

Notes For Urban Coalition Remarks
(January 31 - Washington, D.C.)

I. ECONOMIC PRIORITIES FOR URBAN AMERICA

(a) JOBS - unemployment in our central cities averages twice the national level, or 14 - 15%. Need 1/2 million public service jobs now, 1/4 million *more for* every 1/2 percent increase in unemployment rate. Also need "Full Employment Bill".

(b) TAX RELIEF - must have \$20 billion cut, with low-middle income getting most, and also investment tax credit to get investment going. A national recession is an urban depression, and a big tax cut is the best and the quickest way out of it.

(c) URBAN RECONSTRUCTION - We need a National Domestic Development Bank (low-interest public facility loan for urban areas). Our cities are in desperate financial shape. A National Housing Bank (subsidized loans to rehabilitate and build single and multi-family housing) can give this depressed sector an urgent transfusion.

(d) MINORITY ECONOMICS - Economic gains of minorities during past decade ^{are} seriously threatened by recession. We must preserve minorities' gains in ^{the} face

of "last hired-first fired" policies, assist minority business to prevent massive bankruptcies, assure that scholarship help to minorities doesn't dry up and force future leaders out of school.

(e) FEDERAL SPENDING - cutting Food Stamps and Social Security is the most callous way of saving dollars, most of the poor and the elderly are in our cities.

II. TIME TO REVITALIZE URBAN COALITION

(a) urban problems building rapidly as recession deepens,

(b) 40% unemployment among black teenagers, bleak job market for all other minorities and rising prices, making central cities potentially more explosive,

(c) action to give hope to urban poor essential and revitalized, broadly based, urban coalition is the only way to get such action.

III. URBAN LIVING IS DESIRABLE

(a) we must also speak out about what urban life has to offer,

(b) we must show that a modest urban investment, to put unused urban plant and equipment and unemployed

urban manpower back to work, may be the most productivity increasing investment we can make today,

(c) the energy conserving advantages of urban living, the social advantages, the positive aspects need to be pointed out.

(d) we can give our time and commitment to no better purpose than revitalizing urban America.



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