

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Communications Workers of America

Annual Convention

Kansas City, Missouri

June 24, 1974

It is a pleasure to be with you today to participate in the Annual Convention of the Communications Workers of America.

It is a special privilege to be here as an honorary member of your great Union and as a life-long friend.

Frankly, as I look around me tonight, I see so many familiar faces, that this is more like a family reunion than a national union Convention.

Unfortunately, the most familiar face in the CWA is not with us tonight.

But Joe Beirne has been there when we have really needed him for the past 30 years. And, the strong organization his great leadership has made possible will last and serve now that Joe has decided to retire. This Union, its vitality, its strength, and its compassion for people, is a tremendous tribute to the tenacity, skill, and leadership of Joe Beirne.

Yes, he has been there when you needed him.

Joe Beirne was there in Chicago in 1938 leading the drive to form a national organization of all telephone workers. And, he was there later that year in New Orleans when his labors bore fruit and the National Federation of Telephone Workers was formed.

Joe Beirne was there in Cleveland in 1943 when you called on him to serve as your President. And the wisdom of that decision has been proven over and over again.

Joe Beirne was there leading the ranks of your membership during the great strike against the Bell System in 1947, and at the Miami Convention the same year when the Communications Workers of America came into existence.

Joe Beirne was there just this past January leading the fight that won the right for your Union to bargain nationally with the Bell System.

Joe Beirne has been there when it counted to promote your interests and to protect your hard won victories. And he has put the great power and prestige of your union solidly behind progressive public policies for the benefit of all Americans.

I am proud to be a friend of Joe Beirne, and am sure that even in his retirement he will be a powerful voice for American workers and their families.

I take pride in my identification with your Union and with the entire American Labor Movement.

Throughout our nation's history the American labor movement has been the cutting edge for social progress.

It has championed the cause of people in every generation.

Your Union has been a strong and steady voice not only for its members and their families, but also for the unorganized, the poor, the elderly, the disabled, and those who are the victims of discrimination and prejudice.

As a strong and effective part of American labor, you have stood up for those too weak to stand for themselves, fought for those too weary to fight for themselves, and given visibility to those whose only crime was that "they were not seen."

Working with other liberal and progressive forces, your support of the great presidencies of Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, John Kennedy, and Lyndon Johnson, has made tremendous progress in our nation possible.

The Communications Workers and other major unions have led the fight:

- To assure every boy and girl a good education;
- To guarantee quality health care at reasonable prices, as a basic right of all Americans;
- To promote human dignity and self-respect,
- To provide every American citizen with the full benefits and opportunities of his civil rights;
- To assure that the burden of taxation is equitably borne by all, a sure test of a society's justice;
- To curb monopoly and unconscionable profiteering, and to insure the benefits of competition in the marketplace; and
- To see to it that all our citizens have decent communities in which to raise their families, with safe streets, decent housing, quality education, and good jobs.

But perhaps more important than its specific achievements, this great coalition of America's organized workers and progressives has clearly led our nation in the "politics of compassion."

Democracy can only work if it has a heart as well as a brain.

Government by computer may be more efficient, but it can never be "of, by, and for the people."

Democracy can only flourish when the tears and laughter, anguish and joy, fears and hopes of the people are a very integral part of the political process.

If our coalition of labor and progressive forces have demonstrated anything, it is that compassion and common sense can go hand in hand for the common good.

And we have tasted the bitter fruits of failure to preserve the effectiveness of our coalition. That failure has meant great hardship for the American worker and his family. Hardship resulting from:

- The Nixon Budget,
- The Nixon vetoes,
- The Nixon court,
- The Nixon scandals,
- The Nixon impoundments, and
- The Nixon economic policies.

Let me dwell a moment on the economy.

Nixonomics has been a disaster for the American worker and his family. But, this should come as no great surprise. As Will Rogers put it years ago, "Republicans take care of big money, and big money takes care of Republicans."

The Nixon Administration has provided much confusion and no direction for our nation's economy.

Since 1969, we have witnessed a game of economic "musical chairs." We have had 4 Treasury Secretaries, 4 Budget Directors, 6 Wage and Price Controllers, 5 Energy Czars, 2 Chairmen of the Council of Economic Advisors and 2 Economic Czars. And now, we have a White House Economic Coordinator.

