

Imitation

Gov Jack Campbell

Southwest Conference on
Poverty - 1/25/65

Poverty Speech - Arizona

May 1965
May 1965

Gov
Woodward

Mrs
Woodward

✓ Last Wednesday President Lyndon Johnson took the
historic oath of office which our Founding Fathers set
forth in the Constitution.

✓ The men who wrote that oath gathered in Philadelphia
over 175 years ago. They were 55 in number. They ranged in
age from 27 to 81. And they represented the widely differing
political and economic interests within the thirteen inde-
pendent states.

These diverse men, however, produced a document whose
Preamble opened with these words: "We the People of the
United States." Within their diversity, the Founders had
left no doubt about their commitment to strengthen and pre-
serve a union of states and people.

You meet here today to express a similar commitment.

✓ You represent different states, different agencies, different
population groups, and different political views, yet your

Father
Viggo

Long
Utah

Papago
Reserve

ultimate identification -- like those 55 men in Philadelphia --

is in terms of "We the People of the United States."

L Your ultimate purpose in convening this Conference --
like theirs over 175 years ago -- is to form a more perfect
union, to establish justice, to insure domestic tranquility,
to promote the general welfare, and to secure the blessings
of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

L This, then, is more than just another conference. You
sense it. We all sense it. *It is a call to action,*

~~of that great Constitutional Convention of a century and
three quarters ago.~~

L Our Founding Fathers responded to a call which stemmed
from the economic and commercial difficulties which beset
the separate states under the Articles of Confederation.

L But they knew they dealt with more than commerce, tariff
wars or trade barriers. They were concerned primarily with

a growing lack of common purpose and action among our states
and our ~~young~~ people which threatened to immobilize and even-
tually destroy our young Republic.

LBJ
President Johnson's declaration of war on poverty, and
the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, present

us with a ~~strong~~ call to common action. We have been sum-

moned to lay the foundations of a new society -- the Great

Society. Justice Liberty & Union / Quality of Life -

Our Founders met their challenge -- their summons. They
labored faithfully and well. They created a new form of
government -- the Federal system -- a government sufficiently
strong and united, yet sufficiently limited and diverse, to
serve the needs of a changing and expanding nation.

The nation's needs now are different -- yet strangely
similar to what they were almost two centuries ago.

In 1787, the central government could not pay its own
bills. Today, this nation is defaulting on its obligation

to assist the disadvantaged and deprived who live among us.

In 1787, the central government could not raise an army to put down local rebellion by debtors.

Today we lack an ^{adequate} army of trained and dedicated fighters to man the front lines in our struggle against poverty and injustice.

In 1787, interstate rivalries, toll bridges, and tariff wars impeded the free flow of commerce among the several states.

Today the barriers of ignorance, poverty, disease, discrimination, and unemployment stand in the way of a new prosperity for all our people and a new spiritual greatness for our society.

But slowly and quietly the nation has begun to stir. We have, at long last, begun to challenge the economic and social injustices we had often permitted to go unrecognized and unrelieved.

In Washington, and across the nation, we are now pledging

ourselves to action on a variety of fronts to transform
these past shortcomings into future strengths. We are giving
new dimension and meaning to the promise of America.

President Johnson expressed this new sense of commitment
in his State of the Union message:

"We seek to establish a harmony between man and society
which will allow each of us to enlarge the meaning of his
life and all of us to elevate the quality of our civilization."

As our Founding Fathers struck off a new testament of
freedom in fashioning the Constitution, we are now laboring
to define a new charter of freedom for the American people.

President Johnson has summoned us to dedicate ourselves to
creating on these shores a Great Society. And in this summons
the President has called upon America's greatest reservoirs
of strength: compassion, charity, courage and love.

This new charter of freedom will be etched not in words
alone, but in deeds -- not on parchment, but on the conscience

new
charter
of freedom

of America.

To achieve this Great Society
- this Charter of Freedom -

~~that~~ *We* must seek a new and dynamic relationship--

a creative partnership--among Federal, State, and local

governments.

