

From the Office of:
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
1313 New Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.
Capitol 4-3121, Ext. 2424

FOR RELEASE: SUNDAY A.M.'s of
MARCH 8, 1964

HUMPHREY SAYS BIAS COSTING NATION \$17 BILLION A YEAR

Senate Majority Whip Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) said tonight that racial discrimination is costing America a good reputation around the world and \$17 billion in lost income at home.

Humphrey told a Roosevelt Day dinner held by Americans for Democratic Action in Pittsburgh that the money lost to the American economy through racial discrimination is "more than one-fourth of the money we spend for national defense" and "three times as much as we spend on our space program."

Humphrey, who is the floor manager for the civil rights bill in the Senate, called the measure the "most significant legislation to come before the Congress in our lifetime" and predicted the Senate would pass a "strong, comprehensive bill."

He said the main purpose of the civil rights bill is to secure for all Americans "the equal protection of the laws" guaranteed in our Constitution.

Once we have established that legal foundation, Humphrey added, "we can take the bold steps needed to close what I call the 'citizenship gap' in this country--the gap between the promise and fulfillment of the Emancipation Proclamation and the gap between the promise and the fulfillment of our great free enterprise system."

Humphrey said that all Americans realize that "prejudice and racial discrimination has been very costly to America's reputation around the world. But I wonder how many have thought about how costly racial bias is to the American economy right here at home."

Humphrey said that Census Bureau figures show that "due to discrimination and lack of education, training and opportunity, the Negro is the poorest of the poor."

(MORE)

Excerpts from his speech follow:

* INCOME--The average white man's income in 1962 was \$5462. The average Negro income was \$3023. In other words, the average white man makes nearly twice as much as the average Negro.

*HOUSING--There has been some improvement during the postwar years, but the 1960 Census still showed that only 2 out of 5 Negro families lived in sound structures with hot and cold running water, a bath or shower, and a flush toilet. What an untapped market this could be for our construction industry.

*EMPLOYMENT--The 1960 Census showed that about 3,600,000 Negro men were employed. One million worked as laborers. Another half million worked as janitors, porters, cooks, elevator operators and the like. Together these two low-paying occupation groups accounted for about 40 percent of all the jobs held by Negro men. And even within these low paying jobs, the Negro earned less than the white man.

This is also true of the Negro who holds a semi-skilled job. About one-fourth of all semi-skilled Negroes are truck drivers or deliverymen. Whites who do this work average \$4500 a year. The Negro average is only \$2600.

About 10 percent of the Negro men work as craftsmen. Their average earnings were \$3500, compared with \$5400 for whites.

Clerical work is a major source of white-collar employment for Negro men and here their earnings compare more favorably with those of the whites. One reason for this is that a large proportion of Negro clerical workers are hired by the U.S. Post Office where there is no discrimination. The average Negro clerical worker earns \$4072 while the white gets \$4848. For mail carriers the average is \$5101 for Negroes and \$5309 for whites.

*EDUCATION--This has been the traditional route of escape for the children of the slums. But many Negroes

(MORE)

have their doubts about this because they are all too familiar with the cruel facts of prejudice and discrimination.

For example, in New York City, 69 percent of the Negroes do not have a high school diploma. This figure is only slightly lower for whites--62 percent of them have not graduated from high school. But the whites are twice as successful as the Negroes in earning a living.

Here's another disgraceful figure. It was brought out by the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare last year. The Negro who has finished four years of college can expect his lifetime income will be \$185,000. Yet the white man with only an eighth grade education can expect a lifetime income of \$191,000.

Let me repeat that. The Negro who has completed four years of college can expect to earn less in his lifetime than the white man who hasn't even gone to high school.

Is it any wonder that some Negroes show little enthusiasm for schooling?

If we could fully train and educate the Negro population in this country--and if we could eliminate the racial barriers on employment and all the rest--we could make this a much wealthier nation just in money terms alone.

The President's Council of Economic Advisers reports that racial bias is costing this country between 13 and 17 billion dollars a year in increases in our Gross National Product.

This is more than one-fourth of the money we spend for national defense. It is three times as much as we spend on our space program.

And this loss in income, of course, does not take into account what we pay in higher crime rates, poor health, urban decay, mounting welfare costs and the countless other costs that grow out of discrimination.

When all of these are added, the cost of discrimination becomes astronomical.

Mike Berger
Mayor Joe Barr
Steve Lawrence
General Blatt
Joint no country

SPEECH SCRIPT

ADA

Pittsburgh, March 7, 1964

RE: CIVIL RIGHTS

Emphazize

I want to ~~talk to you about~~ civil rights tonight

because, frankly, it is a subject that is uppermost in
my mind these days.

As you know I am the floor leader in the Senate for
the Administration's civil rights bill - the most
significant legislation to come before Congress in our
lifetime. — and

~~This~~ is the most challenging assignment of my
legislative career, and I am honored to have been chosen
for it. I have been working to advance the cause of
civil rights - or human rights as I prefer to call it -
all of my adult life.

