

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

JOINT SESSION OF THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
Charleston, West Virginia
February 3, 1972

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if government really worked?

If we had uniformly good schools with quality education for all of our children?

If all our elderly could live out their lives in security and with decency?

If there were enough good jobs for all those who wanted to work?

If our health system provided quality health care for all Americans instead of for just a few?

If peace were a fact of life instead of just a long-sought goal?

If these things came to pass, we would not be living in a utopia.

No, we would be living in a country where government worked -- where the goal of government was people.

Somehow it seems people have been forgotten.

And this is a tragic fact in 1972 because we have just lived through a decade of commitment to people's needs.

When John F. Kennedy and I came to West Virginia in the spring of 1960, we found a state and a nation beset by serious economic decline.

We found a people who had given much but who had been denied their rightful share of prosperity in a nation becoming richer every year.

In the spring of 1960 the people of West Virginia and the 18 million Americans living in the Appalachian region became symbols of those left behind by an affluent nation.

Despite the fact that 75,000 people were out of work here, West Virginians were not about to give up.

And you didn't.

Both John Kennedy and I made a commitment to the people of West Virginia and both of us -- in our own way -- worked to fulfill this commitment. He as President and I as Majority Whip -- the same position that your distinguished Senator Robert Byrd holds today.

John Kennedy has been taken from us.

But I want to continue his tradition of government dedicated to the people. I want to continue the tradition of Franklin Roosevelt, of Harry Truman, of Lyndon Johnson -- the tradition of caring about the needs of people.

During the decade of the 1960's, government stirred the spirit of man's lofty ambitions.

And, the verdict of the 1960's is this: We had our troubles -- and they were severe. But we learned that problems are never solved by looking backwards. It is to the horizons of tomorrow that we must cast our eyes.

What will be the verdict of the 1970's?

We face today a crisis of public responsibility.

Government itself is at fault.

Widespread doubt clouds our system of government.

The vital elements of faith in the people by those in government and confidence in the government by the people has been seriously eroded. Without that trust and confidence, representative government cannot work.

We are a great nation of massive wants crying for attention. We need new schools, hospitals, clinics, roads and parks. But with more than five million people out of work nationally, 35,000 people without jobs in West Virginia, families suffering, our leaders stand in the way of job creating programs they claim are nothing but government make-work.

The sad fact of 1972 is that the government of this nation has failed to equal the vitality and dreams of the American people.

While the government stands still, the American people want an end to poverty, good homes, adequate health care and jobs.

But how can we move forward?

What must government do now?

Good government that responds to the needs of people must first have agreement with the people as to what is to be done, how it is to be done, and when it is to be done.

And that, my friends, means planning and goals. We will be plagued by hit and miss and stop and go programs until planning becomes a part of government.

In order to begin a decade of domestic development, we must organize our institutions of government around three themes.

One, we must launch a concerted attack on special tax privilege, tax shelters for the wealthy and tax unfairness.

Two, we must rekindle the inventive flame of state and local government.

Three, we must refocus our attention on our primary source of strength: the American people.

The American tax system is unfair and unjust.

It is rigged against work, against wages, against salaries.

It is rigged against the elderly.

It is rigged against the middle income worker.

It is rigged against the poor.

And it is rigged in favor of unearned income.

Our tax system rewards wealth and deals harshly with the man who must earn a livelihood by holding a job.

The American people will not tolerate a system which allows 301 Americans with incomes in excess of \$200,000 to pay no income tax at all.

The American people will not tolerate a system which allows the largest oil company in the world -- netting over 2.4 billion dollars -- to pay less than 11 percent of its income in taxes.

The American people will no longer tolerate a system which relies too heavily on the regressive and unjust property tax as a major source of local revenue. This tax is a hardship for the middle-income home owner. It prevents full educational opportunity for all children.

We must create a tax system that puts a halt to the relentless battle among special interests to see who pays the least. All American taxpayers are oppressed today because some Americans are not paying their fair share.

The time has come for tax reform and tax justice at the state and federal level.

As a second theme, we must restore a more even balance between state responsibilities and state financial resources.

The federal government pays less than 7 percent of the total education bill of our children -- yet all children are citizens of the United States.

And the Nixon Administration now wants to put an end to the Appalachian Regional Commission.

I pledge to you today that I will join with your two able and distinguished Senators from West Virginia, Jennings Randolph and Bob Byrd, to prevent this program from dying. It has helped West Virginia and many other states. The Appalachian Regional Commission has done too much to improve the quality of life for West Virginians to die a slow death at the hands of the present Administration.

