

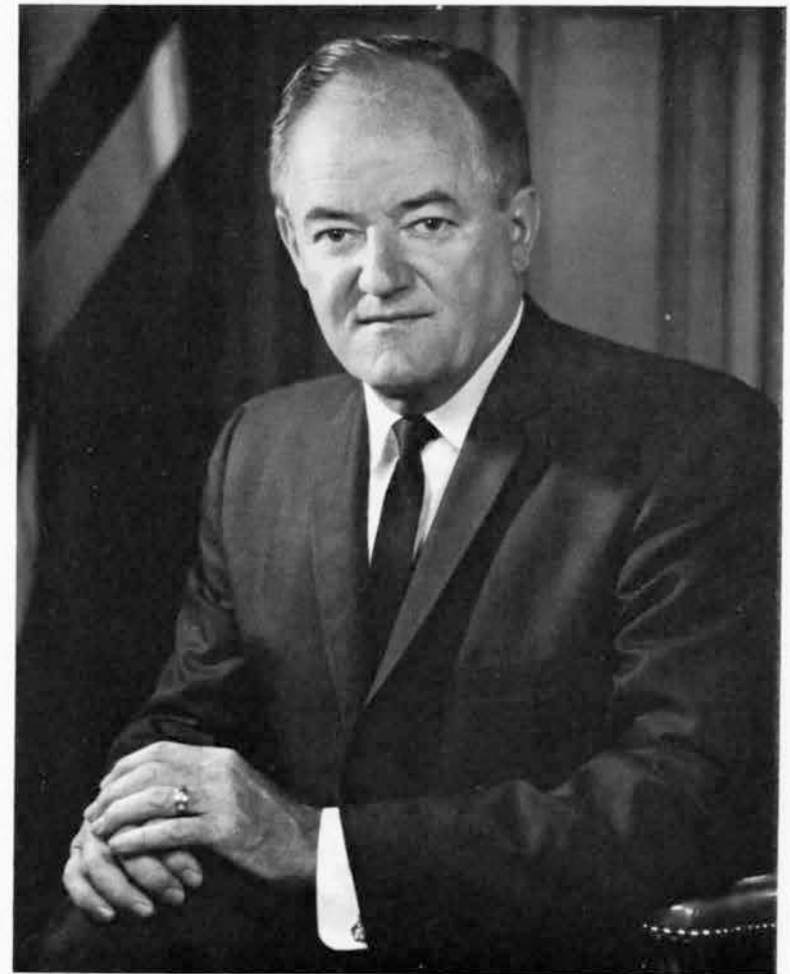
BETTER CITIES FOR TOMORROW

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Vice President of the United States



Excerpts from remarks by Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey before the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Dallas, Texas, June 13, 1966, published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.



MAYOR JONSSON, I want you to know what a special privilege it is to come to Dallas. I think that I speak for every single person in this audience today when I say that you and Dallas have really done a great job for all the mayors and the people here.

I gather that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development brought you a message that meant a great deal to you. I want to say this, we are lucky and fortunate in this country to have a man who has devoted his life to the problems that face every one of us in our metropolitan areas, one who has been dedicated to making the American city

a better place to live. I salute Bob Weaver for giving unstintingly, unselfishly, and wholeheartedly of his talent and his life to the development and improvement of our great metropolitan areas. Secretary Weaver, every one of us is grateful to you.

We know what the problems are that face our cities and our rural areas as well. We are also quite sure of the solutions. The difficulty comes in how to apply the solutions and in what measure.

Individuality in an Urban Society

This Nation becomes more urbanized every day. But, with that knowledge comes a whole matter of evaluation and analysis of what urbanization means to the American individual. Can a person preserve his own individuality in the complex of a metropolitan urban society? Can we really maintain in our urban society the same values, the same ideas, and the same ideals that were given to us by the Founding Fathers in rural America? I think so, or I would not be here.

I think that these ideals of human liberty and freedom, of human dignity, are just as relevant and just as pertinent to the urban life as they are to a more simple and less complex life of early rural America. It is, however, a great challenge to make these ideals meaningful, practical, and realistic to the individual.

I like to speak in terms of the individual and not in terms of the mass. I like to think that our country represents personalities and not just a conglomerate, an aggregate. We are trying to build cities today that in a very real sense emancipate man from the tyranny of poor, or even hostile, environments, to give him a chance for individuality.

Needed: A National Commitment

So I say, our cities are in ferment. They are changing far more rapidly than many of us can comprehend. Another fact of modern-day life is that no single community can meet the demands made of it without some help. The local tax base is inadequate to the demands that are placed on the locality by an ever-growing population. A national effort must be made.

As a Nation, we are committed to many great causes. For example, I am Chairman of the Space Council of your Government. This Council is responsible for all of the development and research that go into the exploration of this whole new world called "outer space." I am for this effort; for it has added great things to our country by improving our industry, by advancing our educational system and research capabilities, and in general upgrading our skills. We are going to spend vast sums of money, but we must for our security, for our science, for our technology, for our education, and for the prestige of this Nation.

Breakthrough on Earth

But, any nation that can spend 25 to 35 billions of dollars to put a man on the moon also must make up its mind that it can spend what is necessary to help put a man on his feet right here on earth.

Economic Growth

This is a big country, this is a rich country, and we intend to keep it that way. We are approaching a gross national products this year of three-quarters of a trillion dollars. Our gross national product increase—just the increase this year—is greater than the total gross national product of all of South America. The increase in Federal revenues without any change in the tax schedule is about eight million dollars a year because of this GNP increase.

Our economy must continue to grow if we are to fulfill our many commitments. We have some problems. We have a rising cost of living and some indications of inflation. We must be very careful to avoid inflation. Because of certain warning signals, such as rising prices, we have asked local government officials to review capital expenditures now. We are not giving you any magic formulas; we are merely asking you to exercise your best judgment and defer for a few months any expenditures which will not put the health and welfare of your communities in jeopardy.

Patience and Experimentation

I know if I could just come here and promise you all the money you want and need, it would seem to be the solution to everything. Your Federal Government cannot furnish all the money to meet all the needs of every community in this country. I am not here to tell you that, and I don't think anybody else with any degree of responsibility is going to tell you that. We have made great progress, but accomplishing great tasks takes time. It takes time to build a business; it takes time to rear a family; it takes time to get an education; it will take time to rebuild our cities.

There is no formula for Utopia. In America, we must experiment. Our system contemplates failures and successes. History confirms our faith in this system, because no other country has been as successful.

A Voice for Our Cities

So, it took time to bring about the Department of Housing and Urban Development. But at long last, we have a representative of our cities in the President's Cabinet. It took time and it is going to take more time to get this whole establishment set. One of the things I admire Secretary Weaver most for is that he is taking the time to see that his de-

partment will be organized with the deliberateness necessary to have a good department. The mayors of the United States must surely realize this time factor. Who hasn't found that it takes months—sometimes years—to get agreement on an underpass or a redevelopment plan or other major public action?

A Great Beginning

We've been making some progress—new laws and new commitments. In education, there has been an explosion. There have been breakthroughs in health, social welfare, and we are consciously waging war on poverty. We are making great beginnings. It may take a few more years, but we are certainly closer than we were 10,000 years ago. We are turning the tide in our striving toward beauty. At least, people are conscious of the fact that when you drive along the highway you ought not to see all the refuse of humanity. There is a growing determination that the monument to this country is not going to be a gutter full of beer cans. We're making progress in cleaner air and purer water. Our search for economic growth and stability shows much progress. All of these benefit our cities and our people, but they are just beginnings.

