

Mayor Jack Lee

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

OCTOBER 21, 1965

Several months ago the President asked me to act as his liaison with officials of local government. As one who has served in local government -- as Mayor of Minneapolis -- I believe I have some appreciation of the important role played by local government in our federal system. Because I know how distant and remote Washington can seem to the man with local responsibility, I have been trying, in these months, to make Washington less distant, less remote, more able to help. And that is why I invited you to meet with me here today.

↳ If we are to meet the staggering problems of today, our federal system must work, and work well.

↳ New Haven is the best example I know of creative federalism at work in the city. ↳ New Haven stands today as an outstanding example of the physical and material resources of an urban area being used for the benefit of the people.

↳ There are ^{TEN} ~~nine~~ urban renewal projects in New Haven, a record for a city this size. But this does not tell the whole story. ↳ New Haven has not only cleared slums, but has rehabilitated homes and building and neighborhoods so the city retains its traditional character and charm.

↳ Historic buildings have not been torn down. They have been renovated.

↳ People have not just been displaced. They have been relocated with attention to their needs and aspirations.

↳ This city has received 75 million dollars in federal financing through the Housing and Home Finance Agency. But this is only part of the story. ↳ More than 400 million dollars in local public and private investment have also been put to work in the job of renewal.

↳ This is creative federalism -- the coordinated programs of national, state and local governments aided by the efforts of business, labor and private interests.

↳ And this success story is important. For major cities and smaller cities alike face tremendous problems.

↳ We know that the world's population will double by the year 2000. Within 10 short years the United States alone will have 30 million more people.

↳ We know there will be nearly six million more people living within the Boston-Washington corridor.

↳ And we know that less than 20 per cent of the population will live outside our urban areas.

↳ This distribution of population will produce not only the growth of individual cities but also the expansion of sprawling urban areas -- areas needing local services.

2 This Administration is pledged to help meet this challenge.

But the future of our nation lies not only with the federal government. It lies in our heartland -- in individual American communities.

The Great Society will be an America made up of thousands of great communities.

It is your communities that will have good schools or bad ones.

It is your communities that will have decent homes or slums.

It is your communities that will have racial harmony or racial antagonism.

It is your communities that will either wage intelligent, coordinated drives on the causes of poverty -- or will ignore this social cancer.

Our explosive population growth and rapid urbanization have combined to place unprecedented burdens on local government.

Today there are over 9 million American homes which should not be lived in, but are. Four million of those homes have no running water or plumbing.

There are water shortages.

There are millions of children who will, without a doubt, be on the welfare rolls a few years hence if something is not done. One out of every three children now in fifth grade will not finish high school, if the present dropout rate continues. Every mayor should have established task forces within his city so that each dropout or potential dropout can be personally contacted and helped.

There is a general shortage of clean, fresh air . . . of open space . . . of parkland . . . of the things that make life livable.

And small cities equally face the same converging forces of growth and decay that plague large cities -- slums, blight, traffic and parking problems, badly platted blocks, demands for services are high and tax money is short.

No single community in this age of change can meet these demands alone and without help. That is why there are more than 50 major programs of federal assistance to local governments. In fiscal 1966 there will be a total of 13.6 billion dollars in federal aid payments to state and local units.

The Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965, passed by this Congress and signed into law by President Johnson, is designed to help meet these problems.

The President has called this Act "breakthrough legislation." And it is.

Under this Act, the best of the old programs have been extended and expanded. The urban renewal program has loans and grants for rehabilitation of homes, buildings and neighborhoods.

Public Housing programs have been made more flexible so local authorities can buy or rent existing housing. This will help large families.

There are grants for building such things as youth and community centers in low-income neighborhoods. Park and playground land can be acquired and improved under another program. Streets can be beautified. Malls can be built.

The FHA mortgage insurance programs are extended and in many cases liberalized. There is a new low-down program for veterans to buy homes. The ceiling has been raised on insured home mortgage money in outlying areas.

There is a new rent supplement program which will result in new housing for low-income families built by private builders with private money. Middle income housing and college housing . . . housing for the elderly can be built with direct 3 per cent loans.

This Act also authorizes rural housing loans for purchase of previously occupied dwellings and structures. These loans can also be used to buy building sites and to build new homes. This is a program of the Farmers Home Administration.

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A major addition to the legislation this year is a matching grant program for the construction of sewer and water facilities. There is also a grant program for the acquisition of land for future construction of public facilities.

These programs, except for rural housing, are administered by the Housing and Home Finance Agency, which will soon become the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The establishment of this Department is in response to a long-standing need.

Not only will it now be possible to administer these wide-ranging programs more effectively, but there will now be a voice responsible to the wishes of urban people in the highest councils of government -- in the President's Cabinet.

Rural + smaller cities

I wish to speak briefly today of the rural areas as well as the smaller cities. You are linked inseparably to your neighbors in the surrounding countryside.

Dissatisfaction with rural life increases the exodus to the cities. Unemployment, poor housing, poor education combine to increase the movement to the cities -- an exodus all too often composed of people unprepared for employment and participation in city life.

One half the disadvantaged people of our nation live outside urban areas. We hear so much about urban slums that we often forget that there are twice as many dilapidated houses in rural areas as in the cities. Forty-seven per cent of the nation's poverty exists in rural communities where only 30 per cent of the nation's people live.

But there is now more hope for the rural poor.

The Office of Economic Opportunity is now preparing a massive attack on the root causes of rural poverty. Rural towns and counties are joining in the war on poverty at a rapidly expanding rate.

The President has also acted to establish in the Department of Agriculture the Rural Community Development Service. The President named as the goal "parity of opportunity for rural America."

This expanded service to rural America will be carried out through the field offices of the Department of Agriculture. Men in the field will inform rural communities of all the federal programs that can be applied in the countryside -- these giving educational opportunity as well as housing.

But none of the federal programs can be fully effective without a lot of help from you in this conference.

You know local conditions, you know local problems, you know your people.

It is our responsibility to inform you of federal programs. From then on it will be a matter of local determination as to how these programs can be used, and how they can be implemented by local funds.

It is you who must supply the dedication, the talent and the leadership to carry these projects through.

Ours is an age of social tumult. This is the age where the phrase "human dignity" has taken on concrete meaning. People are on the march. They are no longer willing to be taken for granted, forgotten or used. The process is a disorderly one. There has not been time for people to gain any sense of perspective or orderly growth.

Can this tremendous force of movement and change be directed in constructive and democratic patterns?

The answer to this problem will depend upon the performance and cooperation of each level of government. Local, state and national governments are all part of the federal system. Each has a job to do. Each must work efficiently with the other if we are to progress together. Together we can break old barriers and see to it that all Americans share the bounty of our great country.

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THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, NEW HAVEN,
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VERBATIM PROCEEDINGS

VICE PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE

WITH NEW ENGLAND MAYORS

JEWISH CENTER OF NEW HAVEN

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

OCTOBER 21, 1965

POST REPORTING SERVICE

185 CHURCH ST., NEW HAVEN, CONN., 06510
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. . . Verbatim Proceedings of the Vice President's Conference With New England Mayors, held in the Jewish Center of New Haven, Chapel Street, New Haven, Connecticut, on October 21, 1965. . .

MAYOR RICHARD C. LEE: My name is Dick Lee, and I am the Mayor of the City of New Haven, for those of you who are not from New Haven. (Applause) And from the sound of that applause, I wished you lived in New Haven. (Laughter)

We are very glad to welcome you to our City, and we apologize for starting late, but the Vice President was unavoidably detained in Washington, and did not arrive at the airport until a good hour past his arrival time. And then there were so many people who wished to say hello to him that he has been detained across the hall. He is speaking to Hadassah. He will be back here in a minute, and we will get underway with our program.

We all know the reason for this program. The basic reason, of course, is to discuss the plight of American cities, large, small or in between. It doesn't make any difference, because the problems of modern civilization and of the Twentieth Century are the problems of urban areas.

This is precisely what the war on poverty is about. It is precisely what renewal and redevelopment are about, and it is precisely what this conference is about.

The Vice President was chosen by the President to serve as the liaison between cities and the federal government on the highest level, namely, the Office of the President of the United States.

We have here today, of course, among other guests, the Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Connor, from whom you will hear later, and we are very happy to have him in New Haven. We have Bill Slayton, who is the gentleman in charge of renewal all over America. And then, of course, we have an old friend of mine -- and I say "old friend" because he has been my friend ever since I have been a Mayor, which is longer years ago than I like to remember -- and that is the man who, as the Mayor of Pittsburgh, was really "Mr. Redevelopment" in Pittsburgh, who is still Chairman of the Redevelopment Authority in Pittsburgh, and has been for years, even though he later became Governor of Pennsylvania, and then went on the staff first of President Kennedy, and now of course of President Johnson, Dave Lawrence, a special Mayor. (Applause)

I don't know what else I am supposed to say. I am really only filling in. I don't have any monkey act,

and I am not a very good juggler. Basically, we are very pleased that so many have come from all over Connecticut, and indeed from all over New England. As you know, following this session, there will be a reception across the street at the Art and Architecture Building, which is kitty-corner over there, a new building designed by Paul Rudolph and opened about a year ago.

It is one of the great buildings in a city which we like to feel has many fine and distinguished buildings by great architects. You are all invited, as the guests of the City of New Haven, to a reception at which the Vice President will be the guest of honor. So following the panel session here and discussion, at which the Vice President will speak and the panel members will take part, there will be a social hour and an informal reception to which you are all invited. This includes the newspapermen, except that it is not a working session for the newspapermen.

I dislike to use the phrase "off the record," but I respect the Vice President's wishes and the staff's wishes that this party across the street be an informal party for the benefit of everybody involved.

So, Dave, what else should I do now, pass, punt or pray?

MR. DAVID LAWRENCE: Tell us what Yale is going to do this year.

MAYOR LEE: He wants to know what Yale is going to do this year. I wish I knew. I wish the coach knew.

I might go and see how the Hadassah are making out, if you will excuse me. (Applause)

. . . At 2:00 PM, Vice President Hubert Humphrey entered the hall, and the audience arose and applauded. . .

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY: Well, my fellow public officials, one of the real advantages of being in the situation that I now find myself in is that you are an understanding group of people. I don't know, maybe you are luckier than I am, but I have never had a plan yet that came off according to schedule. This morning it was my hope and plan that we would be able to leave Washington at 11:00 o'clock. I think you know that the President plans on leaving the hospital today and coming back to the White House, and we had a few little things that we had to tidy up around there before he got back, you see. All the good plans that I had of being able to join you in this community around 12:15 had to be set aside because there were things that needed to be done and people to see, and calls to make, before I could depart.

First, I want to thank Mayor Lee, who I believe

is still across the hall. After all, I am sure you will forgive me. There is a room full of very attractive ladies over there, and I believe in freedom of choice. (Laughter)

When I came down the hall, somebody said, "Well now, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice President, the mayors are waiting for you, the city officials, and the ladies are waiting across the hall. What do you want to do?" And I said, "Well, if there is anything to this protocol business, let me have choice." And I just went across the hall for a moment, and the Mayor came on over here. He felt that he was in a better position to properly welcome you than I was.

We are just delighted, both of us, that we can be here with you to share in both of these activities. We are going to have a full day, and we are going to get right down to work. I am not here to make any major speech to you. We have a member of the President's Cabinet with us. We have distinguished officials from the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Labor, the Housing and Home Finance Agency, the War on Poverty.

We have Mr. David Lawrence, whom I consider the general practitioner in the art of government, the former Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh, and the former Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, and now a Special Assistant to

the President in the field of public administration and just generally the health and welfare and good of the community of America.

I will present these officers of the government to you. They will make very brief presentations. I want to lay down the ground rules. We are not going to have long presentations here. We want you to participate. The purpose of this meeting is not to tell you what we know. It is to hear from you what you know. We are going to be establishing very shortly a new department in this government called the Department of Urban Affairs and Housing. We think that we can learn a great deal from you about what that department ought to do.

Within the next few months your President is going to present a budget to the Congress of the United States. He is going to present his State of the Union message next June. We would like to know from you, what do you think ought to be in that State of the Union message about the problems of localities, of cities and towns, and the bigger cities, the metropolitan areas as well as the smaller ones. What do you think ought to be in that message, and what do you think we ought to have in our budget proposals relating to rural development?

After all, American rural life is changing. We have John Baker here from the Department of Agriculture, who is fully familiar with what we call rural development.

I noticed in one of the leading newspapers of the country an article that quotes the President of the Campbell Soup Company, Mr. Murphy, speaking about how you can prevent slums, as he put it, by rural industry. What he is really talking about is decentralization from the larger cities into the smaller communities. The fastest growing communities in America are the communities between the populations of 30,000 and 50,000, and there will be tremendous growth all over this nation in the cities, let us say, under a half million, as people seek to find more living space and find better living conditions. So we are here to hear from you, and that is what those microphones are for. I want to be here as a participant. I was the former Mayor of Minneapolis. Many of you know that. I always say that is the best job I ever had. I used to hear more from the folks. They would call me up at 2:00 o'clock in the morning and say, "Mr. Mayor, my street light is out." I would say, "Mrs. Humphrey, somebody just said their street light is out." She said, "You go back to sleep."

But it is a fact that as a mayor of a city,

or a local county official, or a councilman, you hear about everything. There is no way in the world to operate this country without local government. The wisdom of America is not concentrated all in Washington, by a long shot. We have some of it down there, but what we have there we got from you, people coming from their localities. We think we can learn a little here today with you, and from you. The President permitted me to act as liaison officer between the federal government and the local governments, and that is the nicest assignment, the best assignment I have had in my new responsibilities as Vice President.

We know that we have big problems. After all, most of our people today do live in the cities, and many more are going to live in these cities. We think that there are ways to meet these problems. As a matter of fact, that is why we have education. That is why we have experience. We are supposed to learn from education and from experience.

A reporter asked me out here at the airport, "What do you mean by 'creative federalism,' Mr. Vice President?" I said, "It has a specific meaning. We have always had federalism ever since we adopted the Constitution, the limited powers and the delegated powers of the federal government, the basic powers of the state government, and the powers

derived from state government to local government. That is the theoretical political description of federalism. It is a balance, it is a breakdown of authority, or should I say a sharing of authority between the national government and the state and local government. But many times this federalism has been converted into antagonism, where people get up and blame each other for what doesn't happen or does happen. A creative federalism has a different emphasis. That is a federalism in which you seek to create the kind of conditions in which people can live a better life.

