

President Purley - nat. Waterway Conference,
President Kerchoff - upper miss. Waterway
Assn.
"FREEDOM TO LIVE THE GOOD LIFE"

REMARKS OF HON. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY OF MINNESOTA,
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT, SENATE AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE AT THE JOINT ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE
NATIONAL WATERWAYS CONFERENCE, INC., AND UPPER MISSISSIPPI
WATERWAY ASSN., SAINT PAUL HILTON HOTEL, SAINT PAUL, MINN.
SEPTEMBER 16, 1971

Dale Miller

IF THE AVERAGE AMERICAN WERE ASKED TO LIST SOME OF
THE FREEDOMS HE ENJOYS IN THIS COUNTRY, I'M SURE HE OR SHE
COULD COME UP WITH AN IMPRESSIVE LIST:

- FREEDOM OF PRESS
- FREEDOM OF SPEECH
- FREEDOM OF RELIGION
- FREEDOM TO VOTE AND BELONG TO THE
POLITICAL PARTY OF YOUR CHOICE; AND EVEN
- FREEDOM TO PROTEST AGAINST ACTIONS OF
THE GOVERNMENT

ALL OF THESE ARE CHERISHED FREEDOMS, AND WE CONSTANTLY
MUST BE ON GUARD AGAINST THEIR EROSION, WE MUST REMEMBER THAT
UNLESS THESE FREEDOMS ARE EXTENDED TO ALL PERSONS, THEY
POTENTIALLY CAN BE DENIED TO EVERYONE. SO OUR FREEDOMS
MUST BE INDIVISIBLE AND UNIVERSAL IN THEIR APPLICATION.

TODAY, HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT A GROWING LIST OF FREEDOMS THAT THE AVERAGE AMERICAN IS JUST BEGINNING TO ARTICULATE AND DEMAND. THESE NEW DEMANDS MIGHT BE SUMMED UP AS THE FREEDOM TO LIVE THE GOOD LIFE. JUST WHAT DO I MEAN BY THIS EXPRESSION?

PERHAPS THE MOST ELEMENTARY ASPECT OF THE GOOD LIFE IS THE RIGHT OF PERSONAL SECURITY AND SAFETY IN YOUR EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES. THIS IS A FREEDOM THAT MOST OF US TOOK FOR GRANTED WHEN WE WERE GROWING UP, AND IT HAS ONLY BEEN WITHIN THE LAST FEW YEARS THAT THE FREEDOM OF PERSONAL SAFETY HAS COME UNDER ATTACK.

~~WHAT KIND OF LIFE IS IT TO LIVE IN CONSTANT FEAR THAT YOUR CHILDREN MAY COME UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS? YET, WHEN WE LOOK AT MANY OF OUR BIG CITIES TODAY, WE SEE JUST THAT KIND OF FEAR STALKING THE STREETS. WE READ THAT APARTMENT BUILDINGS, SCHOOLS, AND EVEN PRIVATE HOMES ARE BECOMING VIRTUAL ARMED FORTRESSES.~~

~~WE ADD MORE POLICEMEN, BUT THE CRIME RATES CONTINUE TO GO UP. RAID AFTER RAID AND ARREST AFTER ARREST FAILS TO STEM THE FLOW OF DRUGS INTO OUR LARGE URBAN CENTERS, AND OUR CHILDREN BECOME THE VICTIMS.~~

CERTAINLY OUR CITIZENS CANNOT HAVE THE FREEDOM TO LIVE THE

GOOD LIFE UNLESS THEY CAN LIVE IN SAFETY, BUT IN RECENT YEARS NEITHER GOVERNMENT NOR SOCIETY SEEMS ABLE TO PROVIDE THAT GUARANTEE OF FREEDOM.

↳ A SECOND "RIGHT" BEING DEMANDED BY OUR CITIZENS IS THE FREEDOM TO ENJOY A QUALITY ENVIRONMENT. ↳ THEY ARE TIRED OF POLLUTED RIVERS AND STREAMS; THEY ARE LITERALLY SICK OF POLLUTED AIR; AND THEY ARE FED UP WITH NOISE, TRAFFIC JAMS, AND THE RUSH, RUSH, RUSH OF EVERYDAY LIFE. BUT HOW MANY OF OUR MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREAS CAN OFFER AN ENVIRONMENT FREE OF NOXIOUS POLLUTION? NOT MANY, I CAN TELL YOU.

