



J. W. Abel
Jim O'Brien

John Edelman
Cong. Ted Johnson
Joe Maloney
THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON
Frank Harris

NOTES BY
HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
BEFORE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS
FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1966

Louis Wolfson
Gaul Douglas

It's great to be with a young, vigorous
organization. The National Council of Senior
Citizens represents courageous maturity in action,
Liberalism on the march.

You, your President, John W. Edelman,
your officers, your hard-working members -- are an
inspiration.

During your working careers, you helped
make America the most productive and powerful land
in all the world. During your retirement years,
you have stayed in the "front lines," battling for
some of the most progressive legislation in our
time.

I salute America's "can-do" elders.

I rejoice in your -- our victories --
Medicare, the Older Americans Act, the new Aging
Administration.

What a long way we have come to social
justice for the elderly, and what a long way we
still have to go.

31 years ago, when Franklin Delano Roosevelt
signed the Social Security Act, he said, "This law
represents a cornerstone in a structure which is
being built, but which is not complete."

L Year by year, the structure has risen,
floor by floor -- a great edifice for America's
security. Today, 21 million Americans receive
Social Security checks. These checks have helped
liberate them from the bondage of destitution,
from hopelessness and from despair. Expanding
upon this foundation has not, however, been easy.

In 1949, when I came to the U. S. Senate,
the first bill I introduced proposed a system of
~~Hospital and nursing home care under Soc. Sec.~~
~~compulsory~~ health insurance for the American people.

The reaction was: minimal support and maximum denunciation. The Bill was hit by almost every epithet in the English language. "Socialism" was the tag some people tried to apply. "Political oblivion" was what they predicted for the Bill's supporters.

But we had faith in the American people, and that faith has been vindicated.

You helped bring this faith, this dream of Medicare into reality. You organized for Medicare; you pounded pavements and rang doorbells. You rallied to the banner of Liberal candidates. You elected them, and now we must re-elect them.

Medicare was not the end; it was a beginning.

President Lyndon B. Johnson is determined to add to the structure which Franklin Roosevelt began, ~~which Harry Truman continued, which Adlai Stevenson and John F. Kennedy so nobly advanced.~~

↳ The Administration is making the most comprehensive review of the Social Security system in our history. It is examining every phase in order to prepare bold recommendations for the 90th Congress, opening in January, 1967. Nothing is being left to chance, no policy is being left unquestioned.

Soc
Sec
Review

↳ The Administration is determined that your economic protection shall not deteriorate, but rather shall be strengthened. Economic benefits must and will be liberalized. Study is being made of the future possible relationship ^{Sec} between benefits and the price level, benefits, wages and productivity. The contributory base on which Social Security taxes are

paid is being reviewed. The problem of millions of Americans who became eligible at reduced benefits is being examined.

 L I can assure you that this Administration will prepare its program for improvements with a sympathetic heart and an understanding mind.

 L But the Executive Branch can't do the job for the elderly alone.

 The fate of the recommendations which your President will submit next January depends in large part upon you. It depends upon the men and women whom you elect to public office -- Federal, state and local.

 L For example, State Capital after Capital is beginning to implement Title XIX of the 1965 Amendments -- which provides for health services to low income Americans. Sound State laws on this and other programs are essential.

and L The November, 1968, elections will be
crucial for America's continued progress.

Forces of reaction will be working for
the defeat of the type of outstanding legislator
whom you are honoring today. Backward-looking
forces will be hoping for what is called the
pendulum-like effect of off-year elections --
in which the electorate swings from the "ins" to
the "outs."

L ^{the} But "ins" who have fought for the people
deserve the people's backing. We Americans do
not believe in turning the hands of the clock back.

L We must go forward, because we have only begun to
meet the needs of our senior citizens. Those needs
are many-sided -- economic, housing, educational,
recreational, cultural.

And the greatest need of all is to give
every senior citizen the opportunity to have some

meaning in his or her life, to have a purpose, to be wanted, to be remembered, to be respected.

Can it be done? Can our senior citizens have a more active role in American society? It not only can be done, it has been done; you're the ones who have done it, and it will be done further. One of the most thrilling proofs is in Operation Medicare Alert. In 463 communities, the Office of Economic Opportunity utilized the skill, the energy, the devotion of your members and of other seniors to contact citizens who had not signed up under Optional Plan B for health protection under Medicare.

