HUBERT H. HUMPHRE THURST TISON COUNTY FAIR JULY 10, 1970 The county fair in Kittson County is the first fair I have visited this summer. But it will not be the last. (In the weeks to come, I expect to visit county fairs all over Minnesota. / m not going to these fairs only to get in some politicking, / I want to talk with the people of rural Minnesota to get their ideas and opinions about one of the perplexing problems of our time, Simply put, the problem is this: When Our Where should all the people go? Population experts say that there will be between 75 and 100 million additional Americans by the year 2000. But the problem we face is

not that there will be more Americans. The rea problem is where will these Americans choose to live. The current predictions are not pleasant ones. The metropolitan areas, where problems now are made more difficult by so many people -- will get still more people. The rural areas -- where problems are now made more difficult by an exodus of people -- will continue to lose population, / That is a tragic situation: tragic for the big metropolitan areas, tragic for the small towns. 🗸 And yet, the federal government, which should be the architect of a population policy to help both big cities and small towns 1 is doing methinglettle or not

It is an astonishing fact, but neither the government, nor any private academic group, has ever come up with a full-fledged, well thought-out, population policy. No one has

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asked, and answered, the key questions:

where, in terms of the national interest and private would it be best for these new tens of millions of Americans to live?

- local --- that will encourage Americans to
 live in one place rather than another and thereby

 guether a free classe green and the green and th
- --- how much will it cost to implement these programs?
- --- what would the benefits be?

Now, I have my own personal views about these questions. I believe it would be good for America if more people lived in small towns and rural areas, and if fewer people jammed into big city. I believe that programs to attract

that rural areas need better medical facilities, better schools, better roads, and more airports.

I believe that Americans should have

rull freedom to choose the location of their

own residence --- in a big city, in a suburb, or in rural America.

A few years ago, a

Gallup Poll showed that 56% of Americans

preferred to live in a small town or rural area.

But they do not have the real choice to do that:

the jobs aren't there, and the facilities aren't there.

We need those jobs, we need those facilities, but I do not know --- no one knows --- what it will cost to create these rural jobs and rural facilities. Nor do we know what the effect on population residtribution will be if we do all these things. A new hospital in a rural area is

to a small town just because there is a new hospital there? Bringing jobs to rural areas is fine, but will people want the jobs if there are inadequate schools

the best minds in America to work out these answers. We need a workable plan, complete with costs, with benefits and the probable results. Much research has been done on certain specific aspects of the problem, but they have been pulled together and coordinated and presented as a long-range action program.

Accordingly, within a few days I will be appointing a task force of the best informed and best qualified people in America --- some from Minnesota, some from out of state --- to put their heads together and come up with a workable

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action policy designed to give Americans their full, free choice of residence. This will be a long-range plan that will allow Americans to live in the kind of community they like best --city, suburb or rural --- and to have good jobs, schools, hospitals, no matter where they live. To my knowledge, this will be the first time such a comprehensive, long-range population policy will have been put together. While these experts are doing their work, I will be going around state asking for the ideas of the men and women of rural Minnesota. I am also asking my fellow candidates of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party to help me in sounding out opinions in rural areas.

By the Fall, before Election Day, I expect to sift the results of this labor and to present to the people of Minnesota the fruits of this work.

I expect to put forth a wide-ranging, long-term action program that I hope to be able to introduce in the United States Senate if the people

of Minnesota return me to Washington to represent them.

Men who are active in politics do not have the luxury of sitting back and saying, "this is a serious problem we face and all the statistics say that it will get worse." Men in politics, sustained and nourished by the opinions of the voters, must be able to say, "we must act; we must shape our own destiny; we can shape our own destiny if we have the will to do it."

I believe we <u>can</u> build a better America. And I believe the time to start is now.

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REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY KITTSON COUNTY FAIR, HALLOCK, MINNESOTA July 10, 1970

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I'm not going to these fairs only to get in some politicking. I want to talk with the people of rural Minnesota to get their ideas and opinions about one of the perplexing problems of our time. Simply put, the problem is this: Where should all the people go?

Population experts say that there will be between 75 and 100 million additional Americans by the year 2000. But the problem we face is not that there will be more Americans. The problem is where will these Americans choose to live. The current predictions are not pleasant ones. The metropolitan areas,

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for the big metropolitan areas, tragic for the small towns. And
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population policy to help both big cities and small towns, --- is
doing nothing.

It is an astonishing fact, but neither the government, nor any private academic group, has ever come up with a full-fledged well thought-out population policy. No one has asked, and answered, the key questions:

- --- where, in terms of the national interest, would it
 be best for these new tens of millions of Americans to
 live?
- --- what are the programs --- federal, state and local --that will encourage Americans to live in one place
 rather than another?
- --- how much will it cost to implement these programs?
- --- what would the benefits be?

Now, I have my own personal views about these questions. I believe it would be good for America if more people lived in small towns and rural areas, and if fewer people jammed into big city areas. I believe that programs to attract industry to rural areas are important, and that rural areas need better medical facilities, better schools, better roads, and more airports.

I believe that Americans should have full freedom to choose the location of their own residence --- in a big city, or in a suburb, or in rural America. A few years ago a Gallup Poll showed that 56% of Americans preferred to live in a small town or rural area. But they do not have the real choice to do that: the jobs aren't there, and the facilities aren't there.

We need those jobs, we need those facilities, but I do not know --- no one knows --- what it will cost to create these rural jobs and rural facilities. Nor do we know what the effect on population redistribution will be if we do all these things. A new hospital in a rural area is fine, but do we know that people will migrate to a small town just because there is a new hospital there? Bringing jobs to rural areas is fine, but will people want the jobs if there are inadequate schools to send their children to?

I think we need some answers, and we need the best minds in America to work out these answers. We need a workable plan, complete with costs, with benefits and the probable results. Much research has been done on specific aspects of the problem, but they have not been pulled together and co-ordinated and presented as a long-range action program.

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