

Cong^{ress} to Repres ~~Ray~~
 Return 30 yrs Ray fine

Cong to Bill Willis - Speaker - clerk

Cong to Rep Pruitt (~~Return~~
Speaker)

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

BEFORE THE OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

Lt. Gov. Geo. Nigh (Donna)

Gov David Hall + his lovely
Wife Jo

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

MARCH 23, 1972

Jim Townsend
 Vic Wickersham

Resolution

Sen Graves

001483

Football - U of Okla Sooners
(coach chuck fairbanks)

IT'S A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO SPEAK BEFORE THE MEN AND

WOMEN WHO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF OKLAHOMA.

OVER A DECADE AGO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ELECTED

A PRESIDENT WHO PLEDGED TO MOVE THIS NATION TO A NEW

FRONTIER AND TODAY OKLAHOMA IS STILL ON THE FRONTIER OF

CHANGE AND PROGRESS. OKLAHOMA IS THE TOMORROW COUNTRY.

OKLAHOMA IS A YOUNG STATE NOT SHACKLED BY OUTMODED TRADITIONS

AND PRACTICES. ^{fair} ITS PEOPLE ARE IMAGINATIVE.

They are builders
and producers

OKLAHOMA
THEY ARE BUILDERS

THE LAND IS FERTILE ^{and} RICH IN

RESOURCES. THIS IS A GREAT STATE FILLED WITH NEW OPPORTUNITY,

AND NEW HOPES FOR THE FUTURE.

(the land of Today & Tomorrow)

L BUT LIKE THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, OKLAHOMA HAS ITS
PROBLEMS, ^{and} THEY'RE TOUGH PROBLEMS--~~AND ALL CRUCIAL PROBLEMS~~ ^{and}

~~ARE~~ TOUGH TO SOLVE.

^{*}
But OUR COUNTRY HAS HAD TOUGH PROBLEMS BEFORE; AND, WE

HAVE SOLVED THEM.

L WE STAND FIRST AMONG NATIONS OF THE WORLD NOT BECAUSE
OF A MIGHTY MILITARY MACHINE.!

~~L NOT BECAUSE OF FACTORIES, FARMS, OR MINES.~~

~~NOT BECAUSE OF GREAT INSTITUTIONS AND~~ BUT

^{Energy}
BECAUSE OF THE ENERGY AND WILL OF OUR PEOPLE.

L THE GREAT AMERICAN ENGINE OF PRODUCTIVITY IS DRIVEN
 BY THE DEDICATED, HARDWORKING, PROUD MEN AND WOMEN WHO
 TOIL IN OUR FACTORIES, ~~OUR~~ MINES, ~~OUR~~ OFFICES, AND ~~OUR~~
farm and ranches.

L THEY ARE THE HEART OF AMERICA! ~~THEY ARE ITS COURSES~~
~~OF LIFE--THE VERY PULSE OF AMERICAN CREATIVITY.~~

PEOPLE--

- We the People

~~YES, PEOPLE~~

yes,

JUST PEOPLE.

*- white, Black, Indian,
~~chinese~~ Mexican American*

L AND OKLAHOMA ITSELF HAS A HISTORY OF MEETING PROBLEMS
 AND OVERCOMING ADVERSITY.

L WHETHER IT'S DROUGHT, CROP FAILURES, TORNADOES, OR
HARD TIMES, THE PEOPLE OF OKLAHOMA HAVE MET THESE PROBLEMS
WITH RESOLVE AND DETERMINATION.

L THIS IS THE KIND OF FIGHTING SPIRIT *I seek*
to rekindle in our country!
~~LOST IN THIS COUNTRY.~~

~~← AND IF WE'VE LOST OUR SPIRIT, IT'S NOT THAT OUR VALUES
HAVE CHANGED OR THAT WE HAVE LOST OUR WAY. IT'S THAT WE
HAVE NEVER ANSWERED THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION FACING OUR~~

~~PEOPLE.~~ *We need to ask ourselves some questions*

L WHAT KIND OF LIFE DO WE WANT IN THIS NATION?

WHAT KIND OF LIFE DO WE WANT HERE IN OKLAHOMA?

L WHEN YOU TRAVEL ACROSS THIS NATION YOU SEE THE GREAT
BEAUTY, THE GREAT WEALTH OF OUR LAND, ABUNDANCE IS EVERYWHERE!

yet - it is not fully shared.

L IS IT ~~TOO~~ TOO MUCH TO EXPECT THAT WE CAN END POVERTY
AND HUNGER IN AMERICA? !

