

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY TO THE  
JOINT MEETING OF ADVISORY COUNCILS TO THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. -- JANUARY 7, 1966

This year the War on Poverty has been making steady progress. But we're going to need some of your cooperation and assistance when the Congress gets together next Monday. You must be prepared not so much to defend the program as to explain and advocate the necessity of the continuation, the extension and expansion of this very, very important national effort.

I've had the privilege within the last couple of weeks of making a rather quick, but intensive trip to areas of the world where poverty is the pattern of the day, rather than the exception. I've seen people in government and out of government who are dedicated to War on Poverty in America and look to us for guidance and for assistance. We have to wage many struggles these days -- some of them in the rice paddies in Southeast Asia and some of them in the slums and the countryside areas in the same region.

Mrs. Humphrey and I and an official party representing the President journeyed to the Philippines. A great accomplishment of the Philippines is the election of six presidents with ballots instead of bullets. It's one country in that part of the world that still believes in the democratic process and does have elections. It is important psychologically, politically and ideologically, that there is in that part of the world a freely elected government.

I happen to believe that the new President of the Philippine Republic is a very able man. He's extremely competent, he's highly intelligent, courageous, daring, and his wife, who is one of the most lovely and

beautiful women that you will ever meet, also is a very intelligent, able person.

I had a visit with Mrs. Marcos about her experiences in the campaign. She came from a well-to-do family in the Philippines and told me, "I never knew how the Philippine people lived until I was in this campaign. It's very unusual for women of my circumstances and my type of family to become involved in this sort of activity." But for one year she travelled the countryside, she saw the inadequacy of health, out-patient clinics, public health, the total inadequacy of the educational institutions, the poverty of the people, the sense of hopelessness and despair in many areas. She said that it was a real awakening and gave her a sense not only of urgency but of mission. Well now, if that prevails, there has been a great victory for the cause of freedom in that part of the world.

I went to another part of the world, Taiwan, and I saw there an ambitious, hard-working people. There isn't any doubt at all after having been in the Foreign Relations Committee as a Senator for 14 years, and given a good deal of time and attention to the observations and study of Foreign Aid, that no country in the world has done a better job with economic assistance and technical assistance than the Republic of China, on the Island of Formosa or Taiwan.

It's fantastic and it's been done because of competent, intelligent management, hard work, intensive work, dedication. Much of it has been done in the areas of agriculture, conservation, education. The rate of literacy is one of the highest in the world. It's about equal to that of Japan in that part of the world.

I saw this little country doing something that I think is going to stand us well in the days ahead. They're going to expand their programs of technical assistance. There are two small countries in the world that are doing more per capita in the field of technical assistance than any other country in the world, including our own -- the Republic of China and Israel. These are very small countries, with limited resources, except the greatest resource of all, which is the human being. They're putting their brain power to work where they don't have financial or physical power. The Republic of China will sponsor a \$25,000,000 technical assistance program in Africa and Latin America.

And what we do at home here for our less fortunate will tell the rest of the world whether we really mean what we say about their less fortunate. In this country about one-fifth of our population lives in poverty. In the rest of the world about four-fifths or at least two-thirds of the people are poverty-stricken. How we direct our energies to help our one-fifth help themselves will be very important in demonstrating the sincerity of our efforts throughout the rest of the world. If we can show that we're really concerned about those for whom too little concern has been shown in the past, then we come with good credentials to the multitudes and the masses of people abroad.

The Communists have always played on the fiction that they were the spokesman of the poor, that they were the spokesman of the people denied, the deprived, those that never had a break in life. I suggest that if we make this program work the way that it should, and the way that it can, we can not only say that we are the spokesman of the poor

but we will be that spokesman.

It's mighty difficult for the rich man living on the hill to have the understanding of the poor who live in the valley. Somehow or another we have to be able to identify ourselves with effective programs and policies that help that person who lives down at the end of the line to find his way to the path to the top of the hill. If we do, we're going to be effective and successful, not only at home but abroad.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your attendance here and your cooperation in this endeavor. Thank you.

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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ruth -

1/20/66

I started to edit these remarks before realizing that this was the only copy & that one copy should have gone unedited to the V.P. office.

Will this be o.k.  
for the records?

