

ROUGH DRAFT

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY'S REMARKS  
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS  
JANUARY 25, 1968

To  
Ted Van Dyk

CONTINUED:

three-bedroom home with carpeting, modern kitchen, bathroom, heater, furnace,  
and all, everything, including the lot, for \$14,000,  
that includes everything, installation and all.

I went into that house. It was incredibly good.

Now, the Federal Government has some Federal land in some of your communities, and as you know that we are ready to turn some of that over to you. We are ready to turn over a certain amount of Federal property to you. The main idea for your people to do is hunt it up, find it and insist on getting it. And we'll try to expedite your acquisition of those properties. But this housing business is No. 1. No. 2 is I couldn't help but think I just came back from the great city of New York, the problem we are going to run in on with hard-core unemployed this year is even if we can get every single one a job tomorrow morning, how do you transport? You know, we haven't built our cities related to where people live. I mean the industries. We have industries way ~~xxx~~ out there and if you've got yourself a good automobile and you have plenty of time, you can drive forty miles and get to your job. One of these days we are going to have to put in the area where people live the economic facilities by which they survive and by which they <sup>a</sup> <sup>find</sup> earn/living. Because you just don't/ways and means to move them all at once. Now, public transportation is one of the answers, of course, but this is again one of the serious problems for a state, the mass transit program. I have seen some surveys, they are rather disconcerting, showing

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that even if there was free transportation, that only 25 percent of the people would ever use it. It's really astounding, because we have become accustomed to driving our own automobile, you people are more aware of this than I am. I mean, that you have to figure out where you are going to park them. It is becoming one of the great economic problems of the nation in the downtown area. Now, there is a way, I think, of decentralizing industry and one of these ways we are going in your own community. I don't mean out in the countryside, per se, I mean right in your own community. And that is going to require that we put Government facilities and community facilities in the area where people are to be served. We've learned the hard way. You've got to have your hospitals, your schools, your employment offices, your Government offices decentralized in the area that you are trying to rehabilitate. But that is something again for your type of approach and thinking. ~~ST~~ The President has asked for a full funding of the Model Cities Program. I think he asked for a billion dollars this year. Now, you were very helpful to us last year. I don't think we would have gotten anything out of Model Cities had you not done the kind of work that your staff did here for and others and you as individual mayors did, and what your Conference did. Just make up your mind it is going to be tougher this year. And if we are going to get this funding, you're really going to have to go to work. Start right now. And the longer it drags out in conference, the more difficult it is going to be to get the money. So, I urge upon you to put as a priority item for the municipality, the Model Cities Program. I urge you to try to get in on the early counseling and advice on the housing

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program, not only the immediate low income housing but the ten year program. I have already talked to ~~xxx~~ the Department people about this and to the President about the importance of including in the preliminary planning and discussions of this big ten-year program your . Now, of course, we have a lot of your studies and recommendations and your resolutions. On the job program I would hope that every one of the fifty major cities, and that is where we start. Now, some of you are not from those major cities here but those of you who are in those major cities, I would hope that you, Mr. Mayor, would immediately see to it that whoever is the industrial representative in that city, is brought into your chamber, so to speak, and that you can work together right off the bat. Now, how do we phase in here the resources of the local Government with what you are trying to do in the private sector. I think that is about the gist of my remarks to you. I hope that we have been of a little help to some of you over the years. We've worked very closely with you and my heart goes out to mayors both in the problems they are going to have to face again this summer and what you have to go through. We're not cutting back on our urban program this year, you know. Our urban program is bigger than it was last year. That is the present the budget will be bigger. I can't assure that it will last that way once it gets in the legislative process. I think it can. I think there is a realization in Congress that we have to move on. And I hope and pray that you will be the ones who make sure that that is the case. A very non-partisan effort, just going right up there and contact him one after another because there isn't a single Congressman

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who wouldn't be very happy to see you, if you've got trouble in <sup>his</sup> ~~your~~ district.

There isn't a single Senator that ought to be very pleased the

big municipal centers which represent the population centers slowly erode

and corrode because of lack of attention. about all I have to

say, I would like to listen now to what you people have to say.

I thank you.

I prefer

to get some advice.

(Some one else: I was going to say one thing. A lot of people have a  
mistaken idea thinking the President's State of the Union  
speech, he did not say enough about the city

You and I know that

filibuster all of these laws. I understand that he is

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Yes, we have twenty separate messages coming to the Congress, all of which  
will be in Congress by March 1st. And there is a special message on the  
figures, which includes in it, of course, the Housing and the Public Safety  
~~Aspects~~ aspects and all the matters that relate to the city, save jobs. That  
was a separate message, the Manpower Message, which came up the day before  
yesterday. But there is, and it's a very good message that is  
coming up on this day, but ~~an~~ that will be singled out as a special urban  
message.