↳ IN A GREAT NUMBER OF OUR CITIES -- THANK GOODNESS MINNEAPOLIS AND SAINT PAUL ARE NOT YET AMONG THEM -- POLLUTION HAS BECOME A WAY OF LIFE. AMERICANS IN THESE CITIES DO NOT WAKE UP TO THE SUNRISE; THEY WAKE UP TO HAZE, FOG, AND SMOG. THOSE OF US IN WASHINGTON OFTEN EXPERIENCE DAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN HARDLY SEE THE DOME OF THE CAPITOL BECAUSE OF POLLUTION. NOISE LEVELS AND TRAFFIC JAMS SEEM TO BE ON THE INCREASE ALMOST EVERYWHERE.

↳ I DON'T THINK MANY PEOPLE WOULD INCLUDE POLLUTION, NOISE, AND CONGESTION AS ELEMENTS OF THE GOOD LIFE. YET FEWER AND FEWER AMERICANS LIVE IN AN ENVIRONMENT FREE OF SUCH THINGS.

↳ GOING HAND IN HAND WITH THE DEMANDS FOR A GOOD PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT IS A DESIRE FOR WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED PSYCHOLOGICAL

FREEDOMS. I HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED THE FREEDOM FROM FEAR. BUT WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE NEIGHBORS AND BE NEIGHBORS, IN THE TRUE SENSE OF THE WORD. WE WOULD RATHER NOT BE TREATED RUDELY ON THE STREETS OR THE SIDEWALKS. WE WOULD RATHER NOT BE CROWDED, CONGESTED AND RUSHED ALL THE TIME. WE WOULD LIKE TO LIVE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL TRUST AND FRIENDSHIP.

BUT DO YOU FIND THIS KIND OF ATMOSPHERE IN OUR BIG CITIES? NOT VERY OFTEN. PEOPLE EITHER DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE FRIENDLY, OR THEY ARE AFRAID THAT IF THEY EXTEND THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP THEY WILL BE BETRAYED. IT HAS REACHED THE POINT THAT PEOPLE HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN MURDERED IN BROAD DAYLIGHT WHILE PASSERS-BY STAND AROUND AND WATCH--AFRAID TO GET INVOLVED. THIS KIND OF PSYCHOLOGICAL FEAR AND DISTRUST BREEDS ON ITSELF AND CAN EAT AWAY AT THE VERY FIBER OF THE NATION.

and am
SO OUR CITIZENS ARE DEMANDING RELIEF FROM THOSE TERRIBLE PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESSES AND FEARS WHICH PREVENT THE FREEDOM TO LIVE THE GOOD LIFE.

MORE AND MORE AMERICANS ARE DEMANDING THE TRADITIONAL-- BUT OFTEN IGNORED--FREEDOM OF ECONOMIC SECURITY WHICH I SUGGEST IS DIRECTLY TIED TO YET ANOTHER FREEDOM--NAMELY--FREEDOM OF RESIDENCE!

THE CURRENT RECESSION HAS REMINDED US ONCE AGAIN THAT "UNEMPLOYMENT" AND "UNDER EMPLOYMENT" ARE NOT SIMPLY TERMS IN THE JARGON OF ECONOMISTS; THEY ARE VERY REAL FACTS OF LIFE FOR MILLIONS OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS TODAY.

TODAY'S RECESSION HAS MERELY COMPOUNDED THE ALREADY WORSENING SITUATION OF JOB OPPORTUNITY DISLOCATION IN OUR NATION.

