REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
EXCHANGE, INCORPORATED
Minneapolis, Minnesota
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I am delighted to be with you tonight to discuss the economic crisis in our nation today and its impact on the black community.

It is a special privilege to address you today as members of Exchange, Incorporated. The concept underlying your organization is an important and creative one. It fits ideally the unique nature of our state's minority community.

While your organization is relatively a new one, your leadership and membership is composed of many old friends and allies. Many of us in this room tonight have worked together, in a variety of organizations, for a generation.

It has been one of the privileges of my political life to have had the chance to be associated with such dedicated people in the cause of equal justice for all Americans.

We have made progress in our effort to promote human rights and fulfill our democratic ideals. But progress so far has been little more than a good beginning toward our common dream of a better America for all its people.

The danger today is that many will become over-confident and relax, rather than draw strength from what we have accomplished and push on. This nation cannot afford to lessen its resolve to root out prejudice and discrimination wherever they exist.

At a time when the American people have become skeptical about the integrity and commitment of their government to meet the needs of the people, we must redouble our efforts to insure full equality of opportunity and treatment. We can do no less.

I do not accept the proposition that two centuries of racial injustice have somehow vanished from this land. Only the blind and the indifferent would accept such an obviously false conclusion.

America still has an unfinished agenda of human rights. And at the top of this agenda is the right to a meaningful life free from poverty and hunger.

We must shift the battlefield for equal opportunity in America from the courts to the marketplace.

Economic justice must now be the major goal of a revitalized civil rights movement for the 1970's and beyond.

And this must be a civil rights movement for all Americans. Poverty knows no racial bounds. Whether white, black, brown or red, the children of urban slums and rural blight have a right to escape the poverty which every day, every week, every month and every passing year will deprive them of their basic civil rights -- the right to develop to their full potential and the right to share in the abundance of America.

We now must identify the struggle for civil rights as an all-embracing struggle for the rights and privileges and duties of all Americans. We need allies and friends.

In the political arena there are not enough blacks, Chicanos, Indians and Puerto Ricans to form an electoral majority.

So we must create a climate of shared interests between the needs, the hopes and the fears of the minorites and the needs, the hopes and fears of the majority.

This is our challenge.

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It is also our best hope.

In simple language this means, for example, identifying the cause of civil rights with giving every child the chance to obtain the best possible education.

This means identifying civil rights with the right of every American to good health care. There are millions of Americans, white as well as black or brown or red, who are either victims of inadequate health care or unable to pay for what care is available.

We must find the mutual needs and wants, the common hopes and fears, and use them to bind together a coalition of people representing the hopes and the needs of the majority.

Today we are enduring a period of economic hardship which has not been equalled since the days of the soup kitchens and the boarded-up banks of the Great Depression.

We are now in the grips of a recession which has brought us too many tragic reminders of the 1930's. And remember this; a recession for white Americans is a depression for black Americans.

Just look at the figures:

- -- Unemployment for black adults now is nearly 14.2 percent compared to 8 percent for whites.
- -- In the last year unemployment among black men and women has increased by 55 percent to reach a tragic total of 1.5 million people.
- -- And joblessness among black teenagers now is reaching the alarming rate of nearly 42 percent.

These are the so-called "official" figures.

But they don't measure the true economic costs of this recession -- the broken homes, the lost educational opportunities, the hunger, and pain of it all. These official rates don't take account of the millions of people who have become so discouraged that they have stopped looking for a job.

The recession of 1975 is about to wipe out many of the economic gains black and other minority Americans made in the 1960's. We must not let this happen.

It is economically, morally, and politically unacceptable.

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The struggle for economic justice is tough when times are good, but when they are bad, special efforts have to be made.

Unless we act soon, millions of poor blacks and poor whites will suffer even more poverty. These people will spend the rest of the decade trying to recover what they will lose in this "Great Recession."

The policy of "last hired -- first fired" is applied without hesitation in times of economic trouble.

Moreover, minority businesses close their doors at a frightful pace because they can't compete with more established firms for scarce capital and raw materials.

Minority graduate students, being prepared to provide the critical professional leadership needed in the fields of engineering, education, law, architecture, medicine, social work and journalism, are forced to put off their training as recession dries up the sources of assistance.

We all know the terribly discriminatory impact of inflation and recession on the economically weak and unorganized. To be poor, or black, or elderly in America today means great deprivation and personal suffering.

We cannot continue to avoid our responsibility to help these people meet the current crisis.

We have not passively accepted policies that would have blatantly cut back on the food stamp, medicare, and other people programs that are so desperately needed.