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(Another question:

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Yes, and we have three or four ways that this is being funded. There will be some of it that is funded under the Office of Education under Title I, some of it will be funded under Department of Labor, some of it will be funded under OEO.

Well,

some of you got your grants from OEO, some of you got your grants from HUD.

I had to raise a million and a half dollars out of existing budgets

of OEO and HUD and EDA, Economic Development Administration, and we gave each one of these groups, HUD, OEO, and EDA a certain number of cities and said, "Now you take care of these cities." So, some of you got your funds from HUD, some from OEO and some from EDA.

Another question: "You still

to the Mayors Administration

~~program~~ program?"

Humphrey: "Yes sir."

Question: "Not areawise but municipal?"

Humphrey: "That's right, municipal. I really urge upon you. I would hope that in every community you had your own urban coalition. I call them Community councils for civic action. It's a good way to look at it, because these national programs, listen, to be frank about it, wonderful <sup>as</sup> ~~for~~ it is for us to have a thousand two leaders to come to Washington, and I thought it was a great thing that happened, I want you to know that I was in full

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support of it and thought it was a magnificent expression of America's concern over the plight of its people in its cities in particular. But, when you get all done with these national meetings at Washington, and they don't mean very much unless you can break it down into your locality, you've got to have at every local level backing up this mayor in this city Government this coordinated private sector that is like your urban coalition at your city level that works with you and I'd like to see the mayors right in the middle of it and on top of it, so to speak. You have the facilities no matter what we say about all the other approaches that are made and all the other agencies, private agencies, the city government has more to do with on a continuing basis than anybody else and what we need to do is to augment ~~xxxx~~ that with the outside and with the private outside agencies in private sectors.

Question: I think it has been

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Humphrey: Yes, concentrated employment program -that'll be your jobs program. That'll be funded very much through that, but your recreation program, for example, this summer for you and your specialized education and cultural enrichment programs which we call the kind of things which you work around your school, a lot of that will be funded right out of Title I. Now I want to tell you one other thing -

We've got as much money and more in Title I elementary and secondary education this year as we had last year. I am speaking now, calendar year 1968. Regrettably, the Congress appropriation in Government is on fiscal. But let us just talk calendar year, starting

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January '68 into December 31st. - There is as much or more money made available to your community under Title I of the elementary and secondary education act as there was in '67, there is actually more, but I think you ought to know what has happened to some of that money - that when there have been serious problems on wages and salaries for teachers which this money was not intended for, school districts and school boards have dipped into those funds which were really to be used ~~in~~ for the disadvantaged child and for summer programs and what we call an enriched education experience, and have dipped into this to pay those new salaries. And we've got lists in several cities. Now, I happen to believe that teachers are entitled to a darn good paycheck, I think you know my position on it. But, I think you also ought to know the funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act were not appropriated for that purpose.

Question: "There is money in Title III though, isn't there for the purpose of education?"

Yes, but not in Title I, which is the basic fund we use for this kind of youth program, recreation program, education programs, remedial reading, cultural enrichment, art programs, etc.

You may find in some city - I know where one city I was in where the funds <sup>are</sup> that ~~were~~ available for the summer are going to be less than last year, and I said to the Mayor, "Well, that can't be so," because I know that your allocation was larger under Title I." He said, "I know, but we had teachers' strikes, and they reached into that particular body of money and used it to pay the salaries. So there went the summer program." Now, I think you've got to pay the salaries, but quite frankly I think that money ought to be

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raised locally and ought to be raised from other resources.

Questions - not clear.

Well, you're talking to some one who feels as strongly about this as you do.

the first bill I ever introduced on education was the Federal aid for school construction in 1950, it resulted in a Public Law which aided schools that were in areas of heavy Federal concentration where we did feel we did have money for schools and for teachers as well as for facilities and for school services, teaching, etc. where you had a defense plant or where you had a military installation, or where you had larger numbers of Federal employees in an area. This is what we called "the impact program". I was the author of that program. I forget, it's Public Law 81874 or something. I've forgotten the number now. That was the beginning effort. I held all of those hearings on that. And the first bill which I signed with the pen attached to it that has my name on it, was that particular bill. That is the last of the school construction business, when the Congress got into this thing, there was such bitter argument in the Congress over school construction that you just haven't been able to get it through and we had to make another approach, and the approach was that we would try to appropriate an elementary and secondary education fund for areas that were not in school construction and thereby to relieve hopefully the community of some of the other burdens so they would find money for school construction - what you're really saying is - you need



both kinds of money. And the fact of the matter is that at this particular stage of the game, we just don't seem to have that kind of money. I know what your problem is but today we have, how much is our Federal aid to school - elementary and secondary, it runs about two and a half billion?