"It is the blending together of the services of the federal government and the assistance of local and state government. Creative federalism is action rather than just talk. It means getting the job done. It means doing what they are doing in New Haven."

I was asked quite frankly by a reporter, "Why did you select New Haven?" And I did select New Haven. I asked the Mayor of the city if he would be willing to be host. There is a very simple reason why we selected New Haven, namely, that this community represents one of the best examples, if not the best example in America, of creative federalism, of the working relationship between federal, state and local government, of dynamic and effective local leadership, both public

and private, of the cooperation of the business, the labor, the professional, the intellectual community of this great city with the local government, with the state and federal government, in getting the job done.

All you have to do is drive in from the airport, like I did today, and see what is going on -- and isn't it wonderful? (Applause)

I have a number of statistics in these prepared remarks about what is going on here, but I don't think I will take your time to go over them. I want the press to know we stand by everything that is printed in the printed word. Here is the book. You have it. I take full responsibility for it. I know there are ten or a dozen of these urban renewal projects in New Haven. I know that sometimes we hear that one of the problems about urban renewal is that you dislocate people, and then what do you do with them? Well, they haven't displaced people here, but they have in a very real sense relocated them, with attention to their needs and aspirations.

This one city has received over seventy-five million dollars in federal financing through the Housing and Home Finance Agency. And a bigger program has been authorized in this Congress, a bigger program is being funded by this

Congress.

The new emphasis in federal legislation will be on urban life for the foreseeable future, until everyone in this room has many more gray hairs than we presently have. The emphasis in government today, from here on out, will be upon making urban living better, solving the problems of air pollution, solving the problems of adequate water supply.

It is disgraceful, may I say quite frankly, that a nation with our technological know-how, with our ability, should ever have it printed in the paper that there is a shortage of water for a major metropolitan area. There is no shortage of water. The good Lord provided a lot of it. It is a little problem of distribution, sort of like a man's weight after age forty-five or fifty. I have been working on that myself. The distribution gets out of line. We ought to know how to do something about this.

We ought to make up our minds that man can do better than live in the jungles of asphalt and concrete, and die with carbon monoxide. We know how to do something about these things. What we need to do is to bring together the technological know-how, the experts, the ability that we have and the resources, and get the job done. People are

going to live in these cities. You can get up and preach that they all ought to go back to the country, and that will be fine. People will listen to you -- occasionally. They don't necessarily have to take you seriously, even though you do say these things. But they are not going to live back there. They are going to live in the cities, and they are going to live in the towns, and they are going to live in communities such as you represent right here. They are going to get bigger, because this country is growing. We are going to have within ten short years another thirty million more people in this country, in just ten years more. You are going to have ten million more children in your schools in the next ten years. You are going to have to do a lot of planning.

You are going to have nine million more automobiles on the streets in the next year and a half, or year, depending upon how many cars the people decide they want to buy. No one ever really figured out where we are going to park them. That will be the next job.

By the way, it takes longer for me to drive from LaGuardia Airport to the Waldorf Astoria than it does to leave my office in Washington, D. C., drive to the National Airport, board a plane and fly to LaGuardia. That's a fact. That surely proves that somehow or other we have just let the

ball fall in between the boards some place.

We know there are going to be six million more people in the next ten years living in the corridor between Boston and Washington, and we know that by 1980 there will be ninety million people plus from Boston to Washington in one solid city. Now, the question is, how are they going to live? How are they going to travel? How are they going to get clean, fresh water, clean air? What kind of housing are they going to have, what kind of schools? What is going to be the life of the people?

Our future lies, as I have said, not just with what we do in Washington, but really what you do in your community, because it is your community that will have the good or bad schools. That is what we are talking about. We can pass laws down in Washington until you fill up every book you have there. But how those laws are implemented is what counts. You are not going to make better education out of Washington, D. C. We will help. We can give you money. We can get together some of the money. We can work out formulas, get it out to you. But the question of good education is in your hands, and it will be in your communities that that issue is decided.

It is in your communities that we will have

either decent homes or slums, solid concrete and asphalt or open spaces. It is in your communities that there will either be racial harmony or racial antagonism. That is the whole story. It is in your communities that you will either wage intelligent, coordinated drives on the causes of poverty, or you will ignore this social cancer until it consumes you.

I think every person here knows that poverty is a very expensive business. When I was Mayor of Minneapolis, we had a study made and it showed that it cost seven times as much per block to maintain the municipal services in a block in a low economic area as it did in a high economic area, seven to one. The only kind of a community that can afford poverty is one that is filthy rich. And the poor people can't pay the taxes because they don't have the money to pay them anyhow.

So there are some advantages both ways in relieving the unbelievable cost of the welfare programs, and at the same time to benefit those who have been the recipients of welfare, so that they can become self-sustaining citizens.

I want to say just this word about the poverty program. I don't know whether it is really going to do all that people say that it is going to do or not. I am not up here to give you a selling job, or as they say, a "snow job" on this at all. I am a very practical, I hope, down-to-earth

fellow about these things.

I do know that this isn't the kind of a program that we had during the depression. During the depression there were people right in this room who were unemployed, people of great ability, skill, talent, competence. They were just, because of a series of events, unemployed.

But we are down to a condition now where most everybody that has skill and talent and ability has a job. We are facing what we call the hard core problems, the ones that have been with us for years and years and years. It is like an organic disease. We are dealing with families that are the fourth and fifth generation on relief. We are dealing with families that are not even families. We are dealing with people that have no last names. We are dealing with just people that do not even have a family institution.

We happen to have in America about one-fifth of our population that is in relatively difficult circumstances, that can be on the border of poverty, and in that one-fifth there may be about forty percent of them or half of them that are, for all practical purposes, under present conditions beyond any relief or help. So we have to find new ways, and that is what we are working on.

Whenever you start to find new ways to attack

an old problem, you are bound to make some mistakes, and that is where you are going to get the articles and commentators, and we are going to beat our breasts about the mistakes that have been made, and so on. Let me tell you something. Don't you do that to everybody. This year we are going to spend a half billion, up to a billion dollars to try to find a cure for cancer, and maybe we are not going to find it. I hope we do. But you do not burn doctors at the stake because they didn't find a cure for cancer. Instead of that you say, "Doctor, here is more. Try more, try a new way." We are working on the whole problem of mental retardation. We have been working on it for fifty years and we still haven't found the answer. We are trying to find the answer to heart disease and stroke, and we have been working on it for a quarter of a century. We have made little gains, but my goodness, hundreds of thousands of people are stricken unnecessarily. Their life is cut short, their earning power is cut short. But we keep pouring in the money and the manpower to find the answers. And not one of you have criticized the scientists or the doctors or the druggists or the pharmaceutical houses because they failed to find the answer. And you shouldn't. You should thank God Almighty that they are willing to look for it. We spend billions trying to find these answers.

I say with equal candor and equal sincerity, don't complain because we can't find the answer right away to a problem family that has been in your community for two or three generations, and they haven't ever seemed to be able to hold a job, they have never been able to fit into the mainstream of your community life. But we have to do something about it. Unless we do, we are going to have ever-mounting problems.

We are going to have a million new school dropouts this year unless we do something about the school dropout problem, so we are going to have to find the answers. I guess what I am really saying to you is that, having been in public service, I have never found any rewards in failure. I found a lot of heartaches. But I know that you have to keep looking for the answers. We don't abolish the police department simply because the crime wave increases. We do something more about strengthening the police department, and trying to find some other answers.

Well, I got off on that one. I just thought you ought to know what I am thinking anyway. There are lots of figures that we could take a look at. There are nine million American homes that are really not fit for an American family. We ought to do something about them. There are water

shortages. There are millions of children who need help. By the way, we are learning a great deal out of this great new program "Headstart." You know what we are learning? We are learning that little ones can learn. We are learning that you can take a child out of a broken home, out of a home that has never been a home, so to speak, and put him a good environment, and that child will blossom just like a plant that gets nourishment in water.

We are learning also that if you take that child out of that home for six weeks and then drop him right back into the same old slum, that you really haven't done much at all. So we are going to have to do something about those conditions.

We are learning that teachers need to learn a lot too. We are learning that possibly one of the reasons the school dropout problem is so big is because the school just wasn't interested enough to stay with it. We are making school interesting too -- either that or you going to have more of them.

Well now, it is a fact that no single community can really take care of all these problems. That is why there are more than fifty major programs of federal assistance to local government. In fiscal 1966 there will be

a total of \$13,600,000,000 in federal payments to state and local units. Now, we are examining this whole grant-in-aid program to make sure that this does the job it ought to do. Some people think that what you are ought to do is not give grants for specific projects, but make a total grant, and let your local government plan the uses from that grant.

There may be great merit in that, rather than piecing it out, give \$50 for this one and \$1,000 for that one, and we will decide in Washington what you are going to get. Maybe it would be better if we were able to make the grant to a state or a locality in a lump sum, and you come in with a general program, and then you have some flexibility in the use of those funds. Maybe that is the way we ought to do it. If we do, it will be a change. Maybe we ought to take a look at that change.

Then there is the Housing and Urban Development Act. I want you to know it. We are going to talk about it. It is a great Act. Then there was, of course, as you all know, an act that was known as the State Technical Services Act, which will bring to your industry and your localities the advantages and the know-how of many of the government research projects, making them available, really like the old county agent system that the farmers have. The county agent made

American agriculture really what it is today, the best in the world.

He took that farm program right out and talked to farmers, showed them how to farm better. Well, through the State Technical Services Act, we are going to be able to help business, local and state governments, and learn how to do it just a little bit better, with the knowledge that your government has accumulated on its own, through expenditures of the taxpayers' money.

There are going to be many new programs. I want to mention just one. We have had a lot of trouble with it down in Washington. It is new. I am not sure just how it is going to work. But I think you have got to make up your mind whether you want public housing for low-income groups, or whether you want private housing and rent supplements. Now, what is the difference? Well, some of us believe that you might just as well let the private community develop the housing. First of all, it is on the tax rolls. You don't have to be arguing with the federal government about it, that you don't get any tax revenue. Secondly, this country believes in private enterprise. I do. Thirdly, if it is a private development, those who live in it don't feel as if, somehow or other, they are under some sort of government supervision--

and most Americans resent that.

So the rent supplement program is designed to help low-income people live in private housing and still be able to pay the rent and live like normal citizens. And it is also designed to take away from the federal government the heavy cost of public housing developments. Now, we are trying to experiment with it. The Congress, very prudently, limited the funds under this program. Let's get a little start, let's take a little look. We are going to need your advice on it.

You know, I am from Minnesota. I am from a little town out there called Waverly. I noticed that when they were talking about rent supplements down in Washington, they got to talking, "Maybe you ought to have a rent supplement if you have an income of \$6,000 a year." Why, in Waverly, Minnesota you are the number one citizen if you have got \$6,000 a year. So when you explain these programs, you have got to consider more than New York and San Francisco or Boston and New Orleans. You have got to take a look at the little towns. You have got to look at this whole America, this great big country of ours.

I can remember my mother saying to me one time when I was telling her how poorly I was paid in the

Senate, "Your father never earned that much money in his life, and he brought up a fine family, four children." Then she gave me a first-class lecture. And I said, "But Mom, I spend more money per week parking my car than Dad did feeding the family." But that didn't impress her a bit. I just want you to know that. (Laughter)

In fact, I recall Mom going one time to a restaurant in New York, and when she got the bill she said, "That's just too much. I just won't pay it." She had been doing that for years back in our home town. So I understand folks, I want to tell you. Maybe they don't do that up here.

Well, I am going to turn this program over. I have got some good stuff here that I haven't even mentioned. I will just save it for a little bit later on, and we will get into it as we go through the program.

Now, we have an agenda. The purpose of my starting this off is to loosen you up a little bit, and get you into the spirit of this occasion. We want to make this something more than "speechifying." So here we are, and we have some officials with us. We have a program that we want to talk about.

First of all, we have our Secretary of Commerce, who today has put new life into the Department of

Commerce, and represents in a very real sense the free enterprise spirit of this country, the partnership spirit between government and business.

I have asked the Secretary of the Department of Commerce if he would comment briefly, and respond to questions and comments about the Economic Development Act. We will introduce, I might add, representatives from his Department who are with him, particularly from the Bureau of Public Roads. So tell us a little bit about your Department, Jack. Tell us folks how it operates. When he is through with his presentation, that is your time to work him over. I have always believed, as a public official, that every good citizen is entitled to one bite at a federal official. (Laughter) And I invite you to taste a little bit here today, and see what you can do.

Mr. Connor is well rested. He is in fine shape. I checked him out on the plane coming up here. He is just ready and waiting for you. So I present to you a very distinguished public servant, the Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Connor. (Applause)

MR. JOHN T. CONNOR: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. Your Honors, Ladies and Gentlemen: When the Vice President said that he checked me out, I now have the answer

to something that really bothered me. We not only decided to land once in New Haven, but we decided to land twice. The first time we bumped very high and then kept going. I guess that was my checkout.

It is a pleasure to be here with you, to have the opportunity to find out what is on your minds, and to answer your questions to the best of my ability. Today's conference illustrates the increasingly effective partnership we are developing between your government at the state and local levels and the Federal Government. And I'm glad to note that this partnership is helping New England both contribute to, and share in, the general prosperity the entire nation is enjoying.

Unemployment in this region is below the national average; department store sales are well ahead of 1964; construction contract awards follow very closely the national pattern; commercial and industrial loans have shown a modest growth from month to month this year; and the manufacturing index has been steady in recent months. In addition, New England's per capita personal income is higher than that for the nation as a whole, and its outstanding consumer installment debt is lower.

Several interesting developments hold promise

for the future.

I know that industrial parks in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine and elsewhere are in various stages of completion. I am also gratified that the U. S. Department of Commerce is involved in some of these developments.

Our Maritime Administration, for example, helps carry out the provisions of the 1964 Fishing Fleet Improvement Act, which should bring a sizable expansion of New England's fishing fleet during the next five years. This will reverse the 350 vessel decline suffered between 1963 and 1964.

Of course, the Commerce Department's Bureau of Public Roads has been involved for many years in the long range economic development of New England through various Federal-state cooperative highway building programs. The magnitude of the program we are undertaking in this region is suggested by the size of the expenditures the Federal Government and your six state governments are making in the Interstate Highway System.

