REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

DEMOCRATIC DINNER

Jofferson Parish 11 ctn. Bussie

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

NOVEMBER 19, 1965

Let me begin today by saying how happy I am to see how well the people of this beautiful and lively city have erased the destructive marks of Hurricane Betsv. All of us were struck by the awesome fury of that hurricane as we followed the reports on radio and television. President Johnson was kept informed by-theminute by the Office of Emergency Planning. And he had full information from several sources by the time mus Edgar & Sterr he flew here.

But even with that grim information before him, may I say that the President was unprepared for the terrible suffering and destruction he found when he arrived. And he immediately declared Louisiana a major disaster area.

One thing those difficult days showed was this: Our government is neither too big nor too impersonal to react quickly and compassionately in time of emergency.

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The National Guard, the Corps of Engineers, the armed services and others moved into round-the-clock disaster posts -- first to assist the victims, then to restore communications, clear debris from the streets, and help reopen the schools.

Community action mayor - + courie

Then came federal agencies with medicine, vaccines and clothing. The Small Business Administration started processing disaster loans. The Agriculture Department began passing out 5 million pounds of food. The Housing and Home Finance Agency began relocating families.

These things, combined with the unconquerable spirit of Louisiana's people, helped those who lost so much to rise up and tackle the job of rebuilding. It is clear that you have done a marvelous job in a few short weeks.

May I also pay tribute to the members of your Congressional delegation.

Louisiana was the first state to get outright federal grants for property loss from a major disaster. The authorization for these grants moved through Congress in only eight days.

Rowa word about - 4 May I add that any legislation which has support of both Hale Boggs and Russell Long has a better-thaneven chance. I have seen Russell, as majority whip in the Senate, and Hale, as majority whip in the House, as they work effectively in Congress. And I know how often the President seeks their help and advice. As you may know, one of my great privileges while studying at Louisiana State was having Russell Long as my friend, We were together on the debating team and, side-by-side, we took on all comers. Russett and I continued our debating in the Senate sometimes together, sometimes with each other -- but always in friendship and mutual respect.

I also want to pay tribute to Senator Allen Ellender, who became my mentor in another phase of my education. I served on his Agriculture Committee shortly after coming to the Senate and took his <u>advanced course</u> in farm bill care and management.

As a former political science professor, I can tell you that this is a course for graduate students only. It is truly an education to watch Chairman Ellender shape up a good farm bill and steer it through the Senate. He's still doing it -- and the way he handled this year's omnibus farm bill shows he is getting better all the time. Louisiana is also fortunate to have a Governor with the leadership qualities of my friend John McKeithen. John McKeithen has become Louisiana's number 1 salesman, both in building an image of good government and in attracting new industry to the state.

The outlook for Louisiana's industrial growth has never been brighter. And a good share of the credit belongs to John McKeithen.

Governor McKeithen is helping build for the future. He is seeking for Louisiana what President Johnson seeks for all America: a fuller, more prosperous, happier life for each citizen, for each community.

Today we Americans are keenly aware of the high cost of wasted human resources -- a cost measured in hopelessness and helplessness . . . in resentment and rejction . . . and in the loss to our nation of valuable energy and talent.

This Administration is dedicated to the development of these resources. This Administration is dedicated to the proposition that every American deserves an equal chance to make his tomorrow better than today We see the Great Society not as a welfare state, but as a state of opportunity. While most Americans are making the most of their abilities -- enjoying the highest standard of living in man's history -- there still are far too many living without that opportunity. That is why this Administration, with the help of Congress, is waging an attack on ignorance, hunger and disease. That is why the American people are united in their dedication to the success of that effort.

We are united in our determination that our young people will have a chance to get a good education.

The Higher Education Act is bringing 7 million 7 1/- million 600 thousand dollars to Louisiana this year . . . the Elementary and Secondary Education Act more than 42 million dollars . . . the Health Professions Act 3 million, 300 thousand dollars for medical education. This is legislation that will do more for education than any legislation in our history.

We are united in our determination that all the people and all the places in our country should be brought into the mainstream of our economy.

We are moving ahead in that area with the Economic Opportunity Act, aimed at strengthening the economic and social structure of our nation, and with economic development programs to assist entire regions bypassed by our prosperity. We agree that relatives should not be separated because of barriers created by an outmoded immigration quota system. So we have passed a new immigration law that asks not "Where do you come from?" but "What can you do for America?"

We want our cities to be better places in which to live and work . . . and we want to preserve our nation's beauty and natural resources and historic landmarks. And we have passed legislation to do these things.

We are united in our concern for obtaining good medical care for our parents and grandparents. And we have just witnessed passage of a Medicare program for the elderly so they can live their older years in dignity.

The mental health and mental retardation program has brought 2 million 200 thousand dollars to Louisiana.

The Hospital and Health Care Program means 5 million 400 thousand dollars in new assistance here this year.

These programs are part of the most sweeping expansion of health care benefits since the 1930's.

Yes, we Americans are united in recognizing our responsibilities to our own people.

But we also are building a strong and free America able to meet our responsibilities in the world.

Today we know that it is within the means of men, for the first time in their history, to either destroy mankind or to extend mankind's benefits on a scale never seen before.

Our choice is clear. We must resist aggression. We must help those in the world -- the disinherited, the hungry, the humble, the weak -- who need our help. And we must pursue the peace. There is no alternative.

This, then, is what the Great Society is all about. It is the recognition that we can create in America a society of full opportunity.

We can offer each person and each community a chance to be better tomorrow than today.

And we can, with our wealth and power, lead all men toward days of peace and promise.

President Johnson has made clear his commitment to our American tomorrow. I join him in that commitment as do the great men who lead Louisiana. We ask your help.

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10) Our Joal is Peace We Know that make Can eithe destroy the manked - or offend mankinds denefits. To We must Pursue the peace -Build the Peace

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