L IS IT TOO MUCH TO EXPECT THAT ALL OF OUR CHILDREN
RECEIVE THE BEST EDUCATION POSSIBLE?

L IS IT TOO MUCH TO EXPECT THAT ALL OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE
GOOD HOMES AND QUALITY HEALTH CARE.

L IS IT TOO MUCH TO EXPECT THAT OUR FARMERS WILL HAVE
DECENT INCOMES AND WON'T BE FORCED OFF THEIR LAND?

L IS IT TOO MUCH TO EXPECT THAT OUR CITIES BE MADE SAFE
FROM CRIME AND DRUG ABUSE?

- Safe Neighborhoods

AND IS IT TOO MUCH TO EXPECT THAT WE CAN BE ONE
 NATION ~~WITH A DIVIDED PEOPLE~~ AT PEACE WITH OURSELVES AND
 THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD?

I BELIEVE ALL THESE THINGS ARE WITHIN OUR REACH.

But ~~these things cannot just be promised. They are rights and~~

~~government should guarantee them to the American people!~~

~~But today government has failed the people--it has~~

~~failed to respond to their most pressing needs.~~

THERE ARE THINGS TO BE DONE IN THIS COUNTRY AND

THE GREAT TASKS AHEAD CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY A NEW

PARTNERSHIP OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE.

*Put America back to work!
 American - I-Can!*

Income Down!

L TODAY RURAL AMERICA IS IN DEEP TROUBLE. ~~BECAUSE~~ WE
 DON'T HAVE THIS PARTNERSHIP OF GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE.

Drought -
 Disaster
 area -
 But in S.W.
 OK!

L SMALL TOWNS ARE DYING; THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE
 LEAVING RURAL AMERICA EVERY YEAR FOR OVERCROWDED CITIES,
 FARMS ARE BEING ABANDONED AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR

70 MILLION RURAL AMERICANS IS STEADILY DECLINING.

Every 6
 farms -
 1 is in business

Land
 L RURAL AMERICA MUST BE SAVED, BUT IT CAN'T BE

REVITALIZED WITH PROMISES AND RHETORIC. WE NEED ACTION

AND PROGRAMS.

no way to have full employment
 if ag in trouble.

L THAT'S WHY WHEN I RETURNED TO THE SENATE, I WAS DETERMINED
 THAT RURAL DEVELOPMENT BECOME A PRIORITY OF THE CONGRESS.

AND IT HAS.

L WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF VOTING ON THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION IN THIS NATION'S HISTORY--

THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1972.

L WHAT THE HOMESTEAD ACT WAS TO OPENING UP THE WEST,
THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT WILL BE IN REVITALIZING OUR FARMS
AND SMALL TOWN AMERICA.

L ~~THE~~ ALL OF US HAVE A STAKE IN THIS VITAL LEGISLATION AND
A MAJORITY OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE HAS CO-SPONSORED IT.

L BOTH OF OKLAHOMA'S ~~THE~~ SENATORS--SENATORS HARRIS AND *Stevens*
BELLMON--ARE CO-SPONSORS OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT

~~COLLEAGUE ON THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, SENATOR~~

~~HENRY BELLMON HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF~~

~~THIS LEGISLATION.~~ AND YOUR GOVERNOR, DAVID HALL, AS
CHAIRMAN OF THE ^{National} ~~State~~ GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN EFFORTS TO MAKE THE
NATION AWARE OF THE NEED FOR GREATER EMPHASIS ON RURAL
DEVELOPMENT.

LET ME TELL YOU WHAT IT DOES.

--IT PROVIDES A NEW METHOD OF RURAL FINANCING TO PAY
FOR THE PRESSING PUBLIC NEEDS OF OUR RURAL TOWNSHIPS AND
MUNICIPALITIES--SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, COMMUNITY CENTERS
WITH A BORROWER-OWNED \$2 BILLION CREDIT SYSTEM.

--IT ESTABLISHES A RURAL REVENUE SHARING FUND OF \$500
MILLION TO HELP OUR FAMILY FARMS AND COMMUNITIES UNDER
50,000 POPULATION.

--IT PROVIDES A \$100 MILLION CREDIT SYSTEM TO ENCOURAGE
INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

--IT PROVIDES LOANS AT LOW RATES OF INTEREST FOR YOUNG
FARMERS WHO ARE IN NEED OF CREDIT TO ENTER FARMING AND
CAN'T GET IT.