Are we doing enough? Of course not. But we are accelerating our rate of progress—in some areas faster than it can be absorbed, I'm afraid. An example of this is aid to education. We are pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into education, and there is hardly a State in this Union that has been able to use the funds allocated to it—including my own State. If we could pass a budget tomorrow morning for 10 billion dollars more for the cities, there would still be some cities that could not gear up to put that money to work.

What is important is the steady progress and our insisting that we do more. I think we are beginning to do that; we are accomplishing that steady progress within the expansion of our economy, within our available resources. And for this progress this Nation owes a debt of gratitude to the mayors of this country. You've been there in Washington at the critical moments, you've testified, and you've proven in your cities that progress can be made and that your ideas will work both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Full Citizenship for All Americans

Now despite our prosperity there are still more than 30 million Americans who suffer degrading poverty. Our biggest task in this country is to upgrade people, to help them improve their lives by developing talent and skills so that they become more productive. When people live in despair and hopelessness bred of filth and poverty, it is difficult to motivate them toward first-class citizenship. But, to accomplish our goals in urban areas, all must be first-class citizens. We have touched the

lifeline of every culture and every civilization so we are all entitled to first-class citizenship with its privileges and responsibilities.

Battling Slumism

There is a term I have been trying to impress upon the American people. Sometimes, we try to simplify our problem. When we think about the world today and we talk about violence and terror, assassination and aggression, and all of these things, we generally say it is communism. Well, it's not all communism. I happen to believe that if there never had been a Karl Marx or Lenin or Stalin that there would still be many problems in this world that would terrify us and shake us out of our complacency. We have some Communists, not many, but they are noisy, militant, and bothersome.

But, there is another and bigger problem facing us. I call it slumism, and slumism is more than just a dirty section of an old city or even a rundown section of a relatively new city. The enemy within our gates is slumism; it is poverty; it is illiteracy; it is disease; it is discrimination; it is frustration; and it is bitterness. Slumism is ungathered garbage and dilapidated buildings.

I want to say that many of our municipal services are upside down; we have the better schools in the areas where there is higher income. It should be the other way around, or at least the schools should be equal. The garbage collection is usually much better where you and I live. The streets that get the dirtiest are in the areas where the people have never been taught self-discipline.

Slumism is a family of eight in an unheated room in the northern United States. Rat-infested tenements in the richest country on the face of the earth are unpardonable. Slumism is danger in the park at night or on your own stairway. Slumism is the pent-up anger of people living on the outside of prosperity; it is a rent so high that a man becomes desperate—moved either to tears or to crime. It is a virus that spreads, that races like a malignancy through our cities, breeding disorder, disillusionment, and hate. We simply must declare war on this evil, just as we have on Communist aggression.

Planning for Action

Slumism is attacking our cities rapidly; it is taking over city after city.

We have the resources, we have the manpower, and we have the know-how. We can put these things to work if we have the will, the perseverance, and a plan of action.

But, we are not going to win any struggle overnight. Americans have to learn there are no instant solutions to age-old problems. We have to learn to be persevering, patient, and yet keep a sense of impatience.

Such a sense of impatience can best be put into well-thought plans of action. I learned this from General Westmoreland in Viet Nam. Some-

times, you get derailed; sometimes, things come up that you don't understand, that you did not contemplate. We need a plan of action to keep objectives and priorities in focus, and as a Nation we are developing one. We must have one if we are going to defeat slumism.

Viet Nam and Our Cities

The struggle in Southeast Asia takes a good deal of our resources. But let me point out it is not a much larger percentage of our Gross National Product than it was two years ago. The defense budget went from 7.7 percent of the GNP to 7.8 percent in that period. In the Korean conflict, that figure was almost doubled. So, it isn't as if we are draining all our resources; the figures are big, but so is the income.

That war is not going to last forever. Your Government is determined to find an honorable solution, a peace that gives the people in Viet Nam a chance for self-determination. We think that this is important for our Nation and for the world. We think it will be important in terms of our incomes and budgets for the years to come. If all of Southeast Asia goes down the Communist drain, I think we will have more to pay. The insurance we are fighting for in Viet Nam is a wise investment for security and freedom in this world. I have the same prayer that you have. No one is more unhappy about this tragic struggle than the man who is talking to you—unless it is the President.

That tragic struggle will come to an end. When it does, there will be more resources available for your cities. We have to be prepared to take advantage of that opportunity.

Tools of Opportunity: Rent Supplements

Among the programs looking toward that opportunity is rent supplements. You know what it is all about. You know how public housing works; when a family's income goes over the limit set for your community, even just a little, the family must move. Rent supplements offer the same standards of limitation with the exception that if the family can pay its own way in this housing, the supplement is withdrawn, the full rent is paid, and the family doesn't have to move. Now, public housing costs twice as much as the housing generated by rent supplements. This will be taxpaying housing. It is a better way to house families on their way up. I ask you to help us get the appropriation for fiscal year 1967 passed.

Demonstration Cities

Another tool of opportunity is the Demonstration Cities Program. Secretary Weaver has told you about it. This is an Administration bill; the President is for it; Secretary Weaver is for it; and the Vice President is for it. We are fighting for it, and we want it the way you want it. We want more than just planning money; we want planning and action money. We are committed to that.

The Demonstration Cities Program will be an increment of new money for your city. You will not lose a single program you have now. In addition to these regular, ongoing programs, special grants would be extended to demonstration cities. These grants would not be siphoned away from other Federal programs.

I want to emphasize also that the benefits of this program would be available to those cities—on a first-come, first-served basis—who have plans to show that they are ready to mount a full-scale attack on the slum problem. Get yourself organized; get your plans; and have a program that really makes your city a demonstration city.

Your Program and Your Challenge

Critics of this proposal do not attack it as a bad bill, but rather out of the fear, it seems, that it isn't big enough and that everybody can't participate immediately, or that only the big cities have a chance. Big cities need this program and can use it. But, the greatest beneficiaries will possibly be the smaller cities, because they are getting organized and this program would enable some of them virtually to eliminate slums and blight.

The ultimate size of the Demonstration Cities Program will be determined not by any figures or numbers game resulting from academic or even congressional debate, but by the cities themselves and their ability to put to work all these aids in a concentrated way. This will not be instant slum clearance. It will be a continuing program that begins with large-scale planning, continuous action, and social as well as economic rehabilitation. So my plea to you is: let's get the program started. Then, we can measure our rate of expansion by our readiness to put these demonstrations into large-scale operations.

The City Beautiful

Let me conclude with a word about committing yourselves to making the American city the city beautiful. The city should be the finest place in the world to live—with libraries, symphonies, radio and TV, cultural and recreational facilities, modern shopping areas, clean water and air, hospitals and health facilities. The city should be the finest institution of man's creation. It should be, but it isn't.

Now, if we could only have some examples of how you can build a magnificent community—not only in public structures, but in better, happier people and in removing tensions! The first American city that rehabilitates its structure and its soul, its facilities and its spirits, its buildings and its people, will ignite a flame which will attract the attention of every single citizen of this land.

That is what the Demonstration Cities Program is all about. I came down here to ask you to help create it.

✓ Erik
Jonsson
Paul Blandell
Bob Weaver

Mayor Neal Blandell

(Joe Barr) REMARKS Rabbi Klein (Canonbury)
Mayor Jonsson of Dallas

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

Bob the money

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Jerry Cavanaugh

✓ Dallas Hospitality

DALLAS, TEXAS

JUNE 13, 1966

Sest Weaver

(John Gunther)

✗ Mayor Tapani
Taiwan by
Representing China

My fellow Mayors, I am here to carry coals to
Newcastle. I am going to talk about our cities and their
problems.

