

MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

November 28, 1967

TO : TED VAN DYKE

FROM : NEAL PETERSON

Enclosed is the tape, record and transcript of the Vice Presidential speech given on October 23, to Senator Ted Kennedy's meeting of Massachusetts mayors in the Senate Caucus Room of the Old Senate Office Building.

- 1 -

VICE PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH
OCTOBER 23, 1967
SENATE CAUCAUS ROOM, OLD SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

We are indeed fortunate to have the Vice President of the United States be with us. He, like many of us, is a ball fan and has enjoyed many of the games this past season. I remember having the unique opportunity of inviting him to attend a ball game at the final few days of the Series when it seemed to be a closer race with Minnesota and he came on up to Boston and the game was fought out in the field and the Red Sox won. Some time after that in the World Series I invited my brother Bobby up there to see one of the play-off games of the World Series and the Red Sox lost. So, I'm staying with Hubert Humphrey. There is no one that has a greater understanding about the workings of Government at all different levels, as a Mayor, as a United States Senator, now as the Vice President in the closest councils of our Government, a person who has always understood our problems in Massachusetts, has always received a warm welcome. And it is my great privilege to present the Vice President of the United States, Hubert Humphrey.

Thank you very much, Senator Kennedy, my good friend Ted. I am pleased that you reminded me of those sad and yet wonderful days in Boston. I want you to know that Senator Kennedy was kind enough to invite me to stay, not only for the Saturday game, but the Sunday game. But I knew when I had had enough. I went home. The other day I was out speaking in Fresno, California, and a few of my friends decided that they knew what I was going to say before I started to speak so they got up to walk out and I said, "Gee, I wish I had had that much sense. I'd have walked out before

the sixth inning up in Boston. But I saw two great clubs and I saw that fellow Yamasaki wack that ball around and take the life out of the Twins. I thought he was going to do the same thing a little later. He came mighty close to it. I can only say this, that we're looking forward to next year 1968. I don't know what your politics is, but I decided you ought to know about it. Then too, I do want to thank Teddy for this firm commitment that he has made to me. It's tough enough to be Vice President anyhow without going to Boston to lose a ball game but it's all worth while when you get Ted Kennedy to stand up as he did today and say what he said here. I want to thank him.

I want to take just a few minutes of your time. I know that you have had a very full program today and I gather from the program of tomorrow that you are going to be busy and talk to and visit with some of the most important officials of our Government. I'm scheduled very shortly to be
be able to
over at another gathering. I had hoped to/get here a little earlier today but the schedule did not permit it. You are going to be hearing from the experts. I am not an expert. There are only two general practitioners in this Government, one has a license, the other doesn't have one. I'm the one without the license. The President is the one with the license. I am, however, a former Mayor. I have had a long and continuing interest in the problems ~~that~~ and the concerns of our municipalities and our institutions of local government. I have tried to keep up to date, that is not so easy when you are not on the firing line of local government. Many of us that speak of the problems of community life and of local government do so from a rather detached point of view and from a rather

remote position. When you are there, when you are out home with the people and they bring you every conceivable problem, you have to face the day to day situations that may develop. It is then that you have a full knowledge of what is going on in local government. So I have come to you just to share a few thoughts, hopefully that they might be of some interest to you. You know that President Johnson asked me to serve as his liaison between the White House, the Federal establishment and the local community local government officials. We have had over forty meetings with the Mayors, City Managers, County Commissioners, Councilmen, Selectmen, people at the local level of Government. In more recent days we have been meeting with the legislative leaders as well because so many of our Federal programs today require State implementation or State cooperation. The purpose of my meetings with the local government officials has been to acquaint them with what the Federal Government has to offer, how this partnership between Federal, State and local government can work and the word that is important to remember is "Partnership". Now the public administrators and indeed in a Presidential message spoke of it as "Creative Federalism". That is a rather big term to swallow and understand. But what it really means is that each level of the governmental establishment, Federal, State and local, is energized; that each level recognises its inter-relationship with the other, that each level fulfills its responsibilities. This is a way of saying that there isn't a single problem that confronts this country today that can be met or satisfactorily solved by any one individual, one group, one level of Government, no matter what it is today. The problems are so big. If it is communication,

