

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

TENTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF THE  
OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTERS

Radisson Hotel -- Minneapolis, Minnesota

February 24, 1974

This evening we mark 10 years of progress in the name of greater human dignity and decency:

-- Ten years of helping people so that they can help themselves.

-- Ten years of providing opportunity and promise for tens of thousands of disadvantaged people.

-- Ten years of proving that the American system can work for those who are given the training and skills to participate and compete.

-- Ten years of effectively fighting public enemy No. 1 in America: Poverty, unemployment and hunger.

-- And during this decade of hope, OIC has been led by a man who has worked tirelessly on behalf of Americans in need of a job and a better future: The Reverend Leon H. Sullivan.

When I was Vice President, I took a special interest in Dr. Sullivan's work, because I saw the great potential it held for giving communities all over the nation a viable method for community economic self-development.

I remember that when I first met Dr. Sullivan, I was in the office of the Vice President, and he came to call. I had requested that when he came to Washington he stop by for a visit. As I visited with this remarkable man, I was deeply moved by what he had to say and by his deep courage, and received a sense of inspiration from his words and his works.

I was supposed to address, that evening, a group of industrialists and corporate directors who were involved in a voluntary organization known as "Plans for Progress," designed to promote equal-opportunity employment.

Well, anyway, after the visit, I looked at Dr. Sullivan, and I said, "Reverend Sullivan, I know you are supposed to be the man who gives the prayer tonight at the dinner," because he had been invited to give the invocation, "And I am supposed to be the man who makes the address."

I said, "I believe that the good Lord will forgive me for not being very good in prayer, but that audience needs to hear a real good speech. I suggest, therefore, that we change the program. Will you let me give the invocation in whatever inadequate manner I can express myself, in the hope that Divine Providence will receive that invocation with forgiveness and understanding, and will you then, Dr. Sullivan, make the speech? Because," I said, "you can speak to both the audience and the Lord, both will listen, and both will be moved and will act."

OIC came into being because government -- city, state, and federal -- was not successful in training disadvantaged people.

It was Reverend Sullivan who had the genius to come forward with a plan for job training that met the specific needs of the people it was designed to help, as well as the future employer.

It was Reverend Sullivan who brought the principles of self-help, self-determination and self-reliance to the manpower field.

OIC was born at a time of social ferment -- at a time when the federal government was launching a number of new initiatives to help disadvantaged Americans.

The year 1964 was the time of OEO, the Job Corps, and the War on Poverty.

Many of these programs have been discarded by an Administration that daily pledges its allegiance to "efficiency" but forgets and neglects those Americans in desperate need of training and a good job.

Richard Nixon vetoed the Manpower Bill of 1970. And he vetoed the minimum wage bill and the Vocational Rehabilitation Act and countless other measures designed to begin tackling the tough problems of poverty and unemployment in America.

But Richard Nixon will never be able to kill OIC.

Hubert Humphrey, Leon Sullivan, and thousands of OIC graduates won't let him.

A man like Leon Sullivan is not willing to rest on his past accomplishments.

We can't talk about the past decade without looking to the months and years ahead.

I can state today that OIC and others dedicated to providing jobs for disadvantaged Americans will have to double and triple their efforts in 1974.

Why? Because unemployment is rising at an alarming rate, an unacceptable rate, a tragic rate.

Last October, 4.6 percent of the labor force -- or a little more than 4 million Americans -- were without jobs.

Today, the unemployment rate has skyrocketed to 5.2 percent and another 700,000 Americans have been thrown out of work. By June 30, as many as 5.5 million Americans could be without work with a jobless rate at 6% or greater.

Add to this the ever-increasing inflation and serious cutbacks in manufacturing due to the energy crisis, and you have an economic crisis of great magnitude.

And all of us here know that when the economy slides into recession, black Americans and other minority groups are hit first and are hit hardest.

Black unemployment is now 9.2 percent. As the energy crisis takes its toll in manufacturing, trade and service industries -- areas where black workers are heavily represented -- joblessness is sure to worsen. Experts estimate that at least 600,000 jobs may be lost as a result of the energy crisis in 1974.

As an economic crisis looms on the horizon, as millions of American working families worry about their breadwinners being laid off, as the still unemployed face almost insurmountable obstacles to getting a job, the President proclaims there will be no recession in 1974. And his experts, while predicting a "mild recession," still are unwilling to take the steps needed to prevent widespread suffering throughout America.

