

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

DEDICATION OF WALTER REUTHER LIBRARY

Detroit, Michigan

May 23, 1975

I am deeply honored to participate in the dedication of this magnificent library of labor history and urban affairs to one of the great and good men of our lifetime -- Walter P. Reuther.

For those of us who were lucky enough to have known, loved and worked with this giant of the American labor movement in the great struggle for social and economic justice in America, it is hard to believe that he has been gone for five years. Certainly the spirit of Walter Reuther lives today in all of us who called Walter our friend.

The film we have just seen reminds us of the great loss that each of us and the nation suffered with Walter's passing.

It is indeed appropriate that this great university has chosen to dedicate this archive of labor history and urban affairs -- this new center of labor thought -- to Walter Reuther.

In the minds of many of us, Walter Reuther -- Detroit -- the United Auto Workers -- and Wayne State University are all intimately interwoven. This was Walter's school, Walter's home, Walter's community, Walter's people and the battleground for so many of Walter's greatest triumphs.

But even more importantly, this library reflects two of his greatest interests. First, he had a deep concern with the historic progress toward a better life for America's workers and their families. He saw labor's history not as a sentimental journey into the past, but rather as a source of insight toward a better America for our working people in the future.

Second, this center reflects Walter Reuther's clear perception that the well-being of working Americans is directly related and profoundly affected by the quality of life in the communities in which workers live and raise their families.

For generations to come, those who will lead organized labor and the constant evolution of its role in our continually changing world will come here to think, to exchange ideas, and to provide the roadmap for an effective labor movement for generations to come.

This center of labor history and thought will be on the frontier of labor action. Through its work the voice of America's workers will continue to be effectively heard and counted in the important public decisions of this nation.

This is indeed a most fitting memorial to a man who understood this process more precisely and valued it more highly than any American labor leader of our time.

When I think of Walter Reuther, my memory comes alive with scores of experiences.

I remember the friend, the loving family, the giant heart.

I remember the man of vision, the subtle intellect, the inspiring leader.

I remember a man of boundless energy and ever fresh enthusiasm.

But more than these, I remember Walter's tremendous concern and compassion for his fellow man and his unquestioned integrity.

Each of us has his own personal reminiscences of when Walter came into his life in a special way.

I remember the help and support he gave me as a young mayor in Minneapolis. The support of the Auto Workers was an important factor in making it possible for me to participate in public life. His encouragement and support in the great civil rights battles of the 50's and 60's gave many of us the strength to persevere in the struggle for equal justice for all Americans.

And how well I remember the fight Walter and I led at the 1964 Democratic Convention to recognize the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party -- the first major step toward ending discrimination in the delegate selection process of the Democratic Party.

But enough of looking back. If there was one single characteristic of Walter Reuther, it was his continuous focus on the future. As someone once said of Walter, he was the only man they had ever met who could reminisce about the future. He always looked so far ahead that the present held few surprises for him. He had already seen it.

Walter Reuther learned at the bargaining table that unless you focus your attention on the future, you can never catch up with the present. This became a basic principle in his negotiations and an experience that influenced his entire outlook throughout his life. He always seemed to have the road ahead well mapped before most of us realized we were even on it. And, this focus on the future served his people well. It was reflected year after year in the paychecks of every worker that Walter spoke for, as well as in the quality of the environment in which they lived.

Walter Reuther was truly one of the great men of our lifetime. As such, he has left our nation with a legacy all his own.

First, he has left America's auto workers with a strong, effective, progressive union to be a spokesman for their interests and to further their hopes and dreams for America.

Walter left a strong, vibrant organization and a cadre of able leaders. The United Auto Workers Union, under the outstanding leadership of Walter's successor, Leonard Woodcock, has done an extraordinary job of working for America's auto workers during the most difficult economic period in the union's history. As a member of Congress, I can tell you that Leonard Woodcock has, during these troubled times, been a persistent and outstanding spokesman for those programs and policies that must be enacted if we are to restore prosperity in this nation for all of our people.

Second, Walter has left us with an American labor movement that today fully accepts political and social action as a central responsibility. He realized that labor must struggle

not only for the extra nickel or dime in the wage contract, but also for the needs of the workers and their families outside of the shop.

Perhaps more than any labor leader of our time, he brought his organization into the halls of Congress, to the state legislatures, and to the White House.