or transportation, or water pollution or air pollution, or health. Name any problem that is yours in your community. And you alone, no matter how good a Mayor you may be, how good a Council Members you may be, no matter how competent a City Manager you may be, no matter how good a Legislator you may be, you cannot solve it alone. It requires the combined resources of the Federal, State and local government, and private groups. Now your Senator, Ted Kennedy, has preached this doctrine here in the Halls of Congress and done so effectively. He has taken a great interest in all matters of legislation that relate to our municipalities, our community life, our urban life in particular. We need Senators that do this because I think that we are just now coming to grips with the big problems of urban America and the relationship of the smaller communities to the Central City, to the big metropolitan area. Fortunately, we have people today in Government ^{who} ~~that~~ understand ^{that} the demagoguery of the yesterdays have no place in the environment of today. There were people in other days that tried to tip ^{fit} the rural areas against the city areas, -the big city against the small city or town, the Federal Government against the State, the State Government against the local government and vice versa. These are the ^{divisive} (busy?) forces in our country. There are still a few of them left. But I think that most people now understand that the concept of Partnership is the only one that will work. And I am talking about a Partnership which the Federal Government does not supplant what you want to be ^{d.} but supplement what you want to be ^{d.}. I am talking about a Partnership in which we can come to you with what resources we have for your use, rather than coming to you to tell you what to do as we want to use them. I think we have made considerable progress, I say most

respectfully to you, in applying this definition of Partnership. And I hope that you will find in your Conference this year that this is true. One of the things that we have tried to do these past two or three years is to, as I say, acquaint the local officials with what we have here. I described at the first meeting of Mayors that we held in Washington, the situation as follows: I said, you know, I was a Mayor of the city of Minneapolis, city of over half a million people. And when I use to come to Washington, I didn't know who to go to, what to ask for, whom to see and what to expect. I said since then there are so many new Federal programs and there are so many new problems, that a Mayor, or a Councilman, or a County Commissioner, or a County Supervisor, or ^aCounty Judge, whatever the title may be, when he comes to the nation's capital now looking he has heard about Federal Programs that might be of help to his community. He is sort of like the person that walks into a super market and there are all kinds of goodies and goods on the shelves but not a label on either one that he can understand. And just about the time he is getting ready to hopefully make a selection, even without the label, somebody turns the lights off. And he wanders around wondering, am I getting what I want, what did I get, what am I down here for and was the trip really necessary. As a result of that, what I think is a rather accurate picture of the circumstances that have prevailed all too long, we have developed and here I want to be sure that every member of your group gets one of these catalogs before they leave. Mr. Peterson I want you to be sure that they get the entire kit of local government material. We have developed through the Office of Economic Opportunity a catalog of community programs that are available to you. And not only a catalog of them, but what they are, when they were passed, what their official title is, what

their common name is, who you apply to, how you apply, how much money is there because I can tell you there isn't enough, but you ought to get in as fast as you can. In other words, we put the labels on the ^{Products} top. This is a very helpful catalog. Imagine what Sears and Roebuck would have been like without a catalog. The farmer that use to buy from Sears and Roebuck would have never known what he was ordering and what he was getting and Sears and Roebuck would have never known what they were selling. And I think that might have been the way its been all too often in the past between Federal Government and local government which has brought about suspicion and doubt and friction and frustration. I want to give you one other suggestion, whenever you have a problem in your local community that you feel you are not getting a proper answer to or at least a reasonably proper response, both in time and quality, you can always go to your Congressman and to your Senator. They are more than happy to help you. They are the most effective representatives that you can have. You can go to your League of Cities, your organization of municipalities, or if you are a member of the United States Conference of Mayors, you can go to them or to the National Association of County Officials, any organization that you or your community may belong to. But if none of those will help you, the Vice President's Office would like to. We are equipped to do so. I don't believe that we can promise you results, always, but we can promise you an answer. And there is one thing ^{that's} ~~that's~~ always irritated me when I was a local government official, was to write to Washington or write to a regional office and state that somehow or other didn't ever deliver the mail because even if they delivered it at least the answer didn't even get back. And I don't believe that you ought to have to wait to ^{collect} (putt?) your

