

TAPED REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
NATIONAL OIC CONFERENCE
THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1967

I want to express my warm personal greetings and commendations to all of the leaders and workers who are present today in Washington, at this, the first National Opportunities Industrialization Center Conference.

I had looked forward to being with you on this important occasion, but President Johnson has asked me to head the American delegation to the inauguration of President Park of the Republic of Korea.

You have come to Washington from cities all across America, including Puerto Rico, as partners and investors in a great American movement.

I am very excited about the Opportunities Industrialization Center, because I think it represents a significant and spreading move from protest to progress. For the civil rights battles won from past protests are hollow and meaningless today, unless we are able to meet the current, more complex needs of people in urban slums.

We cannot meet these needs just by protest, but by social inventiveness and innovation. OIC is a splendid example of how we are beginning to get real innovation in devising means of breaking the vicious cycle of poverty, ignorance, and despair.

I am encouraged by the OIC partnership of grassroots people working cooperatively with the government, with industry, with labor, and with philanthropy to develop and utilize, on a massive scale, the untapped talents of minority citizens who have been bereft of opportunity and who have been unprepared and hopeless.

This partnership cuts across old jurisdictions and has no regard for old myths and animosities. Its only measure is -- and must continue to be -- this: How can we, together, build a better and a more democratic America in which all will benefit?

I want to thank my friend, Reverend Leon Sullivan, for his great leadership and service to his country. And I want to salute his associates and those of you from industry, labor, philanthropy, and the religious community for what you are doing, through OIC, in your respective communities, to help millions of our fellow American citizens help themselves.

You have my firm support, and it is my hope that everything you do at this Conference will be successful, so that the OIC program and concept might continue to develop and ultimately spread into many other communities in America.



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