↳ The results were thrilling and spectacular, as seniors opened the door of medical opportunity for the long-forgotten. But what you found as you entered so many urban and rural slums -- the shocking conditions of human misery and isolation which you discovered -- confirmed how far we as a nation still have to go.

Slum-ism is a major disease of this land -- a disease of decaying inner-cities, a disease which warps the human mind and crushes the spirit; which shortens life and fills it with despair.

The 1960 Census showed us that nearly three million elderly family units were living in homes classified as in a "deficient" condition, with half a million so dilapidated as to require replacement.

In addition, there are millions of older people who live in standard housing which is no longer suited to their advanced years -- homes which may be unsafe, inefficient, expensive and lacking convenient access to services needed in every day living.

A special category of need is created by public construction programs which displace many older people from their homes and neighborhoods. Satisfactory, suitable housing for them is imperative and urgent.

Fortunately, Federal programs to help finance rental housing for older people have been in existence for a decade. We know now that specially designed housing can help to compensate for many of the declines which occur with age, and thereby help to sustain independence for our older citizens.

Our projections show that America will require a steadily increasing supply of Federally assisted housing for older Americans. I am pleased that since the beginning of 1964, our commitments for senior citizens housing have increased from about 105,000 to almost 170,000 units at the end of this past April -- an increase of nearly 60 per cent.

Housing for senior citizens under programs administered by Secretary Robert Weaver in the Department of Housing and Urban Development involve Federal commitments for private and public investment of approximately \$2.5 *Billions*

billion. But while these nearly 170,000 units
will house over a quarter of a million older people
in dignity when all the dwellings are completed, it
is obvious that we have just begun to scratch the
surface -- we have made only a beginning.

*Demonst
cities*
America needs the Demonstration City programs
which President Johnson has proposed for coordinated
rehabilitation of the inner cities. *Rent
supp* Our country needs
adequate funds for the rent supplement program which
we have had to battle for, step by step.

We need the truth—in packaging, truth in
lending, safer medical devices and other consumer
goals which you will be hearing about in the
sessions to follow.

Your support of these and other objectives
can make all the difference. I know we can count
on you. There is no tired blood in your ranks.
You have the pep and the will, the drive and the

courage to succeed -- for America.

A new day is dawning for the elderly.

The revolution of their -- of your -- expectations
is being fulfilled.

The triumphs of the future are in your hands.

So are many of the laurels of victories of the past.

The greatest chapters of the Great Society are still
to come.

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[Transcript]

National Council of Senior Citizens, Inc.

1627 K Street, N.W.

Washington, D. C. 20006



Telephone: 783-2805, Code 202

June 13, 1966

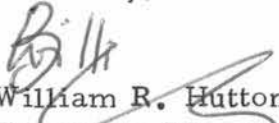
Mr. Julius Cahn
Office of the Vice President
5121 New Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Julius:

Herewith, as requested by your office, is a tape recording and transcript of the Vice President's wonderful speech to the National Council of Senior Citizens at the luncheon at the Statler Hilton Hotel on Friday, June 3.

Thank you once again for all your excellent cooperation.

Sincerely,


William R. Hutton
Executive Director

WRH:LP

Enclosures

[*Tape Recording Not in files when collection was processed.
Jan. 1977]

Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey

speaking to

National Council of Senior Citizens, June 3, 1966

Tape #1

..... Humphrey. (Applause)

VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you very much.

Mr. O'Brien and my good friend, John Edelman, Monsignor Corcoran (?), ladies and gentlemen, it's a wonderful privilege to be introduced by Jim O'Brien. He makes you sound so good even before you start. (Laughter) As a matter of fact, I, when I feel a little discouraged and a bit depressed, I always ask for the opportunity of having Jim O'Brien introduce me and present me, because he sort of peps me up.

