

[Transcript]

WINTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

Mother of Christ Mission  
5301 Winneste Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio

September 28, 1967  
3:10 P.M.

Presentation by The Vice-President of the United States, Mr. Hubert H. Humphrey, to the Winton Hills Neighborhood Community Federal Credit Union, of their Charter.

Presentation was made at the Mother of Christ Mission. Among the other distinguished guests present were Mrs. Hubert Humphrey and The Honorable Walton H. Bachrach, Mayor of the City of Cincinnati.

Mr. Humphrey was introduced by Father Strittmatter, Assistant Pastor of the Mother of Christ Mission, Master of Ceremonies:

"Ladies and Gentlemen. In the short time that I have been associated with the Winton Hills Community I have observed a spirit of cooperation and real dedication. This Credit Union, whose formal establishment we are observing today, is an evidence of this spirit of cooperation. The presence of our distinguished guest with us is obviously an indication that this spirit of cooperation has not gone unnoticed and unappreciated. We are very grateful to the Vice-President for taking time out from his very, very busy schedule in our city today to be with us. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to present to you the Vice-President of the United States."

Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey:

"Thank you, Father Strittmatter, and I thank the distinguished Mayor of Cincinnati, Mayor Bachrach, who is with us here, and kind enough to join me on our visit, to all the Credit Union officers, particularly President Lyons, Vice-President Roberts - I always mention Vice-Presidents - I always

try not to mention Presidents, you know - and the Secretary and Treasurer - all others.

"I - I was looking rather quickly here over a card I had in my pocket - you know I get around to so many places I've got to be sure just exactly where I am. To tell a story about an old friend of ours in the Senate some years back - a really fine gentleman who was in his late eighties and he was chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, a very distinguished and able United States Senator from Rhode Island, Senator Green. Senator Green really started his life in public service after he was sixty-five years of age - one of the most remarkable human beings I ever met. He was eternally young. He would always go to at least four or five of these diplomatic receptions every night - and the most of us could take one - about - a night. This old gentleman - he'd be right in there - just springy as could be (-----loud interruption-----). That isn't half as bad as what happened at lunch at the White House yesterday - a fine, distinguished gentleman leaned back in one of those antique chairs; but this dear, old Senator friend of mine I'm speaking about goes to four or five receptions. One evening the now President of the United States happened to be at this reception --- Senator Green ---- 'Senator' - he saw the Senator over there and he had to - his eyes weren't too good - he had this card up pretty close - he said, 'Senator Green' - he said, 'I see you're looking over your card - you're seeing where you're going to go?' He said, 'No - I'm just trying to find out where I am.'

"I know where I am, fortunately, I know that I'm in the Winton Hills Community and I'm very pleased and happy to be here. I've already been told about this fine part of your city and I also learned that - on preparing to come here about two and a half years ago - a number of the

residents of the Winton Hills Community recognized the need for some good solid community action, and for some community unity, and organized what I believe you call the Winton Hills Citizens Action Council. I want to compliment you on that, because really what it boils down to is taking care of yourself, and taking care of your own community. There's no one on the outside who can do it as well as those of you there on the inside. Living here together, working here together, planning together, doing things together. This is really the secret of building better communities. Sometimes I imagine all of us are guilty of this. Sometimes we look to someone outside to come on in and to be the sort of salvation force for our community life, and the truth is that we really make ourselves - make our community - by ourselves. I'm so proud to be here and to be interviewed by one of the great parish leaders - a distinguished man of the Clergy - who has given so much of himself - his life - by his spirit - to making this a very fine, wonderful, neighborhood. I have been told it is my good fortune to be able to present the special Charter for the Federal Credit Union in the Winton Hills Community. I'd like to say a word about credit unions. I've been interested in credit union development all of my public life. We are doing a great deal in America in the field of credit unions. Credit unions is the people's credit organization, with people helping people; it's with a little savings - hundreds of thousands of people literally adding up to substantial sums and being made available for other people in the neighborhood and in your area, help themselves. The most wonderful thing about a credit union is that they always seem to pan out all right. It is said in many commercial circles that frequently people who use the credit union for their loan, or their credit, are the people who could not get, in most instances, loans or credit from normal commercial financial institutions, and yet we know that the credit union records of the

payment by the individuals that use those services and those facilities is as good or better than any commercial bank or any investment bank anywhere in the United States. It's really an amazing testimony to the integrity of people. It's really a very wonderful experience in economic democracy as well. Credit unions - it's a cooperative, you know - represents the pooling of limited resources to be sure to make very great accomplishments. I know that the credit union that you are building here is going to mean so much to many of the people in the Winton Hills area - it is bound to. People that have needed that little extra help are going to get it from their neighbors through a formalized, structured organization called a credit union - that's chartered under Federal Law - as much as a bank is, with all the respectability and all the legality of a major financial institution. We are using the Credit Union experience of our country today, in Latin America and in Asia. I was the author of an amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act that directed the government of the United States to help in the development of cooperatives and credit unions as a part of our foreign assistance program.