social security before you get an answer to your communication. Whether we can say yes or no, I can't tell you, but we ought to give you an answer. We ought to let you know that we are interested in what your problem is and we are going to try to do something about it. And one other thing, there are many ways we can be of help to you at the Departmental level, at the Congressional level, and at the Vice President's Office level. We are pretty good inside scrappers for you and we want to help you out. Now, just that's, I wanted to give you that little assurance here because I like to work with you. It's my most important, I think, and most interesting assignment, working with our local government officials. We haven't publicized our conferences a great deal. I think may be we made a mistake on that, but we have taken them all over the country, we've been up, one time I recall, up in your area with some of the local government officials, and we've been in different parts of the United States. I think it's so good that Senator Kennedy has done this for the people in your area up in Massachusetts because it means so much to you and it will help him more better represent you as he wants to do and as he does. Just another observation or two. We are going to have a great and growing country here, a great and fast growing country in the next 33 years. It is going to be 100 million more Americans in this country between now and the year 2000. The question is, where are they going to live? And the next question is, how are they going to live? What will be the quality of their lives? We are going to have to understand that many of the problems that our cities face today are problems that came because there wasn't proper advance planning, because there was not a vision of what would be. But believe me when I tell you that the most conservative projections of population increase for the next 33 years, and that is a little over the next quarter of

a century, is another 100 million people. And if there is no change in the direction in which those people flow, most of those people will be on the Atlantic seaboard, in the gulf states area and on the western pacific coast and some along the great cities of the great lakes. The vast hinterland of America as it now appears is the, as the, the most slow rate of population growth between the appalachians and the rockies, the hundred meridian and the (Rhine?). Also there is another matter, the smaller community. Now, it isn't good enough just to go around and romanticize about the beauty of the small town and the wonders of world life. I know some people say that that's the way it ought to be. Now most of the people that appreciate the wonders of ^{rural} world life are people who have made it pretty good in the city and decide to buy a country home, because that man in rural ^{America} ~~American~~ today is having to work mighty hard to make a living, if he is making a living. The greatest amount of poverty in America today is in rural America. Ladies and Gentlemen, it's ~~it's~~ out of these swamps of poverty that come some of the people that move now to the big metropolitan areas. I don't think there is any way that we are going to adequately meet the problem of disadvantaged young people, of unemployment, joblessness, bitterness, racism, frustration in the metropolitan areas unless we start to meet it back in the countryside. That means helping to build and designing policies that help build other communities in America outside of just the great metropolitan areas. It means raising the quality of life in rural America, the quality of life in the city of 10,000, 5,000, 15,000, 20,000, 25,000, 50,000. Now what do I mean by that. Not only fresh air and sunshine and bees and flowers, but jobs, industry, schools, hospitals, doctors, community centers, drama, the theatre, the arts because that's what

