OPENING STATEMENT VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY ASSOCIATED PRESS POVERTY CONFERENCE WASHINGTON, D.C. NOVEMBER 8, 1965

Last December the President informed the Cabinet-level Economic Opportunity Council, at its first meeting, that he had asked me <u>"to take a leading</u> role in the War on Poverty -- to be sure that this is a well-coordinated, concentrated attack on poverty throughout the country." The President also asked me to serve as Honorary Chairman of the Advisory Council established by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. In the past year, I have worked with Sargent Shriver and his effective staff in the Office of Economic Opportunity. I have traveled throughout America carrying the message that this Administration intends to win the War on Poverty.

I also have been doing some looking and listening regarding public reaction to the poverty program in its first year.

I think I can sum up public reaction by saying that the War on Poverty has broad general support, but that there is also some misunderstanding about how it works, what it seeks to do, and how it ties into other public and private programs.

This is to be expected. Poverty has a wide range of causes and creates a wide range of problems. There is no single remedy for it. No single program will meet all needs. There are at least three levels of actions required, and we have been moving on all three.

First, there is the need for stepped-up economic activity.

We are now in our 56th consecutive month of economic expansion -- an expansion created by a positive partnership for prosperity between the public and private sectors.

GNP, wages and profits are up. Unemployment is down. Prices are relatively stable.

 \swarrow We in government have made our contribution to this expansion through careful use of fiscal and tax policy. We have pursued policies designed to avoid inflation. And we have, through economic development programs, sought to bring the benefits of economic expansion to all areas of the country.

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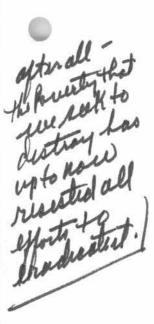
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I think it is important to understand that the <u>War on Poverty is much more than the Economic</u> Opportunity Act. It is being waged on many fronts.
The OEO programs alone -- in less than a year -- have already reached into over a thousand communities, and have directly involved millions of people.

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We must drop or change programs that do not work. Under the direction of Dr. Joseph Kershaw, we are now giving every federal poverty program, new as well as old, searching evaluation. If any program isn⁴t helping to get people out of poverty, we must know. We cannot stay with it one day longer than necessary.



<u>The War on Poverty requires inter-agency</u> <u>cooperation, and we have been getting it.</u>

Last March I was widely quoted in the press after I had told a group that the poverty effort would require "inter-agency cooperation, the likes of which this city hasn't seen."

And I added "I hope it can be done peacefully but if it can[®]t, it will be done."

Well, cooperation has proceeded peacefully. Federal agencies are pulling together, in the Job Corps program, in Project Head Start, and in many others. During the course of these sessions, you will see much evidence of this.

The new programs have caused some friction in our cities.

One of my principal assignments is that of liaison with the nation's mayors.

I know that the new Community Action programs have created some problems in the cities. Some of these have been difficult -- but I am confident that they are all possible of solution.

In the great majority of cases, it has been possible to work out the kind of program that reflects both of these objectives: full utilization of the local government *the function* machinery and maximum feasible participation on the part of the poor themselves. I do not think that these are incompatible. Hundreds of communities have already proved this. *Callon Magnetice Joint*

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For every federal dollar and every official man-hour of effort in the <u>War on Poverty</u>, there are several local or private dollars and man-hours. Our citizens are committed to winning this war.

A generation ago the American author Thomas
Wolfe expressed the goal we work for:

"To every man his chance, to every man regardless of his birth, his shining golden opportunity -- to every man the right to live, to work, to be himself and to become whatever thing his manhood and his vision can combine to make him -- this . . . is the promise of America."

Today, the wealthiest and most powerful nation on earth, we can make that promise come true.

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