

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF BUSINESSMEN

Minneapolis, Minnesota

June 16, 1975

This is a great way to start a week! Actually, you are kicking off a whole new year -- your year of association with the National Alliance of Businessmen.

First, I want to congratulate each of you -- trainees as well as the executives of your companies. I believe that you are embarking on a year that will be filled with challenge and accomplishment.

It was my job -- and my pleasure as Vice President to work closely with the Alliance from its inception, so I have a special interest in your work.

When President Johnson called for creation of the Alliance in 1968, he expressed the belief that the private sector and the government could work in partnership to accomplish what neither could do alone. He knew that the unique talents of businessmen and women could make a contribution of skill, expertise and commitment that government alone cannot generate.

So the Alliance represents a unique relationship. And I congratulate and thank each of you for your involvement.

As an early participant in the work of the Alliance, I share your pride over the fact that you have placed some 2.6 million persons in full-time jobs since 1968 and well over one million young people in summer jobs. This is a remarkable record.

For fiscal year 1975, you established as your goal the pledges of 485,000 jobs for the disadvantaged, ex-offenders, and Vietnam-era veterans. I am told that you are well on the way to reaching this goal, with 325,700 placements through the third quarter of the fiscal year.

This is a record in which you can take great pride. You have made overwhelming progress over the years, but today you face a new and greater challenge. You know -- and I know -- that you cannot rest. Because as you set your sights on next year you must deal with some bleak realities.

Just last week, the Labor Department announced that the unemployment rate has risen to 9.2 percent.

This is a shocking figure, and it's sad but true that it doesn't nearly account for all the real unemployment in this country. It doesn't account for what we call "disguised unemployment" -- those workers who are so discouraged they have stopped even looking for work. It doesn't take into account the number in part-time jobs who are looking for full-time work. And it doesn't take into account the looming prospect of more joblessness when the June graduates hit the job market.

The unemployment rate is actually closer to 12 percent. Among minority Americans, it's 14.7 percent; among teenagers, it is almost 22 percent, and among minority teenagers, it is a staggering 39.9 percent.

So you will attack your fiscal year 1976 goals against the backdrop of massive unemployment not only among the disadvantaged, but among skilled and white-collar workers as well. This severe scarcity of jobs magnifies the challenge, and it's the first hard reality you must face.

The second reality is the unwillingness of the Administration to focus on the real economic problem and do what must be done.

These new unemployment figures came as a surprise to no one -- except, apparently, the Administration. All along they have told us that it would not go this high -- that reverses were coming any time.

Well, we do have the edge on inflation now. But it seems that President Ford and his economic advisers have not gotten the message. Late last month, the President vetoed a measure that could have meant jobs for hundreds of thousands of Americans -- he said it was inflationary!

Somehow the Administration must be made to understand the folly of further ignoring the devastating effects of unemployment on the well-being of this country.

Inflation simply is not the problem any more -- unemployment is the problem. The loss of productivity that goes along with lay-offs and work slow-downs will take many years to recover.

In cold economic terms, it means \$1.5 trillion in lost output between now and 1980 that could be produced if we were at full employment.

It means lower income, lower tax revenues, lower profits, and lower wages in the next five years than we could achieve at full employment.

These are the realities you must face as you go out to recruit job slots in the coming year.

But you shouldn't be too discouraged. How well I remember President Johnson's words when he called for establishment of the Alliance. "This is a tall order for American business," he said. "But the history of American business is the history of triumph over challenge."

How right he was -- and how perceptive his assessment of what government and the business community could do together to bring about social progress.

The realities you must face and the enormity of the job must not be a deterrent, because what you are doing is right.

We are deeply aware of the massive toll unemployment takes on Americans who are trapped in a cycle of joblessness.

For the poor and disadvantaged, it means that the cycle may never be broken. It means being condemned to a life without satisfaction or achievement.

For the ex-offender, it means being dumped on the street with no place to go but back -- back to crime, back to jail -- back to nowhere.

For the veteran, it means a shocking sense of loss and depression. It represents desertion by a society he fought to preserve -- a way of life he believed worthy of defense.

The concept of work is at the heart of the American system. Those without a job in our society often become the object of ridicule and shame -- or misplaced pity.