~~Just as the relationship between the central government
and the states taxed the genius and ability of our Founding
Fathers in Philadelphia, so we must now struggle with the
problem of developing procedures and understandings which
use fully the special abilities and insights possessed by
each level of government and take advantage of the knowledge
and experience of both public and private instrumentalities.~~

and This is especially true, if we hope to mount an effective

assault on the complex and interrelated causes of poverty and
deprivation. In the Southwest *as in other parts of the country* inadequate educational

opportunity, unemployment, automation, sluggish economic

growth, discrimination, and disease all contribute to one

end product: a region where ~~too~~ many American citizens are
denied full participation in the economic and social blessings
of this bountiful land. *This need not be.*

or elsewhere.
We cannot permit this to continue in the Southwest

we cannot permit it to continue anywhere in America. *It's wrong*
Politically, economically + morally.

Z We must, instead, seek to mobilize ~~new resources~~ and
The Defeat of Poverty -

to develop new methods of action in combatting poverty in
The Shame of it - at home + abroad
its many dimensions.

Papago Reservation
This conference testifies to your ~~explicit~~ *open* recognition

of this fact. You are, in effect, saying: "We, in the

Southwest--not you on the banks of the Potomac--know our

own special problems and our own special strengths. ~~HA~~

~~to recognize that special knowledge and ability entail~~

~~special responsibility. We acknowledge and accept this~~

~~responsibility.~~ We are ready to develop a creative partner-

ship between the national, ~~and State~~ State and local

governments--between public agencies and private agencies--

→ In other words, we see
Poverty here, we will attack it here, & we
will mobilize every resource available.

-8-

and between national conscience and local conscience."

↪ ~~Second, we must~~ In this new charter of freedom ~~we~~ this Great Society
seek new dimensions of popular parti-

cipation and representation within our democratic system.

↪ When--as in this conference--representatives of all
population groups, all concerned agencies, all governmental
bodies--and especially, when representatives of the poor themselves--
can meet together to speak, to listen, to plan, and to act,
this is American democracy functioning as it should.

↪ This is providing the American people with a new franchise--
the franchise of service, of participation, of opportunity--
open to all without regard to race, color, creed or economic
position.

"We the People" becomes more than
a phrase, it becomes a living force.

↪ And when, after these hearings and this conference are
concluded, your "Call to Conscience" goes out to your fellow

citizens, you will be helping to define ~~the mission of the Great Society~~ *in words everyone*

can understand

~~the mission of the Great Society.~~

↳ This task, however, will not be ended at the close of this conference, ~~any more than it was completed at the close~~

~~of the Senate's deliberations on the Great Society Act.~~

carried to

Your

"Call to Conscience" will have to be ~~read~~ *carried to* every town,

city, county, region and State to which you will return.

awaken America! Self Examination!

~~democratic system did not emerge full blown upon the ratifi-~~

~~cation of the Constitution.~~

↳ The process is only beginning. And it is never ending.

We must build -- and rebuild. We must create -- and recreate.

↳ But as you take your leave, and go your separate ways, the

depth of your commitment and the degree of your determination

to build this Great Society will be in doubt no longer.

↳ Out of the differences, the problems, and the conflicts

will emerge a new commitment to work together in pursuit of

~~a "more perfect union."~~ And the spirit of America will draw

new strength and vitality from your

Call to consumers

One other suggestion —

~~we~~, we must expand and strengthen the resources

which the Federal government can contribute -- in partnership

with State, local and private agencies -- toward winning the

war on poverty and building the Great Society.

For the first time in our history, there is an office --

the Office of Economic Opportunity -- to coordinate the

principal Federal programs related to the elimination of

poverty.

Conservation & Development
of Human Resources.

Under the direction of Sargent Shriver, this office in

less than four months has made remarkable progress in launching

this comprehensive attack on poverty. The difficult early

months of initial planning and staffing are now completed.

Job Corps centers are opening and Job Corps recruitment is

underway. Community action programs are going forward. Other

Federal efforts -- the Neighborhood Youth Corps, work

experience and work study programs, and loans to rural residents--are in operation. State and local governments and private groups are vital partners in these accomplishments.

In sum, the anti-poverty offensive is now moving into high gear.