But these desperate attempts to find economic "saviours" and "scapegoats" have only added to our economic problems. Today, the nation's economic policy apparatus is in complete disarray.

The "revolving-doors" to this Administration's top economic offices have brought not only a dizzying parade of people, but also a bewildering series of policies.

We have experienced an erratic series of "freezes", "phases", and "game plans." On-again, off-again, like a yo-yo, each announced as "THE" answer to our problems, each scrapped soon after as yet another of "THE" many unmet promises of the Nixon Administration.

This "hodgepodge" of economic actions has virtually destroyed the confidence of business, labor, and the consumer in our economy.

The Administration's failure to deal successfully with inflation, recession, and unemployment has apparently convinced it to abandon the fight against these problems.

Today, interest rate policy is the only string being played on the "Nixon Economic Fiddle." And the tune it plays is a sour one for every American family who finds itself lining the pockets of the "money lenders."

The economic statistics paint a grim picture of the plight of the American worker and consumer. They show just how bad a beating you are taking.

-- Today, it costs you about 9% for a home loan, if you can get the money.

-- Today, it costs you at least 10% more than it did last year to support your family. And, for those unfortunate people without a good job or living on fixed incomes, their family budgets have exploded by about 20% in one year.

-- Today, the real value of the average American worker's pay-check -- that is its purchasing power -- is 5% below what it was twelve months ago and it is shrinking still further.

Today, the prime interest rate is over 11%, and interest payments now take 25% of the working family budget -- more than twice the "money lenders" share at the end of World War II.

Today, the unemployment lines have swollen to 5.2% of the labor force and the numbers are growing each month.

Despite these facts, the President recently told the nation that "all the economic indicators prove we are making substantial progress."

But the American people will not be deceived. They have learned the hard way that rhetoric cannot replace lost jobs, and lost income.

No wonder the public is disillusioned with government and politicians. They are sick and tired of this over-promising and under-delivering.

Today people are demanding action from public officials - the premium is on performance. Americans are not children, they are big enough to face up to the truth about the seriousness of our nation's problems, and they want to be told just how things stand - the good news and the bad news.

I propose an agenda of action for Congress, an agenda that is relevant to the needs of the average American working family. It recognizes the value of self reliance as well as government incentive.

First, Congress must take immediate steps to preserve the hard won economic gains that American families have earned over the years. This means the enactment of a strong anti-recession and inflation-control package. It must include a substantial tax cut aimed at inflation-battered lower income taxpayers, and the closing of tax loopholes benefiting the wealthy and corporate sectors. It requires an effective public employment program; easing of credit restriction; and a permanent mechanism to administer a set of largely voluntary price-wage policies.

Second, there must be immediate action to provide every family with participation in a system of national health insurance.

Third, Congress must develop a national energy policy, and millions of Americans will personally suffer if we do not act.

Fourth, it is essential that Congress enact effective measures to address an increasingly severe food crisis.

Fifth, any legislative agenda must include the enactment of a Balanced National Growth and Development Act to provide government at all levels with planning mechanisms to make rational decisions on how our nation should grow and how policy makers should organize government to meet future needs.

Finally, Congress must reform its own institutions and modernize its machinery. A 20th Century Congress cannot be content with employing 18th and 19th Century techniques.

If the Congress is to be taken seriously by the public and the President, if faith and confidence in government are to be restored, this agenda must be acted upon.

For six years the "politics of compassion" have taken a back seat to the "politics of indifference."

We have seen the bitter fruits of negative politics in the sacking of the poverty programs, impounding of funds for the sick and the needy, gutting of housing programs, the retreat from the commitment to make our cities liveable. We have witnessed the callous abuse of the veto power to block programs for some of those in America that most need the help of this government - the physically and mentally handicapped and our working poor.

Government "of the few, by the few and for the few" has no place in America.

But I have great faith in America. I have confidence in the American people.

If organized labor and progressive public leaders work together, we will pull ourselves up and reverse the decline suffered in the Nixon years.

