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REMARKS
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
CORNERSTONE-LAYING CEREMONY
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Washington, D. C.
November 10, 1966

Mr. Secretary, I am honored to participate today in this ceremony which means so much to so many people.

Lincoln said that the legitimate object of government "is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all, or cannot so well do for themselves, in their separate and individual capacities."

This is the spirit in which we lay this cornerstone today.

Today our citizens, and the cities in which they live, need help beyond that available to them in "their separate and individual capacities."

Ask any mayor, as I have asked hundreds of mayors, and he will tell you that the urban/suburban explosion of the past few years has run far beyond the means he has at hand.

It seems hard to believe, but it was only a year ago that this new Department of Housing and Urban Development came into existence.

Before that time, American Cities had no voice in the President's Cabinet.

Before that time, our federal programs designed to help the cities operated separately and independently -- and all too often in a confused and piecemeal fashion.

Before that time, the mayors and local officials of our country had no place to turn -- and at the same time, too many places to turn -- in Washington when they needed help and advice.

Today, Mr. Secretary, you head a Department which is giving sound, coordinated management to our federal programs to help the city.

Those programs, I might add, no longer aim at alleviating -- in isolated fashion -- one or another of the symptoms of urban trouble, such as inadequate transportation, or dilapidated housing, or polluted air and water.

"Not houses finely roofed or the stones of walls well-built, ...nor canals and dockyards, make the city," Aristedes said, "but men able to use their opportunity."

We know that new housing does little good for people who can't afford to buy or rent or maintain it. We know that new freeways do little good for people whose neighborhoods are

destroyed by them. We know that slum clearance does little good for people out-of-work or out-of-hope.

That is why our new programs, such as those under the new Demonstration Cities Act, are designed to meet -- on a broad and coordinated and imaginative scale -- all the physical and human problems which afflict the people of the American city.

Yes, we are determined in the years ahead to help make each city a community where every member feels he belongs ... a place where each citizen feels safe on his streets ... a place where self-respect and dignity are the lot of all.

That is a big order.

But I have no reason to doubt that we can do it.

We have the resources. We have the beginnings of a new strategy. We have the determination to get the job done. And we have begun.

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