

Hispanic-American Reception
Waldorf-Astoria Hotel
New York City
July 22, 1968

MY OWN RECORD AND THE URBAN CRISIS "

MY FIRST EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNMENT, 25 YEARS AGO, WAS IN THE FIELD OF JOB RETRAINING AND MANPOWER.

I WAS MAYOR OF MINNEAPOLIS FROM 1945-8. WE PASSED THE FIRST MUNICIPAL FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES ACT IN MINNEAPOLIS. FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE MAYOR GOT INVOLVED IN LABOR-MANAGE_

(a)
2. MENT RELATIONS PROBLEMS. WE CRACKED DOWN ON ORGANIZED CRIME, AND REORGANIZED AND IMPROVED THE EFFICIENCY OF THE CITY'S HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS OF CITIES. THE WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM IS BY PARTICIPATION, PARTICIPATION IN JOBS, PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT, PARTI_

3. PARTICIPATION IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS, PARTICIPATION IN THE BUSINESS LIFE OF THE CITY. THAT WAY EACH PERSON HAS SUCH A STAKE IN THE SOCIETY, SUCH A REASON FOR PROTECTING IT AND PRESERVING IT, THAT DEMONSTRATIONS AND RIOTS ARE SIMPLY NOT NEEDED, AS AN EXPRESSION OF FRUSTRATION NOR AS A WAY OF PROTESTING THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH PEOPLE LIVE.

4. A FEW YEARS AGO I SAID THAT IF I LIVED IN ONE OF THESE URBAN SLUMS I " MIGHT LEAD A PRETTY GOOD RIOT MYSELF." THERE WAS A LOT OF OPPOSITION -- BUT WHAT WE MUST DO IS ELIMINATE THE CAUSES OF RIOTS. I THINK IT CAN BE DONE.

6. UP CAPITAL FOR EXPANSION. I KNOW THAT "BODEGA" (BO DAY GA) MEANS GROCERY STORE. WHAT IS THE SPANISH WORD FOR DRUG STORE? THE SMALL BUSINESS MAN SHOULD BE A FRIEND, AN ADVISOR, AND A HELPER TO HIS COMMUNITY. I WANT TO SET UP URBAN DEVELOPMENT BANS THAT WILL EXPAND EXISTING PROGRAMS TO UNDERWRITE THE RISKS OF SMALL BUSINESS, PROVIDING CAPITAL AT LOW INTEREST RATES, --

5. SMALL BUSINESS

I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT SMALL BUSINESS BECAUSE I WORKED AT THE FAMILY DRUG STORE AND WE WORKED PRETTY HARD. THE PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THIS NATION HAS MOVED INTO THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY VERY QUICKLY THROUGH ITS ENTREPRENURIAL PURSUITS, --SETTING UP SMALL BUSINESSES, SERVING THE COMMUNITY AND BUILDING

7. PROVIDING ADVICE AND COUNSELLING -- AND GIVING SMALL BUSINESSES A GREATER SHARE OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

8. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

I'VE TOLD MY PEOPLE THAT THERE MUST BE A MAXIMUM EFFORT ON VOTER REGISTRATION. ONCE YOU'RE A REGISTERED VOTER, YOU CAN BECOME AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF A POLITICAL PARTY -- YOU CAN RUN FOR OFFICE, -- YOU CAN INFLUENCE THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS WHO RUN YOUR CITY, STATE, AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS.

9. SOME PEOPLE WANT TO DESTROY OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM. DON'T LET THEM DO IT. IT'S HARD TO BECOME PART OF IT BUT IT'S WORTH IT. IN THE 1940s I HELPED ORGANIZE THE DEMOCRATIC-FARM-LABOR PARTY IN MINNESOTA. NOW I'M VICE PRESIDENT. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN POLITICS AND PUBLIC SERVICE, DON'T TEAR DOWN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM. WORK WITHIN IT AND TRY,

10. USING FAIR AND DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES, TO CAPTURE CONTROL OF IT.

11.

EMPLOYMENT

I'VE OUTLINED A PROGRAM FOR THE CITIES. WE NEED THE SAME WILLINGNESS TO SPEND MONEY, AND TO FOLLOW THROUGH, THAT WE DEMONSTRATED WITH THE MARSHALL PLAN AFTER WORLD WAR II. WE DON'T WANT TO BUILD LIVES FOR PEOPLE, -- WE WANT THEM TO BUILD THEIR OWN LIVES.

I'VE SAID THAT I DON'T ESPECIALLY CARE

12.

FOR A GUARANTEED INCOME PROGRAM. I WANT TO SEE REAL JOBS -- EARNING REAL MONEY -- WITH A REAL FUTURE. WE HOPE TO HAVE THOSE JOBS PROVIDED THROUGH THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM -- AND GOVERNMENT CAN SUPPORT PRIVATELY-SPONSORED AND ADMINISTERED PROGRAMS. THERE MUST BE EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES IN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT SO THERE WILL BE ADEQUATE MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL

13.

AND HEALTH FACILITIES, ADEQUATE STREET CLEANING PROGRAMS, -- EFFECTIVE HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT, AND ENOUGH POLICE PROTECTION SO THAT THE PERSON WHO EARNS MONEY DOESN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING ROBBED.



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