You live with those problems 24 hours a day, as
I did when I was Mayor of Minneapolis -- and as I still
do, as a matter of fact, as the President's liaison with
local government.

I need not tell you that this is a time of ferment
in our cities. It is a time when demands are made on
you -- demands for services which most of you don't have
enough tax revenues to pay for.

Time
7
Ferment!

No single

No single community can meet these demands alone and without help. That is why there are more than 50 major programs of federal assistance to local government.

During this fiscal year there will be a total of 13.6 billion dollars in federal aid payments to state and local units.

HUP

The Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965, passed by this Congress and signed into law by President Johnson, is designed to help meet the needs of our nation's mayors.

Brubaker

This Act established the Department of Housing and Urban Development -- putting in the President's Cabinet a spokesman for the needs of the majority of Americans who live in cities.

X

Beyond establishment of the new Department, these past two years have been a time of breakthroughs —

Breakthroughs

Beginnings and Commitments. These Programs will be funded according to the growth of the Economy and the ability & Capacity of local Govt to participate.

Hold for p. 3

Legislative Reapportionment gives you a
better chance with your state Govts.
- 3 -

new laws and new national commitments in education,
in housing, in transportation, in health, in social welfare
. . . in the war against poverty . . . in beautification . . .
in support of artistic and cultural progress . . . in our
efforts for cleaner air and water . . . in our search for
continued economic growth and prosperity -- all benefiting
the American city. (Back to bottom of Page 2)

I will take the full measure of credit for the Johnson-
Humphrey Administration. But I give credit, too, to the
American people -- and the people who lead them in their
communities -- for asking for and supporting these things.

out
L We can take pride in our national investments in
self-help, in enterprise, in opportunity, in social justice
and social welfare.

L We can take satisfaction in our more than 700-
billion-dollar economy.

L We can be proud of not only the quantitative change, but of the qualitative change as well. For who will deny that America today is a freer, happier nation than it was even last year, or last month.

L But none of us can say that all is right with America.

L Despite our prosperity, more than 30 million Americans suffer degrading poverty.

L Despite our laws and our national commitment, many Americans do not enjoy full first-class citizenship -- because of their skin color, their religion, their last name, or the place they come from.

L Despite our housing and urban development, and education and health programs, large parts of America's cities are not fit for daily life.

L The enemy today within our gates is "slumism."

Slumism

2 Slumism is poverty . . . illiteracy . . . disease.

Slumism is discrimination and frustration and bitterness.

2 Slumism is ungathered garbage and dilapidated buildings. 2 Slumism is a family of eight in an unheated room. Slumism is danger on the stair and violence in the street.

2 Slumism is rent so high a desperate man is moved to tears, or crime. Slumism is the pent-up anger of people living on the outside of affluence.

2 Slumism is decay of structure and deterioration of the human spirit.

2 Slumism is a virus which spreads through the body politic.

2 ^{with} As other "isms", it breeds disorder and demagoguery and hate.

∟ We must make our declaration of war against slumism. It is a war in which all of us must enlist and our goal can be nothing less than total victory.

∟ We have the resources -- ^{the} ~~in~~ know-how, ^{the} ~~in~~ manpower,

^{the} ~~in~~ capacity -- to abolish the scourge of slumism. And we must

have the will to do it. the Persistence!

∟ If we are to defeat slumism, we will need breadth of thinking and of action. —

∟ And this is what the President has proposed -- and what the Congress is now considering -- in the Demonstration Cities Bill. — Rent Supplements — a word on this!

∟ I ask your active support for this Bill.

∟ In this Bill, we have called for action to rebuild completely, on a scale never before attempted, entire central and slum areas of our cities.

✓ The provisions of the Demonstration Cities Bill would meet problems of slums and blighted areas in which over four million families live in conditions that violate decent housing standards and exact a high toll in human suffering and in cost to their communities.

This is an exciting program. It aims at human as well as physical renewal.

In addition to adequate housing at low and moderate costs, it would provide for public facilities and education, health, and social services needed to help people in slum areas to become useful, productive citizens able to participate fully in community life.

The complete array of existing federal grant and urban aid programs in the fields of housing, renewal, transportation, education, welfare, economic opportunity, and related programs would be available to achieve the objectives of the demonstration program.

The initiative and solution for local problems would have to come from you. - *7-11-68, in planning Dept. Planning done by you.*

↳ You would have to be willing and able to undertake the actions and responsibilities required of such a program.

The federal role would be one of support for your community's activities. We would help with funds to pay for your costs of planning and developing demonstration programs, and would make available -- worked out by a special formula -- supplemental grants to pay 100 per cent of the cost of any type of activity approved under the Demonstration Cities program.

↳ The program would mean a substantial increment of new money for the city. It would mean that, ¹¹in addition to the regular federal program funds, special federal grants would be extended to Demonstration areas. They would not supplant funds for existing programs, nor would they be siphoned away from other federal programs elsewhere.

And I want to emphasize that the benefits of the program would be available to ~~all~~^{those} cities with plans which show they are ready to go ahead with a full-scale attack on the slum problem. There is no established limit on the number of cities which may participate.

It is an odd paradox -- not unknown, I might say, in politics that the misgivings some people have raised about this Demonstration Cities program are not based on the thought that it is a bad program -- but that it is a good one.

The fears seem to be that it isn't big enough . . . that everyone can't get in on it right off the bat . . . or that only big cities have a chance . . . or that the funds promised in the bill will cancel out or curtail programs we already have underway.

I think we ought to clear away some of those myths, and straighten a few things out. It is a good program -- agreed. It is a challenging and dramatic program.

Our big cities need it and can use it. But the greatest beneficiaries may well be our smaller communities, for they have already shown great interest in its use. This program will have no lower limit on size -- and in the case of smaller towns, it could be that such a program will virtually eliminate the entire problem of blight.

As to the size of this program: Its ultimate size will be determined not by any figures or numbers game resulting from academic debate. It will be determined by the cities themselves as they are ready to move forward on their own front to capitalize and put to work all these aids in a concentrated way.

But this is not "instant slum clearance." It is a continuing program that begins with large-scale planning, continuous action, and social as well as economic rehabilitation.

Let's get this program started. Then we can measure our rate of expansion by your readiness to put these demonstrations into large-scale operation.

This is not a proposal to cancel or curtail anything that is now being done. It is a proposal to expand and augment what we are already doing.

All of the programs now operating -- in urban renewal, housing, the poverty field, public facilities -- will continue to operate at their full levels.

The Demonstration Cities Bill offers an added source of federal funds to expand and magnify the effects of the programs we have thus far developed.

Furthermore, these additional funds are 100 per cent grants. They can be used for any purpose consistent with the Demonstration Area program.

L In short, the Demonstration Cities program is a program to help you do far more, to do it better and more effectively than you have been doing. With this legislation, every mayor can raise his sights and enlarge his field of action for the needs of the areas and the people that today are his most difficult problems.

L What we ask of you is that you be willing to commit fully your local energies and resources to a program that will have widespread and profound effects on the physical and social structure of your city.

L There is no question about our ability to achieve our goals. There should be no question about our willingness to commit ourselves to their achievement.

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June 13, 1966

Dallas, Texas

FILE
U.S. Conference

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HUBERT HUMPHREYS ADDRESS

MAYOR BLAISDELL:

Ladies and Gentlemen the Vice-President of the United States.

[V.P.] Thank you very much. Thank you Mayor Blaisdell, thank you for adhering strictly to the outlines of protocol, I wouldn't have minded if you had bragged on me a little bit ahead of that. (Laughter) My good friend, Secretary Weaver, the man with the money, I want you to know as we came down the elevator I had to take Joe Barr's hand out of Bob Weavers pocket three times (laughter) and then I saw Mayor Collins and Mayor Cavanagh shoving poor Joe around, it's gotten to be quite a display of who was going to get the checkbook first there in the elevator.