We have done it in the past and we shall do so again;

-- Under Roosevelt, from the Great Depression,

-- Under Truman, from the threat of post-war economic collapse at home and abroad,

-- Under Kennedy, from a serious recession,

-- Under Johnson, from the crushing weight of the cycle of poverty and discrimination toward fulfilling the ideals of opportunity for every American.

Our people have a right to expect the same kind of effective, compassionate, leadership in the future. And I am confident that it will be forthcoming.

#

Brothers + Sisters

Joe Ann ^{Union Builders Rally}
I'll it like it is!

- Union Delegation - Dist 7

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Jim Gordon

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

ANNUAL CONVENTION

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

JUNE 24, 1974

Joe Cantalk

Not a Candidate

(Whitey m5)

Goestite!

Retire

I've wanted
a President
to Retire,
but his name
isn't Joe

Glen Watts -
1 Pres

70 v. P.S. - 2 more

4 Nat Directors

1 Sect. Treas

3 Exec v. P.S

* Could have
fun -
on heart
Paliticking

Biographical Sketch + Background on J. Beirne

"Joseph A. Beirne is a family man,
a union ~~leader~~, a statesman,
a politician, a Roman Catholic,
an Irishman, and a Diplomat"
But "He is an American, first & foremost"
Described as dynamic, imaginative
up-to-date. Fireball

He has written Books & Articles;
He has traveled widely
He has served on Presidential Panels,
Commissions & committees since
the Days of FDR

He was friend & Advisor
to Truman, Kennedy, & Johnson
He valiantly supported LBJ in 72

He was a red-hot 100%
backer of HH in 1968
what a man!!

Glen Watts

-1-

575,000 members
in 50 states

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE WITH YOU TODAY TO PARTICIPATE IN your

36th

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA.

IT IS A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE TO BE HERE AS AN lifetime HONORARY MEMBER

OF YOUR GREAT UNION AND AS A LIFE-LONG FRIEND.

1947-74-

27 years

FRANKLY, AS I LOOK AROUND ME TONIGHT, I SEE SO MANY FAMILAR

FACES, THAT THIS IS MORE LIKE A FAMILY REUNION THAN A NATIONAL

UNION CONVENTION.

Family Reunion

UNFORTUNATELY, THE MOST FAMILIAR FACE IN THE CWA IS NOT

WITH US TONIGHT.

Joseph A. Beirne - President
CWA

BUT JOE BEIRNE HAS BEEN THERE WHEN WE HAVE REALLY NEEDED

HIM FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS.

AND, this strong organization that his great

LEADERSHIP ~~was~~ MADE POSSIBLE WILL LAST AND SERVE NOW THAT JOE

HAS DECIDED TO RETIRE.

2 new districts
12 altogether

THIS UNION, ITS VITALITY, ITS STRENGTH, AND ITS COMPASSION

FOR PEOPLE, IS A TREMENDOUS TRIBUTE TO THE TENACITY, SKILL, AND

LEADERSHIP OF JOE BEIRNE.

YES, ~~HE~~ ^{JOE} HAS BEEN THERE WHEN ~~YOU~~ ^{WE} NEEDED HIM!

JOE BEIRNE WAS THERE IN CHICAGO IN 1938 LEADING THE DRIVE

TO FORM A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ALL TELEPHONE WORKERS. AND,

HE WAS THERE LATER THAT YEAR IN NEW ORLEANS WHEN HIS ^{determination} ~~WILL~~ BORE

FRUIT AND THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TELEPHONE WORKERS WAS FORMED.

JOE BEIRNE WAS THERE IN CLEVELAND IN 1943 WHEN YOU CALLED ON

HIM TO SERVE AS YOUR PRESIDENT. AND THE WISDOM OF THAT DECISION

HAS BEEN PROVEN OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

JOE BEIRNE WAS THERE LEADING THE RANKS OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

DURING THE GREAT STRIKE AGAINST THE BELL SYSTEM IN 1947, AND AT

THE MIAMI CONVENTION ^{that} SAME YEAR WHEN THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS
OF AMERICA ["] CAME INTO EXISTENCE. ["]

JOE BEIRNE WAS THERE JUST THIS PAST JANUARY LEADING THE FIGHT

THAT WON THE RIGHT FOR YOUR UNION TO BARGAIN NATIONALLY WITH THE

BELL SYSTEM.

and Joe has been there serving on the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO!