--IT BEGINS A NEW PROGRAM OF SMALL COMMUNITY FIRE
PREVENTION ASSISTANCE.

--IT PROVIDES FOR AN IMPORTANT EXPANSION OF PROGRAMS
UNDER THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE AND ESTABLISHES FEDERAL
COST SHARING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL
WATER SUPPLIES.

--IT REORGANIZES THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO GIVE
IT THE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

--IT PROVIDES \$50 MILLION FOR GRANTS TO THE LAND GRANT
UNIVERSITIES SO THAT THEY CAN ESTABLISH RURAL DEVELOPMENT
EXTENSION PROGRAMS, RESEARCH AND TRAINING FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
AND SMALL FARMERS.

THIS LEGISLATION IS A MAGNA CARTA FOR RURAL AMERICA.

IT WILL CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALY TO HALTING THE FLOW OF
PEOPLE OUT OF RURAL REGIONS.

HOPEFULLY IT WILL BEGIN

ATTRACTING BACK MANY OF THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT. AND IT WILL

BE IMPORTANT IN ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF A MORE BALANCED

NATIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERN IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE REVITALIZATION OF RURAL AMERICA WILL PROVIDE THE
FOUNDATION FOR BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA.

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA MEANS THAT OUR PEOPLE MUST
HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK, TO HAVE JOBS, TO EARN, TO
SAVE--WITHOUT THE FEAR THAT ECONOMIC CATASTROPHES WILL
DARKEN THEIR LIVES.

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA MEANS TAX REFORM. IT MEANS
CLOSING TAX LOOPHOLES, ENDING UNFAIR TAX PRIVILEGES, LIFTING
THE PROPERTY TAX BURDEN FROM THE HOMEOWNER.

001495

- Building America - Equal opportunity
Educ, Health, Job etc -
~~Building - as Reconciliation~~

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA MEANS WAGING A CONSTANT

BATTLE AGAINST ALL FORMS OF POLLUTION.

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA MEANS GETTING OUR MOST

VALUABLE RESOURCE--WATER--TO WHERE IT IS NEEDED MOST,

SUCH AS IN WESTERN OKLAHOMA.

AND BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA MEANS CITIES THAT ARE
SAFE, CLEAN AND LIVABLE. - Building America -

LIKE MANY OF YOU HERE, I HAVE DEVOTED MY LIFE TO

PUBLIC SERVICE, FIRST AS MAYOR OF A GREAT CITY, THEN AS A

LEADER IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE, AS VICE PRESIDENT OF

THE UNITED STATES I HAVE COME TO KNOW THIS NATION, ITS

PROBLEMS AND ITS PEOPLE AS FEW PUBLIC OFFICIALS CAN.

L I KNOW THAT THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY WANT AMERICA
TO MOVE AHEAD BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THINGS
AS THEY ARE.

L I AM AN OPTIMIST ABOUT AMERICA'S FUTURE. I SEEK NOT
ONLY THE PRESIDENCY. I SEEK TO LIFT THE SPIRIT OF THE
PEOPLE.

Okla. Regis.
Okla. City, Okla.
March 23, 1972

It's a great privilege to speak before the men and women who represent the people of Oklahoma.

Over a decade ago the American people elected a President who pledged to move this nation to a new frontier. *And today Oklahoma is still a state*
This is the Oklahoma
tomorrow country. *It is a*
A young state not shackled by outmoded traditions and practices. Its people are imaginative.

They are builders.

They are producers. The land is fertile, rich in resources. This is a great state filled with new opportunity, and new hopes for the future.

But like the rest of the ^{country,} Oklahoma has its problems. They're tough problems--all ^{of} ~~great~~ ^{current} problems are tough to solve.

Our country has had tough problems before. And, we have solved them.

We stand first among nations of the world not because of a mighty military machine, not because of factories, farms, or mines. Not because of great institutions and traditions, but because of the energy and will of our people. The great American engine of productivity is driven by the dedicated, hardworking, proud men and women who toil in our factories, our mines, our offices, and our fields.

They are the heart of America. They are its source of life--the very pulse of American greatness.

People--

Yes, people

Just people.

Part of the change and progress

And Oklahoma itself has a history of meeting problems and overcoming adversity.

Whether it's drought, crop failures, tornadoes, or hard times, the people of Oklahoma have met these problems with resolve and determination.

This is the kind of fighting spirit many think we have lost in this country.

And if we've lost ^{our spirit} it, it's not that our values have changed or that we have lost our way. It's that we have never answered the fundamental question facing our people:

What kind of life do we want in this nation?