In New England you are well along in this interstate highway program. At the close of the last fiscal year you had completed projects valued at nearly \$800 million --

with another \$540 million worth underway or authorized.

And, while we have been building the Interstate System during the past nine years, the Federal Government and your states have invested almost another \$1.2 billion in the secondary highways under the ABC program. Nationally, our modern highway system is making it possible for us to foster economic growth in terms of a large area rather than through a single, isolated community.

And this concept is fundamental to the Economic Development program recently enacted by the Congress and given to the Department of Commerce for administration. The new Economic Development Administration will emphasize working through Development Districts so that the benefits from new industries will flow to an entire area. This will also mean, in turn, that new plants can more readily draw upon skills and resources of a large economic area.

This program is just getting started, but we hope to be processing the first requests for assistance by about the first of December, and the new agency should be in "high gear" by the first of the year. EDA, as we call it, is one more weapon in our battle to help slower-growing areas share in the unprecedented prosperity we have enjoyed nationally in the past five years. We mean to put it to good

use -- in the shortest possible time. Basically, these new weapons consist of financial planning and technical assistance to redeveloped areas, districts and regions.

There have been suggestions that a New England Regional Commission be established under EDA. Several members of the New England Congressional delegation endorsed this proposal during the EDA public hearings. As we all know, a number of traditionally New England industries -- textiles, shoe manufacturing, furniture, jewelry, others -- face problems whose solution can best be achieved through a regional approach. New England has its special problems to be sure, and the new EDA program can help in their solution, we think.

But the key word is partnership. The ideas, the planning, the initiative in building our regions and local areas must come from community leaders -- from municipal leaders such as you in this room. We in Washington can help -- but we can do only part of the job. A part of the remainder is up to you and the state officials, and a large part is up to private industry, operating in the beneficial environment that you can help provide.

I know you will have many questions as to how these programs can help strengthen your communities. With

me today is the Federal Highway Administrator, Rex Whitton, and from the Economic Development Administration is Hal Williams, the deputy administrator. Thank you for your attention. We are now ready for your questions.

Mr. Whitton is my left and Mr. Williams is on my right.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Stand up, fellows, and let them get a good look at you.

MR. CONNOR: I think you had better stand up as we go along. We would really appreciate having your questions about any of these programs, gentlemen. Thank you.
(Applause)

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Now, if any of you haven't been getting enough highway funds, here is Mr. Whitton, and he can explain to you. One of the questions that we used to get in some of the earlier meetings with mayors was with reference to highway funds due our cities. I am sure that you do have some concern about these matters. Here is the Assistant Economic Administrator. This program, as you know, is the offspring of the Area Redevelopment program, as well as the Public Works program. It is coordinated into both a grant and loan effort, so that on a regional basis, as well as a state and local basis, you can get assistance

to develop your economy and to develop your community. Any questions? Does anybody want to make a short speech? Don't hesitate.

MR. CONNOR: The Vice President has invited each of you to take one bite. I think he meant for the year, not every ten minutes.

MR. ELDON LAPHANT: I come from Georgia -- Georgia, Vermont. I want to make that clear. (Laughter) We are a small town up in Vermont. We are losing a lot of our farmers, not only the small farmers, but our large farmers also. I think it is because of the price squeeze on the farms.

But it is more of a problem for the towns to build their own roads. We have state roads, state-aid roads, and so on. But on our town roads in the last five years we have probably had three times as much traffic as we had five years ago. And still we don't seem to have enough money to do a decent job in our own towns. I don't know where the money is coming from.

MR. CONNOR: I think Mr. Whitton should answer that.

MR. REX M. WHITTON: I will take a stab at that. Our highway program is like these other programs that

the Vice President and the Secretary have been talking about. This is a partnership program too, except the partner is the State Highway Department in the case of highways and the federal government. So you must look to your state highway departments for help in urban areas or rural areas, in laying out the program for the work that they have each year.

Now, it is their responsibility to decide where they want to spend the money each year. And it must be spent, the federal money, on a federal aid system, a federal system of highways laid out in each state. And it can go through the towns as well as around them, depending upon the size and the circumstances involved.

So I must tell you that you have to work with your highway department in developing a program through your towns. Now, the Congress in 1962 passed a law requiring that these towns all have a plan, get together and work with the state, work out a plan for the improvement of the town and the transportation in the town, and all types of urban planning. So that is another area where you should work with your highway department, in working out the plan of how you want to build your streets or your state highways through the town. Now, as for the small local roads, there are streets in towns,

small, local in character, that are not eligible for federal aid. They must be on the highway system, either the urban highway system or the primary highway system or the national farms and market system. We have changed the provisions so that the farms and market system can extend into urban areas.

A percentage of the money for primary roads can be transferred over to urban, so that additional money can be spent in the urban area. So I advise you to become better acquainted with your local highway officials, and work with them, present your problems to them, and I am sure that they will be willing to work with you in helping you solve your problems.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: May I suggest one little thing here now? If you feel that these answers that you receive do not answer your inquiry, and you feel that you have a proposal that would be beneficial to us in terms of information or suggestion, don't hesitate to make it. I want you to know that this is a give and take. We are really here to hear from you. It is sort of bringing the government out from Washington, out to the people.

Some of you, I know, have very practical suggestions on these matters that you have talked about in your town council, or with your governor, or through one of

your state or local officials. Just let loose. We are going to review this record. This is what the President wants me to do. He wants me to hear from you.

The only way we can do a good job is if we do what you think ought to be done. That's the whole idea. If the gentleman feels that our highway program for cities and localities and the town roads is not what it ought to be, and you think there ought to be adjustments and amendments, you just give forth with your suggestions. Anyone else? By the way, if that man from Georgia, Vermont feels he wants to get back in here, we will take him. Okay.

MR. ALFORD DYSON: I am a selectman of the Town of Westport, Massachusetts. In regard to the public highway system, we have one going through our town, and we have what we feel is a very major problem. Our town has about 8200 people, and this new highway system going through is not going to disrupt our town, but it is in this sense, that we do not have an exit ramp that will take the traffic off this major highway and allow the people to go through the town where all the business can benefit from it, particularly down toward the Cape. We now find that when this highway is open, that people will bypass our town, and our businesses are going to suffer. We have talked to the State,

as the gentleman has recommended, and we have not been able to convince them that we should have a small exit ramp that will allow the people to drop off the major highway, go to the town, spend their money in town on their way to the Cape.

We are afraid that if we don't have this exit, that the business we have in town is going to suffer to the extent that they will no longer be in business. So we have gone to the State, but have not been able to convince them that this is the thing to do. They tell us that there are ways to get back to Route 6 from Route 195, but you have to go from one major highway to another major highway, to a third major highway, to get back on Route 6, and people will just not do this when they are traveling.

As a result, we are not going to be able to survive unless we have an exit ramp that will allow the people who want food and lodging a very easy way of getting off into town. That is our problem.

MR. WHITTON: What is your name, sir?

MR. DYSON: Alford Dyson. The town is Westport, Massachusetts.

MR. WHITTON: And the route was 195?

MR. DYSON: Route 195. They are in the process of building it now.

MR. WHITTON: Mr. Dyson, I don't know the answer, but I will look into it and try to give you some information.

MR. DYSON: I wish you would, because we have tried to convince the State and haven't been able to do so so far.

MR. WHITTON: You have started right. That is the right way to go at it, and I will see if I can help you.

MR. DYSON: We are looking for the ending now.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: There may be some of you that do have current practical problems with the federal government. We find that in these meetings we have been able to get some sort of spot answers. It is a sort of out-patient clinic, give a little remedial treatment immediately. So if you have those problems in mind, let us know.

MR. LEWIS B. ROME: I am from Bloomfield, Connecticut. We very much appreciate the interstate highway system, but we have in Bloomfield, and I think in a number of other communities, been faced with the problem that the highway system, or its predecessor, has been in the planning stage for so many years that it has disrupted our community

planning. If the problem of planning and actually getting to the construction can be expedited, if that time period can be somehow taken care of, I think we would be much more appreciative of the highway system.

MR. WHITTON: That is a problem that we have all over. We have to build these roads year by year, and we don't have enough money in any one year to build them all. So that it is the responsibility of the highway department and the Bureau of Public Roads to lay out a program for each year, and they sometimes lay out the program for five years ahead. They try to build roads each year that will seem to give the most service. But we can see the end of this interstate program in 1972. It will all be completed. I don't think that can help you much with your problem, except to urge that you again work with your state highway department and try to get them to step up the work in your area.

MR. STANLEY L. CUMMINGS: I am from Greenfield, Massachusetts. I just have a question about the broader highway problem as it involves Massachusetts. In talking to our colleagues this afternoon, we have the general impression that Massachusetts is behindⁱⁿ the highway program. We like the federal highway program, but we feel at least in Massachusetts, and the people I talked with here today,

that Massachusetts in some way has lagged behind. We have it spotty compared to Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Maine. We seem to be lagging behind, and spotty. It is long and drawn out, as even apparently they have had some trouble in Connecticut. We are not complaining, except we don't seem to be standing up to the standards of the other New England states.

In Massachusetts, I would like to know first what your appraisal is of our progress as compared to the other New England states, where the blame lies -- and I don't think I am biting you -- and what can we do about it? Thank you.

MR. WHITTON: The program that we are working on, on the interstate system, is a sixteen-year program, and we are in our ninth year now. Some states have gotten along better than others, and Massachusetts is a little bit below the average.

But let me tell you this, that Massachusetts has just passed, I believe, a three hundred million dollar bond issue. I think they are starting on the way up, and will catch up with the average in the very near future. They have been short of money to match the federal funds. With this bond issue, I am sure that they will start on the way

up. In fact, they have started on the way up.

They have recently let several rather large contracts on the interstate system, and I am encouraged by the progress that is beginning to show.

Another thing that they have done there -- just in the last session of the legislature they eliminated the veto power of some of the cities. Some of the cities had the right of veto over the location of the road by the State Highway Department. That naturally slowed the program down. So I am confident, with the new bond issue, and with the elimination of the veto power, that Massachusetts will be coming along.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Right back there, this gentleman.

MR. LESTER A. MAGNANT: I am from the Town of Webster, Massachusetts. Our problem is very much in regard to what the Vice President said about automobiles increasing yearly, about nine and a half million in the next two or three years to come. Our particular main street is choked by traffic now. My thought or question is: Can we, and where do we start, if it is possible, to get federal funds or state funds to put up a parallel main street, so to speak.

In our particular case there is a route going

through, federal Route 52. However, there is another route. This particular route, the street is about a mile long, but on any given day it will probably take you about an hour, an hour and a half to get through with it.

MR. WHITTON: Do you park on it?

MR. MAGNANT: Yes, we do.

MR. WHITTON: If you would eliminate parking on it at certain times of the day, it would help you a lot.

MR. MAGNANT: I would certainly not be a Selectman there. The merchants would see to that. (Laughter)

MR. WHITTON: Well, it looks like you have a choice.

MR. MAGNANT: Are there any funds available? Where do we go, and where do we start?

MR. WHITTON: Well, there are funds available for improving federal highways through your town. If Route 52, as you call it, is on the federal aid system, there are funds available to improve the width of that street.

I say also, if you have had an urban plan and it indicates that a parallel street is desirable, I would say that federal funds could be used for that purpose.

MR. MAGNANT: Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Might I say to you,

sir, that this is a matter that your members of Congress in all these states are giving some thought to. Having had sixteen years of service in the Congress, and only a few months of service in my hybrid position of being Presiding Officer of the Senate and Vice President, I still have a sort of Congressional lean to me here. I might urge that you talk to your Congressional representatives about this problem of highway construction through your municipalities. It is much more costly, you know. It poses many serious problems to you.

I am not sure that we have really found the answer to this, and have come up with the proper formula. At least it necessitates, I think, very, very careful discussion and some thought on your part in your own league or municipality, among the League of Cities, the Conference of Mayors, and these different organizations. Am I right, that the same formula applies to a highway through a city as it does any place else?

MR. WHITTON: Yes.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I recall having our state highway department in my state build those big four-lane highways right smack up to the city limits of Minneapolis, and we had a two-lane bridge. There were several mortuaries

put nearby right after that. It just doesn't make sense, you see, because when you come to that city, the cost is so much more than it is when you are out in the wide open spaces.

I think, whether it is a big city or a small city, it is the same thing. So we ought to take a good look at that one. You get people stirred up on that. That's what we are here for. You get folks talking about it. You would be surprised what can happen if you get folks talking about it.

I want to say to the Selectman about that parking business, that the biggest problem I ever had when I was Mayor was getting the merchants to give up that parking on their street, and these one-way streets. I tell you, that was more hazardous than being in Viet Nam practically. It was really something. But finally, once they got used to it, they found it was really good.

You know, what we are really contemplating in many cities is completely no traffic on the streets, I mean just blocked off for straight pedestrian traffic. And you know what has happened? The sales pick up. The merchants in those areas are doing two to one, compared to where they park the cars.

By the way, our family has been in the

merchandising business as retailers for sixty-three years. I have often said to my merchant friends that the best thing that could ever happen to us is to quit having the front of our businesses look like individual parking lots. We bought a parking lot in the back and that helped a little bit, but that was a private investment.

But if you can keep the streets open so the families can come downtown and shop, that is half the answer to the shopping centers, for many of the people that are worried about traffic. You have got convince them a little bit, but you don't have to convince them much. The people that have the money, and know how to make the money, they know how to make it. It is the people that don't have the money and are losing money who are still hanging on to the old ways. Mr. Selectman, if you feel you have a big majority and you can afford to lose a few votes in one election, you take a chance on that. (Applause)

MR. D. FORREST FRANKLIN: I am the First Selectman in Granby, Connecticut. In cooperation with two sister towns, East Granby and Simsbury, we are attempting something that has not been tried, I believe, in Connecticut before, and that is a tri-town industrial area. We have an area where our three towns come together, and we are

going to try to set this aside as an industrial program. The program that you defined earlier, would this have any application to such a regional industrial park to provide funds for things such as water, sewers, roads? Is there a grant-in-aid or some federal program to assist with a regional effort for industrialization, an industrial park?

MR. CONNOR: Under the new economic development law, there is provision for certain public facilities that will accelerate and encourage the development of these industrial parks and other forms of industrial expansion. Mr. Williams, who has followed that closely, I think, can give you a quick summary of that. I think it is important enough to let him do that.