Today I call for a fair sharing between states and the federal government. We need a partnership -- not a rivalry.

Let us increase the partnership in the budget decisions of the federal government. How can the federal government form a \$250 billion budget when West Virginians were never asked about their housing, health, or education needs?

I say, let us share our tax dollars, let us share our budget decisions, let us share our problems.

Let us find together our common solutions in a new American partnership.

Finally, the crisis of public responsibility will be ended when the American people become the focus once again of government -- when government remembers the first three words of the Constitution are "We the people..."

Government of the people means something when the hungry are fed, when the poor have jobs, when our natural resources are protected, when those who labor in the mines of West Virginia are protected from the ravages of disease and disaster.

Something is happening in this nation and those of us in government had better recognize it. People are demanding accountability, responsibility, and sensibility from every level of government.

They want to know who's in charge. And they want results. And they have a right to no less.

Government can no longer substitute the promise of action for action, rhetoric for performance, and TV prime time for first class, prime service.

The people of West Virginia, the American people are saying to government: "Give us policies we can believe in -- give us services we want and can pay for."

America does not need to be paralyzed by a government of indecision and indifference. We are capable of doing great things -- we have done so before. We helped a war torn Europe rebuild its cities. And we must do the same and better here.

We can build more and better homes.

We can provide comprehensive health care for all.

We can revitalize rural America.

All of this can be done if only we make the commitment, plan for it, mobilize our resources, and get to work.

The '70's must be a decade for reconciling our differences, for rebuilding our country and for reaffirming our faith in god, country, and self.

Over 30 years ago Franklin Roosevelt said that "the test of progress is not whether we add to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

This is the challenge of the 1970's. And to mee the challenge we must be able to say of this decade: It was a time when government rediscovered people and together a nation moved forward again.

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REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

JOINT SESSION OF THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

FEBRUARY 3, 1972

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MEMORANDUM

February 2, 1972

Gov Moore
Jump Randolph
Bark Bond

TO: Senator

FROM: Dan S.

SUBJECT: Appearance before Legislature

State of Matthew Neely
Harley Kilgore

Gov Moore

NAMES TO MENTION IN INTRODUCTION

Speaker

✓ Louis McManus

-- Speaker of the House of Delegates

President

Hans McCourt

-- President of the Senate

Tommie Miles

-- Majority Leader of the House
(old friend; 1960 supporter)

Bill Brotherton -- Majority Leader of the Senate

C.A. Blankenship - clerk of House

Howard Carson - clerk of Senate

~~WE'VE BEEN GETTING CALLED FROM GOVERNOR CRANE MOORE'S~~

Special Meeting to Mrs Borasky -

~~RECALL WHO WENT TO TO BECAUSE MOORE~~

Disting Member of Court - + Board of Public works

~~BECAUSE MOORE WILL NOT FOR STATEMENT AGAINST GUY ROCKETEER~~

Please Note: YOU MIGHT ALSO MENTION TWO OLD FRIENDS:

CLERK BLANKENSHIP OF THE HOUSE AND

SENATE CLERK HOWARD CARSON.

Blankenship
Howard Carson

It is good to be back in W. Virginia.

Dream with me ⁰⁰⁰⁹³²

L HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE IF

GOVERNMENT REALLY WORKED? *some needed it would*

L IF WE HAD UNIFORMLY GOOD SCHOOLS WITH QUALITY EDUCATION

FOR ALL OF OUR CHILDREN?

L IF ALL OUR ELDERLY COULD LIVE OUT THEIR LIVES IN SECURITY

AND WITH DECENCY?

L IF THERE WERE ENOUGH GOOD JOBS FOR ALL THOSE WHO WANTED

TO WORK?

L IF OUR HEALTH SYSTEM PROVIDED QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

AMERICANS INSTEAD OF FOR JUST A FEW?

L IF PEACE WERE A FACT OF LIFE INSTEAD OF JUST A LONG-SOUGHT

GOAL?

L IF THESE THINGS CAME TO PASS, WE WOULD NOT BE LIVING IN A
UTOPIA.!

L NO, WE WOULD BE LIVING IN A COUNTRY WHERE GOVERNMENT WORKED

-- WHERE THE GOAL OF GOVERNMENT WAS in fact, *Hunt of the People*
But the People
+ For the People

But, SOMEHOW IT SEEMS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN.

~~AND THIS IS A TRAGIC FACT IN 1972 BECAUSE WE HAVE JUST LIVED~~
~~THROUGH A DECADE OF COMMITMENT TO PEOPLE'S NEEDS.~~

L WHEN JOHN F. KENNEDY AND I CAME TO WEST VIRGINIA IN THE
SPRING OF 1960, WE FOUND A STATE AND A NATION BESET BY SERIOUS
ECONOMIC DECLINE.