people like and that's what we are working on now. It can be done. Let me give you one little example: Huntsville, Alabama, ten, fifteen years ago was a sleepy little southern town, less than 20,000 people. Then came the space program, (Verna Von Bonn?), the great space rocket program. Today, there are over 175 PhD's in Huntsville, Alabama. Today, it is a city of almost 200,000. Today, it is a cultural center with a branch of the University of Alabama. Today, it is one of the thriving commercial centers of the southland, as modern, as progressive, as fine a city as you will ever find in your life. How did it happen? Because of the smell of magnolia? No. Because somebody just could be kind and sweet people? No. But because Government and industry decided to do something about it. In a large measure it was Government in this instance, but industry followed and jobs were available and then the University came in and then a hundred and one things started to happen, and it can happen. I am going to speak tonight at a ^{rural} World Youth Conference on this very subject, "What's Happening In Other Parts Of America." So that's for the smaller community, and this is very much to the advantage ^{of} ~~of~~ even/the bigger city. Now there are friends here that live on the fringes of Boston. Consuls of Government, a new concept is very important. Consuls of Government where you have representatives of your local government institutions with their full autonomy, with their full sovereignty, with their full legal jurisdiction but where they work together in a new framework of almost super Government, you might call it, or a super structure of Government, to coordinate the programs that affect ^{the} ~~these~~ ^{entire} higher area. Not a new formalized Government, not with a new charter, not with a new legislative enactment but Consuls of Government where you pull

together the representatives of a number of communities in an area to meet common problems. Transportation problems - what good does it do to have a transportation program in your community that stops at a street that goes into another community and they don't have? What good does it do to have a four-lane highway going through your town if there's a two-lane highway at the boundary? What good does it do for you to have a pollution, an anti-pollution drive, hire yourself an antipollution engineer, only to find out that the town right next to you that's 50 feet away or 25 feet away, a line like this, this is your town, the other one's the other town, it doesn't have one. I remember this. I was Mayor of Minneapolis. I wanted to have an antipollution control engineer in Minneapolis and St. Paul didn't. But you know the river just had no respect for us at all. The river didn't (bite?) So we are beginning to learn that we have to start to pool our resources and we can pool them without losing our identity. That is one of the real problems in local government. Before, whenever you talked about pooling resources was that you lost control of your Police Department, your Fire Department or your Health Department and local people have a (sense?) of local pride. It's not necessary to do that. You can do it another way. You can do it where you start to develop uniform standards, where you start to develop a closer coordinated relationship at the local level so that your health programs and your communications programs, your transportation program, your ordinances on zoning and other things start to fit into a pattern. We want to help you do that, and, by the way, there are Federal funds, believe it or not, available for just that kind of planning and there can be people that ~~who~~ can help you do just such things. Maybe you want to plan ahead now for

a new fire station. Just a simple thing like this. Or maybe you want to plan ahead for a new community center, maybe you ^{do not} ~~don't~~ want to tie up your money in a bond issue at the time but you'd like at least to be able to make some, to have some options on some ground. There is some funds for open spaces and for that kind of long term planning you ought to take a look at. In other words, there are many things we can help you look at and look with. Now my final words are these, what we are talking about, above all, is how we are going to provide for people. Most of the people, 70% of the American people now live on 1% of the land in our great cities, in our cities of medium size, smaller size. This new group that we're talking about, the next 100 million, they're going to have to find a place to live too. Find out in your town. Why not make the plans right now. Why not talk to your legislature about it. Why not talk to your Governor about it. Why not talk to the officials, Federal and State, that can help you look ahead. And some of it requires a big look ahead. We are going to have to have, there're ~~are~~ three things, above all, that bewitch today or that bother, bewitch and bewilder municipal officials - jobs, housing and education. Those are the three great problems that stand today right out there so obvious that you can't run away from them. Now what about jobs in your town for people today who do not have jobs. Some of you are very fortunate, I am sure that you have a rather fully employed economy. But possibly, some of you do not. I want you to take a look at what the job training programs are from your Federal Government and how they'd work in your town. And if they're not, call on the representative of the Department of Labor to see if there is a job training program that you can get in your city. More importantly, go