What kind of life do we want here in Oklahoma?

When you travel across this nation you see the great beauty, the great wealth of our land. Abundance is everywhere.

Is it then too much to expect that we can end poverty and hunger in America?

Is it too much to expect that all of our children receive the best education possible?

Is it too much to expect that all of our people have good homes and quality health care.

Is it too much to expect that our farmers will have decent incomes and won't be forced off their land?

Is it too much to expect that our cities be made safe from crime and drug abuse?

And is it too much to expect that we can be one nation not a divided people at peace with ourselves and the nations of the world?

INSERT #1

-- Senator Fairclaid Bellmon --

Both of Oklahoma's fine Senators, are cosponsors of the Rural Development Act. ~~My~~ My colleague on the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator Henry Bellmon has played ~~xxxx~~ a key role in the development of this legislation. And your Governor, David Hall, ~~has~~ as Chairman of the Southern Governor's Conference Committee on Rural Development, has been active in ~~nationwide~~ efforts to make the nation aware of the need for greater ~~emphaixx~~ emphasis on rural development.

I believe all these things are within our reach. These things ~~can't~~ ^{cannot just} be promised. They are rights and government should guarantee them to the American people.

But today government has failed the people--it has failed to respond to their most pressing needs.

There are things to be done in this country. And the great tasks ahead can only be achieved by a new partnership of government and the people.

Today rural America is in deep trouble because we don't have this partnership of government and people.

Small towns are dying, ^{+ thousands of} young people are leaving rural America every year for overcrowded cities, farms are being abandoned and the quality of life for 70 million rural Americans is steadily declining.

Rural America must be saved. But it can't be revitalized with promises and rhetoric. We need action and programs.

That's why when I returned to the Senate, I was determined that rural development become a priority of the Congress. And it has.

We are on the verge of voting on the most comprehensive rural development legislation in this nation's history-- ^{the Rural Development Act of 1972.}

✓ What the Homestead Act was to opening up the West, the Rural Development Act will be in revitalizing our farms and small town America.

All of us have a stake in this vital legislation and a majority of the United States Senate has cosponsored it.

INSERT

Let me tell you what it does.

--It provides a new method of ^{rural} financing to pay for the pressing public

INSERT #2

important

~~It provides for an expansion of programs under the Soil Conservation Service for grants and establishes Federal cost sharing for development of municipal and industrial water supplies.~~

--It reorganizes the Department of Agriculture to give it the prime responsibility for rural development programs.

--It provides \$50 million for grants to the Land Grant Universities so that they can establish rural development extension programs, research and training for rural development and small farmers.

Insert #3

This legislation is a Magna Carta for rural America. It will contribute substantially to halting the flow of people out of rural regions. Hopefully

* it will begin attracting back many of those who have left. And it will play a ^{in achieving} ~~be important role to~~ the goal of a more balanced national growth & development pattern in the United States.

needs of our rural townships and municipalities--schools, hospitals, community centers *with a borrower owned \$2 billion credit system.*

--It establishes a rural revenue sharing fund of \$500 million to help our family farms *and thousands of communities under 50,000 population*

--It provides a ^{*\$100 million*} credit ~~mechanism~~ ^{*system*} to encourage industrial expansion in rural communities.

--It provides loans at low rates of interest for young farmers who are in need of credit to enter farming and can't get it.

--It begins a new program of small community fire prevention assistance.

INSERT > #2, #3

This bill will be before the Congress in the next few weeks. It

needs the support of Oklahomans living in rural areas and cities,
~~ARTIST~~

The revitalization of rural America will provide the foundation for building a better America.

Building a better America means that our people must have the opportunity to work, to have jobs, to earn, to save--without the fear that economic catastrophes will darken their lives.

Building a better America means tax reform. It means closing tax loopholes, ending unfair tax privileges, lifting the property tax burden from the homeowner.

Building a better America means waging a constant battle against all forms of pollution.

Building a better America means getting our most valuable resource --water--to where it is needed most such as in Western Oklahoma.

And building a better America means cities that are safe, clean and livable.

Like many of you here, I have devoted my life to public service, first as mayor of a great city, then as a leader in the United States Senate, as Vice President of the United States. I have come to know this nation, its problems and its people as few public officials can.

I know that the people of this country ^{would never be because they} ~~can~~ move ahead ^{and} are not satisfied with things as they are. [I am an optimist about America's future. I seek ^{I seek} not only the Presidency ^{but} to lift the spirit of the people.



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