WELFARE ROLLS IN OUR BIG CITIES HAVE GROWN TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT WELFARE NOW CONSUMES A MAJOR PORTION OF THE BUDGETS OF CITIES LIKE NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, D.C., ATLANTA, LOS ANGELES, DETROIT AND CHICAGO. MANY OF THOSE ON ~~THESE~~ WELFARE ROLLS ARE RURAL MIGRANTS OR CHILDREN OF RURAL MIGRANTS. MANY OF THESE PEOPLE SIMPLY CANNOT FIND WORK IN EITHER THEIR RURAL COMMUNITIES OF THEIR ORIGIN OR IN THE BIG CITIES TO WHICH THEY HAVE MIGRATED.

SUCH MOVEMENTS OF PEOPLE HAVE EXACERBATED THE PROBLEMS OF CRIME; PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION IN OUR LARGER CITIES AND HAVE STRIPPED OUR RURAL COUNTRYSIDE OF BOTH ITS POTENTIAL AND ITS PROMISE.

ADD ALL OF THESE THINGS TOGETHER AND YOU HAVE ANYTHING BUT THE GOOD LIFE. YOU HAVE SOMETHING MORE AKIN TO A LIFE OF TRIAL AND TRIBULATION. SO IF WE ARE GOING TO RESTORE THE FREEDOM TO LIVE THE GOOD LIFE, HOW SHALL WE GO ABOUT IT? WHERE DO WE START?

YOU HAVE NO DOUBT NOTICED THE ASSOCIATION I HAVE MADE BETWEEN THE DEMANDS FOR A GOOD LIFE WITH WHAT IS POPULARLY CALLED THE URBAN CRISIS. THIS IS NO ACCIDENT, BECAUSE IN MOST CASES THE LOSS OF THOSE FREEDOMS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOOD LIFE CAN BE TRACED DIRECTLY TO THE URBAN CRISIS.

MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY, WHO LIKE MYSELF GREW UP IN RURAL AREAS OR SMALL TOWNS, CAN REMEMBER A TIME WHEN PEOPLE THOUGHT NOTHING OF LEAVING THEIR DOORS UNLOCKED WHILE RUNNING ERRANDS OR GOING DOWNTOWN. SOME CAN PROBABLY EVEN REMEMBER TIMES WHEN YOUR FAMILY OCCASIONALLY SLEPT WITH THE DOORS UNLOCKED.

WHEN I GREW UP IN SOUTH DAKOTA A BIG CRIME WAS CHICKEN STEALING -- NOT MUGGING. WE KNEW ALL OUR NEIGHBORS AND WORKED AND PLAYED TOGETHER. WE HELPED EACH OTHER OUT IN TIMES OF TROUBLE. WE HAD OUR HARDSHIPS, ESPECIALLY DURING THE DEPRESSION, BUT WE NEVER TURNED ON EACH OTHER. WE REMAINED GOOD NEIGHBORS.

LIFE WAS NOT CONGESTED, CROWDED, NOR FOREVER RUSHED. AND THE WORD "POLLUTION" WAS NOT EVEN IN OUR VOCABULARY. WE EXPERIENCED ECONOMIC INSECURITY, BUT THERE WERE ALWAYS FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO HELP OUT IN TIMES OF NEED.

PERHAPS SOME WILL THINK I AM A ROMANTIC WHO DWELLS ON THE "GOOD OLD DAYS." THAT IS NOT MY PURPOSE. I AM A REALIST; I KNOW WE CANNOT GO BACK TO THE "GOOD OLD DAYS."

But
WE CANNOT ELIMINATE OUR CITIES, NOR PEOPLE'S DESIRE TO LIVE IN THEM. WE CANNOT INDISCRIMINATELY CLOSE DOWN FACTORIES THAT PROVIDE JOBS, SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY CREATE SOME POLLUTION, NOR CAN WE ELIMINATE CRIME AND DRUGS MERELY BY WISHING THEY WOULD GO AWAY.

NO, MY FRIENDS, THESE ARE REAL PROBLEMS WE ARE DEALING WITH -- AND THERE ARE NO "INSTANT SOLUTIONS" TO THEM!

