

REMARKS

BY

SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

ANNUAL FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE, INC.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 14, 1971

I want to take this opportunity to commend the foresight of your president, Cirtie M. Turner. She sent the invitation to me to address this distinguished gathering of business and professional women in Washington, not yesterday, not in April, but over seven months ago, before I was even officially on the job in the Senate.

Now you just cannot turn down an invitation made that far in advance, especially when you are returning to the center of power in America as a very junior Senator wondering how many people have "let it be forgot, that once there was a spot, for one brief shining moment, that was known as . . ." a Presidential election.

But the people of America have now had over two years to reflect on the result of that singular event. And the present occupant at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue may well wonder why he has received no advance notice of the renewal of his lease, due to expire after November, 1972.

Meanwhile, however, I have had an opportunity to study "from the inside" some of the major problems confronting our nation on which we must act now. And I want to share with you some very basic and very personal concerns.

Your Founder's Day theme is well expressed, in a day of national uncertainty, as a question. You ask, "Where Are We Going?" And I want to focus my remarks directly on this question.

A road map is useless unless you can pinpoint your present location. It is the same for a nation trying to determine in which direction it is headed.

Where are we right now in America? We are in the midst of one of the worst unemployment crises in our Nation's history. Well over 5 million people -- 6.1 per cent of the work force -- have lost their jobs. But this was no accident, no adjustment caused by the operation of economic forces alone. It was planned. It was accepted by the present Administration over the past two years as necessary to combat the fever of inflation.

But that is a quack remedy, and it hasn't worked. The fever of inflation persists. But didn't the White House tell you once again only recently that things were getting better?

Well, that report depends on your point of view. If you have been out of a job for several months, you are not consoled by the Administration's forecast of clear weather ahead. And you wonder whether the forecasters are more expert in the field of public relations than that of reading economic indicators which, for example, have shown another rise in wholesale prices. But what you do know is that the cost of living is still high and still rising.

Yes, the Administration has said we're going to have a "full-employment" budget in the future. That's an amazing complete shift in mid-stream. But if it is possible for 1972, why not get to it right now? Sorry, the Administration says, but we'll have to operate with an unemployment budget this year. We'll have to hold back some \$12 billion already appropriated by Congress for help right now in housing, in urban renewal, in public works, in agriculture, in conservation, and in health and education programs.

Now, how can we believe rosy predictions for the future that are given the lie by the facts of the present?

In fact, our national economy is a wounded giant. But where major surgery is required, this Administration has settled for handing out aspirins.

We must act immediately to get this Nation moving again. The resources, the people, the expertise, and most importantly, the will of millions upon millions of working Americans are at hand. They are ready and willing to do the job. All that is needed is effective national leadership.

But where is that leadership? Where is the concern at the top levels of government for people, for their needs, for finding the answers and taking imaginative and forthright action?

I just do not see this in the present Administration. Instead, I see vetoes and delay where there should be programs in operation -- programs to stimulate the economy; emergency manpower programs to substantially increase job opportunities in the public as well as the private sectors; increased Social Security benefits and accelerated tax deductions to improve consumer purchasing power; and extensive investments in housing, urban and rural development, and public works projects all geared to meeting essential human needs.

And I see an obsession in this Administration with costs rather than benefits in the reform and expansion of vital human welfare programs. I see increased appropriations passed by Congress for getting more schools and teachers, more hospitals and doctors, being vetoed by the President because, by some strange logic, they are "inflationary." I see a fundamental resistance in this Administration to a national health insurance program, of such vital concern to all our people.

This list seems endless, but there is one basic problem throughout. The central problem of the Nixon Administration is an inadequate concern for the needs and rights of people. And without this concern, no government can expect to have the trust and support of the people.

There is a continuing major task before us in establishing full and equal opportunities for all our people, the end of discrimination on account of color or sex.

This Administration has issued bulletins to its agencies calling for equal opportunity in employment. But it has resisted Congressional efforts to give the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission effective enforcement powers.

It has swayed back and forth on ending school segregation and ensuring that voting rights established by Federal law in 1965 are not undermined by new state election laws.

It has not pressed for the right of all Americans to a home in the neighborhood of their choice to give their families a decent life.

But most importantly, this Administration has failed to move forward with the civil rights agenda for the 1970's. The victims of this failure are the blacks, the Spanish-speaking, and the American Indians. But we are all victims, including the women of our nation who are rightly demanding that equal rights be rights in fact and in practice, rather than in rhetoric and in promises.

