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NOTES BY

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

OPENING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

"FAIR EMPLOYMENT IS GOOD BUSINESS" EXHIBIT

JULY 21, 1965

4:00 PM

I am delighted at this chance to visit the Equal Employment Opportunity exhibit, and to pay tribute to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. My thanks to Secretary Connor and the Department of Commerce for making this occasion possible.

A lot has been written and said about the important task that Chairman Roosevelt and the other Commissioners will perform. It is a challenging job

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and they will need all the help we can give them.

By "we" I mean all of us in this country.

There is no such thing as "the Negro problem" or "the minority group problem." We have an American problem, and all Americans are working today to help solve it.

That is why, Secretary Connor, I was particularly pleased to hear you say that "the business of American business is America."

It has been my experience that the business community is more than willing to volunteer its resources to help solve problems of national concern.

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We have seen this recently, for instance, in The President's Summer Youth Employment Program and in the voluntary steps toward the solution of the balance of payments situation.

We have also seen it in Equal Employment Opportunity. In a recent meeting of some of the Plans for Progress companies in San Francisco, I reported the fact that companies with the highest productivity and profits have also provided great leadership in the field of merit employment.

I was also glad, Mr. Secretary, to hear you refer to the need to use education and training programs as a part of equal employment. Not only must we offer equal job opportunities, but we must

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be sure that all Americans have the chance to build a better life through equal opportunity for education and training. This is another great area where labor, business and government work together for the benefit of all.

The headlines that bring us news of unrest ignore the silent accomplishments of countless communities, companies, unions and schools. The accomplishments of the past give us optimism that we will do still more in the future. "Fair Employment is Good Business" because it is "good sense."



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