I do want to pay my respects to every officer of the United States Conference of Mayors, it is impossible for me to just go up and down through this dais and select each one for the word of praise and commendation and friendship that I should like to give. If I had my choice, and today I do, of where I would like to be and with whom I would like to be associated I would say it is with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, with the Mayors and their wives and friends and I am happy to be here.

Mayor Jonnson I want you to know what a special privilege it is for a Minnesotan to come to Dallas and find a Swede, (laughter) just made

me feel so much at home, It sort of reminds me of when I was in Australia not long ago. I arrived in Australia at about 5:30 in the evening at Canberra, the Capitol, and it was a lovely evening magnificent and a lovely sunset with a rather soft breeze and I said to the Prime Minister, Mr. Holt. "what a wonderful welcome you have given to us, it is like a Texas sunset". Of course I was playing for both Dallas and Washington on that occasion (laughter) and he thanked me. The next morning when I awakened I opened the window at Ambassador Clark's residence and there was a cool breeze that came through that window and it was just so wonderful, it reminded^{me}/of those brisk mornings out in Minnesota. Then during the day I went to the Parliament to meet with the officers of the government and when I arrived at the Parliament, just to show you how these Australians will go out of their way to make you feel at home, they had the Texas sunset and they had the Minnesota sunrise, and they had some demonstrators and some pickets out there (laughter).

That noon we had a luncheon where the Vice-President was supposed to say a few words to the assembled officers of government and I thanked the Prime Minister and the Cabinet for their hospitality, just as I thank Mayor Jonsson today for his hospitality and I said that you have gone out of your way and I recited once again the sunset, the sunrise and then the pickets and I said it just makes

VICE-PRESIDENT ROBERTS ADDRESS Page 3

me feel so comfortable, so much at home, but I said you have really gone beyond what I thought was the call to duty, you not only had pickets, but mind you the head of the pickets was born in Brooklyn educated in California and had gone to Australia under a Federal Scholarship (laughter and applause). Now I can say that the only experience in my life that compares to that is to have a Swede as Mayor of Dallas when I arrived here (laughter) and for a man whose mother was born in Norway let me tell you that I am giving him great praise (laughter), but I do want you to know Mr. Mayor that as I was sitting here at this table, Neil Blaisdell told me again and again of the graciousness and the hospitality that has been extended here to all of your visitors and I thought you ought to know Mayor Jonsson that every one of us are most grateful to you, I am particularly grateful to you for your kindness and I think that I speak for every single person in this audience today when I say that you and Dallas have really done a great job for all the Mayors and the people here (applause).

Now I must just for the moment mention the man who gave us our invocation, Rabbi Klein, and I do so not only because of my respect for him but I sit along side of these good Mayors and every time anybody gets up and does anything that looks like it might be important Joe Barr says "you know he is from Pittsburgh" and I said "are you sure" and he said "well it is Cannonsburg, not Pittsburgh

and it is a suburb of Pittsburgh" (laughter). Of course to Joe Barr the last suburb of Pittsburgh is San Antonio, other than that it takes in most everything and I pay my respects today to the Mayor, a visiting Mayor from one of our great friends, a long ways away but in this shrinking world of ours not so far at that. We have with us as you know the Mayor of Taipeh, Taiwan, the Republic of China and he came here today to be with you, he came by to say hello to me. I was in Taipeh not long ago and I found some wonderful people there and I hope the good Mayor will take back the greeting of all of his friends in the United States to our good friend and good ally the Republic of China in Taipeh, Taiwan. (applause)

Well I guess what I am supposed to do, the President sent Bob Weaver down here to keep an eye on me and I had better stay on target. You have already had a wonderful morning, you have had your opening and reception so to speak, your keynote from the Mayor of Dallas, you have heard from Neil Blaisdell, I understand that Neil gave you a real stem winder and you know Neil you almost sound like a Democrat when I hear about all those speeches you give (laughter) and then I gather that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development brought you a message that meant a great deal to you. I want to say this, we are mighty lucky, mighty fortunate in this country to have a man who has literally grown up with the problems that face every one of us in our metropolitan areas, one whose whole life has

been dedicated to making the American City the most beautiful of this country and I salute a man who is giving unstintingly, unselfishly and wholeheartedly of his talent and his life to the development and the improvement of our great metropolitan areas and Mr. Weaver, Mr. Secretary every one of us are grateful to you.

(applause)

There are a few generalizations that I think are appropriate for an occasion like this. There isn't a single thing that I can tell you that you don't already know but I am going to take some of your time anyway and maybe we will just learn a little more by repetition. I don't say this facetiously because I think we do know what the problems are that face our country, our cities, yes our rural areas as well. We are not always quite sure about the solutions but we have identified most of the problems and then of course with the solutions comes some rather difficult judgements as how to apply them and in what measure and what dosage. Every one of know that this nation of ours is being more urbanized every day, that we know, but with that knowledge comes a whole matter of evaluation and analysis of what urbanization means to the American individual. Can a person preserve his own individuality in the complex or a metropolitan urban society? Can we really maintain the same values, the same ideas and the same ideals that were given to us in a very real sense by founding fathers in rural American, in urban society? I think so or I wouldn't be here, I think so, I think that these ideals of human liberty and of freedom, of human dignity are just

as relevant and just as pertinent to the urban life as they are to a more simple and less complex life of early rural America, but we have some doing to make these ideals meaningful, practical and realistic to the individuals. This country is dedicated to individual enhancement, individual enrichment, there is one word that I do not like, and that is the word "mass". Now I graduated first in Pharmacy and I know about what we call the mass, the pill mass out of which we used to make pills to cure your ills, but that is about as far as Mass ever appealed to me in terms of a subject matter. I like to speak in terms of individuals, I like to think that our country represents personalities and not just a conglomerate, an aggregate and we are trying to build cities today that in a very real sense emancipate man from a total environment, give him a chance for individuality so I say our cities today are in ferment, there is a yeast about them. Our cities are changing and they are changing far more rapidly than many of us can comprehend. What is another fact that we can pin down today, that no single community can meet the demands on the community without some help. The fact of the matter is that the local tax-base is inadequate to the demands that are placed on the locality by the ever growing population of the community. Now that is just a fact and once we come to grips with that then we have to find some solutions. We can find those solutions, anyone that can figure out how to put a man in space and bring him back and how to put a man on the moon and establish

a station on the moon that is man inhabited and bring that man back, ought to be able to figure out how to funnel sufficient funds into a community to take care of the wants and needs of the people that live there. We are just going to have to buckle down to the task of getting it done. I'll put it another way. This great nation of ours has many great commitments and I know you have been talking about them. I want to say a word about them to you, I am Chairman of The Space Council of your government, now the Space Council has as its responsibility and duty the coordination of all our efforts in space, civilian and military, the international aspects of space, all of the development and research that go into this exploration of this whole new world called "outer space". I am for it, as Chairman I believe in it, I think it has added great things to our country, improved our industry, it has surely advanced our educational system and particularly higher education. It has upgraded our skills but I put it this way to you. We are going to spend vast sums of money to put a man on the moon and it is important that we do so for our security for our science, for our technology, for our education, for the prestige of this nation, for many reasons. Don't misunderstand me, very, very, very, important. Any nation that can spend 25 to 30 to 35 Billions of dollars to put a man on the moon also must make up its mind that it can spend what is necessary or at best what is necessary to help put a man on his feet right here on earth. (applause)