Since 1920, when the 19th amendment gave women the vote, women have worked to achieve full participation in all facets of American society. It is time -- past time -- to welcome their full and equal participation. We cannot afford to do without the energies and abilities of half our population.

Just as we have fought to protect the rights of minorities, we must apply the American tradition of civil liberty to women.

Women today serve in the judiciary, in business, in science, in law, in journalism, in education, and in government. And they serve splendidly. But they are too few. Women constitute a majority of the population of this country, yet the percentage of women in jobs of authority falls very short of a fair representation of this majority.

Women in the more advanced industrial countries of Western Europe, particularly the Scandinavian countries, the Soviet Union and other countries of Eastern Europe are playing an even more significant role in all areas of the political, social, and economic structure. Surely, the United States, which has long prided itself on equal rights and equal opportunities should be in the forefront

of the movement for maximum participation of women in our national life. One of the untapped resources of this country is woman power. We need women in science, medicine, engineering, politics, education -- in all the important work of our society. I don't have to tell you that.

Now what this means, in direct terms, is that women must have equal access to jobs of high responsibility. And it also and most importantly means that they must have equal pay for equal work with their male counterparts.

I hope and expect that you will continue to press the justice of this cause before an Administration that may then become more responsive to fundamental rights that also happen to make economic and social good sense.

But I hope you will also speak to the immediate agenda of the needs and rights of all our people. I have made special note of the important activities in the field of human welfare in which you are already engaged -- activities which give you direct experience and an unqualified endorsement to speak to the conscience of America.

I note particularly that the proceeds from today's program will go to a day care center in Cuthbert, Georgia for working mothers. This activity points to a basic new direction of the highest importance that I believe our Nation should be taking -- the care and development of the children of working mothers.

Right now this need is focused in Congressional deliberations over the reform of our welfare system. I fully support the equitable federalization of welfare costs across the Nation. But I am concerned that the Government may be making the case for this vital reform less in human terms than in the cold terms of cost-analysis.

Under welfare reform, for example, we must not end up with a custodial day care program providing inadequate services for children of working welfare recipients when the need for a comprehensive child development program is so pressing. What is needed is a comprehensive approach which emphasizes the needs of the child, his working parents and society, and which recognizes the vast potential for educational, social, and physical development particularly in the preschool years.

Now I believe the same principles should be applied in the establishment of comprehensive day care programs of the highest quality across the Nation. I believe it is the responsibility of the Federal Government to give priority attention to this vital need of the working women of America.

I intend to do everything possible to see to it that the United States has the best health care, the finest education and social development opportunities, for its preschool children. The shocking rate of infant mortality among our poor families, the report that 5 million children in America are emotionally disturbed -- these facts alone ought to weld us into immediate action.

I sincerely hope you will join me in addressing the agendas for action that I have brought before you this evening. The power of women to reach the conscience and the will of this Nation can be ignored by a government only at its peril. The needs of people must be our central concern in Washington today, not in the distant future. But you must speak -- on the right to jobs at a fair wage, and to full and equal opportunities for all our people -- black or white, male or female. You must emphasize the profound need for an end now to the human and economic cost of the war in Vietnam. And most particularly, you must call for effective programs to meet the health and education needs of our children. And I can assure you that I, for one, will listen to your voice, and will act.

#

Bishop Smallwood Williams

Mrs Kirtie Mae Turner

Dr Hugh Scott

Cong Dellums

REMARKS

BY Joseph A. Beavers

SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

ANNUAL FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE, INC.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 14, 1971

412100

201 -999

Uncle Ken
✓ when was
the tape recorder?

001718

I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEND THE
FORESIGHT OF YOUR PRESIDENT, KIRTIE Mae TURNER SHE SENT *me*

THE INVITATION ~~TO ME~~ TO ADDRESS THIS DISTINGUISHED

GATHERING OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN IN WASHINGTON,

NOT YESTERDAY, NOT IN APRIL, BUT OVER SEVEN MONTHS AGO, ¹₀

yes, BEFORE I WAS EVEN OFFICIALLY ON THE JOB IN THE SENATE. ⁰ *True friend*

Now YOU JUST CANNOT TURN DOWN AN INVITATION MADE

THAT FAR IN ADVANCE, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU ARE RETURNING

TO THE ^u CENTER OF POWER ⁴ IN AMERICA AS A VERY JUNIOR

SENATOR WONDERING HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE ¹¹ "LET IT BE

FORGOT, THAT ONCE THERE WAS A SPOT, FOR ONE BRIEF

SHINING MOMENT, THAT WAS KNOWN AS . . . " A PRESIDENTIAL

ELECTION.