I'm delighted to be able to spend a few moments with you today at your luncheon--this luncheon of the National Council of Senior Citizens--and I'm particularly pleased and honored that it will be my good fortune to be able to present some well-deserved and much-merited and earned awards to some very distinguished Americans that have proven that they are of humanitarian heart and concern and have a great faith in the people of this nation. I understand that our young friend in Congress, Jed Johnson, will receive the citation for the 65-- is that right?--or the considerable number of members of Congress--freshman Congressmen--who will receive special awards, and that we'll have Mr. James ^{Carbray} ~~Gever~~-(?), the international representative of the United Steel Workers, who will receive, on behalf of Secretary of Treasury Burke, the Institutional

Award, and Frank Harris, the Editor of the Boston GLOBE, will receive a special award for his outstanding columns and writings and service in behalf of the senior citizens of our country, and Louis Wolfson, a member of the House of Representatives of Dade County and Senior Vice-President--that's Dade County, Florida--Senior Vice-President of one of the great broadcasting companies, will also receive one of the awards, so we have a rather distinguished group that are going to be properly honored by you.

I come here to say just a few words to this distinguished audience about not only where we've been but where we're going. There isn't much we can do about the yesterdays except, if they're good ones, to be happy about them, and if they're not, to sort of forget them. What we ought to be concerned about is what we're doing now and what we're going to do in the years ahead.

I've had a long and friendly association with your president, John Edelman, and, indeed, with your officers and with many of you who are the hard-working members of the Council. I'm happy to say that the senior citizens, many of whom claim they're retired, are showing a great deal more activity and zest than some of the junior citizens. You like to be where the action is. (Laughter and applause)

So, in the words of the President--President Johnson--I salute the "can do" elders, and I rejoice with you in your achievements and your victories, and the victories

of recent date are many and they're very, very significant.

I said I didn't want to spend much time on the record of the yesterdays, but it would surely be inappropriate if I didn't take note of the fact that my good friend, Wilbur Cohen, is here, who was a mainstay in seeing to it that the great program of health care, hospital and nursing home and medical care, which we now call Medicare and which you backed and supported and helped push through Congress, this great man needs a special word of tribute and I pay it to him because he really was the action fellow to get that program moving on the part of the Government of the United States. (Applause)

And there's many a Congressman that spent more time with Wilbur Cohen than they did with their wives or with their staffs, and I know that Mrs. Cohen felt that she had lost Wilbur during those days, but he has now returned home, until we get him another project--and I'm going to outline one today for him so that he will keep very busy.

You know, 31 years ago Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the first Social Security Act, and I just want you to listen to the words that that great man said when he put his signature to it. I take one sentence out of his message. He said, "This law represents a cornerstone in a structure which is being built, but which is not complete."

I can imagine that even a man with the vision of Franklin Roosevelt never dreamed that we would go quite so far as we've been able to go thus far. He knew that we were

laying just a foundation and he knew it was but the beginning, but he also knew that the most important step that a person ever makes in life is the beginning. As a matter of fact, just to be born is quite important, you see.

I guess it's the old Chinese philosopher that said, "The first step is the longest journey." And that first step was made, the breakthrough, and my goodness, do you remember how some people thought it was the end of everything? I hope you haven't forgotten, lest we forget. I remember the campaign of 1936. You would have thought that the economic foundations of this Republic were about to crumble. You were lead to believe, many of you, that the entire private insurance business of the nation was in dire danger, and I want to say, if that's danger, give me a big dose of it, because it has really--the private insurance business of America which is a fundamental part of our total structure of social welfare has progressed and grown, and so has Social Security.

It just reminds me of what I said to another group today--there's room in this country for everybody, and there's not only room, but there ought to be good room for everybody. (Applause)

Well, we've been building on this structure, block by block, floor by floor--I don't know how many stories high it is, but I do know that today about 21,000,000--isn't that right, Mr. Ball?--about 21,000,000 citizens of this land are

receiving their Social Security checks. Believe me, these checks have not only been good for the citizens that receive them but for those with whom they're spent. (Applause)

These Social Security checks have literally liberated people from destitution and from bondage and hopelessness and despair. We've been expanding on that foundation. In 1949 when I first came to the United States Senate I thought that Social Security was here to stay and I stood by the platform of my political party. I came down here, as somebody said, the reincarnation of the New Deal. I read that--I didn't know whether that was a compliment or whether it was just descriptive of me, but I took it as a compliment. And one of the first bills I introduced in the United States Senate --indeed, the first--was a bill to provide hospital and nursing home care under terms of Social Security for persons aged 65 and over. That was introduced in May 1949. And I, then, sent out a copy of that bill to a number of people around the country and said, "What do you think of it?" And they told me, and I do not want to repeat it here in the presence of a man of the cloth and with so many lovely ladies, but I really found out what kind of a fellow I was. I had minimal support, maximum denunciation. (Laughter)

Well, the bill was hit by almost every epithet in the English language. The first word they said was "socialism." And then I was told it would put me into political oblivion.