Now having said that someone is going to say, well that was a good generalization and that is what it was, it was a generalization but this is a big country and this is a rich country and we intend to keep it that way. We are approximating about 740 billion dollars gross national product this year. Our increase in gross national product this year was greater than the total gross national product of all of South America, just our increase. The increase in Federal Revenues without any change at all in the tax schedule is about 8 million dollars because of that increase up. We are a growing country and we want to keep it that way, now that reminds me lets not get the country out of balance here, we have some problems, we have a rising cost of living, we have some indications of inflation in this country and every one of us here that have had any health problems at all know that when you get these warning signals the best thing to do, unless you want to have a little early meeting with your maker, is to try to heed those warning signals and therefore we have suggested to every Mayor, every local official and the Federal Government, take a good look at your capital expenditures now, it doesn't mean that you have to put them off forever, it means that you have to be selective just like you have to be in a family, Last night I talked to my wife about some of our commitments for the coming year. We have three sons in college, two this year one more coming up, we have other problems and I said dear, there are just

some things we are not going to be able to do this year, there are some things we have to do and that is exactly what it is like in government. I'd like to go just the whole way, I like the good life, boy no man in America believes it or enjoys it more than Hubert Humphrey, but you know every once in awhile I find there just isn't enough to go around. Therefore we are asking you, not with any formula, you don't need any formula, listen if all we passed out to you was formulas, we wouldn't need any mayors that were as intelligent as you. I tell the people in my office, listen the reason you get paid what you do is that you are supposed to have some sense and if you don't have enough sense to make some qualitative judgements I am going to get me a fifteen year old boy that can read the instructions and he can do it. We don't need all these formulas, what we need is judgement. You make your judgements in your home city, there isn't anybody in Washington that is smart enough to tell you what to do. I have been around long enough to know that and I am happy that I have sort of been emancipated, I can come out and say these things. (laughter) I don't want a thing I am just going to tell you what is on my heart. Ever so often I hear somebody plan it all out, well he is wrong before he starts because this is too big a country to have a plan for Waverly, Minnesota and Dallas at the same time. Ever been to Waverly? I live out there, it is just a little suburb of Minneapolis, three hundred people and it doesn't have the same problems as Minneapolis and

St. Paul, not quite, it has bigger ones. I am trying to get the township road oiled, (laughter) you folks think you have problems, and I'll let you in on it, we are going to make it this year.

(laughter) so I repeat no single community can meet all of its demands without help and every one of our communities has to make some selective judgements, but we have been making progress. I know if I could just come here and just lay it out and tell you that all you have to do is just line up at the counter and we are passing out the money, it would be great, boy would Humphrey be a hero, for a day (laughter) about a half a day. I am not here to tell you that and I don't think anybody else with any degree of responsibility is going to tell you that. I am saying however that we have improved, we have made progress and that is what this organization is all about. I was a member of this organization twenty-one years ago and we were talking about some of the things then that are done now. It takes time to build a business, it takes time to rear a family, it takes time to get an education. I saw about a hundred and twenty-five PhD's get their degrees up at East Lansing, Michigan yesterday and I looked at those fellows and I said, boy how they sweated it out because it is hard to get a PhD. It took time, it took sacrifice, it took judgement.

So we have to look, we Americans not on the basis of a formula for Utopia, there isn't any that is worthwhile. We are the pragmatic people, we try, we experiment, we do, we sort of, well as I said

progress is not a fast express, it is a local, start and stop, pick up a little here, lose a passenger there, be a little behind schedule, throw on a little extra pressure, make up a little, that's the way we operate in this country and I like it. I think it proves- I think we've got some evidence to show that despite all this helter skelter performance that we are accused of, the fact that we don't have a planned national economy, the fact that we don't run everything from on high, I think that we have some pretty good evidence to show the way we do it is the best way in the world. No country on the face of this earth has what America has today (applause).

So finally we passed the Housing Urban Development Act. I spent many years in Congress talking about that, I held hearings so often that I got to thinking that it was my idea, it really wasn't I hate to admit it (laughter) but it is now law and we have at long last a representative in the Presidents Cabinet to represent our cities. It took time and it is going to take some time to tool this cabinet position to what it should be, get this whole establishment set and one thing I admire about Secretary Weaver is, he is taking the time that is necessary to get the good people that he needs and to know where we are going. Despite all the delays we have made a lot of progress. I am one of these people that believes it is the beginnings that count, I'm not going to be around long enough to see all the endings and what I like to see are the beginnings. I was Mayor

of my city and I went back to that city, I was in there this morning and the urban development in that city today was started when I was Mayor. Not a building was put up while I was Mayor we were still fighting about the plans and you know what I am talking about. Listen we folks have been there, we don't need to talk theory, we can talk to each other frankly. It took us about eight years to agree where the underpasses were going to be (laughter) and then we had a taxpayers suit on every block (laughter) but I am here to tell you we are making progress, there are new buildings and there is a whole new area of our city and we have a tremendous project now for all of Nickland Avenue and it took a long time, but it is there and we did it, its ours. The governments, federal, state and local and mostly federal and local, I'll get around to the other just a little bit later (laughter). Now we have made some beginnings, I've listened them out here, I've got to pay a little attention to what I have written out here to you, it wouldn't be legal otherwise.

We have some new laws and new commitments in this country. In education, my goodness, what we have done in education. That's a big business in this country today, there is an education explosion. In housing, we haven't done enough but we have done a lot, if you don't believe so get in that airplane and look at what has been built in this country. In transportation, health and social welfare, in the war on poverty. I had a fellow in Congress that said "well

you're not winning that war". I said I know they've been trying to win it for 10,000 years and we're still at it but we're at least mobilizing to get at it and I just suggested to this good friend of mine, I said since you are so interested in it why don't you just get busy and get us a little more do something about it? We are winning in beautification, not enough, there are still too many dumps, still too many areas that are not beautified, but we are beginning to do something about it. At least people are conscious of the fact that when you drive along the highway you ought not to see all the refuse of humanity. There is going to be a monument to this country other than a gutter full of beer cans. We're making progress, not as fast as I would like. We're making progress in cleaner air and better water and we made a lot of progress in the search for economic growth, all of these benefiting the cities and our people, these are beginnings. Now are we doing enough? Listen if you ever live long enough to get up and honestly say that we have done enough, you better go see a psychiatrist. Of course we haven't done enough, there will always be things more to do but we are doing things that need to be done and we are making beginnings and we are doing it within the available resources and within the time that we have to do it and the problem is not all money. I'll give you a good example, we are pouring in hundreds of millions of dollars to education and there is hardly a state in this union that as yet has hardly been able to use the funds

allocated to it. Do you know why? Because they didn't even have themselves properly organized to even use the funds that were made available under the Federal Aid to Education including my own state.

My dear friends of municipal government if we could pass a budget tomorrow morning for 10 billion dollars more for the cities, you have to meet some standards, there would still be some cities that could not qualify. What is important is the steady progress and insisting that we do more and I think we are beginning to do that, that steady progress within the expansion of our economy within the available resources. Now I could brag a little bit on what we have done thus far but I guess I hadn't better, I think we have done a great deal in Washington and we have done it because you've helped. You've been there, you've testified, you've presented your programs. Everything we are doing today in water pollution control and air pollution control, you helped do, you had the ideas. Urban renewal came from this organization, the great programs of open spaces came primarily as a result of your resolutions. I read your resolutions for over twenty years and they are not just resolutions, they are commitments of action and you have sent your representatives down to Washington to testify and you have proven in the cities yourself that you can do it. I see my friend Dick Lee here, I have been in his city. I see many others here that got a fine reputation from municipal development so I think we can be proud of both the quantitative and qualitative change. Having said that let's face up to

the facts. Despite our prosperity there are still more than 30 million Americans that suffered degrading poverty and as my good friend the Mayor of Shreveport said today "our biggest task in this country is to help upgrade people, to help them improve their lives, their talents, their skills, so they become more productive" and also you and I know to help improve the environment which makes it possible for people to upgrade themselves. When people live in the abject conditions of despair and hopelessness, filth, dirt and poverty, it takes an awful incentive to get motivation or to move up the ladder.