A little over two and a half billion dollars, that's exactly two and a half billion dollars more aid to education than we had three or four years ago in that one area and then we have the National Defense Education Act which provides a substantial sum of money, Elementary and Secondary Education Acts, the Library Assistance Act and when you add these all up in the elementary and secondary education areas they run into a very substantial sum of money, over and beyond everything we ever had. The problem still is that the school systems of America need a whole lot more and it comes right down to brick and mortars too, and facilities, and I know what you're talking about when you talk about that property tax rate going up so high that it really is a

It puts a roadblock on

It tends to weaken the whole economic and social life of the community.

If we ever get ourselves around where we live in a little better world, I think we may be able to do something about this ~~we~~ if we elect the right people to Congress if you haven't been able to do that yet.

I'm not talking party. I just tell you that I was in the school construction bills and I found myself on the floor about four sessions of Congress with no success in school construction. Very very bad.

It runs into problems of public and parochial schools, serious problems where we've been able to get around that problem with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act but we talk about aid to the child, actual

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assistance to the child, not on the basis of aid to the school. But the minute you start appropriating money for brick and mortar, you run into some serious problems in Congress and I've spent sixteen years at those and I tell you I<sup>have</sup>/just about run out of gas and when I run out of enthusiasm and optimism on these things it's really

because I'm a great believer.

Question: " ?"

Humphrey: Oh, we tried it again and again. We tried it in 19 .....

No, we haven't had a new bill but you want to speak to your Congressman and Senator and may be you can put one in up there.

Question: "Mr. Vice President, I am concerned about updating

My concern is how do we open up the school twelve months a year, keep it open 12 to 14 hours a day (not clear)

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Humphrey: We are going to have, your Youths Opportunity Conference is having a panel on \_\_\_\_\_ and I might add it should be just 12 months.

(Someone else: "

I think it is early indication that these programs be refunded would help us \_\_\_\_\_ competent personnel to hire where we need them most. Our particular program is being, is expiring on August 8. We need to hire a new Director and quite a few people right now. It is very difficult to get a competent person and say/<sup>well</sup> we can only hire you through August 8, but if we can indicate that our program is going to be refunded <sup>will</sup> and, of course, we ~~are expiring~~ have some changes, it will certainly help us ")

Humphrey: I agree with that and I think that the funds - Bill Welch, you can, may be you can advise me on this. It is hard to keep track of every . I believe that the funds that we are providing for the Youth Coordinator is for a year round basis. Isn't it Bill?

Bill: Not at the moment.

Humphrey: It isn't?

Bill: Not a summer Youth Coordinator. Really, I think and hopelessly figure out

Humphrey: Oh, yes.

Bill: to help with a permanent Coordinator in that program.

Humphrey: Yes sir.

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Bill: I am thinking of the many administrative people that you have to have in a program. I would like to introduce to you here the Director of the program, your people who go out and work with many people that secure these jobs. We have nothing to offer them now because the program is over. It is a one year program, and it is going to be over this summer. But it certainly would be a great help if we could look to it being refunded, and that we will be able to operate more

Humphrey: I would, I think it would be very useful on this matter which is <sup>whatever,</sup> very critical in terms of the continuity, if your conference ~~or~~ however you handle these things, if you would make an appropriate recommendation on this to the President, to the Congress, to the members of Congress, to the Vice President. I think this is very, very crucial. You can't get good people if they don't, if they have no idea that their, what their continuity of employment is and you can't program properly. Very frankly, many of the programs that we have had have been in jeopardy, I mean have lost some of their effectiveness because of the untimeliness of the allocation of the funds and the inability of a local community looking at Federal funds to really program two or three years in advance. You really can't get many of these programs going the first year. It takes time. Now we have tried it on our Youth Opportunity Program and our first year was really just a small effort in terms of success. The second year was much better. The third year really started to produce some results and after three years of effort, we are beginning to gear up now so that we may show some results. Now we did this all on an ad hoc nonfundable basis, just having to literally rob Peter to pay Paul, stealing <sup>in</sup> from one to another, getting money, shoving it around/between agents, but if