BUT BEING A REALIST, I ALSO KNOW THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES TO THESE HUGE MEGALOPOLISES WHICH ARE SPAWNING SO MANY OF ~~THE~~ PROBLEMS, ~~INIMICABLE TO THE GOOD LIFE.~~

way
THE ALTERNATIVE I WANT TO TALK ABOUT TODAY IS RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND BALANCED NATIONAL GROWTH. MOST EVERYBODY IS FAMILIAR WITH THE TREMENDOUS MIGRATION FROM OUR FARMS AND SMALLER COMMUNITIES TO OUR LARGE CITIES, WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE DURING THE LAST THREE DECADES -- 30 MILLION PEOPLE IN JUST 3 DECADES! MANY OF US IN THIS ROOM WERE PART OF THOSE MIGRATIONS. WE HAVE GONE FROM A NATION IN WHICH 60 PERCENT OF ALL AMERICANS LIVED AND WORKED IN RURAL AREAS AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY TO A TIME WHEN THE RURAL POPULATION MAKES UP LESS THAN 30 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION.

SEVENTY PERCENT OF OUR POPULATION LIVES ON LESS THAN 2 PERCENT OF THE LAND. DEMOGRAPHERS TELL US THIS SITUATION IS LIKELY TO WORSEN DUE TO PROJECTED NATURAL POPULATION ~~growth~~

INCREASES THAT ARE EXPECTED IN OUR URBAN AREAS, PLUS CONTINUED IMMIGRATION AND A CONTINUED MIGRATION OF RURAL YOUNG PEOPLE TO OUR NATION'S LARGE CITIES.

⌞ IF OUR HUGE METROPOLITAN AREAS IN 1971 NO LONGER PROVIDE THE FREEDOMS NECESSARY FOR THE GOOD LIFE, WHAT WILL THEY BE LIKE IN THE YEAR 2000? I ALMOST SHUDDER TO THINK OF A SITUATION IN WHICH ALL THE JOB OPPORTUNITIES ARE LIMITED AND FURTHER CONCENTRATED IN OUR HUGE METROPOLITAN REGIONS. WHEN WE REACH THAT STAGE, THE GOOD LIFE WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- WHO OFTEN SEEM TO BE AHEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT IN REALIZING THE CAUSE OF PROBLEMS -- ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE CONNECTION BETWEEN OVER-POPULATED CITIES AND THE PROBLEMS OF CRIME, DRUGS, POLLUTION, CONGESTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS. ⌞ AS LONG AGO AS 1968, A GALLUP POLL SHOWED THAT 56 PERCENT OF ALL AMERICANS WOULD PREFER TO LIVE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES, WITH 18 PERCENT PREFERRING CITY LIFE AND 25 PERCENT THE SUBURBS.

IN A RECENT POLL TAKEN IN CALIFORNIA, 29 PERCENT OF THAT STATE'S POPULATION INDICATED THEY WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE THAT STATE. OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN THERE LESS THAN 8 YEARS, ALMOST HALF SAID THEY WANT TO LIVE ELSEWHERE.

IN THE 1970 AGRICULTURAL ACT AND THE 1970 HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACT CONGRESS STATED THAT REVITALIZATION

OF OUR RURAL AREAS AND PURSUIT OF A BALANCED NATIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY ARE "ESSENTIAL TO THE PEACE, PROSPERITY AND WELFARE OF ALL OUR CITIZENS" AND THAT THEY MUST BE GIVEN THE "HIGHEST PRIORITY." PRESIDENT NIXON IN HIS 1971 STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE MADE A COMMITMENT TO A NATIONAL GROWTH POLICY THAT WOULD "NOT ONLY STEM THE MIGRATION TO URBAN CENTERS BUT REVERSE IT."

SO BOTH THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY A MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, ARE ON RECORD AS FAVORING A POLICY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND BALANCED NATIONAL GROWTH.

~~THIS BEING THE CASE, I THINK IT IS TIME WE STOPPED GIVING LIP-SERVICE AND ENDORSEMENTS TO THESE IMPORTANT PURSUITS AND ACTUALLY START TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM. RHETORIC COMES CHEAP, BUT ACTION IS THE TRUE TEST OF ONE'S COMMITMENT.~~

TO THAT END, THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT HAS RECENTLY DEVELOPED LEGISLATION THAT WILL PROVIDE SOME OF THE MECHANISMS THROUGH WHICH WE CAN BEGIN TO ACCOMPLISH THESE STATED OBJECTIVES.