We must also act to prevent the destruction of the momentum toward economic justice that has been building up over the last two decades. And, let us be honest with ourselves; these are the staggering costs of policies that purposely create recession in order to bring down inflation.

I am not here to give you a speech on economics. But I want to tell you that the federal government can take action which will begin to turn the tide against recession.

First, we must quickly implement the program of tax relief which Congress has just enacted. While I would have preferred enactment of my \$30 billion tax cut proposal, the bill we passed can get the economy moving again.

Second, we must launch a genuine full employment program that will guarantee a job at decent wages for every ablebodied American who can work.

This is not a pipe dream. A nation which spends \$100 billion each year in its military budget can provide every American a good job.

And, how much more expensive is it to have 8 or 9 million Americans out of work?

At the same time, we must create at least 1 million public service jobs -- now. In addition, when unemployment is at 8 percent, a direct federal jobs program is also a must. Such a program would provide 500,000 jobs at 8 percent unemployment and one-half million more each time unemployment rises a full percentage point.

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Third, the time has come for the government to recognize that its cities are becoming the shame of a great nation. Many are becoming empty shells where the poor live and the rich and middle class work and then leave. The vast treasure in American banks now flows to the suburbs, to the speculative land developers, the multinational corporations and to finance speculation in stocks, commodities, gold and silver.

We need resources in our cities. Not only to build skyscrapers, but to construct low cost housing. Not only to build giant convention halls, but to improve our schools and hospitals. Not only to build expressways, but to pave and clean our streets and provide efficient transportation systems.

If the private banks won't help our cities, then the Congress must establish a National Domestic Development Bank that will. Such a public bank would provide long-term, low-interest loans to stimulate economic development.

Fourth, the housing sector must be revived by a general loosening of the monetary reins and the release of still-impounded housing funds. Nothing can be more inflationary in the long run, and recessionary and destructive in the short run, that the current policy of induced "depression" in this key industry.

I have introduced legislation to establish a Federal Homeowners Bank. This institution would make mortgage money available to home buyers at never more than 6 percent. It is crucial to meeting our nation's housing needs and to assuring some stability in this volatile industry.

Fifth, the experts predict that when recovery begins, and no one is taking any bets on when that will be, it will be a long and hard economic period with high levels of unemployment.

To deal with this prospect, a comprehensive program must be devised to preserve economic gains made by minorities in the past two decades.

This is an urgent requirement.

It must include an "energized" program of "survival" loans to minority business. It must include an imaginative proposal for assuring that equal opportunity gains of minority workers are not destroyed in the recession. And it must provide expanded support for minority educational institutions and students at a time when traditional sources of support are stretched to the breaking point.

We must redouble our efforts to sustain the momentum for equal opportunity and economic justice. If we fail to do so, the dream we share of America the "promised land," will be greeted with growing cynicism by a new generation of frustrated and angered young Americans.

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REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

EXCHANGE, INCORPORATED

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA APRIL 11, 1975

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I AM DELIGHTED TO BE WITH YOU TONIGHT TO DISCUSS THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IN OUR NATION TODAY AND ITS IMPACT ON THE BLACK COMMUNITY.

IT IS A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE TO ADDRESS YOU TODAY AS MEMBERS OF EXCHANGE, INCORPORATED THE CONCEPT UNDERLYING YOUR ORGANIZATION IS AN IMPORTANT AND CREATIVE ONE IDEALLY THE UNIQUE NATURE OF OUR STATE'S MINORITY COMMUNITY. WHILE YOUR ORGANIZATION IS RELATIVELY NEW ONE, YOUR LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP IS COMPOSED OF MANY OLD FRIENDS AND ALLIES. MANY OF US IN THIS ROOM TONIGHT HAVE WORKED TOGETHER, IN A VARIETY OF ORGANIZATIONS, FOR A GENERATION

IT HAS BEEN ONE OF THE PRIVILEGES OF MY POLITICAL LIFE TO HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH DEDICATED PEOPLE IN THE CAUSE OF EQUAL JUSTICE FOR AL WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN OUR EFFORT TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS AND FULFILL OUR DEMOCRATIC IDEALS BUT PROGRESS SO FAR HAS BEEN LITTLE MORE THAN A GOOD BEGINNING TOWARD OUR COMMON DREAM OF A BETTER AMERICA FOR ALL ITS PEOPLE THE DANGER TODAY IS THAT MANY WILL BECOME OVER-CONFIDENT AND RELAX, RATHER THAN DRAW STRENGTH FROM WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED AND PUSH ON THIS NATION CANNOT AFFORD TO LESSEN ITS RESOLVE TO ROOT OUT PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION WHEREVER THEY EXIST.