He brought the weight of labor into the balance on all of the great social, economic, and political issues of the day.

Walter Reuther was a leader in the field of political action. The United Auto Workers' education conferences were historic events in the development of political action and organization in this country.

How well I recall participating in these conferences. They were truly educational seminars in the realities of economics and politics. They accurately reflected Walter's commitment to work energetically within the system to change it profoundly.

He knew that a few additional dollars a week in a worker's pay check could be wiped out, if government adopted policies to push up the price of his housing, deprived his children of a good education, put decent health care out of the reach of his family, or subjected him to live in destitution when he retired. Walter Reuther saw as few have, before or since, how directly these decisions of government influence the lives of America's working families. For this insight and for this leadership, the working people of America will always be grateful.

Third, Walter Reuther taught American labor how to dream -- how to set goals -- how to participate in building an America in which their families and their children could prosper and progress.

Walter had a special talent, one that we could use more of, that enabled him to relate the special needs of his union to the broader needs of the nation. He was able to resolve what appeared to many to be insoluble conflicts in an intelligent and wise way. In a way that served both his union and his country well.

As a master at labor negotiations, Walter Reuther understood when to strike and when to accept an offer. He carried this perspective into the great social and political battles of our generation.

Walter Reuther never took the easy way out of a scrap in his life. He never "sold out," but he knew when to accept an offer.

He understood, as we all must, that intelligent compromise is not shameful, but respectful.

He understood that compromise was the lubricant that made the American system of participatory democracy work.

He understood that without it we would subject our people to political paralysis and economic and social stagnation.

Fourth, Walter Reuther instilled in American labor, and particularly in the UAW, an acute awareness of the need to think ahead. Today his union, under the leadership of Leonard Woodcock, is taking the lead in initiating an organization and a process to plan for the economic growth and development of our nation. This is exactly the farsighted kind of commitment that Walter himself would have made if he were still with us.

I am fortunate indeed to have Leonard Woodcock and the great United Auto Workers Union as an ally in my effort in Congress to do for our nation what Walter Reuther did for your union -- provide it with a focus on what lies ahead.

The Balanced Growth and Economic Planning Act of 1975, which we have proposed, will fundamentally reform the federal government's management of economic affairs and greatly improve the performance of the economy.

The federal government has become the last bastion of unplanned activity in the modern world. All other industrial nations plan. Businesses, universities, foundations, unions, and families have learned that they have to plan in order to achieve their goals with the available resources.

The need for a democratic, and uniquely American, form of long-term national economic planning has never been more urgent. We have lived too long with a stop and go, boom and bust economy.

We must begin to look ahead, calmly, intelligently, and systematically if we are to make progress toward meeting our nation's goals and, at the same time, deal successfully with the kinds of economic crises and international shocks that have occurred in recent years.

I urge all of you to join in the debate that is beginning on national economic planning -- it is of great importance to every one of us.

These difficult times call for a resurgence in America of the Reuther spirit.

He would not rest a single day with the economy in its present condition.

-- With national unemployment at 12 percent.

-- With a work week that has shrunk to 36 hours.

-- With the real value of workers' paychecks way back to the 1964 level.

-- With 35 percent of this nation's great industrial capacity standing idle.

-- With GNP down 11 percent in the first three months of this year.

-- With 70 million of our people expected to be directly affected by unemployment some time this year.

America wants jobs, not welfare.

America needs work, not food stamps.

America needs growth and development, not recession and retreat.

Yes, we have a vast unfinished agenda for America. It is a national tragedy to be wasting our valuable human, industrial and natural resources with so much that needs doing.

We have failed to meet our national goal of a decent home for every American family.

Our cities are in desperate need of revitalization.

Our transportation system is grossly inadequate to the needs of a modern economy.

The nation's environment is threatened, and it must be cleaned up. Balance must be restored.

Quality health care becomes further removed from the grasp of millions of our families as its cost soars.

And, tremendous improvements are possible in the educational opportunities we provide for our children.

This is no time for the timid or the faint of heart.

These are times of great challenge to America.

These are times that require the bold, imaginative initiatives that we memorialize in the spirit of Walter Reuther, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, John Kennedy, and Lyndon Johnson.

We have great strengths in this nation, and tremendous potential that must be set free.