"One of my dear friends - maybe Father Strittmatter may know him - the Father Dan McClellan - he is a priest that started at Maryknoll, Maryknoll Fathers, that started credit union activity and poverty activity amongst the Indian people of Peru. We've worked hand in hand for years, that's where I got the whole idea of amending this Federal Law and he went up into the high Andes where no one else would go, and when they said, 'Why, it's impossible - these Indian people, they're broke, poor, poverty ridden, they haven't had anything, what are you talking about, a credit union.' Today in Peru, those credit unions that Father McClellan started less than 10 years ago have millions of dollars of assets and they've been built up by penny after penny literally for a family who may save in the

terms of our money five cents a month. But, hundreds of thousands of these Indian families in the high Andes have pooled their limited little resources and they have been able to provide little loans for farmers, up there. \$6.00 - \$5.00 - \$10.00 loans; that's all that maybe they needed for a hoe, or a shovel, or a rake, or some seed and they couldn't get it except at exorbitant interest rates. Sometimes, believe it or not - you think you pay interest - some of those countries' interest rates run as high as 30 per cent. And, then a person never got the chance to ever pay back the principal, just paid on interest and you were literally enslaved. This one man - this one Priest - against the odds of government and circumstances - went down there and did a job, and then he got some help; I met him there. I just saw him last week - he's over in Vietnam now - building credit unions, for the peasants. We're opening up cooperatives - the first REA cooperatives - in Vietnam. Never knew what it was to have electricity in the countryside. 300 farmers' cooperatives in Vietnam - this is what you don't read about - this is what you don't hear about. Credit unions being built every day in Vietnam for the poor people, the peasantry, this is what we mean by nation-building; this will do more to win the war in Vietnam than anything we can do, save the actual battle itself. Building people's enterprises, helping people help themselves, building a better life, building schools, building hospitals, helping the credit unions so they can finance their land, and their seed and their tools so they can do things for themselves. That's why Mrs. Humphrey and I wanted to come here today, and share this moment with you.

"I would be less than honest if I didn't tell you that sometimes we wonder if we don't wander around too much but when we come out here and see these youngsters, see how happy they are, they make us feel happy, too, they make you feel wanted and appreciated. By then you know that these journeys are not - well - you know that they are worthwhile. You know that they add up

to something. We're very happy to be here with you and I want you to know that - I don't know if I've introduced my wife here or not - if not, I'd like to have you meet Mrs. Humphrey - stand up, Mrs. Humphrey. Many of you know that Mrs. Humphrey is very active in the field of mental retardation, trying to help the mentally retarded and trying to encourage our government, federal, state and local, and our fighter groups, church groups, and others that take a greater interest in these unfortunate people, who have every much a right to enjoy the good things in life as you or I, and she has been doing wonderful and great things. We sort of get a kick out of going around together and seeing (-- -) or America. We've been in 49 of 50 states, since I have been Vice-President and I'm going to be in the 50th one very shortly. Many of them, many, many times. We've been in 26 countries, four continents, traveled lots of miles; we've seen all kinds of people and what is the most wonderful thing is to see the improvement.

"I had some young students ask me up here at the University of Cincinnati just awhile ago, something to the effect - well, isn't there so much to do, there's trouble in Latin America, in Europe, and Asia, and in Africa, and there're riots in our cities, and there's this and there's that and doesn't it just about look hopeless - and I said NO. No, as a matter of fact, it's better all the time. South America is better now than it was ten years ago, Europe is immeasurably better, very prosperous - so prosperous they can even kick us around a little bit. India is a free country; Japan has become one of the great industrial nations of the world. One of the highest standards of improvements in the economy is in Korea. Nationalist China and Taiwan - which was receiving Federal aid from us for years - is today giving aid, to others. Things are better. Indonesia, who was controlled by a Communist government, is free today. The war between Malaysia and