I didn't know--maybe that's what they mean by the Vice-Presidency (laughter and applause) but I want you good friends and fellow Americans to know that nobody enjoys his work more than Hubert Humphrey. I like my job! (Applause)

Well, it's because of people like yourselves that those of us who have believed in constant progress in this country and have been privileged to serve in the legislative bodies and in the Executive Branch--because of you that we've been able to make some progress. And you surely did a job. We've expanded Social Security, its coverage and benefits, and only recently, of course, we got busy and were able, after years and years of tireless effort, to get Medicare. And what a boon this is for humanity! And isn't it interesting that what was once so controversial, now you have more people trying to identify themselves with it than almost any movement in the country. (Laughter)

Medicare is not only a great piece of legislation, it's popular, and it's going to be more so. President Lyndon Johnson is not a man that's content with the achievements of yesterday. I know. I get a call from him about once a day and I report what I've just done and he says, "That isn't what I'm calling about. I want to ask you to do something tomorrow." And he's interested in what you're going to do from here on in, and I think you know that he's determined to add to the structure which his political hero, Franklin Roosevelt, began.

So, while I'm confident that you've already been told about it by the Administrator of the Social Security structure and possibly by the Secretary Gardner or Secretary Wilbur Cohen, let me tell it once again, because after all, when there's any good news, I like to get in on it, and I think that if there's good news, you ought to hear it as often as you can because there's a lot of news that isn't too good.

This Administration is making the most comprehensive review of the Social Security system in its history. It's examining every phase of our present Social Security structure in order to prepare some bold and much needed and long overdue recommendations for the 90th Congress opening in January 1967. And nothing is being left to chance, and no policy is being left unquestioned. I can tell you that when you have men like I have mentioned here plus the members of Congress that are deeply concerned about our Social Security structure, you can rest assured that it is being carefully evaluated in terms of present day needs.

The Administration is determined that your economic protection shall not deteriorate, but rather shall be strengthened, that the economic benefits must and will be liberalized; study is being made of the future possible relationship between Social Security benefits and the price level, benefits, wages and productivity; the contributory base--the base on which the tax is levied--is also being carefully reviewed. And the problems of millions of Americans who became eligible at

reduced rates is being examined, and the purpose of the examination is just one single purpose--improvement, progress. This country of ours is a forward looking country. We're not examining something to go backwards. We're examining it in order to make sensible, responsible, meaningful advance. And you can rest assured, if you give us the people to work with in the 90th Congress--I thought I'd better bring that up right now--(Laughter and applause) if you give us the people to work with in the 90th Congress--and a goodly number of them are here--particularly these Congressmen and Senators that went to work and fought for you and fought alongside of you--if you return those people that have the record that you approve and give us a few more, I'll commit the President of the United States right now, as Vice-President, that we'll deliver for you, if you'll give us a chance. (Applause)

So I wrote down here--I might just as well make it crystal clear--repetition is good--once in a while we miss a word here and there, you know--I want to make it clear the Executive Branch can't do this job alone, and you know it. The fate of the recommendations that come from these men that are making that study and that will be presented to a sympathetic understanding President who voted for the first Social Security Act when he was a Member of Congress--he was 1,000% behind it--the fate of those recommendations which the President will submit next January depends in a very large part on you and on your families and your friends. It depends upon the men and women whom you will elect to office--public office

--Federal, state, and local. For example, state capital after capital is beginning to implement Title 19 of the 1965 Amendments which provide for health services to low income Americans, those that weren't covered originally under Social Security. Now, sound, progressive, generous state laws on this and other programs are essential, so don't just concentrate your attention on my friends from Congress that I see here. Be sure you help them all you can. But I want you to know that most laws that we have in this country require state cooperation. And you can pass the best law in the world down here in Washington--up here in the Nation's Capital--but if you don't have a working, sympathetic, progressive partner out home in your home state, the law loses much of its effectiveness. It's just diluted and it's corroded and eroded away. Isn't that right, as we run for the State Senate? (Laughter)

So I must say to you that these elections will be crucial for America's continued progress. You can rest assured that the forces of reaction--and we have some of them--will be working to defeat the kind of outstanding legislator whom you're honoring here today, these legislative representatives of the Congress. Backward looking forces will be hoping for what is called the pendulum-like effect of off-year elections, and you'll be reading about this in every column from here on out. That's just about as original as Ben Franklin's "Almanac," may I say. (Laughter) There hasn't been a time since they had the first printed page of a newspaper in this country that somebody didn't write that "every off year the in's lose." That's the

way it's supposed to go. Well, I want to say, the thing that made America great is that we didn't follow the routine. We've been able to do the impossible.