We have the most highly trained and able workers in the world.

We have the most advanced science and technology.

We have rich land and able farmers.

We have vast natural resources.

We have a democratic society that has been the envy of the world for almost two centuries.

Yes, we have so much.

That is why it is so frustrating to witness what is going on in America today -- the lost pride, the lost confidence and the dwindling hope.

We are being robbed of those great traditions of adventure, pioneering, promise, opportunity, optimism, and faith in the future that have made America great.

A living memorial to Walter Reuther today is for each of us to dedicate ourselves again to these values -- the essence of his spirit.

Walter used to say that any nation that can put a man on the moon and bring him back safely to earth can certainly put a man who has lost his job back on his feet.

Walter was certainly right. But it took a great act of the national will to reach the moon, and it is going to take the same kind of vision and will to get America back on its feet.

We can, we must, and we will do it.

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The end

✓ Mayor ^{Calumet} Young

✓ Mr. Leonard Woodcock

✓ Mr. Phil Mason

✓ Irving Bluestone -

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Presided Geo. Hullen - Wayne State
corner.

DEDICATION OF WALTER REUTHER LIBRARY

Hon. George Edwards -

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

MAY 23, 1975

Geo. Edwards,
Members of the Reuther family
Friends -

I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEDICATION OF
THIS MAGNIFICENT LIBRARY OF LABOR HISTORY AND URBAN AFFAIRS
TO ONE OF THE GREAT AND GOOD MEN OF OUR LIFETIME -- WALTER
P. REUTHER.

FOR THOSE OF US WHO WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE KNOWN,
LOVED AND WORKED WITH THIS GIANT OF THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVE-
MENT IN THE ~~STRUGGLE~~ STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE
IN AMERICA, IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT HE HAS BEEN GONE FOR
FIVE YEARS / CERTAINLY THE SPIRIT OF WALTER REUTHER LIVES
TODAY IN ALL OF US WHO CALLED WALTER OUR FRIEND.

THE FILM WE HAVE JUST SEEN REMINDS US OF THE GREAT LOSS
THAT EACH OF US AND THE NATION SUFFERED WITH WALTER'S ~~DEATH~~ *passing*

L IT IS INDEED APPROPRIATE THAT ^{Wayne State University} ~~THE GREAT UNIVERSITY HAS~~
has CHOSEN TO DEDICATE THIS ^{Library} ~~ACTIVE~~ OF LABOR HISTORY AND URBAN

AFFAIRS -- THIS NEW CENTER OF LABOR THOUGHT -- TO WALTER

REUTHER.

Reuther Family

Victor Reuther

L IN THE MINDS OF MANY OF US, WALTER REUTHER -- DETROIT --

THE UNITED AUTO WORKERS -- AND WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY ARE ALL

INTIMATELY INTERWOVEN. THIS WAS WALTER'S SCHOOL - WALTER'S

HOME - WALTER'S COMMUNITY - WALTER'S PEOPLE AND THE BATTLEGROUND

FOR SO MANY OF WALTER'S GREATEST TRIUMPHS.

L BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, THIS LIBRARY REFLECTS TWO OF
HIS GREATEST INTERESTS.

① FIRST, HE HAD A DEEP CONCERN WITH THE HISTORIC PROGRESS

TOWARD A BETTER LIFE FOR AMERICA'S WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

② HE SAW LABOR'S HISTORY NOT AS A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY INTO

THE PAST, BUT RATHER AS A SOURCE OF INSIGHT TOWARD

A BETTER AMERICA FOR OUR WORKING PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE.

③ SECOND, THIS CENTER REFLECTS WALTER REUTHER'S CLEAR

PERCEPTION THAT THE WELL-BEING OF WORKING AMERICANS IS DIRECTLY

RELATED AND PROFOUNDLY AFFECTED BY THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN

THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH WORKERS LIVE AND RAISE THEIR FAMILIES.

④ FOR GENERATIONS TO COME, THOSE WHO WILL LEAD ORGANIZED

LABOR AND THE EVOLUTION OF ITS ROLE IN OUR CONTINUALLY

CHANGING WORLD WILL COME HERE TO THINK, TO EXCHANGE IDEAS,

AND TO PROVIDE THE ROADMAP FOR AN EFFECTIVE LABOR MOVEMENT

FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

THIS CENTER OF LABOR HISTORY AND THOUGHT WILL BE ON THE FRONTIER OF LABOR ACTION. THROUGH ITS WORK THE VOICE OF AMERICA'S WORKERS WILL CONTINUE TO BE EFFECTIVELY HEARD AND COUNTED IN THE IMPORTANT PUBLIC DECISIONS OF THIS NATION.