L WE FOUND A PEOPLE WHO HAD GIVEN MUCH BUT WHO HAD BEEN

DENIED THEIR RIGHTFUL SHARE OF PROSPERITY IN A NATION BECOMING
where some people

were getting
RICHER EVERY YEAR.

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L IN THE SPRING OF 1960, THE PEOPLE OF WEST VIRGINIA AND THE
18 MILLION AMERICANS LIVING IN THE APPALACHIAN REGION BECAME
SYMBOLS OF THOSE LEFT BEHIND BY AN AFFLUENT NATION. *forgotten & forsaken.*

But L DESPITE THE FACT THAT 75,000 PEOPLE WERE OUT OF WORK HERE,
WEST VIRGINIANS WERE NOT ABOUT TO GIVE UP,

L AND YOU DIDN'T!

L BOTH JOHN KENNEDY AND I MADE A COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF
 WEST VIRGINIA AND BOTH OF US -- IN OUR OWN WAY -- WORKED TO FULFILL
 THIS COMMITMENT. *am* HE AS PRESIDENT AND I AS MAJORITY WHIP, *of the Senate* -- THE
 SAME POSITION THAT YOUR DISTINGUISHED SENATOR ROBERT BYRD HOLDS

TODAY - *We kept our promise and to West*
Virginia and the nation.

L JOHN KENNEDY HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM US,

BUT I WANT TO CONTINUE HIS TRADITION OF GOVERNMENT DEDICATED
TO THE PEOPLE. L I WANT TO CONTINUE THE TRADITION OF FRANKLIN

ROOSEVELT, OF HARRY TRUMAN, OF LYNDON JOHNSON -- THE TRADITION OF

CARING ABOUT THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE.

*Government that Cares,
Government with a heart,*

L DURING THE DECADE OF THE 1960's, GOVERNMENT STIRRED THE
SPIRIT OF MAN'S LOFTY AMBITIONS.

L ~~AND THE VERDICT OF THE 1960's IS THIS~~ ^{*to Be Sure*} WE HAD OUR TROUBLES

-- AND THEY WERE SEVERE. L BUT WE LEARNED THAT PROBLEMS ARE NEVER

SOLVED BY LOOKING BACKWARDS L IT IS TO THE HORIZONS OF TOMORROW

THAT WE MUST CAST OUR EYES.

L WHAT WILL BE THE VERDICT OF THE 1970's? - *How well we be fed fed.?*

~~WE FACE TODAY A CRISIS OF PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY.~~

~~GOVERNMENT ITSELF IS AT FAULT.~~

L WIDESPREAD DOUBT CLOUDS OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

L THE VITAL ELEMENTS OF FAITH IN THE PEOPLE BY THOSE IN

GOVERNMENT, AND CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE HAS

BEEN SERIOUSLY ERODED. WITHOUT THAT TRUST AND CONFIDENCE,

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT CANNOT WORK

L WE ARE A ~~UNITED~~ NATION OF MASSIVE WANTS CRYING FOR ATTENTION!

L *new industries* WE NEED NEW SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, CLINICS, ROADS AND PARKS, *airports* *With* *and over*

MORE THAN FIVE MILLION PEOPLE OUT OF WORK NATIONALLY, 35,000

and work PEOPLE WITHOUT JOBS IN WEST VIRGINIA, *in* FAMILIES SUFFERING, *there*

is no planning, no commitment to
LEADERS STANDING THE WAY OF NOT CREATING PROGRAMS THEY CLAIM ARE
put our people back to work -
~~NOTHING BUT GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY WORK.~~

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Instead, we are told that things will
be better - ~~phases~~ We are told that the future
looks bright, even as the cost of living goes
up, & the economy is in recession, and the
welfare rolls increase, & unemployment grows.
THE SAD FACT OF 1972 IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THIS NATION

HAS FAILED TO EQUAL THE VITALITY AND DREAMS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

WHILE THE GOVERNMENT STANDS STILL, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT

the want + need
AN END TO POVERTY, GOOD HOMES, ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE AND JOBS.

h BUT HOW CAN WE MOVE FORWARD?

L WHAT MUST GOVERNMENT DO NOW?

~~GOOD~~ GOVERNMENT THAT RESPONDS TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE MUST
FIRST HAVE AGREEMENT WITH THE PEOPLE AS TO WHAT IS TO BE DONE,
HOW IT IS TO BE DONE, AND WHEN IT IS TO BE DONE.