AT A TIME WHEN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE BECOME SKEPTICAL

ABOUT THE INTEGRITY AND COMMITMENT OF THEIR GOVERNMENT TO

MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE, WE MUST REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS

TO INSURE FULL EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND TREATMENT WE CAN

DO NO LESS.

I DO NOT ACCEPT THE PROPOSITION THAT TWO CENTURIES OF

RACIAL INJUSTICE HAVE SOMEHOW VANISHED FROM THIS LAND.

ONLY THE BLIND AND THE INDIFFERENT WOULD ACCEPT SUCH AN

OBVIOUSLY FALSE CONCLUSION.

AMERICA STILL HAS AN UNFINISHED AGENDA OF HUMAN RIGHTS

AND AT THE TOP OF THIS AGENDA IS THE RIGHT TO A MEANINGFUL

LIFE FREE FROM POVERTY AND HUNGER.

WE MUST SHIFT THE BATTLEFIELD FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN

AMERICA FROM THE COURTS TO THE MARKETPLACE.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE MUST NOW BE THE MAJOR GOAL OF A REVITALIZED

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT FOR THE 1970'S AND BEYOND.

AND THIS MUST BE A CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT FOR ALL AMERICANS.

POVERTY KNOWS NO RACIAL BOUNDS WHETHER WHITE, BLACK, BROWN

OR RED, THE CHILDREN OF URBAN SLUMS AND RURAL BLIGHT HAVE A

RIGHT TO ESCAPE THE POVERTY WHICH EVERY DAY, EVERY WEEK,

EVERY MONTH AND EVERY PASSING YEAR WILL DEPRIVE THEM OF THEIR

BASIC CIVIL RIGHTS -- THE RIGHT TO DEVELOP TO THEIR FULL

POTENTIAL AND THE RIGHT TO SHARE IN THE ABUNDANCE OF AMERICA.

MUST IDENTIFY THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AS AN ALL-EMBRACING STRUGGLE FOR THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES AND DUTIES OF ALL AMERICANS | WE NEED ALLIES AND FRIENDS. IN THE POLITICAL ARENA THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH BLACKS, CHICANOS, INDIANS AND PUERTO RICANS TO FORM AN ELECTORAL MAJORITY. So WE MUST CREATE A CLIMATE OF SHARED INTERESTS BETWEEN THE NEEDS, THE HOPES AND THE FEARS OF THE MINORITES AND THE THE HOPES AND FEARS OF THE MAJORITY. are have been doing this! THIS IS OUR CHALLENGE. IT IS ALSO OUR BEST HOPE.

IN SIMPLE LANGUAGE THIS MEANS, FOR EXAMPLE, IDENTIFYING

THE CAUSE OF CIVIL RIGHTS WITH GIVING EVERY CHILD THE CHANCE

TO OBTAIN THE BEST POSSIBLE EDUCATION. .

THIS MEANS IDENTIFYING CIVIL RIGHTS WITH THE RIGHT OF EVERY

AMERICAN TO GOOD HEALTH CARE. THERE ARE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS,

WHITE AS WELL AS BLACK OR BROWN OR RED, WHO ARE EITHER

VICTIMS OF INADEQUATE HEALTH CARE OR UNABLE TO PAY FOR WHAT

CARE IS AVAILABLE. -

Fral Business

WE MUST FIND THE MUTUAL NEEDS AND WANTS THE COMMON

HOPES AND FEARS, AND USE THEM TO BIND TOGETHER A COALITION OF

PEOPLE REPRESENTING THE HOPES AND THE NEEDS OF THE MAJORITY.

Econom TODAY WE ARE ENDURING A PERIOD OF ECONOMIC HARDSHIP WHICH

HAS NOT BEEN EQUALLED SINCE THE DAYS OF THE SOUP KITCHENS AND

THE BOARDED-UP BANKS OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION.

WE ARE NOW IN THE GRIPS OF A RECESSION WHICH HAS BROUGHT

US TOO MANY TRAGIC REMINDERS OF THE 1930's, AND REMEMBER THIS;

A RECESSION FOR WHITE AMERICANS IS A DEPRESSION FOR BLACK

AMERICANS,

JUST LOOK AT THE FIGURES:

-- UNEMPLOYMENT FOR BLACKS NOW NOW 142 PERCENT

COMPARED TO 8 PERCENT FOR WHITES.

