

FOR RELEASE -- 10 a.m. (PDT) Tuesday, Jan. 25, 1972

HUMPHREY PROPOSES NEW GRASS-ROOTS ANTI-POLLUTION PROGRAM WITH ENVIRONMENTAL SAVINGS BOND FINANCING.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 25 -- Senator Hubert H. Humphrey today proposed a new grass-roots approach to pollution control and environmental protection financed in part by citizen-purchased Environmental Savings Bonds.

Senator Humphrey told an audience of Loyola University students here that he will introduce in the Senate tomorrow the Community Coalitions for a Clean Environment Act. The act would provide several hundred million dollars in Federal funds to local communities to:

- Hire professional staff to work with communities in identifying and seeking local solutions to environmental problems.

- Act as community representatives in working with industry and other pollution sources to improve the environment.

- Provide community education, information and consultation services.

- Act as liaison with neighboring local governments.

- Help secure additional grants to carry out local anti-pollution programs.

"Citizen awareness, citizen participation and citizen action are the key elements of my proposal," Senator Humphrey said.

"Too often, we have designed massive Federal programs without local consultation, without enough recognition of special local problems, and without enlisting local participation in the program's action phase.

"The community environmental coalitions approach I am proposing provides for grass roots participation in every phase, including the financing through the Environmental Savings Bonds investment program.

"These bonds would be tax deductible for the purchaser. They would bear the same interest as present Series E bonds. But the investment would be earmarked specifically for environmental purposes.

"The bonds could provide hundreds of millions of dollars for this community program. In addition, the bill will provide for direct federal grants to communities of \$100 million, with at least 60 per cent of the funds going to communities of 50,000 population or more."

Humphrey emphasized that his proposal would not supplant existing Federal, state or local anti-pollution programs, but supplement them with a new community-level approach and a commitment of additional Federal funds.

He chose Los Angeles to unveil the proposal, he said, because he said the area demonstrates the critical deterioration of the urban environment.

"It is estimated that the smog produced in the Los Angeles area by climatic conditions combined with the exhaust fumes of millions of autos cost nearly \$340 million a year," he said.

"This figure is roughly one-third of the entire tax revenues for Los Angeles County last year. Here is a breakdown:

--"Roughly \$250 million was the price tag for air pollution in this area in doctors bills, hospital costs, employment losses and even burial bills.

--"Productivity losses are estimated at about \$26 million.

--"Crop damage, particularly to citrus crops, was roughly \$15 million.

--"And material damage and cleaning costs amounted to some \$14 million.

"Despite growing public awareness, we are losing battle after battle in the struggle for a clean and healthy environment. Our commitment of resources is alarmingly short of what is needed.

"The fact is that we have put insufficient funds and muscle into the battle, so that it has been impossible to catch up with pollution, let alone eradicate it.

"Our air has become so polluted that respiratory ailments and eye damage are rapidly increasing. One-fourth of respiratory diseases today are associated with air pollution.

"Lakes, rivers and our coastal waters are dying, threatening vast potential food supplies and recreational opportunities.

"We can no longer pollute and get away with it.

"We can no longer afford to wait for disaster before we act.

"The bills need to be paid now."

Senator Humphrey said his proposal for Community Coalitions for a Clean Environment was part of a new strategy for the '70s he will be outlining in the months ahead, a strategy that calls for "a new partnership of government and people."

"Most of the problems that beset our society will not yield to purely governmental solutions," he said. "But neither can government abdicate its responsibility.

"We will solve our problems only through an aroused and active citizenry, backed by new government commitment, resources and leadership."

file: Loyola

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY - LOS ANGELES

OPENING REMARKS

It's always a pleasure to speak to a campus audience.

May I say it has become even more of a pleasure since the passage of the Twenty Sixth Amendment to the Constitution.

One of the reasons I enjoy speaking to college audiences is that you are under thirty-five, for the most part, and that means that you are not now and cannot be candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1972.

You don't know what a relief that can be in a campaign.

All of you here today have a responsibility to examine all of their candidates and their stands on the important issues.

This responsibility falls most heavily on all of you because with the enfranchisement of 18 to 21 year olds, the first significant voting bloc in fifty years has been added all at once to the political balance of the country.

After women were given the vote, Warren Harding was elected President. Many of us look forward to your vote having a more dynamic impact on this nation's direction.

This is an important year. I believe this election is an opportunity to return to work on the unfinished agenda of human needs still facing America.

And I believe your job in 1972 is not just to register, not just to organize, not just to vote, but to begin to make government--government in Washington, government in Sacramento,

government in Los Angeles--more responsive to the needs of people.

But you must recognize that the great problems that beset America today must be solved by a new partnership of government and people.

Neither people nor government can effectively work alone. What does this new partnership mean?

Perhaps I can best explain the nature of this partnership if I discuss what we must do now to solve one of the most serious and urgent problems: a rapidly deteriorating environment which daily threatens our health, our economy and our future well-being.

The problem is complicated; so will be the answers. From the people we need new efforts; from the government we need new laws.