If we just followed what was the ordinary pattern, we'd still be saluting King George. (Laughter) But we did something different. Now, the in's who have fought for the people--and they're here, many of them, today--I'd like to be able to call that honor roll and that's what it is--and every place that you work and every club that you belong to and every union hall in America, there ought to be an honor roll of the people up there--the Members of Congress and the state legislature and, indeed, even the local governments that have taken a stand for our senior citizens--just have an honor roll right up there. (Applause)

Those people deserve the people's backing, and we Americans don't want to turn back the clock. Leave that to some other people. We like to put it ahead an hour or two and we want to make up for some lost time. We have to move forward. So all I can say to you is, let's not worry about what's supposed to be the rule in politics, namely, that in an off-year election the in's lose a few and the out's gain a few. If the in's have done a job for you, you just make sure you keep out those that won't help you. Just make that your business.

Now, I want to compliment many of you here who have been such an integral part of the operation, Medicare

Alert. That is really some program in this country, where you went out and signed up the people for the optional Plan B for health protection under Medicare. It was really a tremendous effort, and what else happened? You found out for the first time just what miserable conditions some people live in in this country. I wish that some of the opponents of these programs had to go out and sign those folks up. I'd like to have those who voted against Medicare, those who voted against Social Security, those who voted against Aid to Education, those who voted against our War on Poverty--I'd like to have them go out and call in these rat-infested tenements, on the Medicare Alert, and let them take a look at how some of our fellow Americans have to live in this, the richest country that has ever been known in all of recorded history.

You know, poverty looks all the worse when you're in a country of wealth. And it's all the more immoral.

And what we've done for years and years in this nation, my dear friends, we've shunted aside our mentally ill and mentally retarded--we were ashamed. And now we have recognized that this can happen in any family and we've tried to come to grips with the problems, and we're trying to do something for these blessed people. But now we've tried to push aside another crowd. Just get the old folks who don't seem to be able to make it go--why, just get them on the eighth floor in the back attic. Well, we're going to get the people out of the attics. That's what this Administration is going to do.

I want you to know that the Johnson-Humphrey Administration is going to see to it to the best of our ability that the American people have conditions that are fit for American citizenship as their environment in which to live. (Applause)

That's why we're going to look at this Social Security Act, and that's why we're taking a good look at Medicare and its application. We're going to make some mistakes in this thing. I better tell you this before I get away. I can just read the stories now. Somebody is going to come to a hospital one of these days seeking Medicare and can't get in. And they're going to say, "There you are. See? Just loused the whole program up." (Laughter) That's right. I know that's going to happen, and that will be the headline story. But we've been going around--as a matter of fact, at the Cabinet meeting last week, the President had the entire Cabinet listen to the report of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare and Mr. Ball about how he had been trying to prepare, over these months, for the Medicare operation, to get the people registered, to go through the whole Social Security system to make sure that people do have their cards so that when they go to that hospital they can get that care, to take care of getting the aged that will do the administrative work, and analyze the hospital facilities, to improve hospital administration; and I want you to know that we're not unaware of the fact that in some places there may be a difficulty that we encounter from time to time. And when you try to administer

a program for 21,000,000 people, you're apt to drop the ball occasionally, or lose the fountain pen, or even lose a card.