+ thanks for your help.

- 2 -

~~But~~ THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA HAVE NOW HAD OVER TWO
YEARS TO REFLECT ON THE RESULT OF THAT SINGULAR EVENT.
AND THE PRESENT OCCUPANT AT 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
MAY WELL WONDER WHY HE HAS RECEIVED NO ADVANCE NOTICE
OF THE RENEWAL OF HIS LEASE, DUE TO EXPIRE AFTER
NOVEMBER, 1972.

MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, I HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO
STUDY "FROM THE INSIDE" SOME OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS
CONFRONTING OUR NATION ON WHICH WE MUST ACT NOW. AND I
WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME VERY BASIC AND VERY PERSONAL
CONCERNS.

↳ YOUR FOUNDER'S DAY THEME IS WELL EXPRESSED, IN A
time ~~DAY~~ OF NATIONAL UNCERTAINTY, AS A QUESTION. ↳ YOU ASK,

"WHERE ARE WE GOING?" AND I WANT TO FOCUS MY REMARKS
DIRECTLY ON THIS QUESTION.

↳ A ROAD MAP IS USELESS UNLESS YOU CAN PINPOINT YOUR
PRESENT LOCATION. ↳ IT IS THE SAME FOR A NATION TRYING
TO DETERMINE IN WHICH DIRECTION IT IS HEADED.

↳ WHERE ARE WE RIGHT NOW IN AMERICA? ↳ *well -* WE ARE IN THE
MIDST OF ONE OF THE WORST UNEMPLOYMENT CRISES IN OUR
NATION'S HISTORY.

- 4 -

~~well~~ OVER 5 MILLION PEOPLE -- 6.1 PER CENT OF THE WORK

FORCE -- HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS. ~~But~~ THIS WAS NO ACCIDENT,

NO ADJUSTMENT CAUSED BY THE OPERATION OF ECONOMIC FORCES

ALONE. ~~It~~ WAS PLANNED. ~~It~~ WAS ACCEPTED BY THE PRESENT

ADMINISTRATION OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS AS NECESSARY TO

COMBAT THE FEVER OF INFLATION.

~~I suggest~~
BUT THAT IS A QUACK REMEDY, AND IT HASN'T WORKED!

~~The~~ FEVER OF INFLATION PERSISTS, ~~BUT DIDN'T THE WHITE~~ *even though*

~~you are told once again~~
~~HOUSE TELL YOU ONCE AGAIN ONLY RECENTLY THAT THINGS WERE~~

GETTING BETTER?

~~well, THAT REPORT DEPENDS ON YOUR POINT OF VIEW.~~

~~If~~ YOU HAVE BEEN OUT OF A JOB FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, YOU

ARE NOT CONSOLED BY THE ADMINISTRATION'S FORECAST OF

CLEAR WEATHER AHEAD.

001722

- 5 -

AND YOU WONDER WHETHER THE FORECASTERS ARE MORE EXPERT IN

THE FIELD OF PUBLIC RELATIONS THAN ~~THEY~~ ⁱⁿ READING

ECONOMIC INDICATORS, ~~WHICH~~ ^{there has been} FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE ~~SHOWN~~

ANOTHER RISE IN WHOLESALE PRICES, ~~BUT WHAT YOU DO~~ ^{you are 6% -}

~~KNOW IS THAT THE COST OF LIVING IS STILL HIGH AND STILL~~

~~5% increase each yr - for last 2 yrs~~
~~As compared to 5% decline - 1961-1968~~
~~RISING~~

~~But,~~ THE ADMINISTRATION HAS SAID WE'RE GOING TO

HAVE A "FULL-EMPLOYMENT" BUDGET IN THE FUTURE. ^{That's}

AN AMAZING COMPLETE SHIFT IN MID-STREAM. BUT IF IT IS

POSSIBLE FOR 1972, WHY NOT GET TO IT RIGHT NOW? ^{SORRY,}

THE ADMINISTRATION SAYS, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO OPERATE WITH

AN UNEMPLOYMENT BUDGET THIS YEAR. ^{and that}

~~we have~~ ^{unemploy-}
^{Inflation}
^{Deficit}
^{& Rising Poverty} 1004

with all of this,

001723

the administration ⁻⁶ is holding back some

~~we'll have to hold back some~~ \$12 BILLION ALREADY APPROPRIATED

BY CONGRESS FOR HELP RIGHT NOW IN HOUSING, IN URBAN RENEWAL,

IN PUBLIC WORKS, IN AGRICULTURE, IN CONSERVATION, AND IN

HEALTH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS!