EXCERPTS

Everybody says that they are for the environment:

--Schools

--Corporations

--Law firms

--Public appeals boards

--And citizens continually say they want a clean environment.

With this vast army enlisted in the struggle for the environment, why are we losing battle after battle? Why is the environmental doomsday bell ringing everywhere?

These questions are not easily answered.

But I can say that our commitment of resources is alarmingly deficient. Insufficient funds make it impossible for us to even catch up with pollution--let alone eradicate it.

Another answer to the contradiction of great national concern with poor performance is our failure to realize that we can neither postpone paying the bill for environmental abuse nor ignore some of the tough questions which need answers.

Americans have been abusing the environment for decades.
Now the bills are coming due!

--Lakes, rivers and oceans are dying, threatening food
and recreational sources.

--Our air is so polluted that respiratory and eye damage
is rapidly increasing. 25% of our respiratory diseases are
associated with air pollution.

--Noise pollution poses a threat to human hearing and
nervous systems.

We can no longer pollute and get away with it.

Americans can no longer afford to wait for a cataclysm
in order to act.

The bills need to be paid now--and the tough questions
are here today and must be answered:

--How can we achieve continued economic growth providing
more jobs and greater economic equity without further threatening
a deteriorating environment?

--If polluters are to be taxed--and I believe they should--

What share of this tax should be passed along to the consumer?

--Must communities be forced to choose between pollution or poverty if a polluting plant is shut down and people lose their jobs?

--Are we willing to give up our dependence on high-powered automobiles and other polluting appliances and luxuries?

I believe we must increase direct citizen participation in the struggle to achieve the goal of a clean environment.

There is a great need for effective, local citizen's coalitions to identify environmental problems and propose reasoned, well-documented thoroughly researched approaches to solving the problems.

I would like to announce today my intention to introduce in the very near future the Community Coalitions for a Clean Environment Act of 1972.

FACTS ON AIR POLLUTION IN LOS ANGELES

Let me give you some of the dimensions of the environmental crisis we face in one of the most serious problem areas: air pollution.

It is estimated that the smog produced in the Los Angeles area by climatic conditions combining with the exhaust fumes from millions of automobiles cost nearly \$340 million a year. This figure is roughly a third of the tax money from resources paid to Los Angeles County last year. A partial breakdown of the situation shows:

--Health damages are the greatest in both financial and human terms and roughly \$250 million of the total cost of smog goes to pay doctors, hospitals, employment losses and burial bills.

--The damages resulting from a loss of productivity total about \$26 million.

--Agricultural damage to such crops as citrus are roughly \$15 million.

--The material and cleaning costs from the particulate matter in smog account for \$14 million worth of damage.

Smog is now found in almost every populous area of California with populations over 40,000. It is found even in some rural areas as far as 70 miles from cities.

THE HUMPHREY BILL CREATING
COMMUNITY COALITIONS FOR A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

EXCERPTS

Citizen awareness, citizen participation and citizen action are the key parts of this legislation.

Community Coalitions are federally funded.

The Coalitions will:

- Hire staff professionals to provide technical assistance in helping local people identify and seek solutions to environmental problems.
- Become environmental advocates on part of their community, neighborhood and city.
- Become a liaison with local government.
- Provide information, education and consultation.
- Help secure grants
- Act as community environmental representative with industrial polluters.

FUNDING:

Community coalitions will be funded by an Environmental Trust Fund established in the Treasury of the United States.

The Environmental Trust Fund will receive funds through the Congress and from the sale of Environmental Savings Bonds-- bonds citizens can purchase with the assurance that their savings will be spent to improve the environment.

People should have the chance to invest in the environment.

Their investments will grow when they redeem the bonds and in reduced taxes as environmental cleanup moves ahead.

Environmental Savings Bonds will be the new way to invest in the future of America.

\$100 million will be available to the Community Coalitions through grants to the states with at least 60% of the funds going to communities with a population of over 50,000.

The overall state plan for the Community Coalitions will be prepared in an open and representative manner. There can be no closed doors as far as the environment is concerned.

Community Coalitions will be integrated with a state's environmental activities.

The Community Coalitions for Clean Environment fills a badly needed gap in existing environmental legislation:

It provides a mechanism to involve people in a meaningful way to improve our environment.

Government needs the people's help to protect the broad public interest in a clean environment.

Government must be reminded that the ends of programs are people--not agencies.

The Community Coalitions, the Environmental Trust Fund and the Environmental Savings Bonds can bring new vitality and life to cleaning up our environment.

Adlai Stevenson: "We all float together on this little planet, and like it or regret it our resources are finite, and our needs infinite."

Students, workers, businessmen, teachers, children and families must always be part of governmental decision making.

SUGGESTED DRAFT FOR SENATOR HUMPHREY
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES
January 25, 1972

It is always a pleasure to speak to a campus audience. May I say it has become even more of a pleasure since passage of the Twenty-sixth Amendment to the Constitution.

One of the reasons I enjoy speaking to audiences of young people is that you are under thirty-five, for the most part, which means that you are not now and cannot be candidates for the Democratic Presidential Nomination in 1972.