Evelyn Mittman  
OEO

OEO  
Advisory Councils Mtg  
January 7, 1966

Not Edited  
Remarks of the Vice President

Jan. 7, 1966

~~LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES -- THANK YOU~~

"I was just <sup>saying</sup> trying to explain to Mr. Shriver that I would like to join you a little bit later. This morning I am going to attend the funeral of a friend, and I surely want to be on my way <sup>within</sup> just a very few minutes. So if you will ~~per~~ permit me, I may come back here after the funeral services and join you in your discussions for a little while, ~~prior to going to a luncheon across the street here.~~ I asked <sup>talked with</sup> Mr. Bookbinder what I might do or say here to participate in this important gathering of the Advisory Committees ~~or Commissions~~ <sup>to</sup> of the OEO Program.

The first thing I would like to say is that that you ought not to believe everything you read. That's number <sup>one</sup> 1. And number <sup>two</sup> 2 is that the program itself ~~seems to me~~ is making general steady progress. We're maybe going to need some of your cooperation and assistance when the Congress gets together, <sup>we</sup> ~~We're~~ looking forward next Monday. And when the Congress <sup>does</sup> ~~will~~ reconvene, Sarge Shriver has a way of being able to mesmerize most of the members of Congress when the committee hearings are held, but this year, Sarge, you can't tell. They may have been eating raw beefsteak and gunpowder while they have been out on the hustings and if they have, <sup>why may</sup> you ~~do~~ have to bring in some of the reserves and I'm glad to see that the reserves are in good ~~trip~~ trim and ready to do battle. But in all sincerity, I do think that between now and the time the committees in Congress examine the operation of the War on Poverty or the Office of Economic Opportunity and the time that the budget is ~~represented~~ for this worthy program, that each of you in your own areas, the Advisory groups to which you are giving your talents and attention, that you be prepared ~~in~~ <sup>so much</sup> not to defend as ~~such as~~ to explain and advocate the necessity of the continuity, and the extension and ~~the~~ expansion of this very, very important program.



I thought possibly when I returned that if we have a few moments, if you'll let me, I'd like to explain ~~that~~ what I think of some of the international implications of this program as well as ~~its~~ domestic. I've had the privilege within the last couple of weeks of making a rather quick, <sup>but</sup> <sup>intensive</sup> trip, <sup>to</sup> ~~intensive~~, ~~but~~ the areas of the world where poverty is the pattern of the day, rather than the exception. And yet I've seen people in government and out of government <sup>who</sup> ~~that~~ are every bit as dedicated to this War on Poverty as we are and look to us for some guidance and for some example. We have to wage many struggles these days. Some of them in the rice paddies in Southeast Asia and some of them in the slums and the countryside ~~of~~ areas in the same region. Mrs. Humphrey and I and ~~a party~~ an official party representing the President, as you know, journeyed to the <sup>Philippines</sup> ~~Philippines~~. A great accomplishment of the <sup>Philippines</sup> ~~Philippines~~ is not its economic achievement but the fact that <sup>it has</sup> ~~it is~~ elected six presidents with ballots instead of bullets. I was talking to a gentleman yesterday who was quite discouraged when he observed the countryside of the Philippines, at least in and around Manila. The old Manila and the new Manila -- how the people have run away, ~~from the~~, that is, the middle income, ~~and~~ the upper income people, have literally run away from the old city and have left the old city to the poor and have left the poor.

I must say that while there <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ many ~~discouraging economic observations~~ ~~or~~ observations of the economy that were discouraging to me, at least it's one country in that part of the world that ~~is~~ still believes in the democratic process and does have ~~and~~ elections. I'm not sure that one can say that all elections <sup>are scrupulously</sup> ~~scrupulously~~ honest but you can't even say that about some parts of our own country. So that I don't think that we ought to be too critical. But it is important psychologically, politically and ideologically, that there is in that part of the world a freely elected

government. I happen to believe that the new President of the <sup>Philippine</sup> ~~Philippine~~ Republic is going to be a very able man. He's extremely competent, he's highly intelligent, courageous, daring, and his wife who is one of the most lovely and beautiful women that you will ever meet, also is ~~me~~ a very intelligent, able person. ~~And~~ I had a visit with her about her <sup>their</sup> experiences ~~in~~ in the campaign. By the way, ~~the~~ campaign lasts a year. This one was a year and a half. There are 7,200 islands and they were on over 400 of them where about 98 percent of the people live. They have to travel by small plane, boat, <sup>foot</sup> walk, horse, ~~horseback~~. She came from a well-to-do family. There is sort of an elite that governs the country, and all of her young lady friends were from families of similar circumstances. She told me ~~she says~~, "I never knew <sup>how</sup> ~~what~~ the <sup>Philippine</sup> ~~Philippine~~ people lived until I was in this campaign." She said, "it's very unusual for women of my circumstances and my type <sup>of</sup> family to become involved in this sort of activity." But for one year, she travelled the countryside, she saw the inadequacy of health, out-patient clinics, public health, the total inadequacy of the educational institutions, the poverty of the people, the sense of hopelessness, ~~the~~ and despair in many areas. ~~And~~ <sup>6</sup> She said that it was a real awakening and gave her a sense not only of urgency but of mission. <sup>Well</sup> While now, if that prevails, there has been a great victory for the cause of freedom in that part of the world.