see the businessman in your town. Jobs ought to be provided by business and job training ought to be in the main done by business. Of course, your schools can help, your institutions. But let me give you a suggestion that we want to work with you on. Let's say that in your community that you had (assist?) in smaller communities, some of you here. Let's say that you have a hundred hard core unemployed that you haven't been able to do anything about. Why don't you find some industries, look for, look over the industries, the warehouses, the retail establishments, whatever they are in your community, and go to them and say, look here, the jobs that we want in this city are jobs for your places and your plants. The people that know best about how to provide a job is a private businessman. Job training ought to be directly related to the need of that community and ^{of} ~~the~~ the industries and businesses in that community. We don't want job training for the sake of training. We don't want to put people through these schools just to train so that the teachers have jobs training people. That's not the purpose of the training. The training purpose is to make a nonproductive citizen a productive citizen, to get him involved in the community and in industry. Go to that businessman and say to him, listen, I heard the Vice President say that if you could hire some of these people that we could work out arrangements with the Federal Government so that on-the-job training could be compensated for by the Federal Government with your plant. We want to work that out with you, plant by ^{you} plant. We don't have any big national program on it because if ~~we~~ did it wouldn't work. Everything is a little different. Every community is a little different. Every industry is a little different. The needs are a little different. But I can tell you right now that we are prepared if you have an

industry in your community that wants to take on some of the hard core unemployed that are so identified by your employment service and your community agencies, that we are prepared to work with that industry on contracts, on surplus equipment, on job training. We want men and women to have jobs. I will give you a figure. If we can find 200,000 jobs in America, in the big cities of America, in the cities of America, just 200,000, next year we will have broken the back of male, of adult male unemployment, for instance, among the Negro community. Two-hundred thousand, that's all. We are going to have a million and a half new jobs just on the natural because of the growth of the country, add 300,000 to it, 300,000, and the total of the average of the unemployed male adult in the Negro community becomes the same as the rest of the community, 3.8. So we are not talking about something that is immense and huge. It is just a little extra effort. One other thing, our young people. Do you have a Youth Opportunity Council in your town? If you don't, get one. Appoint it. By the way, it's good moral, good economic and it doesn't hurt you politically. You're not going to hurt yourself one bit by taking an interest in young people. See if you can energize your recreation program, your education program, your job program, your recruitment program for disadvantaged young people. Whether you have a big city or a small city, a hamlet or a medium size city, you need a Youth Opportunity Program. Now we have sent to some of you, I am sure you have received over the past, these circulars and pamphlets on our Youth Opportunity Program. I head this program for your Federal Government. We can't run it out of Washington. It's your program, Mr. Mayor. It's your program in your town, City Councilman. You can't lose with it. No matter what you do it'll be

better than what's been done, and you can provide recreation, you can open up your streets, you can improve your parks and you can do it without any great Federal appropriation or State appropriations or local revenues. Go to a businessman that runs a Department Store and suggest to him that he equip the playground. He will. Most of them do. You'd be surprised. We had hundreds of playgrounds last year equipped throughout America by private enterprise. See if you can't find in your town through your newspaper, your radio program and, if you have a television station, through your television station, through the disc jockeys that the kids listen to, job opportunities. See if you can't find jobs, part-time jobs, for youngsters now that are in school, and in the summer months, when you need to look ahead, full-time jobs for them in the summer, disadvantaged young people. Your nephew'll get a job by himself. So will your niece. And not only that, if you get them one you'd get in trouble in the paper. So don't do that. I mean, they'll have to get their own and then they'll blame you for it anyhow. But, help somebody else. Put up that Mayor's Youth Opportunity Program. Take a good look at your schools and see if these schools and their programs are somewhat related and ^{very} ~~and~~ hopefully ~~they are~~ much related to the needs of your people. I'm not going to take the time with you today to discuss your educational needs. You go into that. Your school boards are frequently independent in these anyway. And on the housing program may I say that hopefully that the Congress of the United States is going to give the Administration some funds for our Model Cities Program, for our Urban Renewal Program, for our Low Income Housing Program, for our Rent Supplement Program. These are your problems. They are my problems. I