Despite our laws many of our citizens do not have first class citizenship, and make no mistake about it they are all entitled to it. Every time I pick up a paper as I did this morning and read about the valiant service of our men overseas, the courage of the company in the 101st Airborne Division, I took a look at that paper and I want you to know that there were some very interesting names, some of them you can't spell, many different ethnic groups and there were also some very interesting people, all of them were not Swedish or Norwegian or Polish or English, some of them were Negro, some of them were Japanese-Americans, some of them Chinese-Americans, this is a great country. We have touched the life line of every culture and every civilization, so we are all entitled to first class citizenship with its privileges and

responsibilities.

Now I have a term that I have been trying to impress upon the American people and I might just as well work it on you. Sometimes we have to simplify our problem and what its all about and the fact of the matter is that when we think about the world today and we talk about violence and terror, assassination and aggression and all of these things we generally say, its communism. Well its not all communism. I happen to believe that if all the communists were to drop dead, or if there had never been a Karl Marx or Lenin or Stalin that there would still be many problems in this world that would terrify us and shake us out of our complacency, but I can assure that the communist knows how to work on these problems. For simplification and for journalistic and editorial purposes frequently these problems are talked about as the "Threat of Communism" Now what is the other threat in America? We have some communists, not many, they are noisy, they are militant, noisy, bothersome but what is the other big problem, and much bigger than that one by the way because we know about that one and know what to do about it. The other one is called for me "Slummism" - slummism and slummism is more than just a dirty section of an old city or even a run-down section of a relatively new city. The enemy within our gates, within is slummism, it is poverty, it is illiteracy, it is disease, its discrimination, its frustration and its bitterness, all of that,

these are facts, all of that tied up in that, the ghetto, what I call slummism. Slummism is the ungathered garbage, and I have seen it and so have you and the dilapidated buildings and my fellow municipal officials and I feel I have said the most rewarding public job in my life was being Mayor of Minneapolis and it still is true. I want to say that many of our municipal services are upside down, we have the better schools in the areas where there is the higher income. What we really ought to have/^{is} the better schools in the areas where there is the lower income or at least they should be of equal stature to the others and I guarantee you that the garbage is generally collected where you live and where I live. The streets that get the dirtiest are in the areas where the people have never been taught self-discipline and sometimes we have to set the example. I have traveled too many places in this world and in too many cities not to know what of I speak. It is the ungathered garbage, the more that is left ungathered the more that accumulates. Slummism is a family of eight in unheated room in Northern United States. Rat infested tenements in the richest country on the face of the earth, unpardonable, unpardonable. Slummism is danger in the park at night or the stairway. I tell you if anything breaks my heart it is to hear, and I know it is true and I regret it, to hear that you can't walk in a beautiful park in our cities sometimes. Somehow or another we simply have

to arouse in the American people a sense of self pride to a point where people can feel that they are secure and safe. This is going to take a great deal of doing but it must be done. Slummism is the pent-up anger of people living on the outside of prosperity, it is a rent so high that a man becomes desperate, he is either moved to tears or to crime and sometimes to both. But more important its a virus, it spreads, it is a fast racing malignancy that goes through your body and it breeds disorder, disillusionment and hate so I have been one of those that says that we simply have to declare war on this evil, just as we have people today that say we must never tolerate the growth or expansion of communist aggression, I submit that we cannot afford to tolerate the growth and expansion of slummism aggression and it is aggressive, it is taking over city after city. It is changing our cities in far to many areas. Now we have the resources, we have the manpower and we have the know how and we can put these things to work if we have the will and the perseverance, mapping out a program of action. You are not going to win any struggle in Viet Nam or in your city overnight. Americans have to learn there are no instant solutions to age old problems. We have to learn how to be persevering and at times, patient but in a sense impatient, keeping at it. We have people who want to get things done just like that and I was one of them. As I have said to most of the young people I have talked to you haven't done a thing I haven't tried, you haven't been in a single

movement or protest or anything else that I didn't at one time or another that I didn't want to be in or was in so don't tell me about your tricks I've been there. Now the fact of the matter is that most of us have been wanting instant solutions to these problems. What is most important is what I learned when I talked to General Westmoreland in Viet Nam, a plan of action. Sometimes you get derailed, sometimes things come up that you don't understand, that you didn't contemplate but you need a plan of action and we are getting one, so if we are going to defeat this slummism we have to have a plan of action.

Now I just want to quickly summarize what I think that plan is. I was asked this morning at a press conference about the housing problems in this nation. Goodness I can only tell you that they are going to be for a long time but we have programs, we know what to do. We have great private builders and Federal programs and my dear friends just remember this, that those programs are there to be used. Now I know some of you said well when? I know that many of us that are faced up with these problems in our localities say why is it that so much money has to go to other things. I could hear somebody say, why so much for Agriculture, well then I went out and saw the farmers and they say, why so much for cities. I'll let you in on a secret. You know what many of the people of rural America feel today, they feel that the Johnson-Humphrey administration

is interested only in cities. I've been told this, I don't like it -- I've grown up in a rural community. I tell them that's not true. But the emphasis is on cities, civil rights, cities and cities. My poor farm people out there in Wright County -- they come right up to me, that's one nice thing about them .. you don't have to have any research fellowship to find out what's going on. They just walk right up and tell you. I'll never forget what Gunner Meridol - the great Swedish sociologist once said - when he came to America and wrote a book about our country called "The Negro, The American Dilemma." Somebody asked him -- well, how did you get your information. And he said that's one thing about Americans -- you don't have to ask, you just stand on a corner and somebody will come along and tell you what's wrong. And I find that to be the case. *

So, we are going to have to make up our minds that other people have some requirements, some priority, some demands too. I want to say this. This struggle in Southeast Asia that takes a good deal today of our resources - even though not a large percentage today of our gross national product than it did two years ago. In the Korean war, we were spending twice as much of our gross national product than we are now in Viet Nam. Twice -- we are spending 7.8% of our GNP now for Viet Nam. We spent 14.9% of our GNP in the Korean conflict. We spent 7.7% of our Federal

budget, of our GNP I should say, Gross National Product, two years ago for the defense department -- 7.7. Today, we spend 7.8, 1/10 of 1% more. It isn't as if we are draining all of our resources -- it appears the figures are big, yes - but the income is big.

I only want to say this and that is war is not going to last forever and your Government is determined to find an honorable solution to it. Your Government is determined to have peace in that area. But an honorable peace -- a peace that gives the people in Viet Nam a chance for self-determination. We think that this is important for our nation and for the world and we think it will be important in terms of our incomes and budgets for the years to come. I don't think that you will have less to pay -- my fellow Americans if all of Southeast Asia goes down the Communist drain, I think you will have more to pay. I think that the insurance that we are taking there now, with all of the costs is a wise investment for security and freedom in this world. And I have the same prayer that you have. No one is more unhappy about this tragic struggle than the man that's talking to you. Unless -- it is the President.

But that tragic struggle will come to a conclusion. And when it does, there will be more resources available for my town and your town and this America. Because this country is going to keep

VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREYS ADDRESS

income. We have to be prepared then to take advantage of its opportunity.

So I speak to you now, quickly, of two things. Number one, the rent supplements. I have to do a little "lobbying" here on you. Rent supplements -- you know what its all about, but your Congress doesn't.

