



FOR RELEASE  
SUNDAY, 3:00P.M., EDT.  
JULY 14, 1968  
Telephone 202/225-2961

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT  
MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA  
JULY 14, 1968  
( TO BE DELIVERED BY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR STEWART UDALL  
IN THE VICE PRESIDENT'S ABSENCE)

Governor Guy, there is a great deal to celebrate here today:

--The fact that the very old dream of harnessing the waters of the Missouri with the dry lands of North Dakota is coming another step closer to realization;

--The fact that North Dakota is about to receive a well-deserved reward for its contribution to the Garrison and Oahe Reservoirs that make the Missouri Basin Development possible;

--The beginnings of what will surely be a new era of opportunity for the people of North Dakota.

And it is a great day for me personally.

I grew up among the farm families of South Dakota. I was there to see the Depression and dust storms of the 30's wipe many of them out. I know what a steady water supply means not only to farmers, but to the communities that depend on them.

Harnessing the precious waters of the Missouri has been one of my personal causes ever since I went to the Senate in 1949. There could be no greater reward for me than what we do here today.

\* \* \*

America has met the challenge of creating material plenty.

Our country is rich and getting richer. Our farms produce a greater abundance than any other farms in the world. That abundance will surely increase.

For the first time in the history of mankind there is a nation where material scarcity is not the limiting factor in national purpose and human achievement.

As we approach the 200th anniversary of our Independence, it is clear that America faces a new challenge--the challenge of using its material plenty to provide a full and free life for all its citizens.

That means building cities that are safe and clean.

It means eliminating the slums and joblessness, poor education and hopelessness that are part of our urban environment today.

To me--and I feel this very deeply--it means an urgent national effort to revitalize rural America and develop its full potential not only for those who live there, but for those who want an occasional chance to get away from the cities.

Right now, for every 175 rural youngsters who reach working age, there are less than a hundred jobs.

In 1960, 22 percent of all rural five year olds were in kindergarten. In the cities, the figure was 46 percent.

The average rural teenager completes about 9 years of school. The figure is over 12 in the cities.

A third of our rural housing is substandard.

What this means, particularly for our young people, is that the basic American right to freedom of choice--choice of where to live...choice of employment--is restricted.

Between 1950 and 1960, 11 million Americans migrated to the cities, and that trend continues. About 200,000 young Americans living in rural America today will have been drawn or forced into the city within a year.

Many want to go, it is true. But we cannot overlook a recent Gallup poll which showed a marked increase over just the last two years in the number of urbanites and suburbanites who would prefer to live in small towns or on farms.

What is happening in American's cities today is to a very large extent the result of what has not happened in many of our rural areas.

In-migration of people, many of whom are poorly trained and poorly prepared for urban life...intense crowding in both slums and suburbs...overcrowded, rundown schools...congested public facilities of every kind--indeed what we call the urban crisis has its roots to a very large extent in rural America.

So when America sets out to provide full and equal opportunity for every citizen--and that is a task I mean to see completed as nearly as possible by 1976--we have to mean every citizen young and old, black and white, rural and urban.

I am not talking about re-creating the mythical "good old days down on the farm." I mean extending the best in modern living and opportunity to all our rural areas and smaller towns--places like the one where I grew up.

In the 30's modernization meant rural electrification and movie theaters in every town.

In the 1940's it meant well paved roads.

Now it means airports capable of handling short-hop jets; community colleges, modern hospitals and good doctors, the very best in elementary and secondary education. It means golf courses and ball parks. It means drama groups and art classes in addition to church socials.

It means economic viability--new investment, new job opportunities, a growing tax base, fully developed tourist facilities.

And it means full equity in the market place for American farmers and ranchers.

We have some public programs that provide an essential margin of income protection for agriculture--a price and income base to build on.

But farmers need better ways to increase bargaining power...to obtain long-term credit at reasonable interest rates...to expand market demand at home and abroad...to control rising land prices, taxes, and other production costs. This is some of the most urgent economic business before America today and I shall soon deliver a major address on it.

The Garrison Diversion is going to bring North Dakota a giant step closer to that kind of development.

It will mean a steady source of irrigation water which will allow North Dakota farmers to diversify their operations and take full advantage of your rich agricultural land.

It will mean water to support new industries and new towns.

It will mean communities that are vital, exciting, hopeful places to live.

And I believe it can and must mean that North Dakota becomes not just a prosperous part of America but part of a major recreation center for all America.

There is a chance now for a great recreation complex on the upper Missouri to include both Dakotas and Montana:

--a Great Prairie Lakes National Recreation Area consisting of one million 300 thousand acres of lakes and lands, almost all of which is already federally owned;

--a 110 mile scenic river area in Montana;

--a 13,000 acre Lewis and Clark Prairie Reserve in South Dakota; and

--a highway along the Missouri which would make the Dakotas a major access center to the Missouri reservoirs.

It would give the public access to about a billion dollars worth of land and water resources which they already own. It would bring 10 million visitors into the area by 1976, and tourist dollars potentially in the billions.

I strongly support this proposal.

The Upper Missouri has long provided power.

It has provided irrigation and will soon provide much more.

Today, it is America's greatest remaining recreational opportunity--pure water and more shoreline than the Great Lakes or the entire seacoast of the United States.

Let's put these resources to full use for the people of the Dakotas, Montana, and the people of America.

The purpose of America is not just efficiency and bigness. America's purpose is people--security for people...plenty for people...hope for people...freedom for people.

It is clean air and clean water.

It is the chance to see nature's uncluttered horizon,  
and to be away from the noise of machinery and motors.

It is schools that give our children a decent start in  
life--schools which, I believe, must now be made available to  
every child from the fourth year of life.

It is property--the pride of ownership.

It is the chance for old people to live out their lives  
in dignity and security.

Rural America has much of that already.

I believe it can have the rest.

And all America will be the better for it.

NOTE:

The Vice President did not go to Minot because of a bad case of flu.

The speech was, however, read to the group by Secretary Udall.

REMARKS

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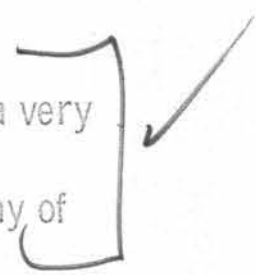
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Many want to go, it is true. But we cannot overlook a recent Gallup poll which showed a marked increase over just the last two years in the number of urbanites and suburbanites who would prefer to live in small towns or on farms.

What is happening in America's cities today is to a very large extent the result of what has not happened in many of our rural areas.

A handwritten bracket is drawn to the right of the text in the previous block, spanning the lines "What is happening in America's cities today is to a very large extent the result of what has not happened in many of our rural areas." A checkmark is drawn to the right of the bracket.

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