Now, I must say that I know that Mrs. Humphrey is one of the best managers of all the households in America, but I occasionally have a word or two with her about how she louses up things about the house. (Laughter) And there aren't too many Humphreys. (Laughter) And you ought to hear what she tells me! (Laughter)

I don't want to come here and tell you that we're going to have a perfectly magnificent operating program the first year, the first month. I'm here to tell you that when we find a mistake, and you find one--and when you find a deficiency or an inadequacy, you're not going to be talking to an enemy when you tell us about it. You're going to be talking to somebody that's every bit as concerned about having this program good and effective and workable and beneficial as you are, because this is our program. (Applause)

And we're going to strengthen our hospital program. We're going to build more hospitals and we are training more doctors and we have the legislation for it, and we're going to train more young people to be nurses, and I'm going out to give a Commencement Address this Saturday to a group of young folks who have taken a two-year nursing program. We're going to tool up America's healing arts. We're doing a lot of it and we've made a lot of progress.

Oh, I know we haven't done everything we should, and if you've been able to do everything you should in your lifetime, meet me in a telephone booth and there'll be room for many more. (Laughter)

But what I think we ought to talk about, more than anything else, is what progress we've made, and when we see that we need to make some more, have the courage to face up to it. And we're going to have that courage.

Well, we're going to do something about housing, too. And I want to say in the presence of my colleagues in Congress, housing for the elderly is one of the most important programs in this country. We have a good start, but we've only made a start. And we know what the census figures reveal. We know that there are hundreds of thousands of our elderly that are living in homes and in rooms and in tenements that are unfit for human habitation, and we've got to do something about it, and our Members of Congress, I want to say a word to you. I want to get my licks in while I've got a chance.

We've got a program up in Congress called Rent Supplements--Rent Supplements. Now, that rent supplement program is just this simple. Look, now, we subsidize a lot of people in this country--the Merchant Marine, we help the farmers, tariff acts help business--we've got a lot of people that get a pretty good deal out of this Government. We've put a lot of money in irrigation. It costs better than \$1,000 per family for a public housing unit, that pays no taxes to the

Government. Now, I'm not saying that we ought not have public housing. I've supported it all my life. But we can get private contractors and private groups and churches and trade unions and philanthropic^{groups}/to build good, liveable, wholesome, modern housing for people of low income, people that are on Social Security, people that need Medicare, and that housing can be supplemented by--the rent on that housing can be supplemented by a small amount by the Government, and for about one-half of what it costs in terms of a subsidy for public housing you can live in a private home, owned by a private group, which doesn't have to have a Federal Government supervisor, that will pay its taxes--and when you improve your income, you don't have to move out. You know, in public housing, if you get your income up above a certain level, somebody comes and knocks on the door in the middle of the afternoon--we don't knock on the door in the middle of the night here--they do that in other places--(laughter) in the middle of the afternoon, he says, "Look, your income is over \$3,000--" or whatever the figure is--"I'm sorry. No more room for you in this inn. You must find yourself a private place to stay." And there generally are no fit ones for that income group. So, out you go. So, there's a premium on keeping your income down if you've got a good home, a reasonably good dwelling, in public housing.

On the rent supplement program, all you do--you can stay there as long as you want to and all that you do, if your income goes up, is a percentage of the supplement or the

percentage of the subsidy, and finally all of the subsidy, if you start making yourself \$5,000--\$6,000 a year. That's the kind of a program we ought to have. (Applause)

Now, my fellow Americans, the same Congress of the United States--and it's my Congress and this Administration's--the same Congress of the United States is willing to vote a supplement for the Merchant Marine that runs at about \$6,000 per man--and I'm not opposed to that--we need a Merchant Marine and we need a better one than we have--let me be crystal clear. I think we ought to do something about it. And the same Congress that votes subsidies for my midwestern farmers --and I sure helped on that--and the same Congress that votes for public housing and the same Congress that will vote subsidies for airlines--we barely get a one vote majority and we have to work our head off to get a one vote majority to get a rent supplement for an American family that has been compelled for years to live in filth and degradation when we want to give them a decent home and be able to offer a little help on their rent so they can live in clean accommodations, wholesome accommodations, we can't get the votes. What's wrong? Something's wrong.