Indonesia is over. There are lots of things happening in America, is ----- . True, we've had lots of trouble, one of the signs it is better is that we've even had some trouble. One of the rising expectations, people want a better home, they want better things for their children, young people want jobs, they don't want just relief, they want dignity, they want a chance to be included on equal basis with the next guy, or the next person. Things are better. It doesn't always seem that way but, they are better. I've been at the public life business for better than a generation - for over 20 years - and I've seen an awful lot of it, and I can tell you that we are making real progress. There's better education today, better health services today. I look at this room and I think that last year that there were four million of our elderly people last year that got the best medical care and hospital care that the world has to offer, under Medicare. Things are better. We paid out over two billion dollars under the Federal Social Security funds and Medicare payments last year - paid bills - under a Social Security system. We have over three and a half million people that went and had Doctor services, in doctors' offices, and were paid under Medicaid (?). Real top paying medical care, not this 'hand me out stuff'; we're doing things. I was out in Denver, Colorado, here three weeks ago; I saw a neighborhood youth center, out there - health center. The Mayor of Denver told me (Mayor) that the health in Denver was immeasurably better since that health center had been opened - 18,000 youngsters in that one area had been treated, cared for - for the first time in their lives - physical examinations, dental examinations, teeth taken care of - better diets - under a program of community, church and federal government - the war on poverty, OEO - and the United States Public Health Service, the American Medical Association, the American Dental Association, social workers, visiting nurses, all pitched in together, with a fine neighborhood health center.



"It wasn't a beautiful big building, but it was a fine neighborhood health center, and it had made a marked improvement in the health of everybody in that neighborhood. Everything from pediatrics to geriatrics - from the day that you were born to the twilight of your life - things are better - that's what we're trying to do. Some people once said - well, you haven't succeeded. I don't suppose anyone will ever live long enough to really succeed. The important thing is are you trying? Somebody asked me, 'What is your goal?' My goal is a better America - a better self, just a better community, a better life, a better family, a better neighborhood, not a perfect one - 'cause I don't suppose we'll ever quite achieve that in our lifetime. But we can add on a little more, and we ought to when we depart from this world and earthly existence, have it said of us that this person helped make this town a better place, or his family a little better, or his own life a little better, or his country a little better - just a little, but not asking too much...just a little.

"For credit unions help make things a little better - that's what I was telling you - help make it a little better for people that couldn't get any help anywhere. That's why I wanted to come here and wish you well, to share this precious moment with you. Now, this, my friend, Mr. Lyons, President Lyons, will stand up here, I'll make a presentation - it looks awfully official, Robert - it almost looks like a summons, but it is not - Federal Credit Union, chartered By-Laws, a corporation chartered and supervised by the Bureau of Federal Credit Unions, United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare. This is Charter No. 18,248, so there are quite a few federally chartered credit unions, and it's a corporation that's chartered under the laws of the United States, an Act of the 73rd Congress, to establish a federal credit union system, to establish a further market for the securities of the United States, and to make more available to people



of small means credit for provident purposes through a national system of cooperative credit, thereby helping to stabilize the credit structure of the United States. That's what the purpose of the law is - that is the purpose of the credit union, and we have the names and the addresses of the subscribers of this certificate and the number of shares subscribed to by each of them - and - by the way - I belong to the credit union down in southwest Washington - it's a little neighborhood down there - an old, integrated neighborhood, and I'm one of the founders of our little credit union which started out with little or nothing (a few?) months ago - and you'd be surprised how quickly it has grown in size and in service to its members and in the people of the area. So I take great pleasure now in presenting in the presence of your neighbors and friends and your witnesses this Charter and By-Laws of the Federal Credit Union to the President of the Credit Union here of the Winton Hills Community Federal Credit Union at your charter membership luncheon, this document to President Robert Lyons and to the other officers of the Credit Union - Mr. Lyons -

"I just told Robert ~~that~~ he ought to make a speech, and he said, 'no - no - no', I just want to tell you, I don't believe a fellow ought to get elected President without making a speech."

Robert Lyons -

"Friends, there is not very much I can say. I am thankful to be just a littlest part - just a little part."

Vice-President Humphrey:

"Bless you."

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A copy of the program is attached.

Transcribed by Miss Nellie Lock, assisted by Miss Lucille McDermott and Miss Emily Sowle, from tape, recorded on tape machine operated by Mr. Leonard Brooks, all employees of the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority, 585 Armory Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio.

  
Nellie Lock, Technical Secretary



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