Now I've heard so many speeches about "socialism" that I cannot count them. Now I was an advocate of public housing as a Mayor of the city of Minneapolis in urban renewal. When I went to Congress, I didn't come with any new ideas -- I came with some I'd been trying out as Mayor and we needed some public housing for our poor people. But public housing costs twice as much per family as rent supplements. And when your income gets a little above the line in public housing that you've set -- then they've got to get out of public housing. And then that family that just gets a little bit over that income maximum that permits them to come into public housing, has to go out and find private housing and there isn't much thats worth finding thats worth living in. What about rent supplements? Rent supplements has exactly the same standards as, the same base for income, but if you are in a home that you've fixed up the drapes, you've put in some flowers, you like the neighbors, and mama and the kids like the schools, the PTA and thats what living is all about you know. And then Dad gets a little more income, or Mother has a job and the two of them together bring the income up -- you don't have to move

out of the house. You don't get the rent supplement -- but you can stay with your friends, your family.

Rent supplements for private housing, tax-paying housing, neighborhood housing -- its the way it ought to be done and I ask you to get it passed. Listen, I have been pleading -- I want to say to Rabbi Klein that I have used every facet of my life that I know including the power of prayer and I say that in all reverence to get rent supplements. And I go to my best friends in Congress and they look at me and say -" Hmmm, no we can't do that, " - but we subsidies for merchantry, farmers, industrialists, we have all kinds of things going for us in public housing, but when we want a little rent supplement that we can put on per family for about half what it costs for public housing somebody says "thats too new, can't try that". Why, I can't imagine that. I need your help. I want you to help us get that bill through Congress. If you want to do something about your cities and your poor and your needy -- thats the way to help us. You are not going to lose your public housing - you are going to have that too. This isn't either -- or. You don't have to have some options here where you lose the one if you take the other. This is one time you can put both hands in and come up with two gifts.

Now the other program is Demonstration Cities Bill. I had a lot written out about Demonstration Cities Bill here, but I -- and I'll stand by every word, so if my friends of the Press think I've left

it out I want you to know that the man who knows more about it than the Vice-President is here and he's talked to you about it. And that is Secretary Weaver. I can only say this and that is the Demonstration Cities Bill is your bill. John Gunther has talked to me so much about Demonstration Cities that I have a check on him -- I won't even let him in the office but once every five times he calls. I've been with the US Conference of Mayors, you thought this idea - at least if you didn't think it up you said so much about it that I thought it was your idea. And the Demonstration Cities Bill is an administration bill, its before the Congress. President Johnson is for it, Secretary Weaver is for it -- and the Vice-President is for it. I put him in where he belongs, he's the least of the echlon of authority there.

And we are for it and we are fighting for it in Congress and we want it the way you want it. We don't want just a little planning money, we want planning money and action money and we are committed to it.

And you don't lose a single program that you now have. I want to make that quite clear. What it really means is an increment of new money for your city as you know. It would mean that in addition to the regular Federal Program Funds, special grants would extended to the Demonstration Cities. They would not supplant existing programs, nor would they be siphoned away from Federal Programs elsewhere. So lets clear away the "mist". We are not

trying to say its Demonstration Cities or Urban Renewal. What we are saying is its Urban Renewal and Demonstration Cities.

We are not trying to say that its Demonstration Cities and something on "Project Head Start" -- its BOTH.

And I want to emphasize that the benefits of this program would be available to those cities who have plans to show that they are ready to go ahead with a full scale attack on the slum problem. And I wish to emphasize that there is no established limit on the number of cities which may participate. Oh, I have been hearing that there are 80 cities, 70 cities -- thats a good way to kill it. Because if you look like your the 81st, you'll say -- well what is there in it for me. I'll tell you what kind of a program it is ---- First Come, First Served. Get yourself organized, get your plans, know what you are asking for, have a program that really makes your city a Demonstration City. Now when we talk about a Demonstration City, we mean its the BEST that you can think of.

Now, its an odd paradox -- not unknown, I might add, in politics -- that the misgivings that some people have raised about the Demonstration Cities Program are not based on the thought that its a bad program, but rather that its a good one. The fears seem to be that it isn't big enough and that everybody can't get in on it right off the bat, or that only the big cities get a chance, or that the funds promised in the bill will cancel out or curtail the programs that we already have underway. I think that I tried

to dispel those myths. Our big cities need this program and can use it. But the greatest beneficiaries will possibly be the smaller cities -- and why. Because they are getting organized to get in. This program will have no lower limit on size and in case of smaller communities, it will be such a program that will virtually eliminate the entire problem of blight that could easily be done. I think of a city like Sioux Falls, South Dakota. I was born in South Dakota, I never knew there was anything bigger than Sioux Falls until I was eighteen. Sioux Falls, South Dakota would be one of the possibilities and many other communities and the size of the program - its ultimate size will be determined not by any figures or numbers game resulting in academic or even congressional debate -- it will be determined by the cities themselves as they are ready to move forward on their own front to capitalize or put to work all these aids in a concentrated way. But I repeat -- this is no "instant" slum clearance. No one has thought about that or been able to come up with one. Its a continuing program that begins with large scale planning, continuous action and social as well as economic rehabilitation. So my plea to you is --- lets get the program started. Then we can measure our rate of expansion by our readiness to put these demonstrations into large scale operations.

All of the programs now operating will continue to operate at their full level. Urban Renewal, Housing, Poverty Programs, Public Facilities. The Demonstrations Cities Bill offers an added

source of the Federal Funds to expand and further magnify the effects of the Program. You know what the formula is. You know for example - to put it quite clearly to you - that the formula is on these Federal Grants and Aids where your non-federal share would be, lets say, one-million dollars. Lets just take a community that has a non-federal share in a joint project under existing programs like Urban Renewal , Public Housing, etc. The non-Federal share would be a million dollars. What would be the amount that you would get of new money for the many things that you would like to do for your city - including improved garbage collection. Eighty Percent of the Non-Federal contribution which would be \$800,000 dollars for your community - a small city. And what could you do with it -- WHAT YOU WANT TO DO WITH IT under the approved bond program that you have presented to Secretary Weaver's Agency or Department. A one-hundred percent grant for the new programs.

You've been asking for it -- its here. Its in Washington, its in Sub-Committee, now if you will get as excited about this as I think you are, you will be able to have a little march on Washington for this. This means something to you. Everybody likes to march these days, lets go.

Not only that -- its good for the "heart muscle". I've been taking a walk three times a week. I've been feeling better - I've never felt better in my life. But I'm very serious about it, this

is not the Vice-President's fight -- even though I give a lot of time to it, that's why I'm here today. This isn't Secretary Weavers fight, this isn't President Johnson's fight -- we are with you. We are with you to the point where they are using brick bats on us -- in the columns, in news stories and the people are not in agreement with us. What we need now are some forces and some help and I'll tell you that this means money to you and your community.

I will just conclude by asking you to gear yourself up now to commit yourselves to making the American city the City Beautiful. America the Beautiful.

Well, America is beautiful. Its countryside and the name is beautiful. Its scenery is fantastic, but the city should be the finest place in the world to live. The city with the library, the symphony. The city with the radio and the T.V. The city with the cultural and recreational facilities. The city with the modern shopping areas and facilities. The city with good clean water, the city with hospitals and health facilities, the city should be the finest institution of man's creation. You know it should be --- but it isn't. And it's now your fault. No one is worried more about it than you and I am not blaming any individual. I am simply saying that this cities of our, these great American cities have been inundated with new masses of people, vast numbers, people who have come in with little or no urban experience, little or no industrial experience, many

of them industrially illiterate, many of them unacquainted with urban life and its pressures. And there we stand. Almost like the victim of leukemia - or anemia -- without the strength, without the lifeblood to do the job that needs to be done.