But, The current programs of the Office of Economic Opportunity are just ^a beginning. President Johnson has already announced that next year's budget will provide for a doubling of the present program levels.

*Double
the
Prog.*

The war on poverty will be waged on other fronts, too. The President's message on education is directed principally at areas of poverty ~~and the economically and culturally~~ ~~deprived groups of our society.~~ His recommendations on health

are similarly concerned with the special problems of the poor & needy

There will, in addition, be significant action in the areas of social security, unemployment compensation, minimum wages, and continued economic growth and expansion.

an army

yes L

A national army of poverty fighters is now being recruited. Segments of this new force have enlisted in VISTA-- our domestic version of the Peace Corps. These volunteers-- and thousands more in local communities throughout the nation-- will be ready to assist those persons serving under the auspices of public and private agencies on the State and local levels.

~~Such deeds--a creative partnership among Federal, State, and local governments; popular participation and representation; and increased material and physical resources--are vital components of the Great Society. In this process we must not shun diversity; ~~embrace it~~ rather, we must undergird our diversity with the sense of laboring together in common cause.~~

As President Johnson said with such eloquence in his Inaugural Address: "We are one nation and one people. Our fate as a nation and our future as a people rests not upon one citizen but upon all citizens." - all of us?

This spirit motivated our Founding →

Fathers to launch our democratic experiment with such insight, wisdom and fortitude. And this same spirit will guide the work of this historic conference.

And when your chairman adjourns these meetings, we might well remember the words of Benjamin Franklin in his closing statement to the Constitutional Convention. For many months, George Washington had presided in an arm chair inscribed with a gilded half-sun. As Washington rose from this chair for the last time, the venerable Franklin remarked:

“I have often ~~and~~ in the course of this session... looked at that sun...without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting; but now...I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun.”

As I meet with the participants of this conference, and ~~as I grasp the~~ since your determination to build a better Southwest and a better America, I can share Franklin's optimism: it is truly a rising and not a setting sun.

We are on our way - the Army of Poverty's Lighter Marches -!

40
1/25/65
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These men, however, produced a document whose Preamble opened with these words: "We the People of the United States." Within their diversity, the Founders had left no doubt about their commitment to strengthen and preserve a union of states and people.

You meet here today to express a similar commitment. You represent different states, different agencies, different population groups, and different political views, yet your

ultimate identification -- like those 55 men in Philadelphia --
is in terms of "We the People of the United States."

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like theirs over 175 years ago -- is to form a more perfect
union, to establish justice, to insure domestic tranquility,
to promote the general welfare, and to secure the blessings
of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

This, then, is more than just another conference. You
sense it. We all sense it. We meet today more in the spirit
of that great Constitutional Convention of a century and
three quarters ago.

Our Founding Fathers responded to a call which stemmed
from the economic and commercial difficulties which beset
the separate states under the Articles of Confederation.
But they knew they dealt with more than commerce, tariff
wars or trade barriers. They were concerned primarily with

a growing lack of common purpose and action among our states and our young people which threatened to immobilize and eventually destroy our young Republic.

President Johnson's declaration of war on poverty, and the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, present us with a similar call to common action. We have been summoned to lay the foundations of a new society -- the Great Society.

Our Founders met their challenge -- their summons. They labored faithfully and well. They created a new form of government -- the Federal system -- a government sufficiently strong and united, yet sufficiently limited and diverse, to serve the needs of a changing and expanding nation.

The nation's needs now are different -- yet strangely similar to what they were almost two centuries ago.

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to assist the disadvantaged and deprived who live among us.

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In Washington, and across the nation, we are now pledging

ourselves to action on a variety of fronts to transform these past shortcomings into future strengths. We are giving new dimension and meaning to the promise of America.

President Johnson expressed this new sense of commitment in his State of the Union message:

"We seek to establish a harmony between man and society which will allow each of us to enlarge the meaning of his life and all of us to elevate the quality of our civilization."

As our Founding Fathers struck off a new testament of freedom in fashioning the Constitution, we are now laboring to define a new charter of freedom for the American people. President Johnson has summoned us to dedicate ourselves to creating on these shores a Great Society. And in this summons the President has called upon Americans greatest reservoirs of strength: compassion, charity, courage and love.