Now, HOW CAN WE BELIEVE ROSY PREDICTIONS FOR THE

FUTURE THAT ARE GIVEN THE LIE BY THE FACTS OF THE PRESENT?

IN FACT, OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY IS A WOUNDED GIANT.

BUT WHERE ^{intensive care} ~~MAJOR SURGERY~~ IS REQUIRED, THIS ADMINISTRATION

HAS SETTLED FOR HANDING OUT ASPIRINS.

or a blood
transfusion,
they say "ham-fist"

WE MUST ACT IMMEDIATELY TO GET THIS NATION MOVING

AGAIN. ^{the mgmt labor} THE RESOURCES, THE PEOPLE, THE EXPERTISE, AND

MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE WILL OF MILLIONS ~~UPON MILLIONS~~

OF WORKING AMERICANS ARE AT HAND.

to work

ready to go

- 7 -

~~THEY ARE READY AND WILLING TO DO THE JOB.~~ ALL THAT IS
NEEDED IS EFFECTIVE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP.

BUT WHERE IS THAT LEADERSHIP? WHERE IS THE CONCERN
AT THE TOP LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT FOR PEOPLE, FOR THEIR
NEEDS, FOR FINDING THE ANSWERS AND TAKING IMAGINATIVE
AND FORTHRIGHT ACTION?

↓ just don't see it.

~~I JUST DO NOT SEE THIS IN THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION.~~

- 8 -

INSTEAD, I SEE VETOES AND DELAY WHERE THERE SHOULD BE

PROGRAMS IN OPERATION -- PROGRAMS TO STIMULATE THE

ECONOMY; EMERGENCY MANPOWER PROGRAMS TO SUBSTANTIALLY

INCREASE JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PUBLIC AS WELL AS THE

PRIVATE SECTORS; INCREASED SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS AND

ACCELERATED TAX DEDUCTIONS TO IMPROVE CONSUMER PURCHASING

POWER; AND EXTENSIVE INVESTMENTS IN HOUSING, URBAN AND

RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS ALL GEARED

TO MEETING ESSENTIAL HUMAN NEEDS.

h AND I SEE AN OBSESSION IN THIS ADMINISTRATION WITH

COSTS RATHER THAN BENEFITS IN THE REFORM AND EXPANSION

OF VITAL HUMAN WELFARE PROGRAMS.

- 9 -

✓ I SEE INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS PASSED BY CONGRESS FOR
GETTING MORE SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS, MORE HOSPITALS AND DOCTORS,
BEING VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT BECAUSE, BY SOME STRANGE
LOGIC, THEY ARE "INFLATIONARY." ✓ I SEE A FUNDAMENTAL
RESISTANCE IN THIS ADMINISTRATION TO A NATIONAL HEALTH
INSURANCE PROGRAM, OF SUCH VITAL CONCERN TO ALL OUR PEOPLE.

✓ THIS LIST SEEMS ENDLESS, BUT THERE IS ONE BASIC
PROBLEM THROUGHOUT ~~THE CENTRAL PROBLEM OF THE NIXON~~
seems to have lack
ADMINISTRATION ~~IS THE~~ INADEQUATE CONCERN FOR THE NEEDS
AND RIGHTS OF PEOPLE! AND WITHOUT THIS CONCERN, NO
GOVERNMENT CAN EXPECT TO HAVE THE TRUST AND SUPPORT
OF THE PEOPLE.

The unfinished business of America -

- 10 -

L THERE IS A CONTINUING MAJOR TASK BEFORE US IN
ESTABLISHING FULL AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL OUR

PEOPLE, THE END OF DISCRIMINATION ON ACCOUNT OF COLOR, *Race*

OR SEX, ~~*Racism*~~

L THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS ISSUED BULLETINS TO ITS
AGENCIES CALLING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN EMPLOYMENT,
BUT IT HAS RESISTED CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS TO GIVE THE
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION EFFECTIVE
ENFORCEMENT POWERS,

L IT HAS SWAYED BACK AND FORTH ON ENDING SCHOOL
SEGREGATION AND ENSURING THAT VOTING RIGHTS ESTABLISHED
BY FEDERAL LAW IN 1965 ARE NOT UNDERMINED BY NEW STATE
ELECTION LAWS,

- 11 -

IT HAS NOT PRESSED FOR THE RIGHT OF ALL AMERICANS TO
A HOME IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THEIR CHOICE TO GIVE
THEIR FAMILIES A DECENT LIFE.