THIS IS INDEED A MOST FITTING MEMORIAL TO A MAN WHO UNDERSTOOD THIS PROCESS MORE PRECISELY AND VALUED IT MORE HIGHLY THAN ANY AMERICAN LABOR LEADER OF OUR TIME.

WHEN I THINK OF WALTER REUTHER, MY MEMORY COMES ALIVE WITH SCORES OF EXPERIENCES.

I REMEMBER THE FRIEND, THE LOVING FAMILY, THE GIANT HEART.

I REMEMBER THE MAN OF VISION, THE SUBTLE INTELLECT, THE INSPIRING LEADER.

L I REMEMBER A MAN OF BOUNDLESS ENERGY AND EVER FRESH
ENTHUSIASM.

L BUT MORE THAN THESE, I REMEMBER WALTER'S TREMENDOUS
CONCERN AND COMPASSION FOR HIS FELLOW MAN AND HIS UNQUESTIONED
INTEGRITY.

==
L EACH OF US HAS HIS OWN PERSONAL REMINISCENCES OF WHEN
WALTER CAME INTO HIS LIFE IN A SPECIAL WAY.

L I REMEMBER THE HELP AND SUPPORT HE GAVE ME AS A YOUNG
MAYOR IN MINNEAPOLIS. L THE SUPPORT OF THE AUTO WORKERS WAS AN
IMPORTANT FACTOR IN MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO PARTICIPATE
IN PUBLIC LIFE.

L HIS ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT IN THE GREAT CIVIL RIGHTS

BATTLES OF THE 50'S AND 60'S GAVE MANY OF US THE STRENGTH

TO PERSEVERE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL
AMERICANS.

L AND HOW WELL I REMEMBER THE FIGHT WALTER AND I LED AT

THE 1964 DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION TO RECOGNIZE THE MISSISSIPPI

FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY -- THE FIRST MAJOR STEP TOWARD ENDING

DISCRIMINATION IN THE DELEGATE SELECTION PROCESS OF THE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

L BUT ENOUGH OF LOOKING BACK. L IF THERE WAS ONE SINGLE
CHARACTERISTIC OF WALTER REUTHER, IT WAS HIS CONTINUOUS

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE.

AS SOMEONE ONCE SAID OF WALTER, HE WAS THE ONLY MAN

THEY HAD EVER MET WHO COULD REMINISCE ABOUT THE FUTURE.

HE ALWAYS LOOKED SO FAR AHEAD THAT THE PRESENT HELD

FEW SURPRISES FOR HIM. HE HAD ALREADY SEEN IT.

WALTER REUTHER LEARNED AT THE BARGAINING TABLE THAT UNLESS

YOU FOCUS YOUR ATTENTION ON THE FUTURE, YOU CAN NEVER CATCH UP

WITH THE PRESENT. THIS BECAME A BASIC PRINCIPLE IN HIS

NEGOTIATIONS AND AN EXPERIENCE THAT INFLUENCED HIS ENTIRE

OUTLOOK THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE. HE ALWAYS SEEMED TO HAVE THE ROAD

AHEAD WELL MAPPED BEFORE MOST OF US REALIZED WE WERE EVEN ON IT.

AND, THIS FOCUS ON THE FUTURE SERVED HIS PEOPLE WELL. IT WAS

REFLECTED YEAR AFTER YEAR IN THE PAYCHECKS OF EVERY WORKER THAT

WALTER SPOKE FOR, AS WELL AS IN THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

IN WHICH THEY LIVED.

yes WALTER REUTHER WAS TRULY ONE OF THE GREAT MEN OF OUR LIFE-

TIME. AS SUCH, HE HAS LEFT OUR NATION WITH A LEGACY ALL HIS OWN.

FIRST, HE HAS LEFT AMERICA'S AUTO WORKERS WITH A STRONG,

EFFECTIVE, PROGRESSIVE UNION TO BE A SPOKESMAN FOR THEIR

INTERESTS AND TO FURTHER THEIR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR AMERICA.

