

HUMPHREY

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BALTIMORE, Feb. 11--Following are excerpts from remarks by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey prepared for delivery before a Metropolitan Baltimore Council AFL-CIO COPE luncheon , at the Lord Baltimore Hotel:

High unemployment in America is not an unalterable fact of life--despite what the Nixon Administration is attempting to tell the American public.

The Administration is trying to tell you that it's your fault that unemployment is high--that prices are high and that the American economy is in shambles.

Within the Nixon Administration, labor has lost a traditional and sympathetic advocate in the office of the Secretary of Labor. The Labor Department fights against the \$2 minimum wage, it tries to tamper with the Bureau of Labor Statistics reporting procedures. And the Labor Department has been the mouthpiece in an all out Administration attack on the unions of this nation.

The Secretary of Labor has lost the confidence of working people all across America.

I charge the Republican Administration with a failure to lead, with a lack of vision and purpose, with the failure to curb inflation, with a failure to stimulate production and with the tragic failure to put Americans back to work.

I refuse to believe that we are on the road to economic recovery as long as millions of American men and women are without jobs.

The only real way to help a man who is out of work is not to provide him with unemployment compensation, not to put him in an endless training program, not to put him on welfare but to give him a decent job.

-MORE-

Humphrey for President

Our unemployment compensation system needs to be overhauled and reformed so that it will be what it's creators intended: a worker's last hope before the welfare office.

I intend to introduce an Unemployment Compensation Reform Act that will provide a man and his family with a decent standard of living until he gets a job.

Too many workers who lose their jobs are forced into poverty by inadequate unemployment compensation. We must change this system. There are families in Seattle who are going hungry and accepting food from the Japanese because our government is not attempting to deal with the tragic burdens of unemployment.

1. Present unemployment compensation benefit levels are totally inadequate in view of today's inflation and high cost of living. I want to increase the minimum weekly unemployment benefits to a nationwide level of two-thirds of a person's weekly wage and an additional 5 per cent for each dependent up to 4.

2. Extend the coverage of unemployment benefits to farm employees, public employees, domestics and workers in small firms. These people are not protected today but make up an important and productive part of the American labor force.

3. Create new eligibility standards to assure equity and fairness in the system. People wait too long for the benefits. Benefits are sometimes arbitrarily reduced or cancelled. And pregnant women are often denied compensation.

~~Mike Johnson~~ - Chair

001014

Tom Bradley - Director
COPE LUNCHEON--Baltimore--February 11, 1972

Baltimore Council -

EXCERPTS
Presidential Cope Conf

High unemployment in America is not a fact of life--despite what the Nixon Administration is attempting to tell the American public.

Your fault

The Administration is trying to tell you that it is your fault that unemployment is high--that prices are high and that the American economy is in shambles.

Lab
Scapp
Doit

The President said very recently in an official message that "1971 was a very good year": For whom? For workers? For housewives? For business?

Good Year

Secretary Connally said, "Five percent unemployment is the best we can do without throwing the economy out of kilter."

5%

Nixon - Welfare - Unemployment
Highest Since Hoover

Burns!

001015

-2-

Listening to this

L Arthur Burns of the Federal Reserve Board urged Wednesday that the Pay Board show some backbone in dealing with labor settlements. On the other hand he advocates "flexibility for the Price Commission". He says that the Price Commission should "leave sufficient scope for confident and constructive business behavior." This is the double standard we always hear from those in or close to the Administration: tough on labor and easy on business.

And within the Nixon Administration labor has lost a traditional and sympathetic advocate in the office of the Secretary of Labor. The Labor Department fights against the \$2 minimum wage, it tries to tamper with the Bureau of Labor Statistics reporting procedures. And the Labor Department has been the mouthpiece in an all out Administration attack on the unions of this nation.

Labor Set

Merchant Marine Ships!

The Secretary of Labor has lost the confidence of working people all across America.

Reform of Unemp Compens.
Jobs - Cities - Trade - Imports

I charge the Republican Administration with a failure to lead, with a lack of vision and purpose, with the failure to curb inflation, with a failure to stimulate production and with the tragic failure to put Americans back to work.

I refuse to believe that we are on the road to economic recovery as long as millions of American men and women are without jobs.

The only real way to help a man who is out of work is not to provide him with unemployment compensation, not to put him in an endless training program, not to put him on welfare but to give him a decent job.

But until this Administration realizes that jobs are the nation's first economic priority, I am not willing to sit back and watch men and women impoverish themselves and their families because the government refuses to come to their aid in a realistic way.