JOE BEIRNE HAS BEEN THERE WHEN IT COUNTED TO PROMOTE ~~and protect~~

your INTERESTS AND TO PROTECT YOUR HARD WON VICTORIES. AND HE HAS PUT

THE GREAT POWER AND PRESTIGE OF *your* YOUR UNION SOLIDLY BEHIND

PROGRESSIVE PUBLIC POLICIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL AMERICANS.

\$ Oh yes - a thousand times yes,

I AM PROUD TO BE A FRIEND OF JOE BEIRNE, ~~and~~ I AM SURE THAT

EVEN IN HIS RETIREMENT HE WILL BE A POWERFUL VOICE FOR AMERICAN

WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Retire, yes; Quit, never!

Indeed

I TAKE PRIDE IN MY IDENTIFICATION WITH YOUR UNION AND WITH

THE ENTIRE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT.

I've seen the labor endorsed, the labor supported candidate in every election!

THROUGHOUT OUR NATION'S HISTORY THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT

HAS BEEN THE CUTTING EDGE FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS.

With the People (Lib. has understood the purpose of Govt)

-4-

It HAS CHAMPIONED THE CAUSE OF PEOPLE IN EVERY GENERATION.

The CWA -

YOUR UNION HAS BEEN A STRONG AND STEADY VOICE NOT ONLY FOR

ITS MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, BUT ALSO FOR THE UNORGANIZED, THE

POOR, THE ELDERLY, THE DISABLED, AND THOSE WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF

DISCRIMINATION AND PREJUDICE.

AS A STRONG AND EFFECTIVE PART OF AMERICAN LABOR, YOU in CWA

have STOOD UP FOR THOSE TOO WEAK TO STAND FOR THEMSELVES, FOUGHT FOR

THOSE TOO WEARY TO FIGHT FOR THEMSELVES, AND GIVEN VISIBILITY TO

THOSE WHOSE ONLY CRIME WAS THAT "THEY WERE NOT SEEN."

WORKING WITH OTHER LIBERAL AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES, YOUR

SUPPORT OF THE GREAT PRESIDENCIES OF FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, FDR HST HARRY

JFK LBJ TRUMAN, JOHN KENNEDY, AND LYNDON JOHNSON, HAS MADE TREMENDOUS

PROGRESS IN OUR NATION POSSIBLE.

L THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS AND OTHER MAJOR UNIONS HAVE

LED THE FIGHT:

(Joe Beirne) Pre School through
Higher Educ
-- To ASSURE EVERY BOY AND GIRL A GOOD EDUCATION;

to every citizen
-- To GUARANTEE QUALITY HEALTH CARE AT REASONABLE PRICES,

AS A BASIC RIGHT for ALL AMERICANS;

you have led the fight;
-- To PROMOTE HUMAN DIGNITY AND SELF-RESPECT,

L -- To PROVIDE EVERY AMERICAN CITIZEN WITH THE FULL BENEFITS

AND OPPORTUNITIES OF HIS CIVIL RIGHTS;

you have battled
-- To ASSURE THAT THE BURDEN OF TAXATION IS fair borne

and based on the just principle
of the Ability to Pay!
BY ALL, A SURE TEST OF A SOCIETY'S JUSTICE;

you have struggled
-- To CURB MONOPOLY AND UNCONSCIONABLE PROFITEERING, AND

TO INSURE THE BENEFITS OF COMPETITION IN THE MARKETPLACE; AND

--h To SEE TO IT THAT ALL OUR CITIZENS HAVE DECENT COMMUNITIES

IN WHICH TO RAISE THEIR FAMILIES, WITH SAFE STREETS, DECENT HOUSING,

QUALITY EDUCATION, AND GOOD JOBS.