WALTER LEFT A STRONG, VIBRANT ORGANIZATION AND A CADRE OF

ABLE LEADERS. THE UNITED AUTO WORKERS UNION, UNDER THE

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP OF WALTER'S SUCCESSOR, LEONARD WOODCOCK,

HAS DONE AN EXTRAORDINARY JOB OF WORKING FOR AMERICA'S AUTO

WORKERS DURING THE MOST DIFFICULT ECONOMIC PERIOD IN THE

UNION'S HISTORY. / AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS, I CAN TELL YOU THAT

LEONARD WOODCOCK HAS, DURING THESE TROUBLED TIMES, BEEN A

PERSISTENT AND OUTSTANDING SPOKESMAN FOR THOSE PROGRAMS AND

POLICIES THAT MUST BE ENACTED IF WE ARE TO RESTORE PROSPERITY

IN THIS NATION FOR ALL OF OUR PEOPLE.

(SECOND, WALTER HAS LEFT US WITH AN AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT

THAT TODAY FULLY ACCEPTS POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACTION AS A

CENTRAL RESPONSIBILITY. / HE REALIZED THAT LABOR MUST STRUGGLE

NOT ONLY FOR THE EXTRA NICKEL OR DIME IN THE WAGE CONTRACT,

BUT ALSO FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

OUTSIDE OF THE SHOP.

PERHAPS MORE THAN ANY LABOR LEADER OF OUR TIME, HE BROUGHT
organized labor
~~HIS ORGANIZATION~~ INTO THE HALLS OF CONGRESS, TO THE STATE

LEGISLATURES, AND TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

HE BROUGHT THE WEIGHT OF LABOR INTO THE BALANCE ON ALL
OF THE GREAT SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL ISSUES OF THE
DAY.

WALTER REUTHER WAS A LEADER IN THE FIELD OF POLITICAL
ACTION. THE UNITED AUTO WORKERS' EDUCATION CONFERENCES WERE
HISTORIC EVENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL ACTION AND
ORGANIZATION IN THIS COUNTRY.

HOW WELL I RECALL PARTICIPATING IN THESE CONFERENCES.

THEY WERE TRULY EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS IN THE REALITIES OF

ECONOMICS AND POLITICS. THEY ACCURATELY REFLECTED WALTER'S

COMMITMENT TO WORK ENERGETICALLY WITHIN THE SYSTEM TO

CHANGE IT PROFOUNDLY.

HE KNEW THAT A FEW ADDITIONAL DOLLARS A WEEK IN A WORKER'S

PAY CHECK COULD BE WIPED OUT, IF GOVERNMENT ADOPTED POLICIES

TO PUSH UP THE PRICE OF HIS HOUSING, DEPRIVED HIS CHILDREN

OF A GOOD EDUCATION, PUT DECENT HEALTH CARE OUT OF THE REACH

OF HIS FAMILY, OR SUBJECTED HIM TO LIVE IN DESTITUTION WHEN

HE RETIRED. WALTER REUTHER SAW AS FEW HAVE, BEFORE OR SINCE,

HOW DIRECTLY THESE DECISIONS OF GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE THE LIVES

OF AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES.

FOR THIS INSIGHT AND FOR THIS LEADERSHIP, THE WORKING PEOPLE
OF AMERICA WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL.

THIRD, WALTER REUTHER TAUGHT AMERICAN LABOR HOW TO DREAM
-- HOW TO SET GOALS -- HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN BUILDING AN
AMERICA IN WHICH THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR CHILDREN COULD
PROSPER AND ~~PROGRESS~~ ^{grow}.

WALTER HAD A SPECIAL TALENT, ^{and} ONE THAT WE COULD USE MORE
- a talent that
OF, ~~THAT~~ ENABLED HIM TO RELATE THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF HIS UNION

TO THE BROADER NEEDS OF THE NATION. HE WAS ABLE TO RESOLVE

WHAT APPEARED TO MANY TO BE UNSOLVABLE CONFLICTS IN AN

INTELLIGENT AND WISE WAY. IN A WAY THAT SERVED BOTH HIS UNION

AND HIS COUNTRY WELL.