MR. HAROLD WILLIAMS: I am Harold Williams, Deputy Administrator of the Economic Development Administration. Now, as I am looking through my list of areas, it occurs to me that Granby and East Granby are not now or were never redevelopment areas under the old Area Redevelopment Act. Am I correct in that?

MR. FRANKLIN: East Granby was; Granby was not.

MR. WILLIAMS: I see. Well, we will have to look at a map. But if it is in a redevelopment area,

the new program does provide grants of up to 50 percent for the purpose of establishing industrial sites of the type that you talked about. In addition, even if it isn't in a redevelopment area, if an Economic Development District is formed of five or six areas, and this particular spot is labeled and designated and agreed to by everybody as being the logical place to put an investment in, in order to get some industry, then we can also help with grants for this type of industrial planning.

MR. FRANKLIN: Fine. I think this is our situation.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: May I suggest that in the kits that have been provided to you, there is explanation of these programs. This is the first time, by the way, this year is the first time we have ever been able to get together in one package, so to speak, the federal programs that apply or may apply to your cities. I have often compared these federal programs that we have to a sort of supermarket filled with items and no labels on them. It is kind of hard to shop that way.

So this year we decided to put labels on them. And it is truth in packaging too. I want you to know that. We have the honest information. There is not only a

description of the program, the funds that have been authorized, the funds that have been appropriated, but whom you call. The biggest job in government today is to find the right man to talk to.

I want you to know that your Congressman is an expert in knowing these people. So when you have a problem -- I am not talking about whether he is Republican or Democrat -- you just get a hold of that Congressman. He knows how to get hold of the people in Washington.

I used to feel that my number one assignment as United States Senator was being able to shepherd the people through Washington who came in from Minnesota. You would be surprised how much good politics there is in that too. If you can get them there fast enough, to the right fellow, who has got the "mostest" to offer at the right time, you have done quite well for everybody. So don't hesitate to call in your Congressman.

Finally, I want to say this in reference to your questions. My office is available to you for this assistance too, the Housing and Home Finance office, and everyone who is here. You will find them in your descriptive material.

We are going to get off this highway program

now and move to another section. There is one other question on this.

MR. HUGH M. MACKENZIE: I am the First Selectman, Waterford, Connecticut. Are there any federal funds available for rights of way acquisition for local highways? And would that also include such details as surveys and design work, for contracts?

MR. WHITTON: There are for rights of way and surveys on the federal aid system. That is the key to it. If they are on the federal aid system, then there is money available for rights of way and surveys and plans and construction. You would have to see your highway department to see if this particular road is on the federal aid system.

Incidentally, there are some 800 some odd thousand miles, so there are quite a few federal aid roads.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: We are going to move along now to another facet of this program, and we can come back to any of these. By the way, as you know, following our meeting here today there will be a reception. We will give you further details on it. I have a gentleman here from the State Department who is going to give us a little variation in our program. You are all good citizens

and deeply concerned about the security policy of our country and our defenses and so on. I thought we might hear from him at that reception as well as enjoy some sociability.

I mentioned to you in opening this meeting that we had migration from our rural areas into our cities. So when you speak of our smaller cities in particular, you also speak of the rural areas, because you are linked inseparably to your neighborhood and the surrounding countryside. It is really dissatisfaction with rural life in many instances, as was indicated here a little while ago, sometimes the cost-price relationship or the so-called price squeeze, as they call it, that increases the exodus from the rural areas to the cities.

Unemployment, poor housing, poor education, combine to increase the movement to the cities. This is the world over, not just here. Frequently the people who migrate to the cities are totally unprepared for industrialized and urbanized life.

I would like to leave this thought with you. Many of the people, particularly those who come from the southland, Negro citizens living on tenant farms, sharecroppers, coming into Chicago and Cleveland, or New Haven or

Boston, or Providence, or Portland, Maine or wherever it may be, they are in a very real sense facing the same problems as a refugee. It is a totally new environment for them. They are uprooted. They are not accustomed to this pace of the city. They are not accustomed to the congestion of the city.

Their educational training, if any, does not relate at all to the life of the city, or to the life of an industrial plant. It is really almost as if they speak a different language and have lived in an entirely different culture.

This is part of our real problem today, with this great movement of people that we have. We find that over half of the disadvantaged people of our nation, that is, the poor, live outside the urban areas, even though less than fifteen percent of our total population lives outside our urban areas.

We hear so much about urban slums that we almost forget there are any other kinds. The fact is that forty-seven percent of the nation's poverty exists in rural communities. If I speak now of rural communities, I speak of more than just the farm areas. I am including the smaller communities, the smaller towns. If you include them

in, that is thirty percent of the population. So we have to improve this spectre of hope and opportunity in those areas.

The President has acted to establish in the Department of Agriculture a Rural Development Service. This service works closely with the Office of Economic Opportunity, and with the Office of Economic Development that was spoken of here by Secretary Connor.

I thought for just a few moments we might hear from the Assistant Secretary for Rural Development in the Department of Agriculture, because that rural development relates to your town. Many of you here are mayors of communities that are very closely related to the rural areas. The expanded service to rural America, through the new Office of Rural Development, will be carried out through the field offices of the Department of Agriculture. Men in the field will inform rural communities of all the federal programs that can be applied in the countryside -- these giving educational opportunity as well as housing.

I want to present to you now Mr. John Baker, Assistant Secretary for Rural Development and Conservation of the Department of Agriculture. He deals with rural housing, with community facilities, with a host of things that relate to our smaller towns and our farm areas.

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MR. JOHN A. BAKER: Vice President Humphrey, Mayor Lee and other mayors, and other honorable guests from the cities and towns of New England: As the Vice President has just said, today more than ever before, and in much of New England, as some of the comments from the floor have already indicated, the prosperity of small towns and farmers is more closely linked with the prosperity of cities, and vice-versa. In 1964 farmers spent over twenty-one billion dollars for goods and services in cities and towns with populations of less than 30,000.

The Vice President has mentioned, as have speakers from the floor, some of the problems that are besetting rural America. President Johnson is deeply conscious of this. Under his leadership he has directed that a drive be put on to improve the quality of rural life, just as he has directed that there be a nationwide drive to improve the quality of urban life.

Officials of towns and small cities, as Harold Williams just pointed out in connection with these economic development districts, can work with people in the open countryside and with farmers in developing overall economic development programs that can bring vitality and prosperity to that otherwise depressed area. By joint planning, rural and town officials can develop new jobs and public services that will advance the

economic and human interests of all the residents of a multi-county area. Let me mention just a few of the new tools that Congress in the last few years has made available to do this joint rural-urban district development job.

Congress has expanded the technical assistance, cost-sharing, and loan programs to help communities realize all possible benefits from the growing demand for outdoor recreation facilities. These are new programs that are particularly important in New England when your rural areas are so closely related to urban communities. We estimate that by 1980 rural people can generate 350,000 new, full-time jobs to help meet the growing demand for recreation. This means additional business for Main Street, additional jobs in the rural communities and the small towns and cities located near the new ski jumps, near the other new recreational facilities.

Incidentally, through the multiple use concept, although we are expanding the recreational use of our national forests, we are simultaneously growing and harvesting more timber every year.

The Congress has expanded the small watershed program so that it is now to be utilized, not only for the purpose of flood prevention, but also for multiple purposes such as municipal water, industrial water, and for outdoor

recreation and natural beauty.

The Congress has expanded the housing program, which hasn't been mentioned, to provide loans for senior citizens in rural areas, both on an individual family basis and on rental projects, village or apartment type housing.

Congress has initiated a new loan program for modern living accommodations for low-income farm workers. We are working to close the gap of opportunity in rural America in these ways and many others. We hope that small towns, farms, open country and small city people, working through development districts, can make use of these new tools to carry out effectively their planning and local initiative.

We have initiated new rural renewal and resource conservation and development projects, with new techniques and methods of financing that we think may prove very hopeful, very helpful in meeting some of these needs. There is a pilot resource conservation and development project in Vermont which illustrates the breadth of this rural-urban project plan. The project area involves twenty-three towns in parts of three counties -- a total area of 635,200 acres. It is sponsored by the White River Soil and Water Conservation District, and White River Valley Development Corporation, and is endorsed by the Central Valley Association and the White River Valley Association.

Through this project approach, local leaders hope to improve town and educational facilities, develop a ski area, accelerate conservation planning and land treatment, and a whole host of other community projects.

As all of you know -- and I mention this to underline it -- in 1961 the direct food distribution program was expanded to help our needy have a more adequate diet than was previously available. In the last fiscal year, through the school lunch program, seventeen million youngsters received a low-cost nutritious noon meal. The Congress has now placed a pilot food stamp program on a nationwide permanent basis. By the end of the year there will be a million people taking part in the food stamp program.

We know the importance of many other new pieces of legislation, Mr. Vice President, from the Economic Opportunities Act, to many of the new programs that another speaker will be mentioning from the Housing and Home Financing Agency, the Economic Development Administration programs and all these others. We in the Department of Agriculture have been directed by the President, and the Secretary has established this new agency that the Vice President mentioned, the Rural Community Development Service, to in effect be an extra helper for you to try to pick and choose from this supermarket or cafeteria line, the different

parts of all these programs of the federal government that will help make sense and revitalize your rural area.

Just as soon as we can get this Rural Community Development Service completely staffed up, we hope that they will be available to you. Some of you may know the work that Jim Wood has already been doing here in New England, and especially in Vermont.

I know that I don't need to mention here the new Water and Sanitation Systems in Rural Areas Act that Congress just enacted by an overwhelming vote, to enable the Department of Agriculture for the first time to help small rural communities and people in the open country with their water systems and sewer systems, to provide systems that are modern, up to date, sanitary, and meet the anti-pollution standards. These will be financed through loans or loan and grant combinations, in this new authorization by Congress. Funds have been made available that will now be helpful in many of your towns or in rural areas that are in the hinterlands of your cities.

The Housing and Urban Development Act, that added so many new tools to the city programs also more than doubled the rural housing loan program, and will enable us to meet a great many more of the needs to replace or repair dilapidated rural homes.

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One last comment on some of the new programs that I know you will be interested in, both as city folks and as people interested in rural areas: The new Food and Agriculture Act of 1965, which Congress has enacted, but which is not yet signed -- it is that new -- has two new features that are of importance in tying together the interests and mutual concerns of rural area and of urban people. One of these is a provision in that act which will enable us to use cropland adjustment program payments to make grants to towns or cities or counties, or some other instrumentality of the state government, to participate in their part of land acquisition and development in relationship to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is newly-enacted legislation, to provide open spaces, prevent air and water pollution, provide natural beauty for wildlife, for conservation.

As I said, this is not even signed yet, but it is a very important forward step in tying together the interests of the farm economy, in appropriate adjustment of cropland into a better use, and tying into a use that the cities and towns want and can use.

Another feature of this new Food and Agriculture Act that is of more than passing importance to most city folks is a provision that when a farmer is willing, with the help of his

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state fish and game commission, to improve his wildlife habitat, as on this cropland that is taken out of crop production, and also contracts to make it available for public hunting, he can qualify for a higher payment on the cropland adjustment program than otherwise.

This is again tying together, Mr. Vice President, as you in your career have sought to do so long, the interests of city folks and rural areas in ways that are meaningful to them. (Applause)

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you, Mr. Baker. I want to just capsule this a little bit now for you. Under these rural programs, one of the reasons that programs are assigned to that department is that we need to have in our government people who have in a very real sense a small town, rural orientation, the fact that we are apt to just be overwhelmed by what I call the big town thinking, unless you have people who really concentrate their attention upon the smaller communities.

Now, this isn't to cast any reflection upon others. It is just the fact that one man or one group can't take care of everything. We seek to try to bring now special emphasis upon what we think are the rural areas of America. When we say the rural areas, again it isn't just the farmers and the farmland. It is the smaller community, the sort of community

that I know in my home state of Minnesota, 2500, 3,000, 5,000, 500 or 1,000, or up to 15,000 sometimes. These are looked upon, at least under 5,000, as what we call the less than urban and the rural communities. There is a great opportunity now for some county and local planning to put together a package of tourism development, the improvement of the habitat for wildlife, fish and fowl, for recreational development, which is becoming, as you folks in New England know better than anybody else, one of the great new industries and one of the great new sources of income.

It is a chance now for the town fathers, so to speak, to get together with the farm people in the rural areas. The word "town" here means something a little different than it does out our way. When we speak of a town we are talking about, you know, a little community of maybe 500, 300 or so, and that may not be exactly what you have reference to in these areas. But it does give a chance for the local government officials to plan with and work with these farm people. I think you might want to look into it.

Again, in your packages you have a full description of these programs. There will be new material coming to you. We are not going to let you off the line. You are on the list, you see. You will be getting this new material. Most of you do have

somebody working with you in your city government that can look through this material. If not, may I suggest that you try to recruit some good intern or somebody that will just work with you to try to help you digest it. I know it is a pretty big load. I can assure you of that.

I try to handle the legislation that is in Congress. I cannot tell you what is in all this legislation, and I live with it literally sixteen or eighteen hours a day. So I don't expect anybody to just pick it up like that.

But I think it is fair to say that if you have a problem, there is an answer to it. You take this problem of water supply. Now, that can come under the Economic Development Act, the Department of Commerce -- there is some assistance there -- and it can come under the Community Facilities over here in Dr. Ralph Hultt's department over in Health, Education and Welfare, or it can come under the Department of Agriculture. There are three or four ways to get at it.

I have always felt that if you just look around enough, you will get the answer. A little later on you are going to meet your regional people. They are here from your region. We are going to have them at the reception. I am going to ask those regional people to station themselves around with great big name tags on. So if you have any problem, you can go

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right up to your regional representative, and he is instructed and ordered by none other than the President to work for you. And if you have a problem, you take it to that regional office and say, "I expect you to find an answer."

Now, he may not come up in the first week with it, but we will give him another week's grace, maybe even go two weeks more. But he should be looking for that answer in cooperation with you.

I saw a gentleman here who wanted to ask a question.

MR. J. ALFRED CLARK: I am the First Selectman from Ledyard, Connecticut. I am also a farmer.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: How big is your community?

MR. CLARK: We are right on the border of the United States Submarine Base. Part of it is in the Town of Ledyard, at New London. We have a population of around 13,000 people. I am one of the few farmers that is left.