-- IN THE LAST YEAR UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG BLACK MEN AND WOMEN HAS INCREASED BY 55 PERCENT TO REACH A TRAGIC TOTAL OF 1.5

-- AND JOBLESSNESS AMONG BLACK TEENAGERS NOW REACH

THE ALARMING RATE OF NEARLY42 PERCENT.

THESE ARE THE SO-CALLED "OFFICIAL" FIGURES.

BUT THEY DON'T MEASURE THE TRUE ECONOMIC COSTS OF THIS

RECESSION -- THE BROKEN HOMES, THE LOST EDUCATIONAL OPPOR-

TUNITIES, THE HUNGER, AND PAIN OF IT ALL THESE OFFICIAL

RATES DON'T TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE

BECOME SO DISCOURAGED THAT THEY HAVE STOPPED LOOKING FOR A JOB.

THE RECESSION OF 1975 IS ABOUT TO WIPE OUT MANY OF THE ECONOMIC GAINS BLACK AND OTHER MINORITY AMERICANS MADE IN THE IT IS ECONOMICALLY, MORALLY, AND POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE THE STRUGGLE FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE IS TOUGH WHEN TIMES ARE GOOD, BUT WHEN THEY ARE BAD, SPECIAL EFFORTS HAVE TO BE MADE. UNLESS WE ACT SOON, MILLIONS OF POOR BLACKS AND POOR WHITES WILL SUFFER EVEN MORE POVERTY THESE PEOPLE WILL SPEND THE REST OF THE DECADE TRYING TO RECOVER WHAT THEY WILL LOSE IN

THIS "GREAT RECESSION."

THE POLICY OF "LAST HIRED -- FIRST FIRED" IS APPLIED

WITHOUT HESITATION IN TIMES OF ECONOMIC TROUBLE.

MOREOVER MINORITY BUSINESSES CLOSE THEIR DOORS AT A

FRIGHTFUL PACE BECAUSE THEY CAN'T COMPETE WITH MORE ESTABLISHED

FIRMS FOR SCARCE CAPITAL AND RAW MATERIALS.

MINORITY GRADUATE STUDENTS, BEING PREPARED TO PROVIDE

THE CRITICAL PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP NEEDED IN THE FIELDS

OF ENGINEERING, EDUCATION, LAW, ARCHITECTURE, MEDICINE,

SOCIAL WORK AND JOURNALISM, ARE FORCED TO PUT OFF THEIR

TRAINING AS RECESSION DRIES UP THE SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.

WE ALL KNOW THE TERRIBLY DISCRIMINATORY IMPACT OF

INFLATION AND RECESSION ON THE ECONOMICALLY WEAK AND

UNORGANIZED. TO BE POOR, OR BLACK, OR ELDERLY IN AMERICA

TODAY MEANS GREAT DEPRIVATION AND PERSONAL SUFFERING.

WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO AVOID OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP

THESE PEOPLE MEET THE CURRENT CRISIS.

WE HAVE NOT PASSIVELY ACCEPTED POLICIES THAT WOULD HAVE

BLATANTLY CUT BACK ON THE FOOD STAMP, MEDICARE, AND OTHER

PEOPLE PROGRAMS THAT ARE SO DESPERATELY NEEDED.

WE MUST ALSO ACT TO PREVENT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE

MOMENTUM TOWARD ECONOMIC JUSTICE THAT HAS BEEN BUILDING UP

OVER THE LAST TWO DECADES AND LET US BE HONEST WITH OUR-

SELVES! THESE ARE THE STAGGERING COSTS OF POLICIES THAT

PURPOSELY CREATE RECESSION IN ORDER TO BRING DOWN INFLATION.

I AM NOT HERE TO GIVE YOU A SPEECH ON ECONOMICS, BUT

I WANT TO TELL YOU THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN TAKE

ACTION WHICH WILL BEGIN TO TURN THE TIDE AGAINST RECESSION.

FIRST, WE MUST QUICKLY IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM OF TAX

RELIEF WHICH CONGRESS HAS JUST ENACTED. WHILE I WOULD HAVE

PREFERRED ENACTMENT OF MY \$30 BILLION TAX CUT PROPOSAL, THE

BILL WE PASSED CAN GET THE ECONOMY MOVING AGAIN.

SECOND, WE MUST LAUNCH A GENUINE FULL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

THAT WILL GUARANTEE A JOB AT DECENT WAGES FOR EVERY ABLE-

BODIED AMERICAN WHO CAN WORK.

THIS IS NOT A PIPE DREAM, A NATION WHICH SPENDS \$100.90

BILLION EACH EAR IN ITS MILITARY BUDGET CAN PROVIDE EVERY

AMERICAN A GOOD JOB.