Now what are the purposes or purpose of that Demonstration City. The Chinese say that one good picture is worth one-thousand words. And we've said a number of time -- present an example. Exceed is the word. And if we can have some examples of how you can build a magnificent community - not only in public structures but in better people, happier people, removing the tensions that so frequently today cloud our cities. If we can have a city - whatever its size, if we can have ten, twenty, one-hundred, it would spread I'm telling you like a great mighty wave over America. The first American city that rehabilitates both its structure and its soul -- its facilities and its spirits -- its buildings and its people -- the first city that does that will set a fire in this country and will ignite a flame that will attract the attention of every single citizen of this land.

That's what Demonstration City is all about.

I come down here to ask you to help.

Thank you very much.

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Mr. Vice-President, I know that I speak for every person in this room when I tell you that we are deeply grateful to you for your very frank and inspiring discussion of the problems of America - and more particularly the problems of the American cities and I extend to you on behalf of all of us here our deepest and most genuine gratitude for your appearance. You've heartened us, you've pumped into our veins the kind of blood we need to carry on the action program that you've indicated we must carry on in order that this country may continue to be the great country of mankind.

We pray for your good health and we ask you to take back to your lovely lady our deepest Aloha and our great love.

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FOR RELEASE IN AM'S TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1966

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
Dallas, Texas
June 13, 1966

My fellow Mayors, I am here to carry coals to Newcastle. I am going to talk about our cities and their problems.

You live with those problems 24 hours a day, as I did when I was Mayor of Minneapolis -- and as I still do, as a matter of fact, as the President's liaison with local government.

I need not tell you that this is a time of ferment in our cities. It is a time when demands are made on you -- demands for services which most of you don't have enough tax revenues to pay for.

No single community can meet these demands alone and without help. That is why there are more than 50 major programs of federal assistance to local government. During this fiscal year 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 the needs of our nation's mayors.

Subsequently, the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act put in the President's Cabinet a spokesman for the needs of the majority of Americans who live in cities.

Beyond establishment of the new Department, these past two years have been a time of breakthroughs -- new laws and new national commitments in education, in housing, in transportation, in health, in social welfare ... in the war against poverty ... in beautification ... in support of artistic and cultural progress ... in our efforts for cleaner air and water ... in our search for continued economic growth and prosperity -- all benefiting the American city.

I will take the full measure of credit for the Johnson-Humphrey Administration. But I give credit, too, to the American people -- and the people who lead them in their communities -- for asking for and supporting these things.

We can take pride in our national investments in self-help, in enterprise, in opportunity, in social justice and social welfare.

We can take satisfaction in our more than 700-billion-dollar economy.

We can be proud of not only the quantitative change, but of the qualitative change as well. For who will deny that America today is a freer, happier nation than it was even last year, or last month.

But none of us can say that all is right with America.

Despite our prosperity, more than 30 million Americans suffer degrading poverty.

Despite our laws and our national commitment, many Americans do not enjoy full first-class citizenship -- because of their skin color, their religion, their last name, or the place they come from.

Despite our housing and urban development, and education and health programs, large parts of America's cities are not fit for daily life.

The enemy today within our gates is "slumism."

Slumism is poverty ... illiteracy ... disease. Slumism is discrimination and frustration and bitterness.

Slumism is ungathered garbage and dilapidated buildings. Slumism is a family of eight in an unheated room. Slumism is danger on the stair and violence in the street.

Slumism is rent so high a desperate man is moved to tears, or crime. Slumism is the pent-up anger of people living on the outside of affluence.

Slumism is decay of structure and deterioration of the human spirit.

Slumism is a virus which spreads through the body politic.

As other "isms", it breeds disorder and demagoguery and hate.

We must make our declaration of war against slumism. It is a war in which all of us must enlist and our goal can be nothing less than total victory.

We have the resources -- in know-how, in manpower, in capacity -- to abolish the scourge of slumism. And we have the will to do it.

If we are to defeat slumism, we will need breadth of thinking and of action.

And this is what the President has proposed -- and what the Congress is now considering -- in the Demonstration Cities Bill.

I ask your active support for this Bill.

In this Bill, we have called for action to rebuild completely, on a scale never before attempted, entire central and slum areas of our cities.

The provisions of the Demonstration Cities Bill would meet problems of slums and blighted areas in which over four million families live in conditions that violate decent housing standards and exact a high toll in human suffering and in cost to their communities.

This is an exciting program. It aims at human as well as physical renewal.

In addition to adequate housing at low and moderate costs, it would provide for public facilities and education, health, and social services needed to help people in slum areas to become useful, productive citizens able to participate fully in community life.

The complete array of existing federal grant and urban aid programs in the fields of housing, renewal, transportation, education, welfare, economic opportunity, and related programs would be available to achieve the objectives of the demonstration program.

The initiative and solution for local problems would have to come from you.

You would have to be willing and able to undertake the actions and responsibilities required of such a program.

The federal role would be one of support for your community's activities. We would help with funds to pay for your costs of planning and developing demonstration programs, and would make available -- worked out by a special formula -- supplemental grants to pay 100 per cent of the cost of any type of activity approved under the Demonstration Cities program.

The program would mean a substantial increment of new money for the city. It would mean that, in addition to the regular federal program funds, special federal grants would be extended to Demonstration areas. They would not supplant funds for existing programs, nor would they be siphoned away from other federal programs elsewhere.

And I want to emphasize that the benefits of the program would be available to those cities with plans which show they are ready to go ahead with a full-scale attack on the slum problem. There is no established limit on the number of cities which may participate.

It is an odd paradox -- not unknown, I might say, in politics that the misgivings some people have raised about this Demonstration Cities program are not based on the thought that it is a bad program -- but that it is a good one.

The fears seem to be that it isn't big enough ... that everyone can't get in on it right off the bat ... or that the funds promised in the bill will cancel out or curtail programs we already have underway.

I think we ought to clear away some of those myths, and straighten a few things out. It is a good program -- agreed. It is a challenging and dramatic program.

Our big cities need it and can use it. But the greatest beneficiaries may well be our smaller communities, for they have already shown great interest in its use. This program will have no lower limit on size -- and in the case of smaller towns, it could be that such a program will virtually eliminate the entire problem of blight.

As to the size of this program: Its ultimate size will be determined not by any figures or numbers game resulting from academic debate. It will be determined by the cities themselves and their capacity to move forward.

But this is not "instant slum clearance."

It is a continuing program that begins with large-scale planning, continuous action, and social as well as economic rehabilitation.

Let's get this program started. Then we can measure our rate of expansion by your readiness to put these demonstrations into large-scale operation.

This is not a proposal to cancel or curtail anything that is now being done. It is a proposal to expand and augment what we are already doing.

All of the programs now operating -- in urban renewal, housing, the poverty field, public facilities -- will continue to operate at their full levels.

The Demonstration Cities Bill offers an added source of federal funds to expand and magnify the effects of the programs we have thus far developed.

Furthermore, these additional funds are 100 per cent grants. They can be used for any purpose consistent with the Demonstration Area program.

In short, the Demonstration Cities program is a program to help you do far more, to do it better and more effectively than you have been doing. With this legislation, every mayor can raise his sights and enlarge his field of action for the needs of the areas and the people that today are his most difficult problems.

What we ask of you is that you be willing to commit fully your local energies and resources to a program that will have widespread and profound effects on the physical and social structure of your city.

There is no question about our ability to achieve our goals. There should be no question about our willingness to commit ourselves to their achievement.

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