Politics of Compassion

h BUT PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ITS SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS,

✓ THIS GREAT COALITION OF AMERICA'S ORGANIZED WORKERS AND PROGRESSIVES

HAS CLEARLY LED OUR NATION IN THE "POLITICS OF COMPASSION."

h DEMOCRACY CAN ONLY WORK IF IT HAS A HEART AS WELL AS A BRAIN.

h GOVERNMENT BY COMPUTER MAY BE MORE EFFICIENT, BUT IT CAN

NEVER BE "OF, BY, AND FOR THE PEOPLE."

h DEMOCRACY CAN ONLY FLOURISH WHEN THE TEARS AND LAUGHTER,

ANGUISH AND JOY, FEARS AND HOPES OF THE PEOPLE ARE *actual*

INTEGRAL PART OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS.

of this great
~~our~~ COALITION OF LABOR AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES HAVE

DEMONSTRATED ANYTHING, IT IS THAT COMPASSION AND COMMON SENSE

CAN GO HAND IN HAND FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

But
~~AND WE~~

HAVE TASTED THE BITTER FRUITS OF FAILURE TO PRESERVE

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR COALITION. / THAT FAILURE HAS MEANT GREAT

HARDSHIP FOR THE AMERICAN WORKER AND HIS FAMILY. HARDSHIP

RESULTING FROM:

- THE NIXON BUDGETS,
- THE NIXON VETOES,
- THE NIXON COURT,
- THE NIXON SCANDALS,
- THE NIXON IMPOUNDMENTS, AND
- THE NIXON ECONOMIC POLICIES.

Economy
LET ME DWELL A MOMENT ON THE ECONOMY

economics
NIXON ~~REES~~ HAS BEEN A DISASTER FOR THE AMERICAN WORKER AND

HIS FAMILY. BUT, THIS SHOULD COME AS NO GREAT SURPRISE.

AS WILL ROGERS PUT IT YEARS AGO, "REPUBLICANS TAKE CARE OF BIG

MONEY, AND BIG MONEY TAKES CARE OF REPUBLICANS."

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS PROVIDED ~~WIL~~ CH CONFUSION AND
NO DIRECTION FOR OUR NATION'S ECONOMY.

SINCE 1969, WE HAVE WITNESSED A GAME OF ECONOMIC "MUSICAL
CHAIRS." WE HAVE HAD 4 TREASURY SECRETARIES, 4 BUDGET DIRECTORS,
6 WAGE AND PRICE CONTROLLERS, 5 ENERGY CZARS, 2 CHAIRMEN OF THE
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS AND 2 ECONOMIC CZARS. AND NOW, WE
HAVE A WHITE HOUSE ECONOMIC COORDINATOR.

BUT THESE DESPERATE ATTEMPTS TO FIND ECONOMIC "SAVIOURS"

AND "SCAPEGOATS" HAVE ONLY ADDED TO OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. TODAY,

THE NATION'S ECONOMIC POLICY APPARATUS IS IN COMPLETE DISARRAY.

THE "REVOLVING-DOORS" TO THIS ADMINISTRATION'S TOP ECONOMIC

OFFICES HAVE BROUGHT NOT ONLY A DIZZYING PARADE OF PEOPLE, BUT

ALSO A BEWILDERING SERIES OF POLICIES.

WE HAVE EXPERENCED AN ERRATIC SERIES OF "FREEZES", "PHASES",
AND "GAME PLANS," "ON-AGAIN," "OFF-AGAIN," LIKE A YO-YO, ^{decision} EACH ANNOUNCED

AS "THE" ANSWER TO OUR PROBLEMS, ^{and} EACH ⁱⁿ SCRAPPED SOON AFTER AS YET

ANOTHER OF "THE" MANY UNMET PROMISES, OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION.

THIS "HODGEPODGE" OF ECONOMIC ACTIONS HAS VIRTUALLY DESTROYED
THE CONFIDENCE OF BUSINESS, LABOR, AND THE CONSUMER IN OUR ECONOMY.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S FAILURE TO DEAL SUCCESSFULLY WITH
INFLATION, RECESSION, AND UNEMPLOYMENT HAS APPARENTLY CONVINCED
IT TO ABANDON THE FIGHT AGAINST THESE PROBLEMS.

Today, ^{High} INTEREST RATE POLICY IS THE ONLY STRING
BEING PLAYED ON THE "NIXON ECONOMIC FIDDLE." AND THE TUNE IT

PLAYS IS A SOUR ONE FOR EVERY AMERICAN FAMILY.

Rate is

LINING THE POCKETS OF THE "MONEY LENDERS."