But people don't want pity, or ridicule -- they don't want welfare. They want the chance to earn an honest living.

A few hundred public service jobs were advertised in Atlanta some weeks ago, and 10 or 15 times as many people lined up during the night to apply. This scene has been repeated in many cities across the country. This is not the mark of a people who want to live on the public dole.

No, our people don't want welfare. They want the opportunity to contribute to society. Unemployment means more than a loss of income. It means that society says, in effect: "We don't want you. We don't need you. There is no place for you."

But through your efforts, millions of American men and women who might have been victims of this psychology can know that there is a place for them in our society -- that they do have a role to play in building a greater America.

Now they can say: "Respect me -- I have a skill: I have a job; I respect myself."

I hope that I have left you not only with some sense of the obstacles you face, but with a feeling for the urgency of your mission.

I like to think that the future is what we make it. That great Frenchman, Victor Hugo, laid it out in simple terms. He said:

"The future has several names. For the weak, it is the impossible. For the faint-hearted, it is the unknown. For the thoughtful and valiant, it is ideal. The challenge is urgent. The task is large. The time is now."

#

Rev Battle

Mr Jackson

Lou Demars

Al Hofstad

chr Mr Bragg

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

David Roz

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF BUSINESSMEN

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

JUNE 16, 1975

X communique

Cue King

~~14,000~~

✓ Govt
✓ Business
✓ Labor
✓ Agencies

THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO START A WEEK! ACTUALLY, YOU ARE
KICKING OFF A WHOLE NEW YEAR -- YOUR YEAR OF ASSOCIATION WITH
THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF BUSINESSMEN.

L FIRST, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE EACH OF YOU -- TRAINEES
AS WELL AS THE EXECUTIVES OF YOUR COMPANIES. I BELIEVE THAT
YOU ARE EMBARKING ON A YEAR THAT WILL BE FILLED WITH CHALLENGE
AND ACCOMPLISHMENT.

L IT WAS MY JOB -- AND MY PLEASURE AS VICE PRESIDENT TO
WORK CLOSELY WITH THE ALLIANCE FROM ITS INCEPTION, SO I HAVE
A SPECIAL INTEREST IN YOUR WORK.

L WHEN PRESIDENT JOHNSON CALLED FOR CREATION OF THE ^{National} ALLIANCE ^{of} Businessmen
IN 1968, HE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND
THE GOVERNMENT COULD WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT
NEITHER COULD DO ALONE.

HE KNEW THAT THE UNIQUE TALENTS OF BUSINESSMEN AND WOMEN COULD

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OF SKILL, EXPERTISE AND COMMITMENT THAT

GOVERNMENT ALONE CANNOT GENERATE.

SO THE ALLIANCE REPRESENTS A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP. AND

I CONGRATULATE AND THANK EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT.

AS AN EARLY PARTICIPANT IN THE WORK OF THE ALLIANCE, .

The National Alliance of Businessmen
I SHARE YOUR PRIDE OVER THE FACT THAT ~~YOU~~ HAVE PLACED SOME

2.6 MILLION PERSONS IN FULL-TIME JOBS SINCE 1968 AND WELL

OVER ONE MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE IN SUMMER JOBS. THIS IS A

REMARKABLE RECORD.

* Pres. Youth Opportunity
Program
(Gerry Christensen)
Lab Corps

over 30,000 jobs here since
1968

For ^{Final}~~Fiscal~~ YEAR 1975, YOU ESTABLISHED AS YOUR ^{actual}~~GOAL~~ THE
PLEDGES OF 485,000 JOBS FOR THE DISADVANTAGED, EX-OFFENDERS,
AND VIETNAM-ERA VETERANS. I AM TOLD THAT YOU ARE WELL ON THE
WAY TO REACHING THIS GOAL, WITH 325,700 PLACEMENTS THROUGH
THE THIRD QUARTER OF THE FISCAL YEAR. (~~over 30~~)

THIS IS A RECORD IN WHICH YOU CAN TAKE GREAT PRIDE.

(^{new task})
YOU HAVE MADE OVERWHELMING PROGRESS OVER THE YEARS, BUT TODAY

YOU FACE A NEW AND GREATER CHALLENGE. YOU KNOW -- AND I KNOW

-- THAT YOU CANNOT REST. BECAUSE AS YOU SET YOUR SIGHTS ON

NEXT YEAR YOU MUST DEAL WITH SOME BLEAK REALITIES.