Our unemployment compensation system needs to be overhauled and reformed so that it will be what it's creators intended: a worker's last hope before the welfare office.

I want to tell all of you today that I am ready to offer an Unemployment Compensation Reform Act that will provide a man and his family with a decent standard of living until he gets a job.

Comp
Reform
Act

~~Too many workers who lose their jobs are forced into poverty by inadequate unemployment compensation. We must change this system. There are families in Seattle who are going hungry and accepting food from the Japanese because our government is not attempting to deal with the tragic burdens of unemployment.~~

1. Present unemployment compensation benefit levels are totally inadequate in view of today's inflation and high cost of living. I want to

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increase the minimum weekly unemployment benefits to a nationwide level of two-thirds of a person's weekly wage and 5 percent for each dependent up to 4.

25% for Each
Dependent
up to
4

2. I want to extend the coverage of unemployment benefits to farm employees, public employees, domestics and workers in small firms. These people are not protected today but make up an important and productive part of the American labor force.

3. I want to propose new eligibility standards to assure equity and fairness in the system. People wait too long for the benefits. Benefits are sometimes arbitrarily reduced or cancelled. And pregnant women are often denied any compensation just because they want to be mothers. We need new standards to correct these inequities.

* * *

COPE LUNCHEON--Baltimore--February 11, 1972

EXCERPTS

High unemployment in America is not a fact of life-- despite what the Nixon Administration is attempting to tell the American public. After all, when Mr. Nixon was inaugurated the unemployment rate was only 3.4 percent-- today it is nearly 6 percent and more than 5 million Americans are out of work.

The Administration is trying to tell you that it's your fault that unemployment is high--that prices are high and that the American economy is in shambles.

The President said very recently in an official message that "1971 was a very good year:" For whom? For workers? For housewives? For business?

Secretary Connally: "Five percent unemployment is the best we can do without throwing the economy out of kilter."

Arthur Burns of the Federal Reserve Board urged Wednesday that the Pay Board show some backbone in dealing with labor settlements. On the other hand he advocates "flexibility"

for the Price Commission. He says that the Price Commission should "leave sufficient scope for confident and constructive business behavior." This is the double standard we always hear from those in or close to the Administration: tough on labor and easy on business.

And within the Nixon Administration labor has lost a traditional and sympathetic advocate in the office of the Secretary of Labor. The Labor Department fights against the \$2 minimum wage, it tries to tamper with the Bureau of Labor Statistics reporting procedures. And the Labor Department has been the mouthpiece in an all out Administration attack on the unions of this nation, ~~union families and workers.~~

The Secretary of Labor has lost the confidence of working people all across America.

I charge the Republican Administration with a failure to lead, with a lack of vision and purpose, with the failure to curb inflation, with a failure to stimulate production and with the tragic failure to put Americans back to work.

I refuse to believe that we are on the road to economic recovery as long as millions of American men and women are without jobs.

The only real way to help a man who is out of work is not to provide him with unemployment compensation, not to put him in an endless training program, not to put him on welfare but to give him a decent job.

But until this Administration realizes that jobs are the nation's first economic priority, I am not willing to sit back and watch men and women impoverish themselves and their families because the government refuses to come to their aid in a realistic way.

Our unemployment compensation system needs to be overhauled and reformed so that it will be what it's creators intended: a worker's last hope before the welfare office.

I want to tell all of you today that I am ready to offer an Unemployment Compensation Reform Act that will provide a man and his family with a decent standard of living until he gets a job.

Too many workers who lose their jobs are forced into poverty by inadequate unemployment compensation. We must change this system. There are families in Seattle who are going hungry and accepting food from the Japanese because

our government is not attempting to deal with the tragic burdens of unemployment.

The bill would:

1. ⁽²⁾I want to increase the minimum weekly unemployment compensation benefits to a nationwide level of 66 2/3 percent of a persons weekly wage and 5 percent for each dependent up to 4. ⁽¹⁾ Present benefit levels are totally inadequate in view of today's inflation and high cost of living.
2. Extend the coverage of unemployment benefits to farm employees, public employees, domestics and workers in small firms. These people are not protected today but make up an important and productive part of the American labor force.
3. Create new eligibility standards to assure equity and fairness in the system. People wait too long for the benefits. Benefits are sometimes arbitrarily reduced or cancelled. And pregnant women are often denied any compensation just because they want to be mothers.



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