

STATEMENT OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
MAY 3, 1971, INITIATING FIELD HEARINGS  
OF THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT AT SIOUX CITY, IOWA

*Jim Thornton  
Westfield Iowa  
ASST to Dir.*

Ladies and Gentlemen, we of the Senate Subcommittee on Rural Development are more than happy to be with you today.

And we are proud to be in the home state of the distinguished ranking Minority Member of our full Committee, Senator Jack Miller. He promised us the greatest measure of hospitality from you fine people, and he didn't mislead us a bit.

We've had a grand morning visiting your excellent stockyard facilities, the farmers at Loren Hanno's place in LeMars, and at noon with <sup>Sioux City Chamber of Commerce,</sup> area Mayors and County Commissioners here in Sioux City.

Now the name of our Subcommittee is "Rural Development." But what we are really talking about here is even bigger than that. We are talking about the need for a national growth policy. We need national policies that will influence where people may live.

I'm talking here about what I call Freedom of Residence.

Our people are being pushed and shoved into the great metropolitan centers by economic factors. Both the Democrats and Republicans on this subcommittee want Americans to be given a <sup>real free</sup> choice of where they can <sup>want to</sup> live.

Both city dwellers and their country cousins are being denied the basic right of where they can live.

The Gallup poll shows that most would like to live in smalltown & rural America. But they can't. There aren't enough jobs in small towns that pay a living wage.

~~As far as the~~ <sup>For many of the</sup> breadwinners in our country are concerned, there are no alternatives to migration. And we must create some alternatives.

I, for one, see no reason why we have to be a nation crowded together along the seashores and the Great Lakes, while the center of our country, from Texas to North Dakota <sup>from the Alleghenies to the Rockies</sup> empties out.

To handle the new problems that will come with more people over the next 30 years, we will have to build the equivalent of a new town of 10,000 every day.

If our present hands off, no plan, no policy, procedures continue, the big cities will just get bigger, and vast areas of rural America will die.

As former Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman testified before our Subcommittee last Thursday, we couldn't have created a bigger mess if we had sat down at the drawing boards and planned it.

Our huge cities are the vital hubs around which much of this nation

thrives. But most of them don't need to get any bigger.

We need a balance, my friends -- a sound, well planned social and economic balance between urban and rural America.

They are already talking this way in Colorado. Thursday, Governor John Love told us that the days of indiscriminate development and industrial expansion for his state are over. Colorado is now being selective in choosing its industrial migrants. And it is no longer interested in industry that wants to plunk down in the major population centers.

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Our big city Chambers of Commerce used to measure "Progress" in their annual reports by the number of people who moved to town.

Now they are learning in many painful ways that growth for its own sake just isn't that good.

So we're not just talking about rural development are we?

It's true that two-thirds of our substandard housing is out in rural America. It's true that much of our poverty and under-employment are in our rural communities.

Because we have neglected the basics in rural America -- things

like decent telephone service;  
adequate borrowing availability;  
such essential things as water and  
sewer facilities; and all the rest --  
we have influenced an unnatural  
growth in the cities, creating  
megalopolis situations. And we have  
created an unnatural growth in the  
suburbs of those cities, creating  
what one observer calls "slurbs."

In 1856, the Steamboat Omaha  
came to this place from St. Louis  
carrying Sioux City's first store  
building. That boat was carrying  
more than a wooden building. Its  
cargo was faith -- faith in the future



of Sioux Land by the pioneers who built here.

When Howard Baker, John McHugh and E. A. Burgess built the auditorium that now houses the studios of KCAU, they built to provide a higher quality of life for the people here.

And that's the kind of thing we are talking about. We hope that through regional, state and national planning, we can stop a situation in which Iowa and North Dakota and other States now find themselves -- as exporters of college trained young men and women.

But to do so, we must have faith that it can be done, and then apply

the kind of will to the task that was exemplified in the Lewis and Clark expedition.

It may be that this is an emotionally troubled country. But this problem of rural development is a worthwhile challenge that I believe can be met.

I don't think this is a country of quitters, and neither do you. The Members of this Subcommittee -- Republicans and Democrats -- are ready to do a job. We will need your help. And I know we can count on you.



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