We must take immediate action and not wait until the recession is upon us.

What can we do?

First, the Congress must move quickly to establish and fund a public service employment program. After more than 5 years, the Administration finally has accepted the principle of public service employment. But it has yet to propose an actual program.

Second, we must provide incentives to the private sector to expand private employment opportunities.

These are some of the essential new directions called for in the Energy Emergency Employment Act, which I have just introduced.

Third -- and it is by no means last -- job training and manpower programs modeled on the OIC approach deserve greater emphasis and greater funding by the federal government.

It is clear to me that we cannot halt recession and economic hardship by proclamation.

We must enact action programs without delay. If we can approve an \$80 billion military budget in just a few weeks, the Congress can put into place an emergency job program that will ease the impact of economic slowdown and growing inflation.

We are at a turning point. The severe recession of 1971 brought great suffering to disadvantaged Americans. The President's remedy of August 15 was too late to turn the tide. We can either let our economy decline and the lines of the jobless grow in the spring and summer, or act now to avert disaster.

I know that you join with me in endorsing an action employment program. To do otherwise would be to desert the principles of human dignity that OIC has stood for over the past ten years.

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- Award -  
Nelson gets all to move to Minni

Wayland Nelson  
2 Farm Row  
2 " Sun  
but no  
2 times!

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RADISSON HOTEL -- MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

FEBRUARY 24, 1974

7 Litcher Amos  
Exec Director  
T.C. Ole

Mr Chairman -

Al. Hofstede

Civil Woman

Sen Nelson  
Gov Evans  
Mr Sullivan

(BRIEF FACTS ON O.I.C.: now in 48 states, 112 cities, with 70,000 to 80,000 people enrolled in programs. Founded in Philadelphia in 1964.)

THIS EVENING WE MARK 10 YEARS OF PROGRESS IN THE NAME OF

## GREATER HUMAN DIGNITY AND DECENCY:

L -- TEN YEARS OF HELPING PEOPLE SO THAT THEY CAN HELP  
THEMSELVES.

1 -- TEN YEARS OF PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY AND PROMISE FOR  
TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE.

L-- TEN YEARS OF PROVING THAT THE AMERICAN SYSTEM CAN  
WORK FOR THOSE WHO ARE GIVEN THE TRAINING AND SKILLS TO  
PARTICIPATE AND COMPETE.

L-- TEN YEARS OF EFFECTIVELY FIGHTING PUBLIC ENEMY No. 1  
IN AMERICA: POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT AND HUNGER.

-- AND DURING THIS DECADE OF HOPE, OIC HAS BEEN LED BY A  
MAN WHO HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY ON BEHALF OF AMERICANS IN NEED  
OF A JOB AND A BETTER FUTURE: THE REVEREND LEON H. SULLIVAN.

When I was VICE PRESIDENT, I TOOK A SPECIAL INTEREST IN

DR. SULLIVAN'S WORK, BECAUSE I SAW THE GREAT POTENTIAL IT

HELD FOR GIVING COMMUNITIES ALL OVER THE NATION *a sound*

METHOD FOR COMMUNITY ECONOMIC SELF-DEVELOPMENT.

I REMEMBER THAT WHEN I FIRST MET DR. SULLIVAN, I WAS IN  
THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, AND HE CAME TO CALL. I HAD  
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VISIT. As I VISITED WITH THIS REMARKABLE MAN, I WAS DEEPLY

MOVED BY WHAT HE HAD TO SAY AND BY HIS ~~DEEP~~ COURAGE, AND

RECEIVED A SENSE OF INSPIRATION FROM HIS WORDS AND HIS WORKS.

L I WAS SUPPOSED TO ADDRESS, THAT EVENING, A GROUP  
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INVOLVED IN A VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS "PLANS  
FOR PROGRESS," DESIGNED TO PROMOTE EQUAL-OPPORTUNITY  
EMPLOYMENT *in industry*

L WELL, ANYWAY, AFTER THE VISIT, I LOOKED AT DR. SULLIVAN,  
AND I SAID, "REVEREND SULLIVAN, I KNOW YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE  
THE MAN WHO GIVES THE PRAYER TONIGHT AT THE DINNER," BECAUSE  
HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO GIVE THE INVOCATION, "AND I AM SUPPOSED  
TO BE THE MAN WHO MAKES THE ADDRESS."

