning. We don't have enough of it. I am not speaking of an imposed or ~~mandatory~~ ^{computer} planning. I mean planning of a voluntary, cooperative nature, involving all the elements of national life such as business organizations, trade unions, cooperatives, civic groups and the like, under government sponsorship and coordination.

We need to take an inventory of America's human resources, bring them together, inform them of the tasks ahead and then call on the strength of America to apply itself to the job ~~presenting~~ facing us in the years to come.

The job we have to do is first to recognize the challenges facing us, then fashion the new tools needed to come to grips with them, and finally act as if our very lives depended on it -- as they may, indeed.



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