From what I have heard here, there is nothing being said about what has been done to try and help the farmers in New England to stay farming, on the farm. A lot has been said about recreation, and so forth. We realize we need it. We have it set up in our community, but what is being done to keep them on the farm, and keep these fellows so that they can make a living in some of these communities?

The figures that you have presented, Mr. Vice President, a few minutes ago, of how the territory is going to grow between Washington and Boston -- we are going to have to feed the people in this area.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I am going to turn this over to Mr. Baker. I want to add a word of caution. I don't want to get into too much detail on the farm program, but there are a few things even in the most recent act that are quite important. What is your state, again?

MR. CLARK: Connecticut.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, for those Vermont dairy farmers, they came out pretty good in this new bill.

MR. BAKER: That is the major part of the reply. The dairy program will be increased when the Food and Agriculture Act of 1967 is signed. Congress has further improved the underlying dairy legislation. More importantly, this is something that the mayors and the rural representatives in this room both need to work on. It is very important, not just in Connecticut, but in Maryland or in Virginia or Illinois, or wherever this is true --.

VOICE: Minnesota.

MR. BAKER: Minnesota. If you allow all of these areas to be taken up with urban sprawl, you know what your problems are going to be. You need to work out either tax devices or

special purchase of easements, or some other device. One of the uses we can make of the new cropland adjustment program, I think, is something to do with this purchase of easements, to maintain open spaces, appropriately located and sufficiently large in size, within these great complexes, or we are not going to get the quality of human life that the Vice President and the President are talking about in the Great Society.

This means working out special devices for preserving dairy farms, and patches for growing foods, and pasture and other kinds of agricultural production, right in the middle of metropolitan areas.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I would like to add, in answer to your farm question, that there are such things, as you know, as marketing orders, which have a very good, beneficial effect, especially in the citrus, fruit and vegetable, and poultry industries. Then we have our dairy program, with Class I dairy producers, so that the type of dairy production which comes close to these metropolitan areas really gets a pretty good break under this new legislation.

We have the special programs like the special milk program, school milk program, the school lunch program, the Food for Peace program, that absorbs from the marketplace a substantial amount of the surplus, thereby giving the market a

chance to operate in a more healthy fashion.

There have been real efforts made to improve our programs relating to feed grains and the cereals. I think that we are doing better. But coming from a rural area, may I say that I have been pounding away at this thing, my dear friends, for eighteen years. I guess maybe it is because I have lived close to the soil and close to the farm people. I never really did think they got the break they deserved.

We also feel it isn't just a matter of price, even though you have got to have a price. Somebody once said, "Money isn't the best thing in the world." But the other fellow said, "Well, it makes a good run for second best, you know." And you do need a price, a fair price. But there are these things that have been talked about here by these men, your educational facilities, your recreational facilities. Today, by the way, the new type of program that is being thought about more and more is where you bring industry closer to the rural areas, so that actually, while you have part of your income from your agricultural production, you also have part of your income from some of your industrial or manufacturing employment, You increase the tax base.

One of your problems, as local officials -- I don't need to tell you this -- is your tax base. We haven't

gotten around to that. Once we open that up, everybody will make a speech. But that is really the tough one. These property taxes are getting practically out of hand in many a community.

I think that is one of the greatest threats to home ownership and to our entire profit economy. We have got to find better means of supplying the resources of community services, other than just a tax, and literally put a penalty upon what I think is one of the great stabilizing forces of our economy, the ownership of private property, a private home and a private business. We ought not to have that. There ought to be other ways to raise the revenues.

MR. GEORGE McGRATH: I am from West Rutland, Vermont. I would like to address my question to Mr. Baker. We have a small watershed project in the planning stage, which was started in August. We also have a sewage treatment program, all in the preliminary design stage. We would like to coordinate the sewage program with the watershed program. We have 800 acres of swamp and bog land there which is the main part of this flood control project for the Department of Agriculture.

We also are in need of an extra reservoir for water storage in the dry spells. I haven't been able to find out this summer how we could coordinate the sewage treatment project with the small watershed program, and why the Housing

and Home Finance has part of the sewage program, and Health and Welfare has the building of the buildings, I understand, for the sewage treatment. We would like to coordinate this before it gets too far into the planning stage.

MR. BAKER: What is the population?

MR. McGRATH: 2300.

MR. BAKER: That comes under our responsibility in the Department of Agriculture, and the new legislation just enacted for water and sewer systems provides also for sewer treatment plants. These must meet the standards of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare with respect to water pollution. They must also meet the standards of the state enforcement agencies with respect to sanitation and water pollution. It will be our effort to assist you, to be sure that your water system, your sewer system and your sewage treatment plant are all developed in accordance with a comprehensive plan, together with the watershed developments that are involved, including land treatment, the city water supply, future industrial water supply, as well as flood prevention.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: And coordinated by your agency, right?

MR. BAKER: Right.

MR. McGRATH: That would be with the U. S. Soil

Conservation Service?

MR. BAKER: Yes, and the Farm and Home Administration. These two are the agencies that you should get together and be sure that they do the work. If they don't, let me know and I will help you.

MR. McGRATH: I did inquire of the Farm and Home Agency. He said he didn't know whether the water reservoir was included in the bill or not.

MR. BAKER: The water reservoir is separate. This is part of what you can do with the watershed project. But your water system, together with deep wells or whatever else you need, and the sewer system and the sewer treatment are under the new sewer, water and treatment program. These can be together in a package with the watershed, to meet your needs.

MR. McGRATH: There are five towns in this watershed project.

MR. BAKER: I might add, Mr. Vice President, if I may, that in addition to loans and grants for the actual construction of water, sewers and sewage treatment plants, the law requires that these water and sewer systems be in accordance with a comprehensive plan, and if the locality does not have such a comprehensive plan, we can make grants in aid to help the locality involved to start developing such a comprehensive plan

to qualify.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Is Mr. Gleason here? He is the Area Supervisor of the Farm and Home Administration from up New Hampshire way. He might be of some help a little later during the day, in talking to the gentleman who just spoke to us. And I believe James Wood is here, is he not? James Wood is the Field Representative of the New England area for the Rural Community Development Service.

Really, the thrust of that last question was the coordination that we ought to have in this. And it is a fact now, is it not, John, that that is under your department?

MR. BAKER: That's right.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: And through the Farm and Home Administration, and through the Soil Conservation Service, is that correct?

MR. BAKER: That's right.

2 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: So Mr. Wood and Mr. Gleason will be available at the reception. You take a good look at them.

MR. BAKER: I will also ask Mr. Larrabee to stand up.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Mr. Larrabee is with the Soil Conservation Service. These are the men who can help

you work together in these projects. I want you to examine the records, so that this man's question does get answered, gentlemen, so we can take care of his question.

MR. BENJAMIN STEVENS: I am the First Selectman of the Town of Bozrah, in Connecticut. I would like to know if the restrictions have been eased for small towns to acquire grants in the open space program. We were one of the first towns in the State to put an application in. Our application was approved by the State of Connecticut, but was turned down by the federal government for the reason that we didn't have a comprehensive plan of development.

You take a small town like ours, which is all farming areas, residential area, and for us to get a small loan grant of \$1200 from the federal government, we would have to turn around and spend \$6,000 or \$7,000 to get a comprehensive plan. It doesn't make sense.

We have a plan of development in the town which has been approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission, also approved by the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency, and it has been accepted by the State of Connecticut. Why is it that the federal government turns it down? Other small towns are in the same boat.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: You are just about the

man I need to introduce the next speaker. (Laughter) I want you to know we had this all worked out. (Laughter) You came through great too. The problem that you put here is one that I am sure faces many communities. It is^{the} kind of problem we have to get right at. John Baker, you may want to participate a little later in the question period, when Mr. Slayton has finished his presentation, because the urban development and the housing program go hand in hand with what Mr. Baker is speaking of in the rural area.

I now want to present to you Mr. William L. Slayton, who is the Commissioner of the Urban Renewal Administration, and is a very knowledgeable man on the entire subject matter of urban development and housing. If he can't find an answer for you, on how in the world you can get a \$1200 deal for less than \$6,000, you see me. I am on your side, believe me. (Applause)

MR. WILLIAM L. SLAYTON: The Vice President really puts us on the hot seat, but we have been on these road shows before. The funny thing about it is that he ends up getting his way. I don't know if I can, off the cuff, Mr. Vice President, answer the question on the open space land program that was just raised. There is in the law a basic requirement that there be a comprehensive plan in that area before we are allowed to make a

grant, and there has to be a finding to that effect.

I will ask my regional men to step up, if I may, so you can corner them, and ask why they haven't approved it. This is Charles Horan, who is Regional Director for Urban Renewal in our New York Regional Office. And there is Les Eisner. He is the Regional Administrator for the Housing and Home Finance Agency. You call on Charles Horan. He will have to answer you.

I might also say that we do have an advance planning assistance program that does pay two-thirds of the cost of preparing a comprehensive plan. It runs to the states. We can help you in that respect too. I hadn't thought of getting into the subject quite this way, Mr. Vice President, because I wanted to talk about the two major acts this year, that in my opinion have done more than has ever been done before to take a look at the problems of cities and small towns in a comprehensive way.

Those two acts are: first, the establishment of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which will become a department on November 9th; and the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965.

These two acts, these two programs really put together a bunch of tools, a series of tools that are designed

to help the city solve its problems -- not to solve the problems for the cities and the towns, but to help the towns solve their problems. The organization is being set up to do just that. We are not going to be talking any more about an Urban Renewal Administration, or Community Facilities Administration or F.H.A., or Public Housing Administration. We are going to be talking about a Department of Housing and Urban Development. We are going to be talking about a series of programs that the cities and the towns take and put together to help solve their development programs.

I think we have the greatest opportunity we have ever had to do something really significant in this field.

Now, let me go through this -- I think you ought to use the term, since you come from Minnesota, Mr. Vice President, when we talk about all of these programs --.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Smorgasbord.

MR. SLAYTON: You ought to recognize your Swedish background a little bit. So let me go through this smorgasbord of programs from the federal government, particularly those that have just been passed in the Housing and Urban Development Act, of 1965, because they are considerable.

First, there is the reaffirmation of the urban renewal program by the authorization of 2.9 billion dollars for

an additional four years. This is a considerable commitment, obviously, by the Congress on the importance of urban renewal.

There is a recommitment, an affirmation of the public housing program for 240,000 units for a four year period. And there is a major affirmation and expansion of the rehabilitation program under urban renewal, because Congress has now said, recognizing the difficulty of small home owners who don't have much money, recognizing the difficulty that they have in improving their property, Congress has said, "If you earn less than \$3,000 and you are in an urban renewal or code enforcement area, the federal government will pay you up to \$1500 to help you repair your house, to bring your house up to standard." This I think is a tremendous breakthrough for those small home owners who can't afford to bring their house up to the minimum standards that you in the cities establish.

In addition, Congress has said, "If you can't afford to borrow money to rehabilitate your house, we will make it possible through the federal government to make a direct loan to you at three percent, a three percent direct loan to run for twenty years, maximum of \$10,000, to help you rehabilitate your house."

Congress has said, "We want to rehabilitate, improve housing in the United States. We are going to help those

people who can't afford it on their own." I think this is a tremendous advance in this program.

Also, as the Vice President has indicated, we now have a kind of housing program for low-income families, families who do not have sufficient income to go out and buy property. This is the rent supplement program. It is something controversial. We don't know whether we will have it in terms of money for this year, because the appropriations bill is in conference right now. But anyway, this will provide eventually assistance to families too poor to go out into the private market to rent or buy a house. It will pay the difference between what it costs them to rent a standard unit and 25 percent of their income.

Of course, there is a reaffirmation of the middle income housing program. Here is a program where again direct loans are made through the Federal National Mortgage Association, three percent, to non-profit corporations and limited dividend corporations, to build housing for American families of moderate income. These are tax-paying properties.

One of the most important things in the congested areas has been the program that has just been mentioned, the expansion of what has been known heretofore as the Open Space Land Program. The Open Space Land Program is a program for

providing open space, as it says, primarily on the periphery of cities, to prevent all that land that is now vacant from being gobbled up and developed by developers, so our children and our grandchildren will have some place to play and have some greenery.

The open space program established in 1961 has been expanded, and expanded considerably, because now it is possible to have urban parks. We find that one of the difficulties, one of the problems of the cities and towns is that you have built up neighborhoods but you have no parks, no open space. So this makes it possible for a city to get a fifty percent grant, to go out and buy developed land and put that into open space.

Also coupled with that is the urban beautification program, a city beautification program, a town beautification program. The federal government says this: "You continue your level of expenditures for beautification, but everything you spend above that, we will match you, fifty percent." We mean the planting of trees, the putting in perhaps of a fountain, special plazas, paving, playgrounds. Here again, parks are eligible, things to make your city beautiful -- and you decide what is beautiful. We don't decide what is beautiful.

In addition to that, we have for the first time a

direct program of assistance to help you establish neighborhood facilities in poor areas, structures where you can house those services that are needed to help the poor families, employment service, some kind of welfare service, social service, recreational services, whatever services are designed to help the people, the poor people in these areas, neighborhood facilities. Two-thirds of the cost is paid for by the federal government.

Here again we have to wait for an appropriations bill which is in conference. We don't know how much money we are going to have for this coming year.

In addition, in this housing act the federal government said that, "If you have unsafe or unsound structures in your community, and if you have a law that says structures must be demolished, and if that law gives the city the authority to go in and demolish it if the owner will not, the federal government will pay to the city two-thirds of the cost of demolishing those unsafe, those unsound structures." This means that you can get rid of those eyesores, those abandoned houses, where it is very, very difficult to get them torn down. This can make all the difference in the world in a neighborhood where this one bad structure or a few bad structures may be that rotten spot in the apple that is going to cause the start of deterioration.

The federal government says also that they feel

it is so important to improve neighborhoods within the cities and towns, and to do this through whatever means possible, that here again it will assist you, the city or the town, in a program of concentrated minimum housing code enforcement. Congress has said that, "If you maintain your level of expenditures for code enforcement, whatever you spend in addition, we will pay two-thirds of it." That cost of undertaking a code enforcement program includes, not just the going in and inspecting of the housing and the issuing of notices and that sort of thing, but also it is in the acquisition of new rights of way for streets in that area, and the repaving of streets, the putting in of street signs, street lights, putting in those public improvements that are essential to bring this area up into something that it should be. This is a tremendous opportunity for every city and every town in the United States. It gives you a real opportunity to begin to bring the town up, the city up to where it should be.