I SAID, "I BELIEVE THAT THE GOOD LORD WILL FORGIVE ME FOR  
NOT BEING VERY GOOD IN PRAYER, BUT THAT AUDIENCE NEEDS TO HEAR A  
REAL GOOD SPEECH, I SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT WE CHANGE THE  
PROGRAM. WILL YOU LET ME GIVE THE INVOCATION IN WHATEVER  
INADEQUATE MANNER I CAN EXPRESS MYSELF, IN THE HOPE THAT DIVINE  
PROVIDENCE WILL RECEIVE THAT <sup>prayer</sup> ~~invocation~~ WITH FORGIVENESS AND  
UNDERSTANDING, AND WILL YOU THEN, DR. SULLIVAN, MAKE THE  
SPEECH?



BECAUSE," I SAID, " YOU CAN SPEAK TO BOTH THE AUDIENCE

AND THE LORD, BOTH WILL LISTEN, AND BOTH WILL BE MOVED AND

WILL ACT."

LOIC CAME INTO BEING BECAUSE GOVERNMENT -- CITY, STATE, AND

FEDERAL -- WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL IN TRAINING DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE.

IT WAS REVEREND SULLIVAN WHO HAD THE GENIUS TO COME FORWARD

WITH A PLAN FOR JOB TRAINING THAT MET THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF THE

PEOPLE IT WAS DESIGNED TO HELP, AS WELL AS THE FUTURE EMPLOYER.

h IT WAS REVEREND SULLIVAN WHO BROUGHT THE PRINCIPLES OF

SELF-HELP, SELF-DETERMINATION AND SELF-RELIANCE TO THE MANPOWER

FIELD.

— *Making America better  
opening new opportunities*

L OIC WAS BORN AT A TIME OF SOCIAL FERMENT -- AT A TIME WHEN  
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS LAUNCHING A NUMBER OF NEW INITIATIVES  
TO HELP DISADVANTAGED AMERICANS.

{ L THE YEAR 1964 WAS THE TIME OF OEO, THE JOB CORPS, AND THE  
WAR ON POVERTY. - Civil Rights Act

L MANY OF THESE PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN DISCARDED BY <sup>the present</sup> ~~an~~ ADMINISTRA-  
TION THAT DAILY PLEDGES ITS ALLEGIANCE TO "EFFICIENCY" BUT  
FORGETS AND NEGLECTS THOSE AMERICANS IN DESPERATE NEED OF  
TRAINING AND A GOOD JOB.

L <sup>President</sup> ~~President~~ NIXON VETOED THE MANPOWER BILL OF 1970, AND HE VETOED  
THE MINIMUM WAGE BILL AND THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION ACT  
AND <sup>many</sup> ~~and countless~~ OTHER MEASURES DESIGNED TO BEGIN TACKLING THE  
TOUGH PROBLEMS OF POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN AMERICA.

*Administration*  
L BUT ~~REAGAN~~ WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO KILL OIC.

*Hayden Nelson*  
L HUBERT HUMPHREY, LEON SULLIVAN, AND THOUSANDS OF OIC

GRADUATES WON'T LET HIM.

*dr*  
L A MAN LIKE LEON SULLIVAN IS NOT WILLING TO REST ON HIS PAST

ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

L WE CAN'T TALK ABOUT THE PAST DECADE WITHOUT LOOKING TO THE

MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD.

L I CAN STATE TODAY THAT OIC AND OTHERS DEDICATED TO PROVIDING

*v* JOBS FOR DISADVANTAGED AMERICANS WILL HAVE TO DOUBLE AND TRIPLE

THEIR EFFORTS IN 1974.

L WHY? BECAUSE UNEMPLOYMENT IS RISING AT AN ALARMING RATE,

AN UNACCEPTABLE RATE, A TRAGIC RATE.

*underemployment*

LAST OCTOBER, 4.6 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE -- OR A LITTLE MORE THAN 4 MILLION AMERICANS -- WERE WITHOUT JOBS.

TODAY, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAS SKYROCKETED TO 5.2 PERCENT AND ANOTHER 700,000 AMERICANS HAVE BEEN THROWN OUT OF

WORK. BY JUNE 30, AS MANY AS 5.5 MILLION AMERICANS COULD BE WITHOUT WORK WITH A JOBLESS RATE AT 6% OR GREATER.