As a MASTER AT LABOR NEGOTIATIONS, ^{he} ~~WALTER REUTHER~~ UNDER-
STOOD WHEN TO STRIKE AND WHEN TO ACCEPT AN OFFER. He CARRIED
THIS PERSPECTIVE INTO THE GREAT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL BATTLES
OF OUR GENERATION.

^{He} ~~WALTER REUTHER~~ NEVER TOOK THE EASY WAY OUT OF A SCRAP
IN HIS LIFE. He NEVER "SOLD OUT," BUT HE KNEW WHEN TO ACCEPT
AN OFFER.

He UNDERSTOOD, AS WE ALL MUST, THAT INTELLIGENT COMPROMISE
IS NOT SHAMEFUL, BUT RESPECTFUL.

He UNDERSTOOD THAT COMPROMISE WAS THE LUBRICANT THAT MADE
THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY WORK.

HE UNDERSTOOD THAT WITHOUT IT, WE WOULD SUBJECT OUR PEOPLE
TO POLITICAL PARALYSIS AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STAGNATION,
4 FOURTH, WALTER REUTHER INSTILLED IN AMERICAN LABOR, AND
PARTICULARLY IN THE UAW, AN ACUTE AWARENESS OF THE NEED TO
THINK AHEAD. TODAY HIS UNION, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF LEONARD
WOODCOCK, IS TAKING THE LEAD IN INITIATING AN ORGANIZATION AND
A PROCESS TO PLAN FOR THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF
OUR NATION. ~~THIS IS EXACTLY THE FARSIGHTED KIND OF COMMITMENT~~
~~THAT WALTER HIMSELF WOULD HAVE MADE IF HE WERE STILL WITH US.~~

We are ~~an~~ FORTUNATE INDEED TO HAVE LEONARD WOODCOCK AND THE
~~GREAT~~ UNITED AUTO WORKERS UNION AS AN ALLY IN ~~the~~ ^{our} EFFORT IN
CONGRESS TO DO FOR OUR NATION WHAT WALTER REUTHER DID FOR YOUR
UNION -- PROVIDE IT WITH A FOCUS ON WHAT LIES AHEAD.

THE BALANCED GROWTH AND ECONOMIC PLANNING ACT OF 1975, WHICH
WE HAVE PROPOSED, WILL FUNDAMENTALLY REFORM THE FEDERAL GOVERN-
MENT'S MANAGEMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND GREATLY IMPROVE THE
PERFORMANCE OF THE ECONOMY.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BECOME THE LAST BASTION OF
UNPLANNED ACTIVITY IN THE MODERN WORLD. ALL OTHER INDUSTRIAL
NATIONS PLAN, BUSINESSES, UNIVERSITIES, FOUNDATIONS, UNIONS,
AND FAMILIES HAVE LEARNED THAT THEY HAVE TO PLAN IN ORDER TO
ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS WITH THE AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

THE NEED FOR A DEMOCRATIC, AND UNIQUELY AMERICAN, FORM OF
LONG-TERM NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLANNING HAS NEVER BEEN MORE
URGENT. WE HAVE LIVED TOO LONG WITH A STOP AND GO, BOOM AND
BUST ECONOMY.

L WE MUST BEGIN TO LOOK AHEAD, CALMLY, INTELLIGENTLY, AND
SYSTEMATICALLY IF WE ARE TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING
OUR NATION'S GOALS AND, AT THE SAME TIME, DEAL SUCCESSFULLY
WITH THE KINDS OF ECONOMIC CRISES AND INTERNATIONAL SHOCKS
THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN RECENT YEARS.

L I URGE ALL OF YOU TO JOIN IN THE DEBATE THAT IS BEGINNING
ON NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLANNING -- IT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO
EVERY ONE OF US.

~~#~~
L THESE DIFFICULT TIMES CALL FOR A RESURGENCE IN AMERICA
OF THE REUTHER SPIRIT.

L HE WOULD NOT REST A SINGLE DAY WITH THE ECONOMY IN ITS
PRESENT CONDITION.

-- WITH NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT AT 12 PERCENT,

-- WITH A WORK WEEK THAT HAS SHRUNK TO 36 HOURS,

-- WITH THE REAL VALUE OF WORKERS' PAYCHECKS WAY BACK TO
THE 1964 LEVEL.