conclude on this note, Washington, D. C. can be of help to you in the Federal Government but it can not make your community a better community unless you want it that way. If there are going to be better schools in this country, they are going to be where you live. If there are going to be more jobs in this country, it's going to be where you live. The jobs that are available in Washington are very limited. If there are going to be better employment opportunities, it's going to be because you made it that way, and your community. If there is going to be better housing and people are going to live in better housing, it's going to be where you live. In other words, we've got to get the message back to our ^{own} (old?) people that the Federal Government's role in this thing is to come in with tools and assistance and hopefully some resources to help you do what you need to do in your town. That's what the Model Cities Program is about. But even if you don't get a Model Cities application, you don't need to wait for it. Don't wait around for the Federal Government. Come to us, ask us what we can do to be of help to you, go to your Legislators, ask them what they can do to be of help to you, and we will try to respond as best we can. This is just a few remarks off the cuff, Ladies and Gentlemen, that I wanted to give to you. I'm a kind of an optimist about our country. I just met with a few people from one of our great weekly magazines and they were telling me that they were not at all sure that people thought much was happening in America. I think a lot's happening, most of it good. Regrettably, that, much of, which is brought to our attention is not too good. I couldn't help but think over the weekend that all that mess that was left over at the Pentagon, I think those that made it should have been told to stay there and clean it

up. That might have helped a little bit too. Never forget the time that I got mixed up as a little boy in a little exercise around our local school, and most of us do, you know, and a few windows were broken, and a few things happened, and the Superintendent of Schools just took hold of us and said, well, that's fine, apparently, you'd like to buy new windows, apparently, you'd like to sweep up glass, apparently, you'd like to clean up the halls. Said, we have a nice job for you, you can just continue to do it until you get it all done. When people get out of hand, occasionally, they ought not to just get a little pat on the wrist and a \$25.00 fine, occasionally, they ought to clean up their own mess. I think it's a mighty good thought. I wanted to say it. I thought I might just well say it here. But when in our towns, when we have some messes there too, I think we have to learn to clean them up ourselves. And it boils right down to the fact, the law enforcement problems of this country are in our towns and our cities, that the needs of our communities are quite evident in our towns and our cities, and it's because that you know these things that you've come here to see how your Federal Government, which should be your servant and hopefully is, can come to help you with some of these programs. And you can be helpful here by speaking to some people. You don't need to speak to your Senator, he's done a good job and he continues to do a good job. I wish we had just more like them, all through this Government, in every position. But you can help us with our Safe Streets and Crime Control Act to help strengthen your Police Department so you can modernize it. I know what your revenue problems are. I never was able to get enough money as Mayor to hardly do a thing for our city that needed to be done. The revenue (base?) is always inadequate.

That's why our Grant-in-Aid Program under Safe Streets and Crime Control can be of help to you. You can be of help here when you look through these many Federal programs, the Juvenile Delinquency Control Act, the Model Cities Act, the Urban Renewal Act, the Technical Assistance Act for your city. These things you can help on by talking to the people here. And, by the way, don't hesitate to talk to somebody that doesn't live in your State. I'll let you in on a secret, a member of Congress from another State who denies you his vote on important legislation that relates to American citizens who just happen to be living in your town is your member of Congress too. These are Congressmen of the United States of America. And if you are denied by inaction at a State Legislative level or at a Federal level, if you are denied by inaction, the resources which you need for the citizens of the United States that happen to live in your community you ought to speak up. You're close to the battle line. You know what the people are facing. You know what you're facing. And we ought to constantly remind ourselves that this is a nation, a great nation, and our people are mobile. People who live in your town now may move some place else and people who live some place else might be in your town next year. So we ought to be thinking of our nation and^{of}the standards of our nation and each one of us trying to build in our communities as best we can the standards which contribute most to the strength of that nation. Thank you very, very much.



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org