

*delivered by phone*

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF DISTRICT 33

STEELWORKERS

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER 18, 1975

FOR MANY MONTHS THE PRESIDENT AND HIS ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
HAVE BEEN PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY -- THAT  
PROSPERITY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

HOWEVER, EACH DAY EIGHT TO TEN MILLION UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS  
MUST ASK "WHY ME?" AND "HOW MUCH LONGER?"

EVERY DAY MILLIONS OF SHOPPERS FIND THAT THE PAYCHECK BUYS  
FEWER GROCERIES, LESS CLOTHING AND FEWER GALLONS OF GASOLINE.

WE ALL KNOW THAT THE HOUSING INDUSTRY REMAINS A DISASTER  
AREA, THAT AUTOMOBILE SALES STILL LAG FAR BEHIND NORMAL LEVELS,  
AND THAT RETAIL SALES ARE NOWHERE NEAR WHAT WE HAD HOPED FOR.

APPARENTLY, THINGS LOOK DIFFERENT FROM A CHALET IN VAIL,  
COLORADO, A COZY RETREAT IN THE MARYLAND MOUNTAINS, AND FROM  
1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.

BUT, WHAT THEY SEE IS NOT WHAT WE'VE GOT. THE ECONOMIC VIEW THEY ARE GETTING IS CLOUDED BY THEIR ROSE-COLORED GLASSES.

THE SO-CALLED RECOVERY IS A WISH, A HOPE AND A PRAYER -- NOT A HARD FACT. AND THE LONGER WE PERMIT OURSELVES TO BE DECEIVED BY THE MIRAGE OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY, THE LONGER WE WILL PUT OFF THE TOUGH JOB-CREATING ACTIONS THAT GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE IF A STRONG AND DURABLE RECOVERY IS TO OCCUR.

└ TODAY, EIGHT MILLION AMERICANS ARE OFFICIALLY UNEMPLOYED. THEY HAVE BEEN OUT OF WORK AN AVERAGE OF NEARLY FOUR MONTHS.

NEARLY 20 PERCENT OF THESE PEOPLE -- THAT IS 1.5 MILLION WORKERS -- HAVE BEEN UNEMPLOYED FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS.

└ TODAY, OVER ONE-THIRD OF THIS NATION'S INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY IS IDLE -- MACHINES AND EQUIPMENT SIMPLY ARE NOT BEING USED,

TODAY 24 MILLION AMERICANS ARE LIVING IN POVERTY, WE  
ARE BACK TO THE LATE 60'S LEVEL.

AND TODAY, THE BUYING POWER OF THE TAKE HOME PAY OF  
THE AVERAGE WORKER -- DUE TO SHORTER HOURS AND HIGHER PRICES --  
IS BACK WHERE IT WAS IN THE MID 60'S. YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING  
ON A TREADMILL AND GETTING NOWHERE.

IF THIS IS THE REPUBLICAN IDEA OF AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY,  
IT IS NO WONDER THAT THEY HAD SO MUCH TROUBLE SEEING RECESSION  
WHEN IT WAS STARING THEM RIGHT IN THE FACE.

APPARENTLY REPUBLICANS WATCH THE STOCKMARKET, BUSINESS  
PROFITS, AND BUSINESS INVENTORIES, AND WHEN THEY BEGIN TO  
IMPROVE, A RECOVERY IS PROCLAIMED.

INSTEAD THEY SHOULD LOOK MORE CLOSELY AT WHAT IS  
HAPPENING TO PEOPLE -- TO YOUR INCOMES, TO YOUR JOBS, TO YOUR  
HOUSING. IT IS ONLY WHEN THESE BEGIN TO IMPROVE THAT THE  
REAL RECOVERY IS UNDERWAY.

WHILE THE SLIDE TOWARD DEPRESSION APPEARS TO HAVE  
STOPPED, WE ARE A LONG WAY FROM THE PEOPLE'S RECOVERY.

THE NIXON-FORD ECONOMIC TEAM HAS BEEN -- UNMISTAKABLY --  
A DISASTER FOR OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY AND PARTICULARLY FOR  
OUR NATION'S WORKERS. THEY'VE MANAGED TO TURN OUR ECONOMY  
UPSIDE DOWN.

-- THE INVENTORS OF "WIN" BUTTONS HAVE GIVEN OUR  
COUNTRY ITS HIGHEST LEVEL OF INFLATION IN THREE DECADES.