AND, HOW MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE IS IT TO HAVE 8 OR 9 MILLION

AMERICANS OUT OF WORK? — Low Production

AT THE SAME TIME, WE MUST CREATE AT LEAST 1 MILLION PUBLIC

SERVICE JOBS — NOW, IN ADDITION, WHEN UNEMPLOYMENT IS AT

8 PERCENT, A DIRECT FEDERAL JOBS PROGRAM IS ALSO A MUST.

SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD PROVIDE 500,000 JOBS AT 8 PERCENT

UNEMPLOYMENT AND ONE-HALF MILLION MORE EACH TIME UNEMPLOYMENT

RISES A FULL PERCENTAGE POINT

THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE

THAT ITS CITIES ARE BECOMING THE SHAME OF A GREAT NATION

THE

MANY ARE BECOMING EMPTY SHELLS WHERE THE POOR LIVE AND THE

RICH AND MIDDLE CLASS WORK AND THEN LEAVE.



THE VAST TREASURE IN AMERICAN BANKS NOW FLOWS TO THE SUBURBS,

TO THE SPECULATIVE LAND DEVELOPERS, THE MULTINATIONAL

CORPORATIONS AND TO FINANCE SPECULATION IN STOCKS, COMMODITIES

GOLD AND SILVER.

WE NEED RESOURCES IN OUR CITIES NOT ONLY TO BUILD SKY-

SCRAPERS, BUT TO CONSTRUCT LOW COST HOUSING NOT ONLY TO

BUILD GIANT CONVENTION HALLS, BUT TO IMPROVE OUR SCHOOLS AND

HOSPITALS, NOT ONLY TO BUILD EXPRESSWAYS, BUT TO PAVE AND

CLEAN OUR STREETS AND PROVIDE EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS.

IF THE PRIVATE BANKS WON'T HELP OUR CITIES, THEN THE

CONGRESS MUST ESTABLISH A NATIONAL DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT BANK

THAT WILL SUCH A PUBLIC BANK WOULD PROVIDE LONG-TERM,

LOW-INTEREST LOANS TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

FOURTH, THE HOUSING SECTOR MUST BE REVIVED BY A GENERAL

LOOSENING OF THE MONETARY REINS AND THE RELEASE OF STILL-

IMPOUNDED HOUSING FUNDS. NOTHING CAN BE MORE INFLATIONARY IN

THE LONG RUN, AND RECESSIONARY AND DESTRUCTIVE IN THE SHORT

RUN, THAN THE CURRENT POLICY OF INDUCED "DEPRESSION" IN THIS

KEY INDUSTRY of Housing.

I HAVE INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A FEDERAL

HOMEOWNERS BANK, THIS INSTITUTION WOULD MAKE MORTGAGE MONEY

AVAILABLE TO HOME BUYERS AT NEVER MORE THAN 6 PERCENT. IT IS

CRUCIAL TO MEETING OUR NATION'S HOUSING NEEDS AND TO ASSURING

SOME STABILITY IN THIS VOLATILE INDUSTRY,

FIFTH, THE EXPERTS PREDICT THAT WHEN RECOVERY BEGINS, AND

NO ONE IS TAKING ANY BETS ON WHEN THAT WILL BE IT WILL BE

A LONG AND HARD ECONOMIC PERIOD WITH HIGH LEVELS OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

To DEAL WITH THIS PROSPECT, A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM

MUST BE DEVISED TO PRESERVE ECONOMIC GAINS MADE BY MINORITIES

IN THE PAST TWO DECADES,

THIS IS AN URGENT REQUIREMENT.

IT MUST INCLUDE AN "ENERGIZED" PROGRAM OF "SURVIVAL"

LOANS TO MINORITY BUSINESS IT MUST INCLUDE AN IMAGINATIVE

PROPOSAL FOR ASSURING THAT EQUAL OPPORUNITY GAINS OF

MINORITY WORKERS ARE NOT DESTROYED IN THE RECESSION.

AND IT MUST PROVIDE EXPANDED SUPPORT FOR MINORITY EDUCATIONAL

INSTITUTIONS AND STUDENTS AT A TIME WHEN TRADITIONAL SOURCES

OF SUPPORT ARE STRETCHED TO THE BREAKING POINT.

WE MUST REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO SUSTAIN THE MOMENTUM FOR

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE! IF WE FAIL TO DO SO,

THE DREAM WE SHARE OF AMERICA THE "PROMISED LAND," WILL BE

GREETED WITH GROWING CYNICISM BY A NEW GENERATION OF FRUSTRATED

AND ANGERED YOUNG AMERICANS.

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