-- WITH 35 PERCENT OF THIS NATION'S GREAT INDUSTRIAL
CAPACITY STANDING IDLE.

-- WITH GNP DOWN 11 PERCENT IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF
THIS YEAR,

-- WITH 70 MILLION OF OUR PEOPLE EXPECTED TO BE DIRECTLY
AFFECTED BY UNEMPLOYMENT SOME TIME THIS YEAR,

Walter Reuther would tell us that
L AMERICA WANTS JOBS, NOT WELFARE.

L AMERICA NEEDS WORK, NOT FOOD STAMPS.

L AMERICA NEEDS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, NOT RECESSION AND
RETREAT.

L YES, WE HAVE A VAST UNFINISHED AGENDA FOR AMERICA. IT IS
A NATIONAL TRAGEDY TO BE WASTING OUR VALUABLE HUMAN, INDUSTRIAL
AND NATURAL RESOURCES WITH SO MUCH THAT NEEDS DOING.

L WE HAVE FAILED TO MEET OUR NATIONAL GOAL OF A DECENT HOME FOR
EVERY AMERICAN FAMILY.

L OUR CITIES ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF REVITALIZATION.

L OUR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IS GROSSLY INADEQUATE TO THE
NEEDS OF A MODERN ECONOMY.

L THE NATION'S ENVIRONMENT IS THREATENED, AND IT MUST BE
CLEANED UP. BALANCE MUST BE RESTORED.

h QUALITY HEALTH CARE BECOMES FURTHER REMOVED FROM THE GRASP
OF MILLIONS OF OUR FAMILIES AS ITS COST SOARS.

L AND, TREMENDOUS IMPROVEMENTS ARE POSSIBLE IN THE EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES WE PROVIDE FOR OUR CHILDREN.

h THIS IS NO TIME FOR THE TIMID OR THE FAINT OF HEART.

L ~~THESE ARE TIMES OF GREAT CHALLENGE TO AMERICA.~~

L THESE ARE TIMES THAT REQUIRE THE BOLD, IMAGINATIVE
INITIATIVES THAT WE MEMORIALIZE IN THE SPIRIT OF WALTER REUTHER,
FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, HARRY TRUMAN, JOHN KENNEDY, AND LYNDON
JOHNSON.

L WE HAVE GREAT STRENGTHS IN THIS NATION, AND TREMENDOUS
POTENTIAL THAT MUST BE SET FREE.

L WE HAVE THE MOST HIGHLY TRAINED AND ABLE WORKERS IN THE
WORLD.

L WE HAVE THE MOST ADVANCED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

L WE HAVE RICH LAND AND ^{Productive} ~~ABLE~~ FARMERS.

L WE HAVE VAST NATURAL RESOURCES.

L WE HAVE A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY THAT HAS BEEN THE ENVY

OF THE WORLD FOR ALMOST TWO CENTURIES.

L YES, WE HAVE SO MUCH. !

L THAT IS WHY IT IS SO FRUSTRATING TO WITNESS WHAT IS GOING
ON IN AMERICA TODAY -- THE LOST PRIDE, THE LOST CONFIDENCE AND
THE DWINDLING HOPE.

WE ARE BEING ROBBED OF THOSE GREAT TRADITIONS OF ADVENTURE,
PIONEERING, PROMISE, OPPORTUNITY, OPTIMISM, AND FAITH IN THE
FUTURE THAT HAVE MADE AMERICA GREAT!

A LIVING MEMORIAL TO WALTER REUTHER TODAY IS FOR EACH OF
US TO DEDICATE OURSELVES AGAIN TO THESE VALUES -- THE ESSENCE
OF HIS SPIRIT.

WALTER USED TO SAY THAT ANY NATION THAT CAN PUT A MAN ON
THE MOON AND BRING HIM BACK SAFELY TO EARTH CAN CERTAINLY PUT
A MAN WHO HAS LOST HIS JOB BACK ON HIS FEET.

WALTER WAS CERTAINLY RIGHT. BUT IT TOOK A GREAT ACT OF
THE NATIONAL WILL TO REACH THE MOON, AND IT IS GOING TO TAKE
THE SAME KIND OF VISION AND WILL TO GET AMERICA BACK ON ITS FEET.

WE CAN, WE MUST, AND WE WILL DO IT,



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