-- THE VOCAL PROPONENTS OF THE WORK ETHIC HAVE GIVEN  
US MORE UNEMPLOYMENT THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE  
UNITED STATES, EXCEPT DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION.

-- THE GREAT ADVOCATES OF LAW AND ORDER HAVE TO BE  
DRAGGED SCREAMING AND HOLLERING INTO AN INVESTIGATION OF  
A MAJOR GRAIN INSPECTION SCANDAL.

-- THE OUTSPOKEN CRITICS OF GOVERNMENT ACTION STAND ~~AWAY~~  
~~THE~~ READY TO BAIL OUT THE BIG CORPORATIONS AND THE BANKING  
CONGLOMERATES THAT FLOUNDER UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THEIR OWN  
MISMANAGEMENT.

WE NEED A NEW TEAM AND WE MUST HAVE ONE IN 1976 IF  
THE ECONOMY IS TO BE TURNED RIGHT SIDE UP. IT WAS NEVER  
INTENDED IN OUR CONSTITUTION THAT THE NATION BE RUN BY  
THE CONGRESS. THE 37 FORD VETOES ARE CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT  
IT CANNOT BE.

WE NEED A LEADERSHIP TEAM IN THE WHITE HOUSE THAT UNDERSTANDS WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR ECONOMY, HAS CONFIDENCE IN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND COMPASSION FOR THEIR PROBLEMS. WE NEED SOMEONE WHO WILL WORK AGGRESSIVELY TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THE ECONOMIC MESS,

WE DON'T NEED LEADERS WHOSE PHILOSOPHY PRODUCES A TRAGIC AND ICY INDIFFERENCE TO THE SUFFERINGS OF OUR CITIZENS.

THERE IS MUCH THAT WE CAN DO TO CREATE JOBS AND INCOME NOW AND TO SPEED ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN OUR NATION. WE CANNOT ABIDE THE ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN TO LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE. SUCH OFFICIAL APATHY WOULD MEAN YEARS OF LOST OPPORTUNITY, LOST INCOME, LOST PRIDE AND LOST HOPE IN OUR NATION FOR MILLIONS OF AMERICANS. SUCH A POLICY IS UNNECESSARY, UNDESIRABLE, AND UNTHINKABLE.

THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT WE CAN DO TO MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE.

FIRST, WE CAN AND WE MUST TAKE BETTER CARE OF THE  
INNOCENT VICTIMS OF RECESSION, BY EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT  
COMPENSATION AND INCREASING ITS LEVEL. TODAY, THE AVERAGE  
UNEMPLOYMENT CHECK IS \$65 A WEEK -- A NATIONAL DISGRACE.

WE ALSO MUST HAVE AN EMERGENCY PROGRAM TO PROVIDE  
HEALTH INSURANCE FOR THOSE WHO LOST THEIR COVERAGE WHEN  
THEY LOST THEIR JOBS.

AND OF COURSE, WE CAN, WE MUST AND WE WILL CONTINUE  
TO OPPOSE THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN TO CUT SOCIAL SECURITY,  
RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND FOOD STAMPS FOR THE NEEDY. CONGRESS  
HAS REJECTED THESE CRUEL PROPOSALS.



SECOND, WE MUST GET THE ECONOMY MOVING AHEAD ONCE AGAIN, AND THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO DO THIS.

-- WE NEED TO CONTINUE THE TAX REDUCTIONS THAT WERE ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS LAST YEAR. IN FACT, IF THE ANEMIA IN OUR ECONOMY CONTINUES, WE MAY WELL HAVE TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THAT TAX REDUCTION.

-- WE NEED AN ACCELERATED PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYMENT. CONGRESS HAS PASSED SUCH LEGISLATION AND IT SOON WILL BE SENT TO THE PRESIDENT. WITH UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AT A 20 PER CENT LEVEL NATIONWIDE, THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION THAT SUCH A PROGRAM IS URGENTLY NEEDED RIGHT NOW.

-- WE NEED TO CREATE A GREATLY EXPANDED PROGRAM OF PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS. IN FACT, SUCH LEGISLATION SHOULD BE PERMANENTLY ON THE BOOKS FOR USE IN TIMES OF ECONOMIC TROUBLE.

-- CONGRESS MUST ENACT A MORTGAGE SUBSIDY PROGRAM --  
A NATIONAL HOUSING BANK -- TO REDUCE MORTGAGE INTEREST LEVELS TO A MAXIMUM OF 6 PER CENT. WE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TO BRING HOME OWNERSHIP BACK INTO THE GRASP OF THE MAJORITY OF AMERICAN FAMILIES.

