

April 11, 1972

MEMORANDUM

FOR: SENATOR

FROM: DAN & BOB

SUBJECT: VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

We have prepared remarks which reveal how the Administration has done nothing to prepare for June high school and college graduates who will be entering the labor market in two months for temporary or permanent job.

We feel that now is the time to blow the whistle about the lack of summer jobs. This is a theme which you should repeat often in audiences with young people.

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

READING, PENNSYLVANIA

APRIL 12, 1972

MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY AND MILLIONS OF OTHER YOUNG AMERICANS WILL FINISH YOUR COURSES IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AND YOU MAY NOT FIND THE JOB YOU WANT, THE JOB YOU TRAINED FOR OR ANY JOB AT ALL.

THERE ARE MORE THAN 5 1/2 MILLION AMERICANS OUT OF WORK TODAY.

IN THE GHETTOES OF AMERICA NEARLY 11 PERCENT OF THE BLACK POPULATION IS OUT OF WORK. BLACK TEENAGE UNEMPLOYMENT IS NEARLY 40 PERCENT.

TWELVE PERCENT OF YOUNG VIETNAM VETERANS DON'T HAVE JOBS. UNEMPLOYMENT IS THE NUMBER ONE PROBLEM IN AMERICA TODAY.

AND UNEMPLOYMENT WILL BE THE NUMBER ONE PROBLEM
TOMORROW.

THIS NATION MUST HAVE OVER 2 MILLION NEW JOBS EVERY
YEAR JUST TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THOSE COMING INTO THE LABOR
FORCE.

BUT IN THE LAST TWO YEARS ONLY 600,000 NEW JOBS HAVE
BEEN CREATED.

THERE ARE FEWER PEOPLE EMPLOYED FULLTIME TODAY THAN
THERE WERE TWO YEARS AGO.

THIS MEANS MORE PEOPLE ARE WORKING PART-TIME, MORE
HIGH-SKILLED PEOPLE ARE WORKING AT LOW-SKILLED JOBS, AND
THERE ARE FEWER PROSPECTS FOR ADVANCEMENT. IN SHORT,

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS ARE BEING FORCED TO EARN LESS EACH WEEK.

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, PRICES ARE RISING, TAXES ARE GOING UP, CREDIT RATES ARE SKYROCKETING AND EVERY FAMILY IS BEING GOUGED AT THE SUPERMARKET.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS SWEEPING THIS COUNTRY. LAST WEEK THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ROSE TO NEARLY 6 PERCENT.

BUT IF AMERICANS ARE FACED WITH AN UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS NOW, THEY MAY BE FACED WITH AN UNEMPLOYMENT CATASTROPHE IN JUNE.

IN JUNE THE FLOODGATES OF AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES WILL RELEASE 1.7 MILLION GRADUATES LOOKING FOR A PERMANENT JOB.

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL. AT THE SAME TIME 4.9 MILLION
TEENAGERS WILL BE LOOKING FOR SUMMER JOBS.

THIS MEANS 6.6 MILLION AMERICANS WILL BE JOB-HUNTING
IN JUNE. THIS MEANS THESE MILLIONS WILL BE JOINING THE
MORE THAN 5 1/2 MILLION JOBLESS NOW LOOKING FOR WORK.

WHO'S GOING TO HIRE THEM? WHERE ARE THEY GOING
TO WORK?

NO MATTER HOW YOU READ THESE STATISTICS, IT ALL SPELLS
DISASTER FOR MILLIONS OF AMERICANS--YOUNG AND OLD.

THE TIME HAS COME TO BLOW THE WHISTLE ON AN
ADMINISTRATION THAT HAS NO JOB PROGRAM, NO YOUTH EMPLOYMENT
PROGRAM AND WHICH IS ABOUT TO FORCE THE YOUTH OF THIS NATION

TO SPEND THE SUMMER OF 1972 ON A STREET CORNER.

LAST YEAR THE ADMINISTRATION HAD 609,000 SUMMER JOBS.

THIS YEAR THEY ARE PLANNING FOR THE SAME AMOUNT.

BUT THE MAYORS OF OUR CITIES AND COMMUNITIES SAY THEY
NEED AT LEAST 947,000 JOBS FOR YOUTH.

BY NOT INCREASING THE SUMMER JOB PROGRAM THE NIXON
ADMINISTRATION IS SAYING TO YOUNG AMERICANS: "YOU WON'T
BE ABLE TO EARN MONEY THIS SUMMER." IT'S SAYING THAT
YOUNG PEOPLE AREN'T IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO HELP.

AND TO THOSE 1.7 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE LOOKING FOR
A PERMANENT JOB, THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS SLAMMING
THE DOOR SHUT ON OPPORTUNITY AND ADVANCEMENT.

I BELIEVE THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF THINGS THAT YOUNG
PEOPLE CAN DO IN THIS NATION.

--OUR NEIGHBORHOODS NEED TO BE MADE LIVABLE.

--WE NEED STAFF FOR LARGE SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS.

--WE NEED HOSPITAL ASSISTANTS.

--WE NEED TEACHER AIDS.

--WE NEED AN EXPANDED PUBLIC MAINTENANCE AND PUBLIC
SERVICE PROGRAM.

--WE NEED MORE AND BETTER TRAINED POLICEMEN.

--WE NEED PEOPLE WORKING IN AIR AND WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP.

THESE JOBS AREN'T MAKE-WORK. THEY'RE JOBS WITH FUTURES
AND WITH CAREERS.

THAT'S WHY I'VE DEVELOPED A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE
1 MILLION JOBS AT GOOD SALARIES FOR THE PROFESSIONAL,
THE SKILLED AND UNSKILLED OWRKER AND THE YOUNG. THIS IS
WHAT MY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT WOULD DO.

BUT IT WON'T BE ENOUGH THIS JUNE. THE NIXON
ADMINISTRATION HAS AN OBLIGATION TO MEET IMMEDIATELY THE
COMING SUMMER JOB CRISIS.

TO DO LESS MAY WELL MAKE THE TRAINING YOU RECEIVE
HERE USEFUL.

I BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE A SHAMEFUL WASTE OF YOUR
TALENTS AND ABILITIES.

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION ALREADY HAS DELAYED TOO
LONG. THE NEED FOR ACTION IS URGENT.
AND THE TIME FOR ACTION IS NOW.

HHH



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