Let Us Begin
Jan 20, 1961

Let us ~~now~~ 27, 1963
continue

Johnson Part of the

JFK
Johnson Pol. Hero FDR

Floor
Leader

work
for
civil
Rts
long

(more)

Don Jack Clark
Bill Moorhead
Garry Elmer Holland

Now we are about to reach a major milestone in that struggle and I want to tell you that neither President Johnson nor I will rest until the Senate passes ~~a strong~~ ^{an effective} comprehensive civil rights bill. *It will be America's*

living memorial to John Kennedy

I believe in the cause of civil rights because it is right morally and it is right politically. And internationally it is imperative that we come to the world with clean hands.

We all realize that prejudice and racial discrimination has been very costly to America's reputation throughout the world. But I wonder how many have thought about how costly racial bias is to the American economy right here at home.

(more)

Of course, the economic aspect of civil rights is not as important as the moral issue that is involved, but we do have a way of measuring things in dollars and cents in this country, so I'd like to talk to you tonight about the cost of discrimination.

He
cost
of
Discrimination

The civil rights bill ~~we're going to pass in the~~ Senate will secure for all Americans the "equal protection of the laws" guaranteed in our Constitution.

2 Once we have established that legal foundation, we can take the bold steps needed to close what I call the "citizenship gap" in this country - the gap between the promise and the fulfillment of the Constitution and the gap between the promise and the fulfillment of our great free enterprise system.

Citizenship
Gap

Negro wants justice

Let me We have a long way to go to fill that gap. Let me cite you some Census Bureau figures to show you how far we have to go. All of these figures show that due to discrimination and lack of education, training and opportunity, the Negro is the poorest of the poor.

*INCOME - The average white man's income in 1962 was \$5462. The average Negro income was \$3023. In other words, the average white man makes nearly twice as much as the average Negro.

*HOUSING - There has been some improvement during the postwar years, but the 1960 Census still showed that only 2 out of 5 Negro families lived in sound structures with hot and cold running water, a bath or shower, and a flush toilet. What an untapped market this could be for our construction industry.

(more)

*EMPLOYMENT - The 1960 Census showed that about 3,600,000 Negro men were employed. One million worked as laborers. Another half million worked as janitors, porters, cooks, elevator operators and the like. Together these two low-paying occupation groups accounted for about 40 percent of all the jobs held by Negro men. And even within these low paying jobs, the Negro earned less than the white man.

This is also true of the Negro who holds a semi-skilled job. About one-fourth of all semi-skilled Negroes are truck drivers or deliverymen. Whites who do this work average \$4500 a year. The Negro average is only \$2600.

About 10 percent of the Negro men work as craftsmen. Their average earnings were \$3500, compared with \$5300 for whites.

(more)

Clerical work is a major source of white-collar employment for Negro men and here their earnings compare more favorably with those of the whites. One reason for this is that a large proportion of Negro clerical workers are hired by the U.S. ^{Govt} ~~Post Office~~, where there is no discrimination. The average Negro clerical worker earns \$4072 while the white gets \$4848. For mail carriers the average is \$5101 for Negroes and \$5309 for whites.

*EDUCATION - This has been the traditional route of escape for the children of the slums. But many Negroes have their doubts about this because they are all too familiar with the cruel facts of prejudice and discrimination.

(more)

For example, in New York City, 69 percent of the Negroes do not have a high school diploma. This figure is only slightly lower for whites - 62 percent of them have not graduated from high school. But the whites are twice as successful as the Negroes in earning a living.

Here's another disgraceful figure. It was brought out by the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare last year. The Negro who has finished four years of college can expect his lifetime income will be \$185,000.

Yet the white man with only an eighth grade education can expect a lifetime income of \$191,000.

Let me repeat that. The Negro who has completed four years of college can expect to earn less in his lifetime than the white man who hasn't even gone to high school.

(more)

Is it any wonder that some Negroes show little enthusiasm for schooling?

If we could fully train and educate the Negro population in this country - and if we could eliminate the racial barriers on employment and all the rest - we could make this a much wealthier nation just in money terms alone.

FEP
School
Doleg

The President's Council of Economic Advisers reports that racial bias is costing this country between 13 and 17 billion dollars a year in increases in our Gross National Product.

This is more than one-fourth of the money we spend for national defense. It is three times as much as we spend on our space program.

And this loss in income, of course, does not take into account what we pay in higher crime rates, poor health, urban decay, mounting welfare costs and the countless other costs that grow out of discrimination.

When all of these are added, the cost of discrimination becomes astronomical.

###

Misfortune

Poverty - Economic - Illiteracy, Sickness, Hopelessness, Frustration, unwanted - no training - no job - no Self-Respect

Assumes - Educ, Voc. Training, Youth Employment, Soc Sec, Medicare, Public Works

Area Redevelopment

Peace - Stronger - U.N., Test Ban etc

JFK. Strategy of Peace -
Nuclear confrontation no longer



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org