THESE VITAL JOB-CREATING MEASURES ARE NEEDED IN AMERICA RIGHT NOW.

BUT THE TAX CUTS AND THE PROGRAMS I HAVE DISCUSSED ARE USELESS IF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD CONTINUES TO STRANGLE ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH A TIGHT CREDIT POLICY AND HIGH INTEREST RATES.

IT'S TIME THAT THE FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD WAS SHAKEN  
UP A LITTLE. IT'S TIME THAT IT WAS TOLD THAT IT MUST WORK  
FOR ALL THE PEOPLE IN AMERICA. IT'S TIME THAT SOMEONE IN  
THE FEDERAL RESERVE SPOKE UP FOR LABOR, FOR THE CONSUMER,  
FOR THE FARMER, AND FOR THE SMALL BUSINESS PERSON WITHIN  
THE INNER SANCTUM OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE.

THE PROGRAMS I'VE PROPOSED, COUPLED WITH A RESPONSIVE  
CREDIT POLICY, A RESPONSIBLE LONG TERM ENERGY POLICY, AND  
A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL FOOD POLICY, CAN MOVE OUR NATION  
TOWARD A STRONG RECOVERY AND A VIBRANT ECONOMY FOR YEARS  
TO COME.

---

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTHEAST MINNESOTA ARE VERY  
ENCOURAGING TO ME. THE AMERICAN HOIST AND DERRICK PROJECT,

*new account plants*

THE NORTH STAR STEEL FACILITY, AND NOW A NEW FOUNDRY -- THE  
FUTURE IS BRIGHT.

BUT, OUR ECONOMIC HEALTH ALSO REQUIRES THAT WE MAKE  
GOOD USE OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES WITH WHICH WE HAVE BEEN  
BLESSED. OUR MINERAL TREASURE -- IRON ORE, COPPER AND  
NICKEL -- CAN AND MUST BE RESPONSIBLY DEVELOPED TO CREATE  
BOTH JOBS AND INCOME. WE CAN DO THIS AND ALSO PRESERVE  
OUR VALUABLE ENVIRONMENT. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE DEPENDENT  
ON FOREIGN SUPPLIES FOR THESE ESSENTIAL INDUSTRIAL RAW  
MATERIALS ... WE HAVE SEEN IN ENERGY EXACTLY WHAT OVER  
DEPENDENCE MEANS.

RECESSION IS A TRAGIC WASTE OF OUR NATIONS HUMAN,  
CAPITAL, AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

THE NIXON-FORD RECESSION HAS COST 15 MILLION AMERICAN  
WORKERS THEIR JOBS AT SOME TIME DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS.

IT HAS COST US \$300 BILLION IN LOST INCOME.

AND IT WILL COST OUR ECONOMY \$1.5 TRILLION IN LOST  
GOODS, PRODUCTION AND INCOME BY THE END OF THE 70's.

-- RECESSION IS A WASTE OF LABOR, OF SKILLS, OF  
EDUCATION, AND MANAGEMENT TALENT.

-- RECESSION IS A WASTE OF FACTORIES AND EQUIPMENT.

-- IT IS A WASTE OF GOVERNMENT REVENUES NOT GAINED.

-- IT IS A WASTE OF INCOME NOT EARNED AND GOODS NOT  
PRODUCED.

-- IT IS A WASTE OF THE TALENT AND ENTHUSIASM OF  
YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET A JOB.

-- AND IT IS A WASTE OF SAVINGS USED TO CARRY US  
THROUGH THE HARD TIMES AND BURNED UP BY THE FIRES OF  
INFLATION.

WITH ALL OF THE RICHNESS WITH WHICH AMERICA IS  
BLESSED, THIS WASTE IS THE SHAME OF OUR NATION. IT IS  
AN EVER GREATER SHAME WHEN ONE REALIZES THAT THERE IS SO  
MUCH THAT REMAINS TO BE DONE IN THIS COUNTRY.

WHAT AMERICA NEEDS IS PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATIC  
LEADERSHIP -- IN THE TRADITION OF FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, HARRY  
TRUMAN, JOHN KENNEDY, AND LYNDON JOHNSON -- TO PUT AN END TO  
WASTE, TO STOP THIS OFFICIAL APATHY, AND TO MOUNT THE KIND  
OF CONFIDENT AND AGGRESSIVE MARCH THAT WILL SHOW ALL AMERICANS  
WHAT A TRUE PEOPLE'S RECOVERY REALLY IS.



# 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](http://www.mnhs.org)