THE CONSOLIDATED FARM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT WHICH I HAVE INTRODUCED -- AND WHICH 50 OTHER SENATORS HAVE ALSO CO-SPONSORED -- WOULD DO TWO THINGS: 1) IT WOULD EXTEND

THE AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXTEND CREDIT FOR FARM AND NON-FARM RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS; AND 2) IT WOULD ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT BANKS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CREDIT TO PRIVATE AND PUBLIC BORROWERS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES.

✓ THE LEGISLATION STATES THAT ONE OF THE PRIMARY PURPOSES FOR THESE LOANS WOULD BE "THE CONSERVATION, USE AND CONTROL OF WATER." THIS SPECIFICALLY INCLUDES WATER AND SEWER PROJECTS, WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS, WATER TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, AND MANY OTHER PUBLIC WORKS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS -- WHICH ARE OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE NATIONAL WATERWAYS CONFERENCE, INC., AND THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI WATERWAY ASSOCIATION.

✓ I BELIEVE WATER RESOURCE PROGRAMS CAN AND SHOULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE NATION'S RURAL RE-DEVELOPMENT ✓ ONE FACTOR THAT OUR SUBCOMMITTEE HAS DISCOVERED IS THAT WATER PROGRAMS ARE UNIQUELY SUITED FOR RURAL REVITALIZATION.

✓ WATER IS AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT FOR EVERY ASPECT OF MAN'S LIFE: HE DEPENDS UPON IT FOR LIFE ITSELF. IT IS OLDER THAN THE WHEEL, OR EVEN FIRE. IT SERVES MAN IN MANY DIFFERENT AND WONDROUS WAYS.

- WATER SERVES AS A PRIMARY SOURCE OF ENERGY
- WATER SERVES AS ONE OF OUR OLDEST AND MOST RELIABLE

CONVEYANCE OF TRANSPORTATION

- WATER NOURISHES OUR AGRICULTURAL CROPS, LIVESTOCK
~~AND AIDES~~ IN THE PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURING
OF MOST NON-AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
- WATER PROVIDES US WITH SOME OF OUR MOST BEAUTIFUL
AND SCENIC VISTAS
- WATER PROVIDES US WITH SOME OF OUR MOST ENJOYABLE
RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES
- IT SERVES AS OUR MOST IMPORTANT MEANS TO CLEANLINESS
AND SAFETY
- AND, WATER, AND WATERWAYS, HAVE PROVIDED OUR NATION
WITH MUCH, IF NOT MOST OF THE STIMULUS FOR ECONOMIC
GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT
OF OUR URBAN WAY OF LIFE

✓ LET US LOOK FOR A MINUTE AT WHAT OUR OWN PUBLIC INVESTMENTS
IN WATERWAY DEVELOPMENT HAVE PROVIDED OUR NATION,

- WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS CONSTRUCTED BY THE CORPS
OF ENGINEERS AND BUREAU OF RECLAMATION PROVIDE WATER FOR
OVER 19 MILLION PEOPLE TODAY.
- WATER BORNE COMMERCE HAS INCREASED FROM 163 BILLION
TON MILES IN 1950 TO 265 BILLION TON MILES IN 1966--
A 62% INCREASE IN 16 YEARS.