↳ BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS
FAILED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE CIVIL RIGHTS AGENDA
FOR THE 1970'S, ^{immediate} ↳ THE VICTIMS OF THIS FAILURE ARE THE

BLACKS, THE SPANISH-SPEAKING, AND THE AMERICAN INDIANS.

↳ ^{in fact} BUT WE ARE ALL VICTIMS, INCLUDING THE WOMEN OF OUR

NATION WHO ARE RIGHTLY DEMANDING THAT EQUAL RIGHTS BE

RIGHTS IN FACT AND IN PRACTICE, RATHER THAN IN RHETORIC

AND IN PROMISES.

now a word about women -

- 12 001729

Since 1920, when the 19th amendment gave women

the vote, women have worked to achieve full participation

in all ~~aspects~~ ^{areas} of American society. It is time ^{yes long} ~~past~~

time -- to welcome their full and equal participation.

We cannot afford to do without the energies and abilities
of half our population.

~~Just as we have fought to protect the rights of
minorities, we must apply the American tradition of
civil liberty to women.~~

To be sure,

women today serve in the judiciary, in business,

in science, in law, in journalism, in education, and

in government.

L AND THEY SERVE SPLENDIDLY. L BUT, THEY ARE TOO FEW. }

WOMEN CONSTITUTE A MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION OF THIS

COUNTRY, YET THE PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN JOBS OF AUTHORITY

+ *Responsibility*

FALLS ~~VERY~~ SHORT OF A FAIR REPRESENTATION OF THIS MAJORITY.

L WOMEN IN THE MORE ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES OF

WESTERN EUROPE, PARTICULARLY THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES,

THE SOVIET UNION AND ~~OTHER~~ *some* COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE

ARE PLAYING ~~AN EVEN MORE~~ *a* SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ALL AREAS

OF THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURE. L SURELY,

THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS LONG PRIDED ITSELF ON

EQUAL RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD BE IN THE

FOREFRONT OF THE MOVEMENT FOR MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION OF

WOMEN IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE.

- 14 -

L ONE OF THE UNTAPPED RESOURCES OF THIS COUNTRY IS WOMAN

POWER. L WE NEED WOMEN IN SCIENCE, MEDICINE, ENGINEERING,

POLITICS, EDUCATION -- IN ALL THE IMPORTANT WORK OF OUR SOCIETY.

~~I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT.~~

L NOW WHAT THIS MEANS, ~~IN DIRECT TERMS,~~ IS THAT WOMEN

MUST HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO JOBS OF HIGH RESPONSIBILITY,

AND ~~IT ALSO AND MOST IMPORTANTLY MEANS THAT~~ THEY MUST

HAVE EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK WITH THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS.

L I HOPE AND EXPECT THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS

THE JUSTICE OF THIS CAUSE BEFORE AN ADMINISTRATION, ~~THAT~~ ^{& Congress}

~~MAY THEN BECOME MORE RESPONSIVE TO FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS~~

~~THAT ALSO HAPPEN TO MAKE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GOOD SENSE.~~

- 15 -

BUT I HOPE YOU WILL ALSO SPEAK TO THE IMMEDIATE
AGENDA OF THE NEEDS AND RIGHTS OF ALL OUR PEOPLE. *I*

HAVE MADE SPECIAL NOTE OF THE IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES IN

THE FIELD OF HUMAN WELFARE IN WHICH YOU ARE ALREADY

ENGAGED -- ACTIVITIES WHICH GIVE YOU DIRECT EXPERIENCE

AND AN UNQUALIFIED ENDORSEMENT TO SPEAK TO THE CONSCIENCE

OF AMERICA.

Child care-

L I NOTE PARTICULARLY THAT THE PROCEEDS FROM TODAY'S

PROGRAM WILL GO TO A DAY CARE CENTER IN CUTHBERT, GEORGIA

FOR WORKING MOTHERS. *h* THIS ACTIVITY POINTS TO A BASIC

NEW DIRECTION OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE THAT I BELIEVE

OUR NATION SHOULD BE TAKING -- THE CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

OF THE CHILDREN OF WORKING MOTHERS.