THE ECONOMIC STATISTICS PAINT A GRIM PICTURE OF THE PLIGHT
OF THE AMERICAN WORKER AND CONSUMER. THEY SHOW JUST HOW BAD A
BEATING YOU ARE TAKING.

-- TODAY, IT COSTS YOU ABOUT 9% FOR A HOME LOAN, IF YOU CAN
GET THE MONEY --

-- TODAY, IT COSTS YOU AT LEAST 10% MORE THAN IT DID LAST
YEAR TO SUPPORT YOUR FAMILY. AND, FOR THOSE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE

WITHOUT A GOOD JOB OR LIVING ON FIXED INCOMES, THEIR ~~FAMILIES~~

BUDGETS HAVE EXPLODED BY ~~20%~~ ^{20+25%} IN ONE YEAR.

↳ TODAY, THE REAL VALUE OF THE AVERAGE AMERICAN WORKER'S
PAY-CHECK -- THAT IS, ITS PURCHASING POWER -- IS 5% BELOW WHAT

IT WAS TWELVE MONTHS AGO AND IT IS SHRINKING STILL FURTHER. 0

↳ TODAY, THE PRIME INTEREST RATE IS OVER 11% ^{7/8} AND INTEREST
^{alone} PAYMENTS NOW TAKE 25% OF THE WORKING FAMILY BUDGET --

MORE THAN TWICE THE "MONEY LENDERS" SHARE AT THE END OF WORLD

WAR II.

↳ TODAY, THE UNEMPLOYMENT LINES HAVE SWOLLEN TO 5.2% OF THE
LABOR FORCE AND THE NUMBERS ARE GROWING EACH MONTH.

Today, the Profits of the Oil giants,
are shameful - while the
consumer pays more & more
for gas & fuel.

DESPITE THESE FACTS, THE PRESIDENT RECENTLY TOLD THE NATION
THAT "ALL THE ECONOMIC INDICATORS PROVE WE ARE MAKING SUBSTANTIAL
PROGRESS."

↳ BUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ^{are} ~~WILL~~ NOT ~~BE~~ DECEIVED. ↳ THEY HAVE
President's & Radio speeches
LEARNED THE HARD WAY THAT ~~RHETORIC~~ CANNOT REPLACE LOST JOBS, AND

LOST INCOME.

↳ NO WONDER THE PUBLIC IS DISILLUSIONED WITH GOVERNMENT AND
POLITICIANS. ↳ THEY ARE SICK AND TIRED OF THIS OVER-PROMISING AND
UNDER-DELIVERING.

↳ TODAY PEOPLE ARE DEMANDING ACTION FROM PUBLIC OFFICIALS - THE
PREMIUM IS ON PERFORMANCE. ↳ AMERICANS ARE NOT CHILDREN, THEY

ARE BIG ENOUGH TO FACE UP TO THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR
NATION'S PROBLEMS, AND THEY WANT TO BE TOLD JUST HOW THINGS STAND -
THE GOOD NEWS AND THE BAD NEWS.

They are tired of Image - they want Character
They are weary of Charisma - they want Substance
They are fed up with Promises - they want Performance
They are tired of P.R. - they want Action

~~I PROPOSE AN AGENDA OF ACTION FOR CONGRESS, AN AGENDA THAT~~
- they are sick of lies - they want Truth!

~~IS RELEVANT TO THE NEEDS OF THE AVERAGE AMERICAN WORKING~~

↓ therefore propose a program of action designed to
meet the needs of the american family -
FAMILY. ~~It~~ RECOGNIZES THE VALUE OF SELF RELIANCE AS WELL AS

GOVERNMENT incentive.

↓ First, CONGRESS MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO protect the

HARD WON ECONOMIC GAINS THAT AMERICAN FAMILIES HAVE EARNED OVER

THE YEARS. / THIS MEANS THE ENACTMENT OF A STRONG and effective

ANTI-RECESSION AND INFLATION-CONTROL PACKAGE. / IT MUST INCLUDE

A SUBSTANTIAL TAX CUT AIMED AT INFLATION-BATTERED LOWER INCOME

TAXPAYERS, AND THE CLOSING OF TAX LOOPHOLES BENEFITING THE WEALTHY AND

Big Business / ~~CORPORATE SECTORS.~~ ~~It~~ REQUIRES AN EFFECTIVE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

PROGRAM; EASING OF CREDIT RESTRICTIONS AND A PERMANENT MECHANISM

TO ADMINISTER A SET OF LARGELY VOLUNTARY PRICE-WAGE POLICIES.