Also in this legislation it is recognized again that one of the biggest needs in the cities and towns throughout the United States is the addition of water and sewage facilities. You are right, that we have this program in lots of places, Mr. Vice President, and an additional program is established for cities and towns to help them pay for the cost of installation of

new water lines, new sewer facilities. I am talking about sewer lines.

With all of this goes a concern for people who may in the process of these programs be displaced, and also the businesses that maybe displaced because of urban renewal, because of rehabilitation, because of acquisition of land for parks, and whatnot. Here the federal government has established a series of aids for families being displaced, including complete moving expenses, including also a rent adjustment payment when they have to move, and for businesses including moving expenses, and including also from the Small Business Administration special assistance in loans to help them get established some place else.

Well, I have gone over this very quickly. It is quite a smorgasbord. There are lots of items here.

What I am really trying to say is that with these new programs, with the new Department, it is going to be possible for you, the town and the city, to put together in a really comprehensive way those meaningful development tools that heretofore have been little bits and pieces here and there. For the first time you are going to be able to forge them together in one major tool that is going to be of tremendous help to you. Thank you. (Applause)

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well now, do you have any questions?

MR. LESTER A. MAGNANT: I am the Selectman of the Town of Webster, Massachusetts. Mr. Slayton, I was very, very much interested in your comment about unsafe and unsound houses, abandoned buildings in particular. Must a town adopt a zoning law or something of that nature before they can become eligible for these funds? We find it hard sometimes in small communities such as ours, with a population of approximately 14,000 people. This has been the drawback up to now in our particular town, not being able to adopt a building code or a zoning code. Are we still eligible under this new program?

MR. SLAYTON: Congress has said in this legislation that before federal assistance is given to a city in the field of trying to improve housing or tearing down slums, that sort of thing, that the city ought to indicate first that it has taken those measures legally necessary to do what it can to prevent recurrence of slums or prevent recurrence of blight, those things to be put together in a workable program. In that workable program you have to have a planning operation, and you do have to have zoning, building and housing codes.

These are essential ingredients in any city if you are going to be able to carry out a community development program. So Congress said, "We cannot make grants to those cities that do not have workable programs."

MR. ALFORD DYSON: I am the Selectman in the Town of Westport, Massachusetts. I was happy that in your initial speech you talked about the shame on us, about the shortage of water, that we have a great country with lots of water but the distribution is not what it should be. I think Congress can do a job for us in the small towns, and I am sure there are many people here from small towns who are in sympathy with the problem we have, where we find, in trying to develop a water supply, that due to some foresight on the part of the cities many years ago, they now own all the water rights to all the water in our town. We are at the mercy of these cities, trying to develop water in our town.

I think somewhere along the line Congress has to do something to make these cities, who own all the water supplies in these small towns, share the water with us. This happens in many, many communities in New England, where you have a lot of water in your town, but you don't own it, and you can't develop it. You are at the mercy of

the cities. So I think something along that line would be helpful to the small towns.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I want to say that this is the very type of problem that I think needs to be brought to the Intergovernmental Relations Commission, because this is both a federal and state problem. Where there are navigable waters and where there are streams involved, and where there are federal lands involved, the federal government gets into the act. But most of this relates, frankly, to local ordinances and state law, and to contracts, long-term contracts. Therefore, it does need the kind of study that we have under a special act of Congress known as the Intergovernmental Relations Commission.

I make note of this, because we are going to extract this from the record and see if we can't get some study on it. Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine is one of the active participants on that commission. I used to serve on it some years ago.

I do believe that it can be quite helpful in looking into this matter. The whole subject of water, by the way, has taken on a much more important connotation than it has for years, as you know.

I come from the "Land of Ten Thousand Lakes,"

and regrettably, far too many of them are already polluted. The land of the sky blue water -- I don't want to tell you what color some of that water has turned. (Laughter)

I don't want you to think that we still don't have some blue lakes, and lots of fish. But truly, we do have serious problems. And we are now at the stage where your government has been giving it some attention. As you know, there is a New England body working with the federal officials on this whole subject. I hope we can come up with some answers.

MR. JAMES DAWSON: I am Mayor Jim Dawson, New Britain, Connecticut. I am very happy to be down here in Dick Lee's town, even for a little while, to take time out from a very busy campaign, for a good reason.

I have a question for Mr. Slayton; but first Mr. Vice President, I would like to say to you that I recall attending your conference in Washington last May, and I would like to add that it seems to me that this establishment of direct contact between the federal government and us in the cities and towns of the nation is a most wonderful thing.

I don't know if you realize how tremendous this breakthrough has been and what it has meant to all of us. I think you should be deeply complimented for it. I remember

down in Washington a guy got up -- I think he was from Rhode Island -- and he said, "I don't know whether my people will be happy about this or not, because I am from an opposite party, but I want to tell you the same thing." Do you remember that?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I liked that. I remember that. (Laughter) I thank you once again.

MR. DAWSON: Thank you. The question I had for Mr. Slayton was this, and it isn't the one you think it is going to be, I am sure. The reference that you made to the water and sewage program, I think you called it 703, the new act. We are very, very interested in that up in New Britain. We have a number of programs that we can put through, that we would like assistance on in both the water field, which is extremely important, and the sewage field too.

We are working on rather major plans. I immediately applied on this thing, or rather, I requested permission to apply. I am just wondering -- I thought this would be a good opportunity to ask you, as long as the Vice President gave me permission to take a bite -- when will it start? We have been told that we must wait until the applications are printed. This is a tremendous program, it is a wonderful thing, and we would like to get into it.

MR. SLAYTON: I will say that it will start as soon as Congress appropriates the money.

MR. DAWSON: They haven't done that yet?

MR. SLAYTON: No, but it is pretty close. It passed the House and the Senate. The point that I am going to make is that it is the same in both bills. It isn't subject to conference. It is going to be all right. Both houses like this program very much, and so does every city in the United States. We have some undated applications. I commend you for your alacrity, but others were fast also. The problem is going to be to figure out the formula for distribution, and it is not going to be easy, but it will be done rapidly.

MR. DAWSON: We were down before the bill was signed.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I just pinned him down a little bit more for you. He said it will be a couple of weeks. He is a man of his word.

MR. DAWSON: Thank you. I know that he is.

MR. SLAYTON: He sees that I am.

MR. WILFRED PERRON: I am the Selectman in Dracut, Massachusetts. My question is on water. Public Law 189, Section 117, when will the money be allocated, and

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how much?

MR. SLAYTON: Section 117, Public Law 189?

I can never remember all these things by numbers. Translate that.

MR. PERRON: This is the fifty percent grant for water and sewage that was signed in August.

MR. SLAYTON: That is what we have just been talking about.

MR. PERRON: I think it is E.C.A.

MR. SLAYTON: No. You are talking about the Housing and Urban Development Act, fifty percent grant, water and sewer facilities. That is what we were just talking about. The money will be appropriated shortly, and we will have the regulations out in two weeks.

MR. PERRON: Will the money be appropriated or allocated before Congress convenes?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: By Saturday, it will be all done by Saturday.

MR. SLAYTON: The Vice President said it will be appropriated by Saturday.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: This Saturday -- and this is Thursday, yes sir. We will have that right in shape for you. I hope we get enough, that's all.

We were coming over to this side of the room.
Have you been up before?

MR. LEIGH W. FLINT: I am the Mayor of Westbrook, Maine. I would like to ask Mr. Slayton: Under the grants for neighborhood facilities, are any monies available for the development of day centers for senior citizens?

MR. SLAYTON: I would say that would be a questionable item. We have not yet got a definitive list of what would or would not be eligible. Basically, it was designed to serve the neighborhoods and their social services, and if it can be related to provide services to families of low income, it would be eligible. Offhand, I would say that would be an eligible item.

MR. PAUL J. BOULEY: I am the Selectman of the Town of Spencer, Massachusetts. We have gone through a plan for lateral sewers and interceptor sewers, receiving a grant. We are on the verge of preparing for final bids. My question is, under the new law, a ninety percent permissible grant to the towns for lateral and interceptor sewers, we have written to the Housing and Home Finance Agency, and we have been told that the forms were not ready yet. Will it be much longer before we can receive an

application form? We would like to have this form or this application in before the bids are put out. Can this question be answered, sir?

MR. SLAYTON: I think you are referring -- I am not positive -- to the same program that I have just been discussing, namely, the one where the Vice President has said that the money is going to be available, appropriated on Saturday. And I have said that the forms, and so forth, will be ready in two weeks. I think that is the program you are referring to. I am not positive.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: May I just add that there were a tremendous number of new programs that were authorized by this Congress. Once the program is authorized, then the department heads have to go through their respective technical services in their departments, pull together what they call their budget requests for the supplemental budget. Because the main budgets for the existing programs, prior to the enactment of Congress this year, those budgets were prepared last year, you see, and were acted upon in the regular appropriation bills. We have just finished yesterday afternoon in the Senate, late last evening, the supplemental appropriation.

That bill will be settled between the two

houses between now and Saturday, for the final cleaning out of any little items here and there that have to be adjudicated or adjusted.

In the instance of this program, however, as I recall, there is no difference between the two houses. But it is tied in with other items, so there is a little argument going on, like rent supplements, and so on.

But the congressmen are anxious to get back to see you, and so are the senators, and I have a feeling that there will be a mass exodus like the children of Israel out of Egypt, comes Saturday. They will really be going. So you will be in business.

Now, these new forms cannot be drawn up really until the program itself is funded, and that has been the problem. You don't dare go passing out forms and saying, "Come on and look in the cookie jar," until you have the cookies. We have got the jar. We have the recipe, but the cookies weren't baked. And now we are getting the funds, and they will be ready, and the forms will be available to you.

I just wanted to explain that to you. That is true of a number of programs that have been passed in the last two months.

MR. NORMAN LUCAS: Mr. Vice President, I am Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen in New Canaan, here in Connecticut. We in New Canaan have been very fortunate and blessed in not having any slums, depressed areas or rundown areas. Now, saying this does not mean that this desirable condition will always continue. In order to further guard against the deterioration of property values in the future -- they are not deteriorated yet -- but to guard against this we have proposed the enactment of a housing code to supplement our already-existing zoning, building, plumbing and subdivision codes and regulations.

My question is this: The fact that we are not a depressed area, and we wish to continue our desirable high standards, are we eligible for federal funds under the code enforcement program for our proposed housing code? And are we also eligible for funds under the city beautification program?

MR. SLAYTON: The answer to both questions is yes. You do have a workable program. I think New Canaan probably has. I am not positive. So there would be no problem as long as you maintain your level of expenditures for code enforcement and your level of expenditures for

beautification. We would fund above that amount. You would be eligible.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: We still have a couple of more participants. I know this is the real program that relates to our cities, but I want you to hear our Health, Education and Welfare people, and I also want you to hear from the Office of Economic Opportunity. But I will take one more question.

MR. LEONARD COURTLAND: I am from the Town of Hull, Massachusetts. That's spelled H-U-L-L. (Applause) I would like to ask a question, please. We just finished our general neighborhood plan, and we are going into a specific program. One of the requirements is that we must have a full-time housing inspector. We just appointed one last Wednesday night, and I am wondering whether the code enforcement will give us back our two-thirds for the appointment of this full-time position.

MR. SLAYTON: These guys are smart, aren't they?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: They sure are.

MR. SLAYTON: Well, I would have to make a flat commitment on this one. I think probably you are in pretty good shape to recoup that. What we will have to do

is measure your expenditures for code enforcement in the two prior years, and then see what your expenditures for code enforcement are going to be in the future.

Also, the code enforcement program is supposed to be a program of concentrated code enforcement in particular neighborhoods, not a program merely of responding to complaints. So it would have to be that kind of a program too. I don't know quite how you plan to use your one housing inspector or additional housing inspector.

MR. COURTLAND: Full-time.

MR. SLAYTON: Do you plan to have him march around by neighborhoods, or respond just to complaints? I think probably you can work it out, though. I suggest that you get together with Charlie Horan and Les Eisner, and they will be very cooperative.

MR. COURTLAND: One more quick question, if I may, for clarification: If, by hook or crook, we can't sell this urban renewal program to our people, what becomes of the grants that were given to us by the federal government?

MR. SLAYTON: Well, those grants are reserved, not money that has been actually turned over to

you, of course. It has been reserved for the money necessary to carry out a project. We will not enter into a contract with you for the carrying out of that project until there is assurance that you can carry it forward.

This would mean that the city council has to approve the plan, that you have to indicate that you have your one-third or probably one-fourth share to carry it out, in your case. So money has been reserved, and it goes back into the pot, so to speak, if you do not make use of it.

MR. COURTLAND: We have received some of the money.

MR. SLAYTON: That is a planning advance. A planning advance is written off.

MR. COURTLAND: Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: May I suggest that you try to let that seed grow, and don't let that planning advance die on the vine. I am going to take one more question, and then I am sure you want to hear from Dr. Ralph Huitt of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

MR. FRANCIS C. FLORINI: Mr. Vice President, I am Mayor Francis C. Florini, from the City of North Adams,

Massachusetts. The Housing and Home Finance Agency is quite well acquainted with us. We have had your urban renewal programs on the fire for quite some time. I have two similar questions to pose to Mr. Slayton. One is about teeth in the condemnation proceedings, and would it be possible for the federal government to spell out the minimum standards for housing? We are running afoul of state requirements and city ordinances which allow the owner of the building to just go into a plea, and then take it into court, and just strap us for two or three years with this demolition. That is number one.

MR. SLAYTON: I am not quite sure I understand your question. You are talking about minimum standards of existing housing, your minimum housing code?

MR. FLORINI: You spoke when you first got up about condemning buildings.

MR. SLAYTON: The demolition program will be basically this. It is not standards that we establish, but standards that a community establishes, where you have ordered the property to be demolished, and the property owner does not demolish it. You have ^{get to} got to/that stage first. Then you are eligible. When the property owner does not demolish, then the city on its own demolishes it. We pay for

two-thirds of the cost of that demolition.

But you have to get to that point yourself first. It is your law, and there has to be evidence that the structure is unsafe, unsanitary, unsound. That will be the least of your worries. It is under your law. It is not under federal law.