I went to another part of the world, Taiwan, where there are not free elections at the top levels of government. However, there are at the lower levels and I saw there an ambitious, hard-working people and ~~I~~ all I could say



is that <sup>if</sup> the Chinese on the mainland are as active as the Chinese in <sup>Taiwan,</sup> ~~Tiwan.~~  
<sup>we</sup> ~~We~~ have problems, because there isn't any doubt at all after having been in  
the Foreign Relations Committee as a Senator for 14 years, and given a  
good deal of time and attention to the observations and study of ~~Foreign~~  
Foreign Aid, <sup>in the world</sup> that no country/has done a better job with economic assistance  
and technical assistance than ~~that in~~ the Republic of China, on the Island  
of Formosa or Taiwan. It's fantastic and it's been done because of  
~~management,~~ <sup>c</sup> competent, intelligent management, hard work, intensive work,  
<sup>t</sup> dedication. ~~And~~ Much of it has been done in the areas of agriculture,  
conservation, education, ~~the rate of illiteracy is not much worse~~  
~~than it is here.~~ ~~And~~ The rate of illiteracy is ~~what~~ one of the highest  
in the world. It's about equal to that of Japan in that part of the world.  
I saw this little country doing something that I think that is going to  
stand us well in the days ahead. They're going to ~~expand~~ expand their programs  
of technical assistance. <sup>you</sup> There ~~there~~ are two small countries in the world that  
are doing more per capita wise ~~than~~ in the field of technical assistance  
than any other country in the world, including our own. ~~And~~ Those two  
countries are <sup>the</sup> Republic of China and Israel, two very small countries, two  
with very limited resources, except the greatest resource of all, which is  
the human being. And they're putting their brain power to work where they  
<sup>don't</sup> ~~didn't~~ have money power ~~x~~ or physical power. I saw the outlines of it, and  
~~It~~ It will go into effect in an annual \$25,000,000 Technical Assistance program  
in Africa and Latin America from the Republic of China. And ~~for~~ \$25,000,000  
of their type of technical assistance is equivalent to about \$100,000,000 of  
ours, because they don't get paid the same.

And what we do at home here for our less fortunate, will tell the rest of the world whether we really mean what we say about their less fortunate. In this country one-fifth of our population is in ~~what we call the areas of~~ poverty. In the rest of the world, <sup>about</sup> four-fifths ~~is about~~, or at least two-thirds, is in ~~the area~~ that spectrum of human kind that we can call the poverty-stricken, the unfortunate, the deprived. Therefore, I believe that how we direct our energies to help our one-fifth help themselves, will be much more important to our acceptance abroad as to the sincerity of our efforts, ~~abroad~~ <sup>many</sup> than anything we could possibly do in ~~our~~ areas of our international endeavors. ~~Precept and example~~, <sup>example</sup>, if we can show that we're really concerned about those for whom too little concern has been shown in the past, then we come with good credentials to the multitudes and the masses of people abroad. The communists have always played on the ~~fact that they~~ fiction that they were the spokesmen of the poor, that they were the spokesmen of the people denied, the deprived, those that never had a break in life. I would suggest that if we make this program work the way that it should, and the way that it can, we can not only say that we are the spokesmen of the poor but we will <sup>be</sup> ~~be~~ that spokesman. ~~And~~ I have always felt the greatest limitation upon our success was our success, our economic success. It's mighty difficult for the rich man living on the hill to have the understanding of the poor that live in the valley. ~~And~~ somehow or another we have to be able to identify ourselves with effective programs and policies that helps that person who lives down at the end of the line, to find his way to the path to the top of the hill. ~~And~~ <sup>If</sup> we do, we're going to be effective and successful, not only at home but abroad.

I saw the time cards, Sol, my dear friend. I joined him for breakfast, he  
got guides me through my day, he is my light, my beacon, and I want you to  
know ~~something~~ Sol, that I ~~am~~ now proceed forth with and I'll try to join you  
a little later, Sarge, in this ~~disrupted~~ <sup>disrupted</sup> meeting. ~~Now~~ I want to thank ~~you~~  
each and every one of you for your attendance here and your cooperation ~~with~~ <sup>in</sup>  
this endeavor. Thank you.

end



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