This new charter of freedom will be etched not in words alone, but in deeds -- not on parchment, but on the conscience

of America.

First, we must seek a new and dynamic relationship--
a creative partnership--among Federal, State, and local
governments.

Just as the relationship between the central government and the states taxed the genius and ability of our Founding Fathers in Philadelphia, so we must now struggle with the problem of developing procedures and understandings which use fully the special abilities and insights possessed by each level of government and take advantage of the knowledge and experience of both public and private instrumentalities.

This is especially true if we hope to mount an effective assault on the complex and interrelated causes of poverty and deprivation. In the Southwest inadequate educational opportunity, unemployment, automation, sluggish economic growth, discrimination, and disease all contribute to one

end product: a region where many American citizens are denied full participation in the economic and social blessings of this bountiful land.

We cannot permit this to continue in the Southwest. We cannot permit it to continue anywhere in America.

We must, instead, seek to mobilize new resources and to develop new channels of action in combatting poverty in its many dimensions.

This conference testifies to your explicit recognition of this fact. You are, in effect, saying: "We, in the Southwest--not you on the banks of the Potomac--know our own special problems and our own special strengths. But we also recognize that special knowledge and ability entail special responsibility. We acknowledge and accept this responsibility. We are ready to develop a creative partnership between the national government and the State and local governments--between public agencies and private agencies--

and between national conscience and local conscience."

Second, we must seek new dimensions of popular participation and representation within our democratic system.

When--as in this conference--representatives of all population groups, all concerned agencies, all governmental bodies--and especially, when representatives of the poor--can meet together to speak, to listen, to plan, and to act, this is American democracy functioning at its creative best. This is providing the American people with a new franchise--the franchise of service, of participation, of opportunity--open to all without regard to race, color, creed or economic position.

And when, after these hearings and this conference are concluded, your "Call to Conscience" goes out to your fellow

citizens, you will be helping to define in meaningful terms the charter of the Great Society.

This task, however, will not be ended at the close of this conference any more than it was completed at the close of the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787. Your "Call to Conscience" will have to be ratified in every town, city, county, region and State to which you will return. And even with ratification the job will not be over -- just as our democratic system did not emerge full blown upon the ratification of the Constitution.

The process is only beginning. And it is never-ending. We must build -- and rebuild. We must create -- and recreate. But as you take your leave, and go your separate ways, the depth of your commitment and the degree of your determination to build this great Society will be in doubt no longer.

Out of the differences, the problems, and the conflicts will emerge a new commitment to work together in pursuit of

a "more perfect union." And the spirit of America will draw new strength and vitality from your action.

Third, we must expand and strengthen the resources which the Federal government can contribute -- in partnership with State, local and private agencies -- toward winning the war on poverty and building the Great Society.

For the first time in our history, there is an office -- the Office of Economic Opportunity -- to coordinate the principal Federal programs related to the elimination of poverty.

Under the direction of Sargent Shriver, this office in less than four months has made remarkable progress in launching this comprehensive attack on poverty. The difficult early months of initial planning and staffing are now completed. Job Corps centers are opening and Job Corps recruitment is underway. Community action programs are going forward. Other Federal efforts -- the Neighborhood Youth Corps, work

-11-

experience and work study programs, and loans to rural residents--are in operation. State and local governments and private groups are vital partners in these accomplishments. In sum, the anti-poverty offensive is now moving into high gear.

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The war on poverty will be waged on other fronts, too. The President's message on education is directed principally at areas of poverty and the economically and culturally deprived groups of our society. His recommendations on health are similarly concerned with the special problems of the poor. There will, in addition, be significant action in the areas of social security, unemployment compensation, minimum wages, and continued economic growth and expansion.

A national army of poverty fighters is now being recruited. Segments of this new force have enlisted in VISTA--our domestic version of the Peace Corps. These volunteers--and thousands more in local communities throughout the nation--will be ready to assist those persons serving under the auspices of public and private agencies on the State and local levels.

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