MR. FLORINI: That would be the final step. But the individual has his rights spelled out by the Constitution, and so on, that he can appeal to the courts, and the council, and so on. So it just keeps going back and forth, back and forth.

MR. SLAYTON: But this is local law. It is not federal law. After you get through that legal process -- and it may be a long process, too long in your eyes -- there is nothing we can do about that. You have to change that law. Once you get through that process, you tear down the structure, and then we can help you.

MR. FLORINI: The second one is about the two-thirds cost of enforcement which you have spoken about with the previous speaker. I think you already answered it for me. This is over and above what you are already putting out?

MR. SLAYTON: Above what you are already

putting out. Suppose you are spending \$25,000 on code enforcement. You have got to continue to spend \$25,000 on code enforcement. You come in with a code enforcement project, and you are going to spend, say, \$30,000 just in that area, because it is going to include some street improvements as well as the code enforcement officials. We pay two-thirds of that. You pay \$10,000.

MR. FLORINI: One other question very specifically related to this: How do you spell out the difference between a housing inspector, and a building inspector, which we have full time?

MR. SLAYTON: Well, a building inspector is one who really inspects new construction. This is our basic difference. A housing inspector is one who examines existing housing.

MR. FLORINI: Can't they be doing both jobs simultaneously?

MR. SLAYTON: Yes, and you prorate the expenditures, based on their time.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Well, we surely are very indebted to Mr. Slayton. I think he has been extremely responsive to our questions. (Applause)

You have been here a long time. We delayed

you. We will move along.

I want to present to you now the new Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Mr. Ralph Huitt. Mr. Huitt -- or Dr. Huitt -- is in the department that has new leadership, with Dr. John Gardner, one of the greatest educators of America, formerly from Carnegie Institute.

This department has, without a doubt, I think the biggest job of any department in government save the Department of Defense. Its revenues, its appropriations, are substantial, very large. Most of your grant-in-aid programs come from this department.

It is going through the same job, if I may say, that others are, of tooling up for these new assignments. I think the biggest task ahead of your federal government in the next year is the management task of how we take care of these new pieces of legislation.

It is one thing to pass a law. It is another thing to make it work, and get its impact out where you want it. We are going to have some of our difficulties in this. I want to forewarn you, just as you have heard here today, that there are delays. There will be some problems. But we think we have a pretty good department now in H.E.W.

I want to present Mr. Huitt to you. He will not only talk on air and water pollution control, which may be something of keen interest to you, but Ralph, kind of give them, you know, the whole treatment. Okey?

MR. RALPH HUITT: Mr. Vice President, honorable mayors, ladies and gentlemen: This is a very auspicious occasion for me, and a very happy one, partly because this is the first time that I have appeared as the representative of my department in the job which I now hold. It is also a great moment for me because my job in the department is legislation. The Vice President says it is one thing to pass it, and it is another thing to administer it. I want to make perfectly clear that my task is going to be to pass it. It is going to be somebody else's job to administer it.

We have got a lot to talk about. This has been a great Congress. This has been a great period of cooperation between the executive branch and the legislature.

During this session of the Congress our department has introduced, the President has introduced twenty-two pieces of major legislation. Yesterday afternoon the Congress passed the Higher Education Act, which was the twenty-first of those pieces to be passed in this session, and

perhaps today, almost certainly tomorrow if not today, the twenty-second, vocational rehabilitation amendments, will be passed.

You see, this has been a Congress such as few times in history have seen. There was a time earlier in the year when we passed the Medicare Bill, when people said, "This will be called the health Congress." And then the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was passed and they said, "This will be the educational Congress."

And then the water pollution and clean air bills were passed, and they said, "This will be the clean environment Congress." Now, the truth of the matter is that this Congress, under the leadership of the President, has passed numbers of pieces of legislation, any one of which in an ordinary session of Congress, along with the ordinary work load of Congress, would have made that a great Congress.

Now, there are some people who have been grouching at Congress for years because it has not done enough, and because it has balked the President. Some of these people now are complaining that the Congress does too much, that it goes along too fast.

I heard a variation on that the other day. A member of Congress was explaining why he voted to sustain

the President's veto of the Military Construction Bill. He said, "You know, this has been a very vigorous and aggressive and constructive Congress. We have been shoving these bills up to the President, and you know, he signed every one of them. He is a rubber stamp President." (Laughter) He continued, "I think now that he has shown some initiative, it's time for us to support him and encourage him." The truth is that there is no rubber stamp Congress and there is no rubber stamp President.

There is a vital, creative, driving President, and a Congress that wants to push the country ahead. Together they have produced acts this year which we will be years in assimilating, and which our children will feel the benefits of.

I should like to say that we have some of our regional people here. I will call out their names just briefly. I will ask them to stand. Mr. Walter W. Mode is the Regional Director. Dr. Henry C. Huntley is a Regional Health Director. Dr. Donald C. DeHart is a Regional Representative of the Office of Education. Dr. Neil T. Fallon is a Regional Representative of the Welfare Administration. And Mr. Henry Gromko is the District Manager of the Social Security Administration.

Now, I mention them at this point because I want to say to them that as soon as I am through, I wish they would come down here and join me, and get close to the microphone. Keep in mind the fact that I have been on this job forty-five days, gentlemen. And I say, please come down at the end of my remarks -- and I mean please come down fast. (Laughter)

I am going to try something here, with your indulgence. I have been talking, I think, since I was born. I have been speaking publicly since I was thirteen. I have made thousands of public speeches. I have written several hundred for other people to make. But today is the first time in my life that I have been important enough that someone else has written a speech for me. (Laughter and applause) Now, you know, this is a good speech. I have read it many times. It sits right there.

I got down here, and faced the prospect of trying to do it, and it scared me to death. I am going to have to practice reading the speech in front of the mirror at home before I can do it. If you will indulge me, I am going to talk a little bit about some of the pieces of legislation passed this session which I think you will be interested in.

First, take this big thing, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Now, we have been talking about federal aid to education for seventy years. We have managed under one guise or another to aid the colleges and the universities several times in the last ten or twelve years. This is the year that we made the breakthrough and managed to help the elementary and the secondary schools.

Now, there are two parts of that act which I think you will be particularly interested in. You know, we think in this country that education ought to be the great equalizer, that all Americans can stand on the same footing, because we try to bring them all up together.

Now, the truth, of course, is that those who are economically deprived frequently are also the ones who are educationally deprived, and so the initial disadvantages are multiplied.

Now, this is an act which attempts to get into those economically poor areas, those areas of the educationally deprived children, and help them.

Title I of this act creates a three year program of federal grants which will establish special programs, including the construction of school facilities, in order to meet the needs of some of these children. Now, you see,

this title is aimed at those areas of poverty where the need is greatest. There are about 25,000 school districts in this country which are eligible for aid under Title I. I would certainly urge that if you are not in that happy position of having no poverty where you are, that this is a title you should look into.

Again, Title III of this act appropriates one hundred million dollars for a new program of supplementary educational centers and services. What is recognized here is that there are a lot of very skillful people who cannot be put in every school because there are not enough of them to go around. But what is possible is to pool some of these people in centers to which children can be brought, or out of which these specialized people may be sent into schools to beef up the program for children in the whole school district. Now, these centers will be available to both public and private school students, as well as to out-of-school youth and adults.

Now, this is a part of the program which, it seems to me, everyone should be interested in. Another piece of legislation that made people call it the education Congress is the Higher Education Act, passed just yesterday. Two parts of this particularly I mention. One is Title I,

which has to do with the continuing education of universities, that is, what we have called extension. Now, as you know, for many years cooperative extension has gone out into the rural areas and has helped the rural population enormously. At the same time many universities have been carrying on extension activities of a more general character.

My own University of Wisconsin, where we have had both powerful cooperative extension and a very strong university general extension program, has in the last couple of years recognized that rural and urban problems are merging, and there is no longer any need to separate. So we have in the last couple of years worked out a plan to combine our extension service, to prepare ourselves for what President Johnson has said is the great thrust of higher education in the next ten years, the next twenty years.

I think it is perfectly possible that the time is coming when the education of the young on the university campus will be one of the least important things that a university does. What universities are going to learn how to do, and what many already have learned how to do, is to move out into the community, particularly into these great urban centers, and help to locate problems, help to analyze problems, and help to marshal resources to meet the problems,

so that the university can be a vital force, not only in education of the young, but in the life of the community as a whole.

I think this title is a great title, and I believe the time will come when we will recognize that this is one of the great things Congress did. There is aid to developing libraries, scholarships, loans, work-study programs to make it possible for kids to go to school who can't pay their own way. There is a provision for laboratory equipment and other kinds of equipment.

But a part I think you will be particularly interested in is a thing called the Teachers' Corps. Now, this is an attempt to do domestically something of the same thing that is done by the Peace Corps in the international arena. This provides for some 6,000 teachers, 1,000 of them to be so-called master teachers, experienced teachers, and 5,000 of them to be young people with bachelor's degrees from colleges and universities, to go out as teams, one master teacher, four or five interns, to work in schools in underprivileged areas, both in urban situations and in the rural parts of the country, to add something to that school which it did not have before.

Now, there is a provision in the act, that

schools that get these teams must maintain the staffs that they have, and must continue to spend the money that they have spent. This is not an attempt to pick up part of the bill for local education. But these people will add to what the school has to offer. Now, this is a locally-controlled program. The money goes into the box to the school district, which then pays it to these teachers. They make the same money as the teachers working in that district make.

They can be selected by the local district. They can be fired by the local district at any time. But this is an attempt to enlist, to recruit into teaching some of those idealistic young people who like to take on a tougher than usual job. I suspect that these are the people who can help you too.

To mention quickly some other things, there is the Medicare program. You know, of course, that in this bill there is a basic program of hospital insurance, extended care, home health services for the aged, all operated through Social Security.

There is a voluntary supplemental program which covers doctors' fees and some other health services. But a thing that you should probably know about more than that is that there is also a set of child health and welfare

amendments which expand the services for maternal and child health, for crippled children, for child welfare, for the mentally retarded. And there is established a new five year program of special project grants to provide comprehensive health care services for needy children of school and pre-school age.

Now, these are the kinds of things, it seems to me, that you would want to know about and perhaps to get into. Again, there is the act passed a little earlier this season, the Heart Disease, Cancer and Stroke Act, a recognition of the fact that these diseases among them kill about seventy percent of the people who die each year. Now, this is an attempt, as the President says, to bring the miracles of the research laboratory to the bedside of the patient.

What will be done is that a number of places, universities, hospitals, various other kinds of medical and health agencies in the community, will combine their efforts to bring to people the very best that medical science now has. I heard a very learned doctor say the other day that any doctor who has been out of medical school more than ten years, and who has not made a strenuous effort to keep up, is a man who is already obsolescent. The same person said

that there are 300,000 Americans every year who get ostensibly competent medical care, who die because the latest things known to medical science aren't brought to bear in their case.

You see, this is an attempt to set up regional health centers which will make it possible through demonstration, through research, through cooperation, through teaching doctors and that kind of thing, to bring to people the best that medical science now knows.

Again, there was passed this year a so-called Older Americans Act, which I mention simply because it recognizes that it is not enough simply that elder people be kept alive, or even that they be kept healthy, but that life be good and interesting and productive for them. Now, this sets up within our department an administration agent. It authorizes various projects and grants to improve the circumstances and opportunities of older people. Any of you who would like to see what might be done in your own communities for older Americans ought to look into this.

There was passed this year a Clean Air Act, a Water Quality Act, two different acts. Each of them is aimed at a problem which gets larger all the time. Every American drinks water. Every American breathes air. Every

American drinks at one time or another dirty water. Every American breathes at one time or another poisoned air.

Now, we talk about these things, but we have not made much progress. We have been talking about conservation and anti-pollution, and so forth, for years. Yet there is not a major stream in the United States which flows unpolluted to the sea.

These acts make a start. There is some enforcement in them, but more than anything else, I think, they provide for research, for grants to communities to assist in planning and studying what can be done, in order to find ways to deal with such problems as the fact that when storms come and waters overflow, the sanitary sewers and the storm sewers run together -- things of this kind which, quite frankly, we just don't know what to do.

Take the problem of solid waste disposal. You think it is one thing to be against junk yards and trash piles. It is another thing to know what to do with them. So these acts make a beginning, in attempting to get some grants whereby studies can be made, people can carry out demonstration projects, things can be started, to see if we can't do something about water pollution. My own belief is that water and air pollution represent a great target for the

next few years. I think one of the brightest and most inspiring statements I have heard was the one made by the President when he signed the Water Quality Act. He said simply, "Nobody has a right to pollute the streams, and nobody will be allowed to continue to do it." And he set a target date, and I think we will make it.

Let me say finally, since legislation is what I am interested in, that next year is the year, and the year after that, and not this year, that I hope you will tell us what you think we ought to try to do. I wish you would tell us what you think the problems are, and what kinds of federal legislation we need to help. You see, I am struck with the fact that despite the great accomplishments of this year, the problems to be met next year are still enormous. We need manpower for almost every thing -- teachers, so-called paramedical people, professionals, technicians, all kinds of people to man these programs. Simply by passing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, we created a need for 30,000 new teachers. There are thousands of hospital beds in obsolete hospitals. There are poverty gaps in cities where people are alienated, not only from the Great Society, but from any community whatsoever.

There are people in this country living under

less than subsistence standards, and all of us know these things. I told you earlier in the afternoon that we had proposed this year twenty-two pieces of legislation, and we probably will pass all twenty-two.

I think you should tell us about things that we should try to do that we cannot do next year. I would like soon to see some projects of ours not making it, because this would mean to me that we are aiming at those things which must be done for which some kind of education is necessary, for which some kind of fight must be made. You see, I am aware of the fact that a little earlier this year the President went to Independence and signed the Medicare Bill. Now, this was recognition of the fact that this was first advocated years ago by a President in a climate in which, to be for Medicare, you had to be almost a communist.

Now, you see, the reason we passed Medicare this year was because heroic people had been working for it through the years. The great harvest this year came because for many years a small and growing band of people were willing to create the climate of opinion in which it could be passed. I must say that a man named Hubert Humphrey was a leader and a prophet and a giant in those days.