- ALTHOUGH TOTAL PUBLIC EXPENDITURES FOR FLOOD CONTROL TO DATE HAS REACHED \$6.8 BILLION, DAMAGE PREVENTED BY THIS PROGRAM IS ESTIMATED AT \$22 BILLION.
- HYDROELECTRIC POWER INVESTMENTS NOW GENERATE OVER \$1 BILLION ANNUALLY IN FEDERAL REVENUES IN ADDITION TO THE POWER THEY GENERATE WHICH HAS BEEN ESSENTIAL TO OUR NATION'S GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.
- IN 1965, 2.8 BILLION ACTIVITY DAYS OF RECREATION WERE ENJOYED BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC ON ALL OUR NATION'S WATERWAYS. ^{By}THE YEAR 2000 WATER BORNE RECREATION IS EXPECTED TO REACH ALMOST 8 BILLION ACTIVITY DAYS.
- WATERBORNE TONNAGE IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE ABOUT 6 TIMES IN THE NEXT 50 YEARS WITHIN THE U.S. IN 1971 IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 3 BILLION TON MILES OF GOODS AND CARGO WILL MOVE OVER U.S. WATERWAYS.
- THE 207 BUREAU OF RECLAMATION RIVER PROJECTS PROVIDE WATER TO IRRIGATE ALMOST 9 MILLION ACRES OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS WITH A CROP VALUE OF ALMOST \$2 BILLION FEDERAL INCOME TAX PAYMENTS GENERATED BY THESE PROJECTS SINCE 1940 ARE ESTIMATED AT ALMOST 10 BILLION DOLLARS--\$2 BILLION

MORE THAN ALL FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FOR RECLAMATION
SINCE 1902!

THESE ARE THE KIND OF PUBLIC INVESTMENTS THAT HAVE
CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO OUR NATION'S PHENOMENAL GROWTH AND
DEVELOPMENT. THEREFORE, YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHY I HAVE SO LITTLE
TIME FOR THOSE WHO TALK OF SUCH PUBLIC INVESTMENTS AS
"PORK BARREL" OR TOO COSTLY FOR GOVERNMENT TO UNDERWRITE,
AND WE NEED TO DO MORE! FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF OUR
WATERWAYS AND OUR OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES IN A MANNER
CONSISTENT WITH THEIR PROTECTION AND CONCERN FOR OUR
ENVIRONMENT SHOULD ALWAYS REMAIN AS AN IMPORTANT NATIONAL
GOAL. AND AS FAR AS MONEY IS CONCERNED WE MUST--AS
OF OUR FOREFATHERS DID--BE WILLING TO THINK BIG. WITH A
TRILLION DOLLAR ECONOMY TODAY, THIS MEANS WE MUST THINK
IN 10 AND 100 BILLION DOLLAR TERMS,

THE EXISTENCE OF NON-POLLUTED WATER SUPPLIES WILL TO
A GREAT DEGREE DETERMINE WHAT AREAS OF RURAL AMERICA EXPERIENCE
REDEVELOPMENT. ONE THING IS CERTAIN, YOU CANNOT DEVELOP AN

AREA WITHOUT WATER.

ANOTHER FACTOR WHICH MAKES WATER PROGRAMS ATTRACTIVE IS THAT MOST WATER PROJECTS ARE LOCATED IN RURAL AREAS.

THIS IS IN STARK CONTRAST TO SO MANY FEDERAL PROGRAMS IN WHICH PROJECTS ARE LOCATED IN AND AROUND MAJOR URBAN AREAS WHICH ARE ALREADY OVERCROWDED. THIS NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTES TO THE CONGESTION, BUT IT ALSO CREATES A "SNOWBALL" EFFECT THAT DRAWS IN MORE AND MORE PEOPLE -- CONTINUALLY COMPOUNDING THE PROBLEM.

I THINK THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, IF IT BELIEVES WHAT IT SAYS, MUST MAKE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO LOCATE MORE OF ITS PROJECTS AND INSTALLATIONS IN LESS DENSELY POPULATED AREAS, WHICH, I MIGHT ADD, IS NOW REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF TITLE IX OF THE AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 1970.

THAT IS THE ADVANTAGE OF WATER PROGRAMS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND FLOOD CONTROL, MOST WATER RESOURCE PROJECTS ARE LOCATED IN RURAL AMERICA. IN FACT, ONE NOTED POLITICAL SCIENTIST (PROFESSOR LYNTON K. CALDWELL OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY) TESTIFIED BEFORE THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE THAT WATER PROGRAMS ARE THE ONLY MAJOR FEDERAL UNDERTAKING WHICH TENDS TO DISPERSE RATHER THAN CONCENTRATE THE POPULATION.