JUST LAST WEEK, THE LABOR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAS RISEN TO 9.2 PERCENT.

9.2%

-4-

h THIS IS A SHOCKING FIGURE, AND IT'S SAD BUT TRUE THAT
IT DOESN'T NEARLY ACCOUNT FOR ALL THE REAL UNEMPLOYMENT
IN THIS COUNTRY. It DOESN'T ACCOUNT FOR WHAT WE CALL "DISGUISED
UNEMPLOYMENT" -- THOSE WORKERS WHO ARE SO DISCOURAGED THEY
HAVE STOPPED EVEN LOOKING FOR WORK. It DOESN'T TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT THE NUMBER IN PART-TIME JOBS WHO ARE LOOKING FOR
FULL-TIME WORK. AND IT DOESN'T TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LOOMING
PROSPECT OF MORE JOBLESSNESS WHEN THE JUNE GRADUATES HIT THE
JOB MARKET.

h THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS ACTUALLY CLOSER TO 12 PERCENT.
AMONG MINORITY AMERICANS, IT'S 14.7 PERCENT; AMONG TEENAGERS,
IT IS ALMOST 22 PERCENT, AND AMONG MINORITY TEENAGERS, IT
IS A STAGGERING 39.9 PERCENT.

L SO YOU WILL ATTACK YOUR FISCAL YEAR 1976 GOALS AGAINST

THE BACKDROP OF MASSIVE UNEMPLOYMENT NOT ONLY AMONG THE

DISADVANTAGED, BUT AMONG SKILLED AND WHITE-COLLAR WORKERS

AS WELL L THIS SEVERE SCARCITY OF JOBS MAGNIFIES THE CHALLENGE,

AND IT'S THE FIRST HARD REALITY YOU MUST FACE.

L THE SECOND REALITY IS THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO FOCUS ON THE REAL ECONOMIC PROBLEM AND DO WHAT MUST

BE DONE.

*Veto - Summer jobs bill
for 850,000 youth*

THESE NEW UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES CAME AS A SURPRISE TO

NO ONE -- EXCEPT, APPARENTLY, THE ADMINISTRATION. ALL ALONG

THEY HAVE TOLD US THAT IT WOULD NOT GO THIS HIGH -- THAT

REVERSES WERE COMING ANY TIME.

WELL, WE DO HAVE THE EDGE ON INFLATION NOW! BUT IT SEEMS
THAT PRESIDENT FORD AND HIS ECONOMIC ADVISERS HAVE NOT GOTTEN
THE MESSAGE. LATE LAST MONTH, THE PRESIDENT VETOED A MEASURE
THAT COULD HAVE MEANT JOBS FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF
AMERICANS -- HE SAID IT WAS INFLATIONARY!

SOMEHOW THE ADMINISTRATION MUST BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND
THE FOLLY OF FURTHER IGNORING THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF
UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE WELL-BEING OF THIS COUNTRY.

Cost of Unemployment
INFLATION SIMPLY IS NOT THE PROBLEM ANY MORE -- UNEMPLOYMENT
IS THE PROBLEM. THE LOSS OF PRODUCTIVITY THAT GOES ALONG WITH
LAY-OFFS AND WORK SLOW-DOWNS WILL TAKE MANY YEARS TO RECOVER.

L IN COLD ECONOMIC TERMS, IT MEANS \$1.5 TRILLION IN LOST
OUTPUT BETWEEN NOW AND 1980 THAT COULD BE PRODUCED IF WE
WERE AT FULL EMPLOYMENT.

L IT MEANS LOWER INCOME, LOWER TAX REVENUES, LOWER PROFITS,
AND LOWER WAGES IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS THAN WE COULD ACHIEVE
AT FULL EMPLOYMENT. - Crime - Delinquency -

L THESE ARE THE REALITIES YOU MUST FACE AS YOU GO OUT TO
RECRUIT JOB SLOTS IN THE COMING YEAR.

BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE TOO DISCOURAGED. HOW WELL I REMEMBER
PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S WORDS WHEN HE CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE ALLIANCE. "THIS IS A TALL ORDER FOR AMERICAN BUSINESS,"
HE SAID. "BUT THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN BUSINESS IS THE HISTORY
OF TRIUMPH OVER CHALLENGE."

How RIGHT HE WAS -- AND HOW PERCEPTIVE HIS ASSESSMENT OF
WHAT GOVERNMENT AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY COULD DO TOGETHER
TO BRING ABOUT SOCIAL PROGRESS.

The REALITIES YOU MUST FACE AND THE ENORMITY OF THE JOB
MUST NOT BE A DETERRENT, BECAUSE WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS RIGHT.

We ARE DEEPLY AWARE OF THE MASSIVE TOLL UNEMPLOYMENT TAKES
ON AMERICANS WHO ARE TRAPPED IN A CYCLE OF JOBLESSNESS.

FOR THE POOR AND DISADVANTAGED, IT MEANS THAT THE CYCLE
MAY NEVER BE BROKEN. IT MEANS BEING CONDEMNED TO A LIFE WITHOUT
SATISFACTION OR ACHIEVEMENT.

FOR THE EX-OFFENDER, IT MEANS BEING DUMPED ON THE STREET
WITH NO PLACE TO GO BUT BACK -- BACK TO CRIME, BACK TO JAIL --
BACK TO NOWHERE.

FOR THE VETERAN, IT MEANS A SHOCKING SENSE OF LOSS AND
DEPRESSION. IT REPRESENTS DESERTION BY A SOCIETY HE FOUGHT
TO PRESERVE -- A WAY OF LIFE HE BELIEVED WORTHY OF DEFENSE.

THE CONCEPT OF WORK IS AT THE HEART OF THE AMERICAN *work*
SYSTEM. THOSE WITHOUT A JOB IN OUR SOCIETY OFTEN BECOME THE
OBJECT OF RIDICULE AND SHAME -- OR MISPLACED PITY.

BUT PEOPLE DON'T WANT PITY OR RIDICULE -- THEY DON'T WANT
WELFARE. THEY WANT THE CHANCE TO EARN AN HONEST LIVING.

↳ A FEW HUNDRED PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS WERE ADVERTISED IN
ATLANTA SOME WEEKS AGO, AND 10 OR 15 TIMES AS MANY PEOPLE
LINED UP DURING THE NIGHT TO APPLY. ↳ THIS SCENE HAS BEEN REPEATED
IN MANY CITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY ↳ THIS IS NOT THE MARK OF A
PEOPLE WHO WANT TO LIVE ON THE PUBLIC DOLE.

↳ NO, OUR PEOPLE DON'T WANT WELFARE ↳ THEY WANT THE OPPORTUNITY
TO CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY. ↳ UNEMPLOYMENT MEANS MORE THAN A LOSS
OF INCOME, IT MEANS THAT SOCIETY SAYS, IN EFFECT: "WE DON'T
WANT YOU. WE DON'T NEED YOU. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR YOU."

BUT THROUGH YOUR EFFORTS, MILLIONS OF AMERICAN MEN AND
WOMEN WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF THIS PSYCHOLOGY CAN KNOW
THAT THERE IS A PLACE FOR THEM IN OUR SOCIETY -- THAT THEY DO
HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN BUILDING A GREATER AMERICA.

NOW THEY CAN SAY: "RESPECT ME -- I HAVE A SKILL: I HAVE
A JOB; I RESPECT MYSELF."

I HOPE THAT I HAVE LEFT YOU NOT ONLY WITH SOME SENSE OF
THE OBSTACLES YOU FACE, BUT WITH A FEELING FOR THE URGENCY OF
YOUR MISSION.

I LIKE TO THINK THAT THE FUTURE IS WHAT WE MAKE IT, THAT
GREAT FRENCHMAN, VICTOR HUGO, LAID IT OUT IN SIMPLE TERMS.

HE SAID:

"THE FUTURE HAS SEVERAL NAMES, FOR THE WEAK, IT IS THE
IMPOSSIBLE, FOR THE FAINT-HEARTED, IT IS THE UNKNOWN, FOR THE
THOUGHTFUL AND VALIANT, IT IS IDEAL, THE CHALLENGE IS URGENT,
THE TASK IS LARGE, THE TIME IS NOW,"

#



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