I want to say finally to you that the greatness of a society is not measured by what we have done, by what we are today, by what we have. The greatness of a society is measured by the aspirations we hold for the future. The Great Society is and must always be an unfinished society. I hope you will tell us what we ought to do, and help us do it. (Applause)

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: In order to expedite the balance of this program, because the next participant follows so closely in line with the splendid presentation by Dr. Ralph Huitt, I am going to call upon Mr. Hyman Bookbinder, who is the Assistant Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, who will comment briefly upon programs of the Office of Economic Opportunity, and related programs of other departments and agencies.

Then Dr. Huitt and Mr. Bookbinder will for a few minutes respond to your questions. I want to just make this suggestion to you, because time does not permit us to do as much as we would like today. The President has a program which maybe you haven't heard about, because it isn't publicized too much, but once every week, or every two weeks I believe it has been, the President invites to the White House seventy-five or one hundred or one hundred

ten or one hundred twenty leaders in different areas of American life. This is a big country, and you can invite in an awful lot of people and still not see too many.

This program starts generally about 7:00 with a short reception for about a half hour. From 7:30 to 8:30 he would have the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of State or the Secretary of the Treasury, depending on the group that was there, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of H.E.W., three or four top participants of the government, make a short presentation, with questions from the audience.

Then after that we move into the state dining room of the White House. When you come into the state dining room of the White House, there is a little cup at the table, a little dish. Each table is set for ten. At each table is one of the representatives of a department, so that he is not a participant in anything from there on out.

I know that at this table there are nine little slips in this cup, and one slip says "Speaker," and the rest of them say "Writer." The man who draws the "Speaker" slip is permitted to speak for three minutes, and to tell the President anything he wants to

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tell him.

You know, it's a dream come true, and most people don't really take advantage of it. Think of all the gripes you have had about how you want to run the country, and if you were President you would do this, and you would do that, and "I wish he would listen to me. I would tell him what to do."

But every so often somebody gets up and really lets fly, and says that this is the way he thinks it ought to be done. It is a tremendous program.

Now, you can't all be speakers here today, but you can be writers. Now, we don't need to ask for more correspondence. I know I have a couple of my people here from my office, and I imagine that both of them will be picketing me tomorrow morning. But the people who are here are your public servants. This includes your regional representatives. This includes everybody on this program who is on your agenda. You have their names and addresses. It includes the Vice President, it includes the President of the United States.

For those of you who have not been able to participate by question, or any of you, if you are either speaker or writer, but particularly for the non-participants

in the questioning period, be a writer. Let us know what you are thinking.

What we have really done here is just open up these matters for you. We haven't had time to go into full detail. As time goes on, I think you will find that you will have some pretty good, constructive ideas.

I want to call upon Mr. Bookbinder. Hyman, will you quickly whirl over and cover these many programs that we have under the War on Poverty?

MR. HYMAN BOOKBINDER: I will be brief. In addition to working for Sargent Shriver, I work for the Vice President, and he can fire me, so I will be very brief.

I think I am the last formal speaker here, so I will take a minute out of the four I will take to say that once I came to a meeting where he was the last speaker at a very long program. And he started out by saying, "Ladies and gentlemen, I have good news for you. There are only two things left to do. One I have to do; one you have to do. I have to speak to you. You have to listen to me. And it is my fervent prayer that we both end at the same time."

Can I ask Sam Procter to stand up? Sam is

the newly-appointed Regional Director for the Office of Economic Opportunity, which includes the New England states. He is here with his associate, Barry Passett. Some of you have already worked with them. They will be around at the reception, and you can talk to them.

I will really speak very briefly. The poverty program is one that doesn't have to be sold. It doesn't have to be explained in great detail. Let me quickly run down several figures to show you that already New England has responded, and responded very well. There are already in the New England states 107 community action projects, 107, for a total sum of twelve million dollars. But this is seed money in most of the cases. The concept of community action is that it gives you some money for bringing together all of your resources locally, just like we are trying to mobilize them nationally, for a concentrated attack on poverty.

We have a program, the Neighborhood Youth Corps, run by the Labor Department, that flows from the Economic Opportunity Act. Already in New England there are 112 separate projects for some fourteen million dollars.

Headstart -- that magnificent concept which was just thought of only in January, and by June

already had in the country over 500,000 kids enrolled in it. I am happy to report that in the New England group alone there were 146 separate grants, separate projects in New England that involve 19,500 children who have already entered their regular school terms.

We have another project, the Work-Study Program, for young people who wish to go to college, but without a part-time job they couldn't stay in college. Already there are 123 projects for colleges in this region.

So we are moving. You are moving. I am not going to have to explain the program to you. I want to say very, very briefly what the basic philosophy is, so that you will know what we can do as well as what we cannot do.

The combination of programs called "Economic Opportunity" doesn't constitute another addition to the welfare program of this government. That doesn't mean welfare isn't important. Of course it is. Better welfare programs are needed. But these programs are designed to get people out of poverty, not to make poverty tolerable for them. Everyone of these programs meets the test of helping people to help themselves, and help themselves out

of poverty.

Secondly, an important concept in this program is that in order to reach the kinds of people the Vice President so eloquently talked about earlier, the people who don't feel they are part of our society at all, is to give them a role of their own in getting themselves out of poverty. So we have this exciting but difficult concept of involvement of the poor themselves. Nobody is kidding himself in the administration that this is a simple concept. But involving the poor is not to be thought of as the antithesis to the involvement of the local power structure and the local government. Both are terribly important, and it is our desire, our aim to involve both in a partnership, just like we have a partnership between local government and the federal government.

The program is now going through the Congress for the second year. Again, Mr. Vice President, in this area there is no difference between the houses, so we will have a billion and a half dollars for the second year, one billion five hundred million. I must say to you, very frankly, that while this compares with eight hundred million dollars for the last year, it doesn't really constitute an increase in the program, because the eight

hundred million dollars was really for a seven month period in the first fiscal year.

What this administration is doing, frankly and aboveboard, is saying, "We are continuing to test this first set of weapons in the war against poverty. We may have to make changes. We want the best possible machinery and administration to accompany these programs. That means that we will not be able to meet every one of the demands."

For example, the Neighborhood Youth Corps, there are great pressures for increasing the level of this program. We can just about maintain the level we achieved the first fiscal year. That means every program that we fund will have to be reviewed carefully for its efficiency, for its direction of purpose, and for the kind of administration you can give it.

So we are prepared to help you. We want to work with you in developing new, innovative concepts. Because we haven't learned, as the Vice President said, to lick this problem in the past. We have a situation where a fifth of our people are just not in it. It was Franklin Roosevelt who, twenty-five or thirty years ago, really laid out the philosophy for this program, as compared to all other government programs. He said, "The test of our progress

as a society is not whether we administer to the abundance of those who have already have much. It is whether we do enough for those who have too little."

And everyone of the War on Poverty programs is designed to do exactly that, to test the program, as to whether it is really reaching the poor people of this nation. Thank you. (Applause)

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: All right, are there any questions directed to either Mr. Huitt or Mr. Bookbinder? You know, you have been here with us a long time. Do any of you have any questions? Do any of you have any particular problems right now with the Office of Economic Opportunity?

May I suggest to you then that your regional representatives are here, and this evening when we are enjoying our social hour, you can corner them and have a little visit.

I want to wind up this program, before we announce the reception and what will be there, by just a few words from one of the truly great public servants of this country, a man who has been an inspiration to me for many years. I knew him when he was a young fellow, as Mayor of Minneapolis, and I looked upon him then with awe

and respect and admiration, and I still do.

I want to present to you the former Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, former Mayor of Pittsburgh, and the Special Assistant to the President on everything that needs to be done, Dave Lawrence. (Applause)

MR. DAVID LAWRENCE: Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President. Twenty years ago Hubert Humphrey was elected Mayor of Minneapolis, and twenty years ago David Lawrence was elected Mayor of Pittsburgh. I couldn't help but sit here this afternoon, and I imagine he had the same reaction, thinking back to the problems that faced us then, and the little help that we were able to get in carrying on the problems of the city.

Back in the great depression, the situation in municipalities was so bad that out of that grew the United States Conference of Mayors, and then the American Municipal Association, now the League of Cities. They had their great difficulty in getting response from the federal government or state government, to carry on the affairs of the city. After having served thirteen years as Mayor of Pittsburgh, I couldn't help but wish that I was mayor in a period such as this. It was through those organizations that the issue was raised, and we finally have established a

department representing the affairs of the municipalities throughout the country. And too, how happy I am to see that the President has seen fit to set up these meetings and to turn this job over to the Vice President. I say this without any intention of flattery. I know of no one in the government that is more enthusiastic, sincere and earnest about the affairs of government than Hubert Humphrey -- I say that after many, many years of association -- and the devotion to the President that he has shown to work out these problems.

I heard a wisecrack down in my office yesterday. One of the wits there was thinking in terms of the President's visit to Bethesda. He said, "You know, the President is leaving no stone unturned to do a great job for the people." (Laughter) I think that is really so.

I hope you all, as mayors, having known your problems for years, I hope you will all take advantage of the suggestions made here today. You have heard these various items. Dr. Huitt told you about this Congress. I think you will hear, your children will hear, and your grandchildren will hear for many years of this being an era that has been unsurpassed since the forming of the republic. There have been more things done in the 89th

Congress of the United States in the last two years than in any session of Congress since the Congress was organized with the formation of this great republic of ours.

You will get great cooperation. I say again, I am so happy that the President has put the Vice President in charge of this particular activity. I know your job, and we are anxious to help you in Washington. (Applause)

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I have to move along a little later over to a neighboring community, at Syracuse, New York, where we are going to have a fine meeting this evening with one of the largest agricultural cooperatives in the United States. I am looking forward to that. But I am also looking forward to this opportunity of being with you now, just as a neighbor and friend, for a few good, old-fashioned visit and social hour.

We are going to have, as one of the participants, just for a very few moments there, so you may join with the executive branch group here from the federal government, in the area of foreign policy one of the Assistant Secretaries for Public Affairs, Mr. Jordan.

I thought possibly that you might want to hear from him. He will make a short presentation, after we have time for a refreshment or two, and then you might want to ask

him some questions. These are problems that affect our lives, the issues of peace and war, where our country is going in the days ahead.

Let me conclude now by saying to you that there are things that you can do right now. Make yourself the captain of beautification in your community. I love that song, "America, the Beautiful." It is my favorite song. It's really great. The trouble is that sometimes, after I sing it, I take a trip in a car, and darn it, I just wonder when they wrote it.

I want to make sure that every word is meaningful, not only in terms of spirit, but practical, everyday living. You can make your town and your city just a little better. You really can.

Just one more bush, one more plant, just an old paint up and clean up.

I remember when I was Mayor, every year we had that, you know, get the resolution out and sign it, "Paint up and clean up week." I want to tell you, if we were as eager in the enforcement of our local ordinances on cleaning up property -- and there are ordinances in every community, make no mistake about it -- as we are in terms of catching the fellow that goes through a stop light,

or as we are in terms of catching ahold of some fellow who didn't pay his taxes, we could do a great deal. After all, they are violations of the law.

If we were willing to buckle down on just seeing to it that people took care of that property, I think we would make our cities and our towns a little better. We are going to live around here a long time, and there are going to be many more people living after us. Let's take good care of them.

The good Lord provided America with everything. I don't think we have any right to waste it. I am a conservationist. So are you. You have got the most beautiful section of America here in these New England states. It's really wonderful. You just take good care of it.

Promote tourism. You can do that in your town. Set up an information center. People are coming to see you by the thousands -- by the thousands. Don't wait for somebody to tell you. Grab the ball and run with it.

Remember, the biggest asset you have are the youth of your city. We had a Youth Opportunity Program this summer. People said we couldn't do much with it. We were able, by concentrated effort, with the help of you folks in the local communities, the business leaders of our country,

the labor leaders, the churches, the editors, the federal government, the state employment services, we were able to obtain gainful employment for a million young men and women who otherwise would have been without work. And I will tell you, that saved us a lot of grief.

You just have a million of these super-vitaminized youngsters around these corners, and you will think the atomic bomb looks like a dud firecracker compared to the amount of energy that they can explode. So we need to go to work to put these young people in youth employment opportunities, youth opportunities of every conceivable kind, including trying to find some answers about our school dropout program.

I notice some of you gentlemen there have been binding up your big folders. We sure did load you down. I'll tell you that. (Laughter) I hope you won't ask us questions about what is in there. But I do repeat to you that these can be very helpful to you. Try to study them a little bit and look them over.

Leave here in this spirit my friends. Your country is not seeking to build a welfare state in which the government takes care of everybody. That is the last thing that you and I ought to want. But what we are seeking to do

is to build a partnership between a government of the people and the people, so that there is a real state of opportunity for everybody in this country. We owe people that much.

I don't think we owe people, you know, just wealth and affluence, all the benefits of life, even if they do nothing. I think what we owe people in government is a chance to make something out of their lives, a chance to do something.

That is why we emphasize education, training. That is why we are emphasizing today doing things with our youth that will help them along life's way. That is why we are emphasizing getting at these hard core problems of poverty that are like a cancer in our social and economic structure.

I don't know how to get this job done unless everybody pitches in. I think the real reason that we are here is to tell you that we can't do it unless you help. In fact, the federal government can't do it at all. The best thing it can do is to help, and you are the front line fighters. You are the people that do it.

The people really identify government with you. After all, the federal government has its foreign

policy, defense, it has grants and aids. It regulates the big corporations. It regulates the big unions. But day in and day out, my friends, taking care of the streets, providing the water, seeing that there is a sewage disposal plant, making sure that the street light is on, zoning, all of that stuff which applies to people day in and day out, that's you.

I said when we came here that you are the ones we have got to work with. I want you to know that I am glad to be on the team. I volunteered for this assignment. We are going to be working with you. When we get this new department set up, you are going to have a home that you can come to in Washington to talk over your problems, to seek advice and counsel, and to give advice and counsel.

With that, we will see you over at the Art and Architecture Building of Yale University. I guess it is right across the street.

It will take you a few minutes, I know, to get yourselves all set to go. We will meet you over there.

Marie McGuire is here. She is from our Department of Housing and Home Finance, and our public housing program. Come on out here. She is very good-looking too. We have been going steady. (Applause)

You fellows can talk to Marie a little later. I have been spotting a couple out here that I am going to talk to. (Laughter)

With that, I want to wish you well, and wish you Godspeed and a safe return to your homes, and may everything come your way, as you wish it to be. Thank you very much. (Applause)

(The conference was adjourned at 4:45 PM.)

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