

Remarks by
Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey
at
Plans for Progress
Washington, D. C.
October 3, 1967



Plans for Progress now incorporates about three hundred and eighty-nine companies in its voluntary association. These are some of the best, if not *the* best, companies in the entire American free enterprise system.

This is one of the regional meetings we will be holding throughout our country in an effort to acquaint other companies—hopefully new Plans for Progress companies—with the aims and purposes of Plans for Progress and with what they can do to make this a better country, as well as to improve their business.

Everybody who comes into this association does so out of conviction and commitment, voluntarily, freely. After being associated with this endeavor for a short period of time, these individuals and companies find themselves doing better, feeling better, knowing that they are making a real contribution to the economic and social well-being of the nation. It's a wonderful thing when you have a program that meets the economic and commercial needs of a corporation and at the same time the social and economic needs of a nation.

AMERICA'S SUCCESS STORIES

What is the badge of success in America?

I think it is fair to say that most people equate this country with its business community. We are the great industrial nation. We are known for our goods and our services. It's the leaders of business and finance whose careers are generally referred to as the success stories of American life.

But with that high honor comes heavy responsibility, over and above your personal responsibilities to your stockholders and management.

We're asking you now to carry that burden.

THE MINORITY OF DISADVANTAGED

This is a nation where the vast majority enjoy the good things of life while a small minority are excluded by events beyond their control or by background or experience from the main work of this nation.

Many countries have a select, elite minority and a vast majority that are aspiring to become a part of the prosperity and the glory of the nation. But our nation is almost unique

because the vast majority of our people have already attained what we can call success. They already have an education, a good income, a decent home, a good job, professional training, security. Our problem is that six-sevenths of our people are doing pretty well while the other seventh is outside the mainstream of American life.

A person who has no job has no respect for what we call our free enterprise system. A man who has no home has no respect for a neighborhood; a man who has little or no education has little or no respect for the cultural attainments of his civilization.

Knowing history as we do, knowing that a militant minority can upset the progress and stability of a society, we must recognize that it's to our advantage to see to it that this small fraction of the total population be brought into the main current of American life.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY ADDRESSES PLANS FOR PROGRESS



Seated (left to right): Alexander Trowbridge, Secretary of Commerce; William E. Zisch, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Commerce; Charles E. Spahr, President, Standard Oil Company (Ohio), Chairman, PFP Advisory Council; Eugene F. Rowan, Administrative Director, PFP; Willard Wirtz, Secretary of Labor; John Harper, President, Alcoa; William Caples, Vice President, Inland Steel Company.

PROBLEM OF THE CITY

We really don't need many more studies to pinpoint some of the basic needs today. We know about the problems in our cities.

The city ought to be the finest creation of man's imagination, ingenuity and ability. But the city in contemporary society represents man's most difficult social problem. We know that we have a job to do in our cities—not merely to repair or clean up buildings that have become broken down, dirty, ugly, unsafe and unsanitary, but to find some way to help rebuild men and women. How to provide a new life for those who seem for all practical purposes to have lost their lives—that is not an overstatement of the problem.

GOVERNMENT'S UNITED ROLE

I know that if we're going to come to grips with this problem, it can't be done by government alone. Government in this day and age has a heavy responsibility. But I think we ought to

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY ADDRESSING AN EARLIER MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF PLANS FOR PROGRESS



At right, Honorable Hobart Taylor, Director, Export-Import Bank, and an ex-officio member of the Council.

recognize that it has a limited role to play, and if you do not want it to have a greater role some responsibilities must be taken on privately. This nation has been known all of its life for its voluntary organizations.

PARTNERSHIP FOR NEW EMPLOYMENT

Moving to the employment picture, the question is—who's going to do what must be done? I believe there is a partnership that can work. That partnership in many ways is exemplified by Plans for Progress, in which the great effort is made by private companies working cooperatively and having a deep sense of social conscience.

But the government can help. I believe the relationship that is needed in this country today between government and business is not one of domination, but rather one of cooperation, one of partnership.

So now we're coming to you as leaders, as the men who are



Haveg Industries signs Plans for Progress Agreement. Vice President Humphrey with Arthur G. Bourgault, President of the Company.

the movers, to take a good look at what needs to be done in this country and then get busy and get it done. America cannot afford the destructive luxury of poverty in the midst of affluence, of unemployment in the midst of a market that cries out for more workers, and of ignorance in a society that demands knowledge.

HARD-CORE UNEMPLOYED

The skills that are needed for a growing America are imbedded today in the hard-core unemployed, in the untrained, in the illiterate, in those who over decades have been oppressed and pushed down and who don't even realize that there is a chance. It isn't enough just to open the gates of opportunity, and say "come through," because a man who's been told to stop outside for a long time has an automatic reflex even when the gates are open.

He doesn't come through. It takes a little encouragement. You may have to lead him by the hand. And that's exactly what we're going to have to do with our unemployed.

ENDING DISCRIMINATION—A FIRST STEP

That is why we are calling upon the Plans for Progress companies, and upon all American companies, not merely to



Officials of National Lead Company, New York, signing an updated agreement. (Left) Luther R. Strole, Manager, Industrial Relations, the Vice President, John B. Henrich, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, John W. Sweeney, Equal Employment Opportunity Compliance officer.

say that they have eliminated any discrimination in employment. That's not enough; that's just opening the door.

If a man doesn't know how to work, if he's had no training, if he's sick, if he's illiterate, if he's ignorant, it doesn't make any difference how big a door you open. He can't walk through; he's economically, industrially, socially, paralyzed. Some way or other he has to become a motivated, alive, industrious person.

I don't think there's any better way to do this than to call upon the people who know how to recruit people and train people, and that's the people in free enterprise, in the American private corporation.

There are some people who say the government should hire all those without jobs. But I don't see any reason in the world why the government should be the main employer in this country when we have companies that have been engaged in the business of employee-employer relationships for decades. The government can then become your partner and help you find the means in your plant, in your town, to recruit and to train a potential employee into a productive worker. Most Americans want to work for a private company; they do not want it to be known that they're on some sort of government-made project.

SIGNIFICANCE OF NEW JOBS

Imagine what it could mean if between 250 and 300 thousand additional jobs could be found in one year—what this could mean to the social well-being and the tranquility of this nation, to its sense of social justice, and to its prosperity and productivity.

So I submit to you that your job and my job is to be ingenious. Not to admit failure, not to say that we can't train people, not to say that we can't get the job done. But to find ways and means to get it done.

EDITED

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

PLANS FOR PROGRESS

Washington, D. C.

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Thank you very much, Hobart Taylor.

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