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we could get continuity, it would be helpful. Now let me show you, for example, on elementary and secondary education funds. It doesn't do any good to give those funds to school districts, September, October. You know they can't, I mean the school year is already underway. You've got to <sup>get</sup> ~~give~~ those funds at least to the school districts ~~about~~ by June or not later than July so that they can start the program and hire the people who will set up the courses <sup>that</sup> they have in mind. We have yet, the Congress, you know, has the appropriations and there is no officer of this Government that dares make a commitment on funds without going to jail. It is really a Federal offense. So he has to wait until we get the elementary and secondary education appropriation. Now the President has called in all the leaders of Congress, <sup>we have already met with them,</sup> ~~He has already met with them~~ at which we have said, now look gentlemen, all of these bills will be before you and all of these messages by March 1. And believe me this means that day and night and weekend work all the time. We want you to start holding hearings right away and get your budgets out of the way, get your appropriations out of the way, where you <sup>don't</sup> ~~have~~ have new legislative authorizations. Get those appropriations, particularly in the field where you have to program around a school year, whatever program relates to a school year. And we are hopeful that this year, I said hopeful; I have been here quite awhile, I am not sure it will happen at all, but we are hopeful that we will be able to get the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Fund, the OEO Fund and many of the HEW Funds. We hope that we will be able to get those before the first of August. Then if we can get these, we can allocate them and that means at least for that year you know what you are going to do. And, hopefully, on the basis, if we can get some two and three year authorizations on program, then use

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your kind of thinking here, you can get a man on these different programs at the administrative level and say, look, we are going to have a three year program, we know, or a two year program, I am going to need you for two years, let's gear it up.

(Someone else: This is not a nice way to say it.)

Humphrey: Oh, I know it, I hear it.

(Someone else: Mr. Vice President, there are a couple of areas I would like to suggest may be to your attention. First, I am sure all of us made

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Humphrey: Exactly, and funds are being provided for that. What we call coaches and supervisors, counselors, pre-employment preparation.

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(Someone else: The success that I

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Humphrey: I tell you what I'd suggest you do, I think if you'd appoint a committee of two, we would set up a meeting with the proper people in the Defense Department to go over that whole business of military installations and what can be done with them at the municipal level. I'd be glad to help you set up the meeting and sit with you. Secondly, there is a possibility of a 99-year lease. I mean, you some other way to get around. But you are right, Jerry. What we ought to do is come clean on this matter of surplus property if we are serious about it. (no dictation) turn this over, particularly if it is the low income housing and turn it on over so that the municipality can have this as a way to induce builders to come in and build low income housing because really the land prices are one of the big factors in this low income housing. By the time you've got to pay for those lots (not clear).

Questions:

Humphrey: Yes, well, a wouldn't. He would probably paint it, you know.

(Someone else: Families in a military installation out there now as a result of the riot would have to send in authority and proof to move those families out, (not clear).)

Humphrey: Sure.

(Someone else: Now that you are in this kind of housing, (not clear).)

Humphrey: Squatter's rights, so that still is an old American law.

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(Someone else: One other thing, Mr. Vice President, that I would like to mention. I know you have expressed an interest in I don't think it can be emphasized enough, mentioned it to, and that is we all know that money alone doesn't solve our problems, but (not clear)

There are some proposals that I think would be extremely helpful to this country and really invest itself to a very, very crucial problem. All of these programs, everyone of them is sponsored at the level that we wanted it at. I still don't get it, that they have the kind of impact that they were intended to have unless we (not clear)

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Humphrey: Right. This is where I think that Hart ought to have programmed in his budget a sum of money which could be used for this type of experimental procedure in assistance approach, working with a number of cities that are prepared to do so. Now, it may very well come under the Model Cities type of operation where you get your Model Cities plan and where you need actually assistance approach for its administration and constellation. I don't think that we've, I don't know whether we have anything like this, but, again, the



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way we get it done, sometimes, is to go to an agency and say, now, look, we are here, we have to live with these problems and we want to sit here with you until we find a way that this can be done. Sometimes, you get the resolutions, fellows, pass them and send them on in and there is another batch of resolutions coming in the next week. I think you really just have to, if I may be so frank as to say take two or three of your good people here that are interested and say, now, this is your job and the next year, as members of this conference, let's see what you can do. You've got the Vice President and he says he is for you. You've got the President that says it's the urban life of America that will become a basis of equality of life in America. Alright, now those are the two elected national figures. Now, what about the Department. Let's

see if we can't do something about it. Just like I am saying, I do hope that Jerry, and I know Jerry that we will do something about, on this defense business. We can take a good look at the military reservations and see what the cities can do with them, what we can do for municipalities, then may be we can get a couple of to work with us and I've got some people on my staff that are just devoted to this kind of program that we can assign. We have nothing more important to do but to work with you. Let's go over to HUD and see if they've got some new ideas. May be they have. I am being got not/critical of them. I just think that we have/to bear down on them. I found out that the one thing that got results around here was just being plain cantankerous, and you know I use to have a simple rule at home, if anybody came from Minnesota and wanted anything from the Federal Government, if he wasn't in jail, I was for him and tried to get it for him, and I think that is about

