

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

UPON ARRIVAL

AT

THE WILLOW RUN AIRPORT, DETROIT

FEBRUARY 7, 1966 10:00 A.M.

When President Johnson asked me to assume
responsibility for the Youth Opportunity Task Force
last summer, I thought of it { and the government
and business and labor leaders, the religious and civic
leaders from all parts of the country who compose the
Task Force, thought of it } - as a single shot operation
with a worth while, but limited goal: to find summer jobs
for young Americans. Our goal was met -- the Nation's
employers produced more than one million extra jobs for

1 Million
Jobs

our teen agers -- but we did not realize that our work was just beginning.

Since last summer, we have expanded our thinking and our efforts to meet what we now recognize as a far broader social and economic problem. From an original focus upon activity between school years, we moved to a back to school campaign. And many youngsters were encouraged to return to school this fall because businessmen, public officials and school authorities saw the problem clearly and mobilized their efforts accordingly. Since then, we have sought to develop job opportunities for those out of school, and for graduates of such Federally assisted training programs as the Job Corps and the Neighborhood Youth Corps.

Now we are turning from what might be called "remedial medicine" to preventive: we want young people to stay in school. For of those who leave, despite all the best intentions and best efforts of family and friends, tragically few return. And the school dropout not only does measurable damage to his own prospects for development -- he also inflicts needless injury upon his community, and upon his Nation.

Today we come to Detroit -- and, tonight, to Cleveland -- to focus our own attention ... and yours ... on this foolish waste of human resources. It is entirely appropriate that we spend the day in the Detroit metropolitan area, for no city, or county, or area, better exemplifies the lessons we have learned.

What are those lessons? They are --

that no community can succeed in attacking this social ailment unless all elements of a diverse community join hands and hearts in common cause.

that no government program, however well meaning or well financed, can grasp the special needs of a community as perceptively -- or respond to them as effectively -- as can concerned and knowledgeable citizens of the community itself; and

∟. that of all the talents the school
and public officials must develop in
that complex urban society toward
which 20th century America is rapidly
moving, few outrank the ability to make
imaginative, intelligent use of Federal
resources.

∟ And the Detroit metropolitan area is
itself a classroom for the study of just
these lessons.

∟ For here, in this community, you have --
. welded together a remarkable consensus
of labor and management, of the public
and the private interests;

You.fashioned an anti-poverty program which
did not wait for the Federal programs to
become law;

You earned a reputation as a city and an
area which, first to receive a major grant
of the Economic Opportunity Act, is
second to none in the ability to make
good use of it.

L So I am delighted to be here in the Detroit
area for a first hand view of what can be
done by those who learned these lessons
long before much of the rest of the Nation--
and long before many of us in Washington.

We will go, first, to a discussion of
the dropout problem with high school students,
gathered at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti--
and, if prior experience is any guide, I expect
to learn at least as much as I teach. / Mrs. Humphrey
will then leave for a special love of her own -- a
pre-school project in Inkster -- and I will visit a *manpower*
~~thoughtful~~ training program of which the Chrysler
Corporation and the U.A.W. are sponsors, planners ...
and proud parents. / We go then to the Philip Murray
High School, for an extended give and take session
with high school leaders and with community
leaders. Tonight, we'll be in Cleveland, where I'll

meet with the National Association of Secondary
Schools *principals*.

It's a full day -- but one which I
look forward to. We're glad to be here.



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