THIS IS VIVIDLY BORNE OUT IN A TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY STUDY OF INDUSTRIAL GROWTH THAT OCCURRED IN THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AFTER ITS RIVER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. THIS STUDY SHOWED THAT 52 PERCENT OF ALL WATERWAY--CREATED JOBS IN THE TENNESSEE VALLEY HAVE BEEN LOCATED IN 133 RURAL COUNTIES WITH NO MAJOR CITIES. Twenty-five percent WERE LOCATED IN MEDIUM-SIZED COUNTIES, AND ONLY 23 PERCENT IN METROPOLITAN COUNTIES.

ON ONE OF OUR SUBCOMMITTEE FIELD TRIPS, WE TOURED THE TENNESSEE VALLEY, AND I WAS QUITE IMPRESSED WITH THE CITY OF DECATUR, ALABAMA, WHICH IS A RAPIDLY GROWING COMMUNITY OF SOME 40,000. BEFORE THE TENNESSEE RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, DECATUR WAS JUST ANOTHER STRUGGLING RURAL COMMUNITY. Now it is a vital, bustling regional growth center. GROWTH LIKE THIS IS TAKING PLACE ALL ALONG THE TENNESSEE RIVER -- BUT NOT IN MAJOR URBAN AREAS THAT ARE ALREADY CROWDED TO CAPACITY.

THIS LEADS ME TO YET ANOTHER ASPECT OF WATER RESOURCE PROGRAMS THEY CAN BE QUITE INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING PRODUCE THE ECONOMIC BASE FOR RURAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. CERTAINLY THAT HAS OCCURRED IN THE TENNESSEE VALLEY. THE SAME THING, I UNDERSTAND IS HAPPENING ALONG THE McCLELLAN-KERR ARKANSAS RIVER NAVIGATION PROJECT. WHICH WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO FLY OVER DURING ONE OF OUR RURAL DEVELOPMENT FIELD HEARING TRIPS TO OKLAHOMA EARLIER THIS MONTH. RELATIVELY SMALL COMMUNITIES LIKE MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA AND FT. SMITH, ARKANSAS ARE BECOMING NEW GROWTH CENTERS AS A

RESULT OF THIS PROJECT.

↳ THOSE OF US WHO HAVE GROWN UP ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER KNOW WHAT THAT RIVER MEANS TO RURAL AREAS. ↳ IT PROVIDES A TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THAT ENABLES THE MIDWESTERN FARMER TO GET HIS PRODUCTS TO MARKET CHEAPLY SO THAT HE CAN COMPETE IN DOMESTIC AND WORLD MARKETS.

↳ WITHOUT LOW-COST WATER TRANSPORTATION, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT MIDWESTERN GRAIN WOULD RETAIN ITS COMPETITIVENESS AND MANY ^{more} OF OUR FARMERS WOULD END UP MIGRATING TO THE BIG CITIES.

↳ IN MINNESOTA WE ARE DOUBLY FORTUNATE. ↳ WE ARE AT THE HEAD OF NAVIGATION ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND WE ALSO HAVE ACCESS TO THE GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY SYSTEM.

↳ TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF WHAT THIS MEANS TO MY STATE, I WOULD CITE THE RESULTS OF A STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE MINNESOTA STATE PLANNING AGENCY IN 1969 (ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE AND OUTLOOK OF MINNESOTA WATERBORNE TRANSPORTATION).

↳ THIS STUDY CONCLUDED THAT PORT AREA INCOMES IN MINNESOTA FROM WATER TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED PORT ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING OVERLAND SHIPPING WITHIN THE STATE TO AND FROM PORTS, GENERATES INCOMES "PROBABLY IN THE GENERAL NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$200 MILLION PER YEAR." ↳ THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY IS THE BENEFACITOR.

WITHOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF LOW-COST WATER TRANSPORTATION ON THE MISSISSIPPI AND THE GREAT LAKES, MINNESOTA FARMERS COULD BE AT A SEVERE DISADVANTAGE. OUR STATE IS LOCATED HUNDREDS OF MILES FROM MAJOR DOMESTIC MARKETS AND A THOUSAND MILES FROM SEAPORTS ALONG THE COASTS. BARGES ON THE RIVERS AND BULK CARRIERS ON THE LAKES HELP TO KEEP OUR FARM PRODUCTS COMPETITIVE. WE ARE ABLE, THEREFORE, TO SELL MORE, AND OUR FARMERS GET MORE FOR WHAT THEY SELL. AS MOST OF YOU PROBABLY KNOW, SAVINGS IN TRANSPORTATION COSTS MEAN MORE MONEY IN THE FARMER'S POCKET.

FOR THESE REASONS I AM *deeply concerned about the* ~~QUITE SKEPTICAL~~ OF PROPOSALS FOR HIGHER TOLLS ON THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY AND THE PROSPECT OF USER CHARGES ON DOMESTIC WATER ROUTES LIKE THE MISSISSIPPI. SUCH CHARGES WOULD NOT ONLY CURTAIL THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY; THEY WOULD LIMIT THE ABILITY OF WATER PROJECTS TO SUSTAIN INDUSTRIAL GROWTH AND JOB DEVELOPMENT.

I ALSO BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT WAS EXTREMELY SHORT-SIGHTED WHEN HE VETOED THE PUBLIC WORKS ACCELERATION PROGRAM PASSED EARLIER THIS YEAR BY CONGRESS. PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS CAN AND DO CREATE JOBS -- THAT HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED FOR MANY DECADES. AND THEY ARE NOT NECESSARILY DEAD-END JOBS, AS SOME HAVE CLAIMED. THERE'S NOTHING DEAD-END ABOUT THE JOBS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PORT OF SAINT PAUL OR THE PORT OF DULUTH, I CAN TELL YOU THAT.

I WOULD BE REMISS, HOWEVER, IF I DID NOT ADMONISH THE NATION'S WATER PLANNERS TO MAKE SURE THAT THEIR USE

OF WATER RESOURCES DOES NOT RESULT IN THE POLLUTION OF
OUR RIVERS, LAKES, AND STREAMS. IN RE-BUILDING RURAL
AMERICA, I BELIEVE WE CAN DO IT WITHOUT MAKING MANY OF THE
MISTAKES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN OUR URBAN CENTERS, WE CAN
DO A BETTER JOB OF PLANNING; WE CAN AND MUST GUARD AGAINST
ALL KINDS OF POLLUTION; AND WE CAN PRODUCE ORDERLY, UNCONGESTED
GROWTH PATTERNS.

~~SO I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOUR TWO ORGANIZATIONS TO GET BEHIND~~
~~AND VIGOROUSLY SUPPORT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.~~ I KNOW
~~THAT THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT WILL WELCOME~~
~~YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND HELP WHEN OUR BILL COMES UP FOR HEARINGS~~
~~LATER THIS YEAR.~~ AS I SAID, WATER PROGRAMS HAVE A MAJOR
~~CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE IN THIS AREA AND WE ARE COUNTING ON YOUR~~
~~SUPPORT.~~

AS I SAID IN A RECENT SENATE SPEECH, RURAL REVITALIZATION
 IS MORE THAN JUST A PROGRAM FOR RURAL AMERICA; IT IS A PROGRAM
 FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. IT WILL HELP NOT ONLY THE FARMERS
BUT ALSO AMERICA'S SMALL TOWNS, ITS VILLAGES, AND ITS GROWING
COMMUNITIES THAT CAN SERVE AS CENTERS OF GROWTH. AND JUST AS
SIGNIFICANTLY, IT IS A PROGRAM TO HELP RELIEVE THE URBAN
AREAS OF OVER-CONGESTION AND ITS ATTENDANT PROBLEMS OF POLLUTION,
CRIME, AND CONGESTION.

AND RETURNING TO MY ORIGINAL THEME -- WHICH IS AKIN TO
THE THEME OF THIS CONVENTION -- RURAL RENEWAL IS A PROGRAM

THAT CAN HELP RESTORE THE "FREEDOM TO LIVE THE GOOD LIFE" --
A FREEDOM THAT SHOULD BE THE BIRTHRIGHT OF ALL AMERICANS.



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