ADD TO THIS THE EVER-INCREASING INFLATION AND SERIOUS CUTBACKS IN MANUFACTURING DUE TO THE ENERGY CRISIS, AND YOU HAVE AN ECONOMIC CRISIS OF GREAT MAGNITUDE.

AND ALL OF US HERE KNOW THAT WHEN THE ECONOMY SLIDES INTO RECESSION, BLACK AMERICANS AND OTHER MINORITY GROUPS ARE HIT FIRST AND ARE HIT HARDEST. !

*POOR + nutrition*

BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT IS NOW 9.4 PERCENT. AS THE ENERGY CRISIS

TAKES ITS TOLL IN MANUFACTURING, TRADE AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES

-- AREAS WHERE BLACK WORKERS ARE HEAVILY REPRESENTED --

JOBLESSNESS IS SURE TO WORSEN. EXPERTS ESTIMATE THAT AT LEAST

600,000 JOBS MAY BE LOST AS A RESULT OF THE ENERGY CRISIS IN

1974.

AS AN ECONOMIC CRISIS LOOMS ON THE HORIZON, AS MILLIONS

OF AMERICAN WORKING FAMILIES WORRY ABOUT THEIR BREADWINNERS

BEING LAID OFF, AS THE STILL UNEMPLOYED FACE ALMOST INSUR-

MOUNTABLE OBSTACLES TO GETTING A JOB, THE PRESIDENT PROCLAIMS

THERE WILL BE NO RECESSION IN 1974.

AND HIS EXPERTS, WHILE PREDICTING A "MILD RECESSION," STILL  
ARE UNWILLING TO TAKE THE STEPS NEEDED TO PREVENT WIDESPREAD  
SUFFERING THROUGHOUT AMERICA.

L WE MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION AND NOT WAIT UNTIL THE  
RECESSION IS UPON US.

L WHAT CAN WE DO?

h FIRST, THE CONGRESS MUST MOVE QUICKLY TO ESTABLISH AND  
FUND A PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM. AFTER MORE THAN 5  
YEARS, THE ADMINISTRATION FINALLY HAS ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE  
OF PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT. BUT IT HAS YET TO PROPOSE  
AN ACTUAL PROGRAM.

2 SECOND, WE MUST PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR  
TO EXPAND PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

↳ THESE ARE SOME OF THE ESSENTIAL NEW DIRECTIONS CALLED FOR  
IN THE ENERGY EMERGENCY EMPLOYMENT ACT, WHICH I HAVE JUST  
INTRODUCED.

↳ THIRD -- AND IT IS BY NO MEANS LAST -- JOB TRAINING AND  
MANPOWER PROGRAMS MODELED ON THE OIC APPROACH DESERVE  
GREATER EMPHASIS AND GREATER FUNDING BY THE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT.

↳ IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT WE CANNOT HALT RECESSION AND  
ECONOMIC HARDSHIP BY PROCLAMATION.

WE MUST <sup>have</sup> ~~ENACT~~ ACTION PROGRAMS WITHOUT DELAY. IF WE CAN  
APPROVE AN \$80 BILLION MILITARY BUDGET IN JUST A FEW WEEKS, THE  
CONGRESS CAN PUT INTO PLACE AN EMERGENCY JOB PROGRAM THAT WILL  
EASE THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN AND GROWING INFLATION.

WE ARE AT A TURNING POINT! THE SEVERE RECESSION OF 1971  
BROUGHT GREAT SUFFERING TO DISADVANTAGED AMERICANS. (THE  
PRESIDENT'S REMEDY OF AUGUST <sup>1971</sup> 15 WAS TOO LATE TO TURN THE TIDE.

WE CAN EITHER LET OUR ECONOMY DECLINE AND THE LINES OF THE  
JOBLESS GROW IN THE SPRING AND SUMMER, OR <sup>we can</sup> ACT NOW TO AVERT  
DISASTER.

- Having -  
- Health -  
- Food -



-12-

I KNOW THAT YOU JOIN WITH ME IN ENDORSING AN ACTION EMPLOY-  
MENT PROGRAM. To DO OTHERWISE WOULD BE TO DESERT THE PRINCIPLES  
OF HUMAN DIGNITY THAT OIC HAS STOOD FOR OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS.

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