AND THAT ~~MEANS~~ MEANS PLANNING AND GOALS. *We have been*

and will continue to

BE PLAGUED BY HIT AND MISS AND STOP AND GO PROGRAMS UNTIL PLANNING

BECOMES A PART OF GOVERNMENT,

IN ORDER TO BEGIN A DECADE OF DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT, WE MUST
ORGANIZE OUR INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT AROUND THREE THEMES.

ONE, WE MUST LAUNCH A CONCERTED ATTACK ON SPECIAL TAX
PRIVILEGE, TAX SHELTERS FOR THE WEALTHY AND TAX UNFAIRNESS.

L TWO, WE MUST REKINDLE THE INVENTIVE FLAME OF STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT.

L THREE, WE MUST REFOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON OUR PRIMARY SOURCE
OF STRENGTH: THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

L THE AMERICAN TAX SYSTEM IS UNFAIR AND UNJUST.

L IT IS RIGGED AGAINST WORK, AGAINST WAGES, AGAINST SALARIES.

L IT IS RIGGED AGAINST THE ELDERLY.

IT IS RIGGED AGAINST THE MIDDLE INCOME WORKER.

✓ IT IS RIGGED AGAINST THE POOR.

✓ AND IT IS RIGGED IN FAVOR OF UNEARNED INCOME.

✓ OUR TAX SYSTEM REWARDS WEALTH AND DEALS HARSHLY WITH THE

MAN WHO MUST EARN A LIVELIHOOD BY ~~HOLDING A JOB.~~

his hourly wage, his weekly check, or his annual salary.

~~THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL NOT TOLERATE A SYSTEM WHICH ALLOWS~~

hundreds of

~~700~~ AMERICANS WITH INCOMES IN EXCESS OF \$200,000 TO PAY NO INCOME

TAX AT ALL.

✓ THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL NOT TOLERATE A SYSTEM WHICH ALLOWS

THE LARGEST OIL COMPANY IN THE WORLD -- NETTING OVER 2.4 BILLION

DOLLARS -- TO PAY LESS THAN 11 PERCENT OF ITS INCOME IN TAXES.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL NO LONGER TOLERATE A SYSTEM WHICH
RELIES TOO HEAVILY ON THE REGRESSIVE AND UNJUST PROPERTY TAX AS
 A MAJOR SOURCE OF LOCAL REVENUE. THIS TAX IS A HARDSHIP FOR THE
MIDDLE-INCOME HOME OWNER. IT PREVENTS FULL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
 FOR ALL CHILDREN.

WE MUST CREATE A TAX SYSTEM THAT PUTS A HALT TO THE
 RELENTLESS ~~effort by~~ ^{effort by} ~~some~~ SPECIAL INTERESTS TO SEE WHO PAYS THE
 LEAST ~~many~~ ^{many} TAXPAYERS ARE OPPRESSED TODAY BECAUSE SOME
~~are~~ ARE NOT PAYING THEIR FAIR SHARE.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR TAX REFORM AND TAX JUSTICE AT THE STATE
 AND FEDERAL LEVEL. — ~~and that~~ Rather than

suggesting a Value Added National Sales
 tax, which ~~the~~ violates every principle
 of fairness & justice - which will add to
 the cost of living - The President &

has Administration should be leading the
fight for economic justice & fair play
in our system

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a letter

As a ~~SECOND~~ ~~THIRD~~ ~~WE~~ WE MUST RESTORE ~~A MORE~~ ~~WE~~ BALANCE

BETWEEN STATE RESPONSIBILITIES AND STATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PAYS LESS THAN 7 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL

EDUCATION BILL OF OUR CHILDREN -- YET ALL CHILDREN ARE CITIZENS

OF THE UNITED STATES.

Education is too important to be
left to the limited financial resources
of the property tax - It needs a continuous
and generous contribution by the Federal government. I propose

AND THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION NOW WANTS TO PUT AN END TO
A steady increase in Fed Aid to Educ until at least

THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION.

~~The program must stop~~

25% of all educational
costs are paid from
Fed Revenue - Trust Fund

I ~~PLEASE REMEMBER THAT~~ I WILL JOIN WITH YOUR TWO ABLE

AND DISTINGUISHED SENATORS FROM WEST VIRGINIA, JENNINGS RANDOLPH

AND BOB BYRD, to keep and strengthen this program.
~~TO PREVENT THIS PROGRAM FROM DYING~~ IT HAS HELPED

WEST VIRGINIA AND MANY OTHER STATES,

It needs your
Support.

THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION HAS DONE ~~MUCH~~ MUCH TO

IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR WEST VIRGINIANS, ~~we will not~~

let I suffer

SLOW DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION.

✓ TODAY I CALL FOR A FAIR SHARING BETWEEN STATES AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, WE NEED A PARTNERSHIP -- NOT A RIVALRY. ~~Government to the people~~

✓ LET US INCREASE THE PARTNERSHIP IN THE BUDGET DECISIONS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, HOW CAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FORM A

\$250 BILLION BUDGET WHEN WEST VIRGINIANS WERE NEVER ASKED ABOUT

THEIR HOUSING, HEALTH, OR EDUCATION NEEDS? *The Federal Budget is far bigger, far important, and affects far more people, let us share our tax dollars, let us share our many lives, to be the special instrument of just a few people in Washington - let the Mayor, the*
BUDGET DECISIONS, LET US SHARE OUR PROBLEMS.
Commission, the Legislators, the Governor have their say - give them suggestions
LET US FIND TOGETHER OUR COMMON SOLUTIONS IN A NEW AMERICAN

PARTNERSHIP.

FINALLY, THE CRISIS OF PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE ENDED
WHEN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BECOME THE FOCUS ONCE AGAIN OF GOVERNMENT
-- WHEN GOVERNMENT REMEMBERS THE FIRST THREE WORDS OF THE
CONSTITUTION ARE "WE THE PEOPLE..."

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE MEANS SOMETHING WHEN THE HUNGRY ARE
FED; WHEN THE ^{unemployed} ~~poor~~ HAVE JOBS; WHEN OUR NATURAL RESOURCES ARE
PROTECTED; WHEN THOSE WHO LABOR IN THE MINES OF WEST VIRGINIA
ARE PROTECTED FROM THE RAVAGES OF DISEASE AND DISASTER;

SOMETHING IS HAPPENING IN THIS NATION AND THOSE OF US IN
GOVERNMENT HAD BETTER RECOGNIZE IT. PEOPLE ARE DEMANDING
ACCOUNTABILITY, RESPONSIBILITY, AND SENSIBILITY FROM EVERY LEVEL
OF GOVERNMENT. ~~These people~~

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THEY WANT TO KNOW WHO'S IN CHARGE. AND THEY WANT RESULTS.

AND THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO NO LESS.

GOVERNMENT CAN NO LONGER SUBSTITUTE ^{fact} THE PROMISE OF
ACHIEVEMENT,
ACTION FOR ~~ACTION~~ RHETORIC FOR PERFORMANCE, AND TV PRIME
TIME FOR FIRST CLASS, PRIME SERVICE.

THE PEOPLE OF WEST VIRGINIA, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE
SAYING TO GOVERNMENT: "GIVE US POLICIES WE CAN BELIEVE IN --
GIVE US SERVICES WE WANT AND CAN PAY FOR."

AMERICA ~~must not~~ BE PARALYZED BY A GOVERNMENT OF
INDECISION AND INDIFFERENCE. WE ARE CAPABLE OF DOING GREAT
THINGS -- WE HAVE DONE SO BEFORE.

WE HELPED A WAR TORN EUROPE REBUILD ITS CITIES. AND WE ~~can't~~

DO THE SAME AND BETTER *right here.*

L WE CAN BUILD MORE AND BETTER HOMES —
we can provide for our needy

L WE CAN PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL.
we can feed our hungry

L WE CAN REVITALIZE RURAL AMERICA,
we can protect our environment

ALL OF THIS CAN BE DONE IF ONLY WE MAKE THE COMMITMENT,

PLAN FOR IT, MOBILIZE OUR RESOURCES, AND GET TO WORK

THE '70'S MUST BE A DECADE FOR RECONCILING OUR DIFFERENCES,

FOR REBUILDING OUR COUNTRY AND FOR REAFFIRMING OUR FAITH IN

GOD, COUNTRY, AND SELF.

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OVER 30 YEARS AGO FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT SAID THAT "THE TEST
OF PROGRESS IS NOT WHETHER WE ADD TO THE ABUNDANCE OF THOSE
WHO HAVE MUCH: IT IS WHETHER WE PROVIDE ENOUGH FOR THOSE WHO
HAVE TOO LITTLE."

THIS IS THE CHALLENGE OF THE 1970's. AND TO MEET THE
CHALLENGE WE MUST BE ABLE TO SAY OF THIS DECADE: IT WAS A
TIME WHEN GOVERNMENT REDISCOVERED PEOPLE AND TOGETHER A NATION
MOVED FORWARD AGAIN.

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