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the way you will have to work with the Mayor of the city. You are in a terrible fix. You've got to say, look, it's my country, this Government is part of my Government, I am going down there, if it isn't illegal, I am going to demand to get it and I will even want to take a look at it to see if it can be legalized. This is what I believe you have to do and I really feel, now, that you ought to pick two or three priorities that your Conference can concentrate on and assign some good people along with your staff and along with out staff because I am not being partial on it, I am not working for HUD, I am working for you. The President assigned me to work for you and I am a business agent for you. I will work with you and we will go to bat and try to get some results, but if our problem isn't in that we are working on so many wave lengths in so many areas that we work a couple of days on this one and then as a new one comes in we are off on another one. I think that we ought to take two or three things, a few things that are important that we ought to get done. Let's chalk it up and see if at the end of the year we can get a score.

Question:

Humphrey: I don't, Mr., I really don't. In the Department of Transportation  
as  
I was a boy and/I can see, I just don't know. Those are the sort of things you just have to take some time out and look into.

Question:

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HUMPHREY: We have thought about that a great deal, Herschel, when I was Senator up here I use to be on that ICC and all of them in every way. I did not have to worry about Regulatory Agency. As Vice President I can't even get close enough to no one because it is a conflict of interest or something. When I was Senator, I was right on in the middle of them, fighting them left and right. That is one of the advantages of being a Congressman, you don't have to worry about all of these rules and regulations

. When you are in there as a Senator you can go right into your ICC as a friend of the community, as an interested party, or a prejudiced operator and so I expected my town and my city to be protected and I did. I use to go before FCC, CAB, ICC and anything that was available if anybody from Minnesota had a complaint against the Government. And I think that you just have to get, this is one of the reasons we've got separation of powers, we just don't talk about itx very candidly. A lot of times <sup>a</sup> ~~in the~~ cabinet officer can not be a bit of help to you at allx because these agencies are set up by Congress, like ICC, and they are presjudicial and presilegislative and there is a very strict ruling about any cabinet officer at all with any of these Regulatory Agencies themselves but the Congressmen applies these rulings on ~~himself~~ after they set those things up, hunting, open hunting. Just go up there and get yourself a contract and get your people taken care of. That's what the Congress is for. I don't think that is bad at all. I don't think these agencies are made up of angels or ~~xxx~~ King Solomon's with the wisdom of the Lord. I think they are just made up of mortals and they make a lot of mistakes. I think we have to have Senators and Congressmen and they're come in here and say look, now, I know you have a

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fine theoretical school, but what about my state, what about my city, because many times there are people that make these decisions that have the global view. In the meantime, you're a small spot on the globe. You use to know me when I was Senator, Herschel.

Herschel: (not clear)

Humphrey: Well, I just want to, I didn't come over to solve any problems with you, I just come over to sort of volunteer.

Herschel: Yes sir, they will paint them.

Humphrey: Well, we

Herschel: (not clear)

Humphrey: We are going to do what we started to do last year on the Job Corps which worked very well while in your city and we hope to have in the major cities a Job Fair Coordinator or a Job Fair , so to speak, out of industry. We are going to have a top man out of industry. We have been making some progress in the industrial circle, got 1500 Chamber of Commerce people coming down here next month. I am working with them. I have been all around this country talking to our business people. We had 400 and some corporation representatives the other night at a big meeting in Washington, ~~We~~ ~~are~~ laying our plans for Progress Program. We are just at it day and night. If suggestion and enthusiasm and conviction and evangelical fervor can do any good, why we are trying to do it. I just hope I don't run out of gas. But, when you get back home remember that somewhere in that community there is somebody that's been contacted or been touched up by us down here. We will try to help you, let you know who they are. You've gotta go after them. Now that's something we have not been doing. When we get the people down

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here and work on them and talk to them and enthuse them, we sometimes don't let you fellows know, you good nerves know, but we talk today to make the John Smith of your city who showed an interest in their in helping you on a Job Program. Now that's the kind of communication we've got to get at. Well, I've got to run along and you all got work to do. I sure am happy to be with you.



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