2) L SECOND, THERE MUST BE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROVIDE EVERY FAMILY

WITH ~~FA~~ A SYSTEM OF NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE,

to assure quality health care.

3) L 2 THIRD, CONGRESS MUST DEVELOP A NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY, ~~AND~~

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WILL PERSONALLY SUFFER IF WE DO NOT ACT.

FOURTH, *we must have a national food* ~~IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT CONGRESS ENACT EFFECTIVE~~

policy to assure an adequate supply ~~MEASURES TO ADDRESS AN INCREASINGLY SEVERE FOOD CRISIS.~~
of wholesome food at fair prices.

L FIFTH, ~~ANY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA MUST INCLUDE THE ENACTMENT~~
we must look to the future - we need
~~OF A BALANCED NATIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT~~ *policy to provide*

GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS WITH PLANNING MECHANISMS *so that we*

can make RATIONAL DECISIONS ON HOW OUR NATION SHOULD GROW AND HOW ~~POLICY~~

~~MAKERS SHOULD ORGANIZE GOVERNMENT TO MEET FUTURE NEEDS.~~

L FINALLY, CONGRESS MUST REFORM ITS OWN INSTITUTIONS AND

MODERNIZE ITS MACHINERY. A 20TH CENTURY CONGRESS CANNOT BE

CONTENT WITH EMPLOYING 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY TECHNIQUES.

Z IF THE CONGRESS IS TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY THE PUBLIC
AND THE PRESIDENT, IF FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT ARE
TO BE RESTORED, THIS AGENDA MUST BE ACTED UPON.

L FOR SIX YEARS THE "POLITICS OF COMPASSION" HAVE TAKEN A
BACK SEAT TO THE "POLITICS OF INDIFFERENCE."

L WE HAVE SEEN THE BITTER FRUITS OF NEGATIVE POLITICS IN
THE SACKING OF THE POVERTY PROGRAMS, IMPOUNDING OF FUNDS FOR THE

SICK AND THE NEEDY, GUTTING OF HOUSING PROGRAMS, THE RETREAT
FROM THE COMMITMENT TO MAKE OUR CITIES LIVEABLE. WE HAVE

WITNESSED THE CALLOUS ABUSE OF THE VETO POWER TO BLOCK PROGRAMS

FOR SOME OF THOSE IN AMERICA THAT MOST NEED THE HELP OF THIS

GOVERNMENT - THE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED AND OUR

WORKING POOR

h GOVERNMENT "OF THE FEW, BY THE FEW AND FOR THE FEW" HAS
NO PLACE IN AMERICA.

BUT I HAVE GREAT FAITH IN AMERICA / I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE.

h IF ORGANIZED LABOR AND PROGRESSIVE PUBLIC LEADERS WORK
TOGETHER, WE WILL PULL OURSELVES UP AND REVERSE THE DECLINE
SUFFERED IN THE NIXON YEARS.

WE HAVE DONE IT IN THE PAST AND WE SHALL DO SO AGAIN;

-- UNDER ROSEVELT, FROM THE GREAT DEPRESSION,

-- UNDER TRUMAN, FROM THE THREAT OF POST-WAR ECONOMIC

COLLAPSE AT HOME AND ABROAD,

-- UNDER KENNEDY, FROM A SERIOUS RECESSION,

-- UNDER JOHNSON, FROM THE CRUSHING WEIGHT OF THE CYCLE
OF POVERTY AND DISCRIMINATION ^{and} TOWARD FULFILLING THE IDEALS
OF OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY AMERICAN.

OUR PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPECT THE SAME KIND OF EFFECTIVE,
COMPASSIONATE, LEADERSHIP IN THE FUTURE. ~~AND I AM CONFIDENT~~
~~THAT IT WILL BE FORTHCOMING.~~

#



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