And I know what's wrong. You haven't talked to them. Let me tell you, I've run for office enough to know when you feel the hot breath of a voter on the back of your neck. (Laughter) I am here to testify that the rent supplement program is one of the greatest hopes that our needy people and our elderly people

have for decent housing. It's one of the ways to break up the urban slum ghetto, to kill off this disease that's infecting our cities called "slumism." And this slumism is doing to the cities what crabgrass does to a yard out in the midwest, consuming them. I'm rearing to go on this subject, I want you to know. And this is the same old Hubert Humphrey you used to know. (Applause)

Now, we're either going to make our cities liveable or they're going to kill us off. Now, where do you live? Cities. Most of you live in a city, and you can't keep running away from it, either. And yet, we are having problems with demonstration cities.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm Chairman of the Space Council and I don't want to be misunderstood. I think our space program is excellent. And I'm proud of Gemini IX, I'm proud of the Surveyor, I just bust with pride when I think of the competence of our technicians and our engineers and our scientists. But let me make it crystal clear. This is a rich and powerful nation and what we're spending on space has a tremendous impact all over for education, industry, science--it's worth everything we're doing--I don't want to be misunderstood. But any nation that can spend from \$30,000,000,000 to \$35,000,000,000 to help put a man on the moon can spend a little to help put a man on his feet right here on earth. (Applause)

In case you're interested, I'm pro-people, and so is the President. You never had a better friend in your life

than the man that's in the White House today, and he wants your help. (Applause)

(end of tape 1)

Tape 2

_____ : Hubert Humphrey, I'm going to ask you to present to the United Steel Workers of America through Jim ^{Carbray} ~~Covery~~-(?), who is here representing the Institution, an award given to the United Steel Workers of America for its tremendous financial, moral, and every other kind of support to the National Council of Senior Citizens and to its own retirees. Jim? Mr. President, may I ask you to present this to Jim Covery (?)

VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I'm very happy to present this and I do so in full recognition of the wonderful work of the President of the Steel Workers, Mr. I. W. Abel, Joe Maloney, Mr. Burke, Secretary of the Treasury, and to you, Jim ^{Carbray} ~~Covery~~-(?), for the work of the United States Steel Workers of America in backing the finest people of America, our senior citizens.

MR. COVERY (?): Thank you, Mr. Vice-President. Thank you very much, and on behalf of the International Union officers, the one and a quarter million members of our International Union, I accept this with humility and gratitude to an unlimited degree, to you, Mr. Edelman (?), to the officers and members of the National Council, and thank you very much. (Applause)

_____ : Frank Harris who writes a daily column called the "Senior Set" in the Boston GLOBE. I'll read this little citation. (Applause) "Frank Harris of Boston, Massachusetts, GLOBE, daily column, "Senior Set," has performed

an outstanding service for the elderly residents of New England and the rest of the nation by calling attention to the needs of the elderly in housing, income maintenance, and medical attention over the past several years. His column urging the passage of Medicare kept the issue constantly in focus to the readers of the Boston GLOBE and has maintained a high standard of accuracy and objectivity that is a credit to professional journalism." (Applause)

VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: On behalf of the Senior Citizens--National Council of Senior Citizens--I present this National Council citation to Frank Harris, a man that has truly been a friend of those who needed a friend, our senior citizens. (Applause)

MR. HARRIS: Thank you very, very much. I appreciate it very much. (Applause)

_____ : This next award which the Vice-President will present is to State Representative Louis Wolfson who has been a true friend of the senior citizens of Florida and the nation. Now in his third term as a member of the Florida Legislature, Representative Wolfson has striven diligently to promote the interests of older Americans. He has helped in the state minimum wage law, reapportionment law, a law to make it easier for Floridians, young and old, to vote, and a law setting a 25¢ admission charge for senior citizens in film theaters between noon and 6:00 P.M. Representative Wolfson has earned the gratitude of senior citizens in Florida and the nation for his efforts to help them enjoy a better life.

Mr. Vice-President? (Applause)

VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: On behalf of the National Council of Senior Citizens, it is my distinct pleasure and honor to present this citation to a fine statesman, to a wonderful warm-hearted human being, and a good American citizen, Mr. Louis Wolfson. (Applause)

MR. WOLFSON: Mr. Vice-President, and everybody, thank you. (Applause)

_____ : Mr. Vice-President, thank you very much. The Golden Age Club of the Jewish Community Center in Wilmington, Delaware--we have the names of their officers and we'll have you send a letter to them later--have made you an honorary member, and they've said that twice. There are about 20 other honorary members they just have to wait to get. (Applause)

The Vice-President has a lot of chores. I'm going to ask him to step with all the freshman Congressmen who are with us over to where cameras are set up at the appropriate back-up drops in the Continental Room. We're delighted to have him. What a day it's been! (Applause)

(end of tape 2)



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