

Senator:

Re: Dinner Address, Joint Meeting, Bank Administration
Institute -- National Association of Bank Women.

You will be speaking to more than 400 men and women
banking executives.

The theme of the event is "This is your community."
We, therefore, feel it is an ideal occasion for the
"street where you live" ^{speech} speech. The audience will not
be expecting a specifically banking-oriented speech.

DINNER ADDRESS, JOINT MEETING, BANK ADMINISTRATION INSTITUTE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BANK WOMEN

Tonight I would like to talk with you about something you are experts on: the street where you live and work. I say you are experts because you deal first and foremost with people and their problems. You are our first line of defense in finding out our problems and our first line of offense in dealing with them.

I am talking about the problems that affect us all--the health of the American spirit as well as the wealth of the American people. As you know very well, if a man's spirit is down, all the money in the world won't help him. And if he feels frustrated--if he feels he can't do anything about his problems--then nothing will help him.

Today, your neighbors on the street where you live are frustrated. Their spirit is down. They see problems but no solutions.

They feel unsafe to walk their streets--during the day as well as the night. They see drugs being sold on their street corners.

They see government, but no programs. They see bureaucracy, but no action. And they ask questions, but they get no answers.

Yes, the street where you and your neighbors live is truly the most important place in your world. Our problems ~~begin~~ begin and end on the front door step. And it is on your street, on every street in America, that government receives a failing grade today.

I am concerned that government is becoming increasingly remote from the people it is intended to serve. At all levels, government is becoming muscle-bound and less responsive than it should be to people's ~~needs~~ needs.

Just recently a senate subcommittee discovered that bankers, businessmen, and other ~~■~~ taxpayers are spending \$36 billion on paperwork required by all government agencies. Government forms add up to 10 billion pieces of paper--10 forms for every American. Every small businessman must fill out two dozen or more complicated federal and state forms each year.

We simply must find ways to simplify and streamline government to bring it closer to the people. And we must find ways to bridge the gap between bureaucracies, whether in Washington or in our state capitals, and bring them closer to the local citizen where he lives--to the street where he lives.

The seventies must be a time when we make a reality of basic rights--the right to safety, the right to quality education, the right to clean air, the right to decent health care. Yes, and the right of people to have their sidewalks repaired and their garbage collected.

I say we must make government respond to the man on the street. We must take drastic action to make our government listen to us.

We must rebuild our government so that the American people with all their broken dreams can call it their own. We must have a rebuilding of our government. We must have reconciliation of our people. And we must have a rebirth of our spirit.

It is because I want to rebuild rather than tear down that I call here and now for the biggest house-cleaning Washington has ever seen.

Our Federal government almost defies description. The bureaucracy is like a dinosaur. If you hit it on the tail with a hammer, it would take one month before its little brain knows what hit him.

Our dinosaur--the government in Washington--just is not responsive when the man on the street wants to whack it on the tail. And that's why you and your neighbors are frustrated; no one is listening to us.

The government must understand what's important--and what is most important is the street where you live.

The street where you live is an issue when you wake up one morning and find the trees you looked at and loved to see ~~grow~~ grow and blossom are suddenly cut down by a bulldozer, then I say what's happening on your street is important.

I am going to give your street the attention it deserves. I am going to make sure you know what your government is doing for you--not just what it is doing to you.

When one out of every seven Americans works for the government every American should be able to expect that every department of his government operates with a reasonable degree of efficiency and a maximum degree of sensitivity.

But government efficiency alone is not enough. We must have a new partnership between the people and the government. We need popular participation in the government; without involving the people--without street-level government--government programs won't work.

Each of us must do his part, and each of us has a role to play if a new partnership between the people and their government is going to work.

We must show the government what must be done, and what can be done. On every street, in every state capital, and in ~~Exd~~ Washington we must work together.

We are going to make our government work for the American people. I call for a New Era of Accountability from the government--and a New Era of Popular Responsibility from the people.

You know that before you can find a cure, you must diagnose the problem. I think we know the problem--of distant government and dismal programs. Together, we will find the cure--people and their government working in a New Partnership of effort and achievement.

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