You don't know what a relief that can be in this campaign.

The Republicans tend to be much more disciplined and symmetrical about these things. They have one token candidate on the right, and one on the left, which would seem to put President Nixon in the middle. I warn you, appearances are deceptive.

This is a truly crucial election campaign in which I hope all the voters will look beyond appearances. But this responsibility falls most heavily on you, because with the enfranchisement of eighteen-to-twenty year-olds, the first large, significant voting bloc in fifty years has been added all at once to the political balance in this country.

After women were given the vote, Warren Harding was elected President. Many of us look forward to your vote having a somewhat more dynamic impact on this nation's direction.

area 614 -

He & Neal Peterson —

followed up —

Johnny Johns —

Traditionally, we do expect more of the young. According to legend, it was the clear eyes of youth that saw what no one else would see -- that the Emperor wore no clothes. We rely on you to strip our institutions of their pretensions.

We rely on your enthusiasm to fuel human progress. You have the idealism to awaken the national conscience. You have the education to inform that idealism. And now you have the vote to make that idealism reality. A weary nation cannot be blamed for looking to you for the promise of a better tomorrow.

I don't know whether anyone can be fairly expected to live up to all the diverse hopes your fellow citizens have for you. But we do have the right to ask that you not waste this election and the opportunities it represents for all of us.

For many, this election is an opportunity to return to work on the unfinished agenda of human need still facing America. For many, this election is a chance for a renewed sense of personal dignity and worth.

The opportunities represented by this election must not be wasted in recriminations for the past. The opportunities of 1972 must not be thrown away to feed cold disappointment and regret.

Like it or not, you first-time voters have become the symbol for the opportunities of this election. We look to you, not for a reflection of our discouragement with yesterday, but for a new commitment to tomorrow. That commitment takes as many forms as there are people.

What the American people do in this election will have decisive effect in Washington and Saigon, but we cannot let the overwhelming importance of international policy justify ignoring the rest of the spectrum of vital issues.

As unlikely as this may sound coming from Hubert Humphrey, I think Abbie Hoffman may be right -- may be right when he urges new voters to make themselves felt at the state and local levels. The international issues are critical, to be sure, but you must also remember that your political involvement also has its impact --

-- on the lives of migrant workers doing the hardest kind of work we know for a marginal living in the hot sun of the Central Valley,

-- on the lives of hopeless, young, unemployed blacks in South Central Los Angeles,

-- on the lives of the families here in Westchester who are increasingly subjected to what may prove to be the most pernicious form of environmental pollution of all -- pollution by noise.

The range of political concerns is wide because the human needs that have gone neglected are many.

The world was shocked by the blowout at Platform "A" that despoiled one of California's most beautiful beaches, but that was three years ago, and still we have no national policy of coastline protection. And now, new drilling is proposed for the Eastern Seaboard.

More cities are choked, like Los Angeles, with filthy unbreathable air, but we wait in vain for the moral leadership to make the

hard choices necessary if we are to cleanse the air in the foreseeable future.

The poor and minorities remain locked in their ghettos while the slightly more affluent are locked into twice daily traffic jams because we have yet to devise adequate mass rapid transit systems for our cities. Federal aid has been too little, too late and totally unrelated to the needs of Los Angeles and the other new cities of the West whose growth patterns were dictated by the automobile.

We know we need a million and a half new low cost homes each year if every American family is to have a decent place to live. We know too that we don't come anywhere near meeting that need while government at all levels tears down almost as much low cost housing as is being built.

No living cost is increasing as rapidly as the cost of health care, but the national administration remains too timid and too beholden to special interests to propose even a minimal national program to protect American families from the financial ruin that is now part of the suffering of major illness.

Education inequality becomes more pronounced in our city schools. Instead of solutions, our leaders denounce the use of the partial remedies that are available.

The Administration policy of "benign neglect" of the legitimate civil rights demands of minorities perpetuates the vicious isolation of the races in America, and heightens the atmosphere of misunderstanding and physical danger in which we live.

Our economic dislocation grows more distorted as wages are

controlled while the prices of what those wages buy are allowed to creep steadily upward.

The so-called "acceptable unemployment" that was supposed to cure it all, now is a fact of life at all economic levels. Joblessness bewilders the highly educated, highly motivated workers who had come to believe that such things could not happen to them, while it deepens the despair of the ill-prepared, unskilled unemployed.

Our problems and unmet needs cross economic levels and geographical distance. The colors of our skins or of our collars do not insulate us from adversity and they once might have.

But these problems can be solved; the needs fulfilled. We are used to doing that in America, and we can do it again.

The stagnation of national leadership over the last three years has made a cynical mockery of the promise to bring us together. But this election campaign offers the chance to end that stagnation and move forward again in dignity as a united people.

To move forward, we must first look forward to the kind of dynamic, compassionate nation we know we can be. It is a vision we must all contribute to. No one can be forgiven for opting out. It is a task that we are all charged with as we develop the issues and the solutions in the months ahead.



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