- 16 -

RIGHT NOW THIS NEED IS FOCUSED IN CONGRESSIONAL
DELIBERATIONS OVER THE REFORM OF OUR WELFARE SYSTEM. I

FULLY SUPPORT THE EQUITABLE FEDERALIZATION OF WELFARE

COSTS ACROSS THE NATION. BUT I AM CONCERNED THAT THE

GOVERNMENT MAY BE MAKING THE CASE FOR THIS VITAL REFORM

LESS IN HUMAN TERMS THAN IN THE COLD TERMS OF COST-ANALYSIS.

UNDER WELFARE REFORM, FOR EXAMPLE, WE MUST NOT END UP
WITH ONLY A CUSTODIAL DAY CARE PROGRAM PROVIDING INADEQUATE

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN OF WORKING WELFARE RECIPIENTS

WHEN THE NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE CHILD DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM IS SO PRESSING.

WHAT IS NEEDED IS A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH WHICH EMPHASIZES

THE NEEDS OF THE CHILD, HIS WORKING PARENTS AND SOCIETY.

AND, WHICH RECOGNIZES THE VAST POTENTIAL FOR EDUCATIONAL,

SOCIAL, AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY IN THE

PRESCHOOL YEARS.

NOW I BELIEVE THE SAME PRINCIPLES SHOULD BE APPLIED

IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE DAY CARE PROGRAMS

OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY ACROSS THE NATION. I BELIEVE IT

IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO

GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TO THIS VITAL NEED OF THE WORKING

WOMEN OF AMERICA.

- 17 A -

WE NEED A PROGRAM THAT RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO PRESERVE
THE FAMILY UNIT. NO MOTHER SHOULD BE FACED WITH A
MANDATORY WORK REQUIREMENT. SHE SHOULD HAVE THE OPTION
OF BEING HOME WITH HER YOUNG CHILDREN, OR GAINFULLY
EMPLOYED WITH AN ADEQUATE CHILD CARE PROGRAM.

YESTERDAY, THE DEMOCRATIC POLICY COUNCIL, OF WHICH
I AM CHAIRMAN, RECOMMENDED A COMPREHENSIVE AND FULLY
FEDERALIZED WELFARE SYSTEM WITH EXACTLY THAT PROVISION.

WE CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE MINIMUM WELFARE PAYMENTS
AT LEAST EQUAL TO OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED POVERTY LEVELS
AS RELATED TO THE COST OF LIVING.

AND OUR RECOMMENDATION SPECIFICALLY GUARANTEES THAT
ANY WORK REQUIREMENT WILL RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF MOTHERS
OF PRESCHOOL AND SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN TO REMAIN IN
THE HOME.

L I INTEND TO WORK TO MAKE THOSE PROVISIONS REALITIES.

and

I INTEND TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SEE TO IT

THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS THE BEST HEALTH CARE, THE

FINEST EDUCATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES,

FOR ITS PRESCHOOL CHILDREN. | THE SHOCKING RATE OF INFANT

MORTALITY AMONG OUR POOR FAMILIES, THE REPORT THAT

5 MILLION CHILDREN IN AMERICA ARE EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED --

THESE FACTS ALONE OUGHT TO WELD US INTO IMMEDIATE ACTION.

L

I SINCERELY HOPE YOU WILL JOIN ME IN ADDRESSING

THE AGENDA~~s~~ FOR ACTION THAT I HAVE BROUGHT BEFORE YOU

THIS EVENING. THE POWER OF WOMEN TO REACH THE CONSCIENCE

AND THE WILL OF THIS NATION CAN BE IGNORED BY A GOVERNMENT

ONLY AT ITS PERIL.

THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE MUST BE OUR CENTRAL CONCERN IN

WASHINGTON TODAY, NOT IN THE DISTANT FUTURE. BUT YOU

MUST SPEAK -- ON THE RIGHT TO JOBS AT A FAIR WAGE, AND

TO FULL AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE --

BLACK OR WHITE, MALE OR FEMALE. YOU MUST EMPHASIZE THE

PROFOUND NEED FOR AN END NOW TO THE HUMAN AND ECONOMIC

COST OF THE WAR IN VIETNAM. AND MOST PARTICULARLY, YOU

MUST CALL FOR EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS TO MEET THE HEALTH AND

EDUCATION NEEDS OF OUR CHILDREN. AND I CAN ASSURE YOU

THAT I, FOR ONE, WILL LISTEN TO YOUR VOICE, AND WILL ACT.

#####



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org