

OPENING STATEMENT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL YOUNG LEADERSHIP CABINET

FEBRUARY 23, 1967

EAST AUDITORIUM, STATE DEPARTMENT

9:30 A.M.

I am very pleased that my office has been able to help put together this excellent orientation and briefing conference. You will be hearing from and talking with some of your government's most knowledgeable individuals.

It may be trite to say so, but I do very much welcome you to Washington. I welcome your coming to the nation's capital because you have come primarily to learn, to discuss, to ask questions.

You have put aside personal business and personal concerns to seek more knowledge about the nation's business and the nation's concerns.

↳ Just a few days ago I had an experience in California which at once symbolizes both the best and the worst in this great land of ours.

↳ As I started to address the students of Stanford University, about 50 hundred of them stood up and walked out in protest. There is something quite wonderful about a country which permits these young people to do this with impunity -- to figuratively thumb their noses at the Vice President of the United States. But, on the other hand, there is something quite tragic and discouraging about young men and women, especially at an institution of learning, not being willing to listen to another point of view and to debate the great issues of our time.

↳ The fact is that this country and this world are faced with complicated, sensitive issues. They require

sophisticated, subtle solutions. They cannot be resolved with simple and simplistic slogans or positions. Not everything can be separated into black and white. There is a very wide band of varying hues of gray.

↳ You have come to Washington to learn something about these complex issues -- and how your government is trying to meet them. ↳ You may not agree with some of the things you hear. ^{so do} Speak out -- and demand explanations, But try to understand what we are trying to do -- and why.

↳ When you return to your communities, try to explain what we are trying to do.

↳ As Vice President -- as I have been telling my friends -- I don't have very much authority -- but I have lots of responsibility. ↳ That responsibility ranges clear

across the ~~whole~~ ^{entire} spectrum of Federal issues. You will be touching upon many of these in the next two days. This should give you some idea of the great pressures on the President and on the Congress as priorities must be assigned, as decisions must be made, as programs must be carried out.

There are many problems indeed -- war in Viet Nam, war against poverty, violence in the streets, pollution in the air and in our waters -- ^{shuns in our cities,} -- even Anti-semitic pollution in a New Jersey suburb. But I believe that our country is making progress on each of these fronts -- and has the resources and the will to succeed in each of these areas.

I happen to be Chairman of the Space Council and also Honorary Chairman of the National Advisory Council to

the Office of Economic Opportunity, the war on poverty.
I have said often that a nation with the resources and
the will to put a man on the moon must also mobilize
the resources and the will to put every man here on earth
on his feet.

↳ We are building a *Partnership - Creative Federalism* in this
country. That means that we are seeking a blending of
the Federal and the local levels of government -- and a
blending of the public effort and the private effort.

↳ The poverty program is perhaps the best example
of this Creative Federalism. Our new Model Cities program,
education programs, anti-pollution program -- and much
more -- similarly require a coordinated effort that
brings together government at all levels -- plus every

private segment in the community: business, labor,
religious, social agencies.

That's the end of my speech. I'm ready for
some questions from you.

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OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

February 22, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE VICE PRESIDENT
FROM: Hyman Bookbinder *HB*
SUBJECT: Young Leadership Cabinet Group
(9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. - Feb. 23, 1967)

Last December, you spoke at the United Jewish Appeal in New York. In that connection, you were asked to sponsor an invitational conference in Washington for their Leadership Cabinet Group. It was decided that you should not be the formal host, but you told them that Bookbinder would help them organize a suitable event. The State Department was persuaded to be the host -- and now a conference has been arranged for February 23-24 that includes briefings from top Defense, State, HEW and OEO officials.

There will be about 100 men (plus most of their wives) in attendance. These are young (ages 25 to 40) very successful Jewish businessmen and professionals who have already achieved recognition as community leaders -- and who have been tagged by UJA officials as the upcoming Jewish leaders of America.

These men are very bright and very hungry for information. I met with some of them in California recently and it was a very rewarding experience.

The attached opener for you is intended merely to set the stage for a general Q and A session. They expect you at 9:30 a.m. - 2/23/67.



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