

Gov Huelett Smith

Reverend Washington  
Sen Jennings Randolph  
81 yr service

Mayor Henry Warden

Sec State Post Bailey

Judge Thornton Berry

Clarence Elmore

REMARKS BY

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

Sen Bob Byrd

Cong Jim Kee

Cong Harley Staggers

Cong Arch Moore

Pat Jennings of Va June 16, 1965

Ken Heckler } unable  
John Slack } to come

congrats  
my work  
with  
local  
Govt

It certainly is a privilege to share this day  
with you -- with the city that licked its problems and  
not its wounds. America needs more Bluefields.

Heart of  
Bluefield  
refused to  
stop

Here in the heart of Appalachia, you decided  
to do something about your problems. And you did.

Heart of  
Appalachia

As the result of your work, Bluefield is today one  
of eleven All-American cities. - Singular Honor!

1 You developed Skyland, Incorporated, your  
2 and 1/2 million dollar resort complex.

Gift Shop - Products  
of native craftsmen

2 Then you developed your scenic railroad, "the  
Ridge Runner." 43,000 Passengers 1st Season

3 "Winning is just the beginning :- Thing  
'Longest Journey is the first step'"

Then came your successful effort to ~~bring in~~ <sup>bring in</sup> new facilities in new industry, to ~~develop~~ <sup>develop</sup> Bluefield College, to build

a new Chamber of Commerce building, a golf course, and a new youth center. - new Bank, Penney's new bldg, shopping center

All of these were by individual and private effort. And so were other projects aimed at making Bluefield a better place in which to live and work.

Your local government has done its job too. As a result of a bond referendum which received a handsome majority, park facilities have been expanded . . . storm sewers put in . . . and other needed improvements made.

Community facilities have been expanded and improved with an outlay of approximately 10 and 1/2 million dollars.

The federal government has helped too. - this Army 2nd share \$750,000 \$200,000

Your city planning and urban renewal project are helped by federal funds. So is your new low-rent housing project. And Interstate Highway 77 has been

Penney

10,000  
volunteers

(X)  
county  
Health Center  
\$400,000

9 Citizens  
Action  
Programs

city mgt  
Police

\* ACB  
Public  
works

an important factor in what you have accomplished.

↳ Business and industry responded to the challenge.

This is demonstrated by the 7 million dollars they have  
invested in a new bank and expansion and improvement  
of stores and factories.

↳ Your progress has been achieved as the result  
of cooperation -- a partnership -- of private citizens,  
the business community, and government.

unity -  
S.P.I.R.I.T.

I looked over again today the list of this year's  
All-American cities.

↳ Their names are different, and their problems and  
successes have been different, too. ↳ And yet, I was struck  
by similarities among them.

All have been forced to deal with problems stemming  
from the growth and change that is taking place in this  
nation.

There was another similarity among all eleven cities. All of these cities have been assisted by one or more federal programs -- programs designed to help local leadership solve the kinds of problems you are solving.

There are other similarities. Three cities -- Bluefield is one of these -- have been cited for coming to grips with the great challenge of our times -- human relations.

I see evidence of progress in this area here and now.

I know the soul-searching effort it took to achieve this. *It's not easy to change!*

It was only last February that your YMCA-YWCA trustees voted unanimously to open those organizations to all citizens of this community.

And your Human Relations Commission has undertaken ~~done~~ work that any American city could be proud of.

You are working in Bluefield to create equal opportunity in jobs as well as in education. - and your records are one of Progress.

The spirit you have shown is the spirit behind President Johnson's new approach to economic development.

You in West Virginia know about the Area Redevelopment Program. But, as you may know, ARA as such is due to go out of business at the end of this month.

Both President Johnson's new program under the Economic Development Act, is based on past program experience of ARA and Public Works

This new program is based on the idea of cooperation between the federal government, state and local governments, and private enterprise -- the same cooperation which did the job here in Bluefield.

You  
get  
the  
Pattern

Economic  
Development  
Administration

Our goal is to create permanent jobs through long-term economic expansion. How is this to be done?

States and counties will be encouraged to plan economic development together.

< Loans and grants will be available to encourage new industry in redevelopment areas.

↳ A long-range program of public works will be started to build new sewage disposal systems, water mains, streets, and access roads -- for without these things, industrial development can't even begin.

I predict today that this Congress will give its approval to this new program. The Senate has already done so; the bill is now under consideration in the House.

Randolph  
McNamara  
Muskie

House. Jennings Randolph Ch. - <sup>on</sup> Public works & Roads  
annually \$400,000,000 - Public works funds - Grants  
 for 5 yrs

50, millim  
525 "

Regional Program - like Appalachia  
~~Technical Assistance~~  
LOANS

② Congressman Jim Kee (Bluefield home)  
on House Public Works

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↳ The workability of this program will depend in large measure on the ability of local leadership to plan and work -- just as you have planned and worked here.

↳ For example, five years ago the city of Bluefield received a \$12,000-dollar grant from the Urban Renewal Administration for the purposes of planning.

Plans

I'm sure you will agree that your decision to make an extensive planning study was one of the wisest decisions you ever made.

↳ Out of this developed the master plan filed in January 1962 -- and I know that this has served as a valuable, indispensable guide for new ideas under way in this city.

Excellent Document



I know <sup>too</sup> that recently the Urban Renewal  
Administration has approved another and much larger  
planning grant for Bluefield so that you can continue  
your progress.

I had someone bring me a copy of your 1962  
plan. Thumbing through this plan, I saw the  
recommendation on new manufacturing employment as  
"the most basic means of economic improvement."

This of course has been translated into jobs in  
Bluefield, through your new factory and factory additions.

I also saw reference in your plan to Highway 77;  
along with the recommendations carried out so well to  
increase tourism.

I could go on further but you know this plan  
better than I.

The point is this:

Jobs

Tourism

Beautiful  
mountain  
country.

Tourism  
See the  
USA

- 71% of Popul of U.S. lives  
within one day drive of Bluefield



↳ We would not be here today if there had not been such successful followthrough on that plan. *follow through*

↳ We would not be here if it hadn't been for the *cooperation* of government at all levels *brought to Bluefield* *and cooperation* *with private enterprise.*

↳ But we would also not be here if you had not acted on that plan, and with that assistance, with energy and imagination.

↳ This is the lesson that all of us have learned.

↳ In this day and age, good fences do not make good neighbors. All of us in this nation -- in government, in private industry, in cities and towns, on farms -- all of us must share responsibility for seeing that all people *all* and places in our society have both a chance to contribute to and share in the fruits of our abundance.

L We cannot have a Great Society -- no matter  
how rich this nation becomes -- if parts of that  
society are left behind. - War on Poverty - Appalachian  
AID to educ - Public works  
etc

President Johnson has made his pledge. And

I join him in that pledge. We will not be satisfied  
until all Americans, and all parts of America, can  
participate in this better life.

I know that you here in Bluefield share that  
determination. With your continued work, and with  
ours, I know we will succeed.

Congratulations!

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① Have no little Plans - No Small Dream,  
Reach for the Stars

Human Resources  
a more beautiful America

We grow together



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