

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF OPERATION PUSH

Washington, D. C.

July 23, 1976

It is a pleasure to be here today with Reverend Jackson and my friends of Operation PUSH. I applaud and support your goal of a push for excellence, the theme of this convention.

We have just celebrated our Nation's two-hundredth birthday. When I look around me, I am struck by the fact that it is the people of this country who are its greatest natural resource. The rest -- our technology, buildings, capital, institutions -- are only important to the extent that they serve the general welfare of our people.

And yet, as we celebrate our Bicentennial, what is the condition of our people?

More than 40 years since the Great Depression brought this country to its knees, we still have not found a way to ensure our prosperity or provide every American with a productive place in our future.

Over 7 million persons are officially unemployed. Another 4 million have either become so discouraged that they have dropped out of the labor force completely, or can find only part-time jobs. Among many groups, unemployment is at crisis levels. Among Blacks, it is 13.3 percent; among teenagers, 18.4 percent; among Black teenagers, 40.3 percent.

Consider another fact: over 40 million American adults -- one in five -- lack the basic know-how to function effectively in a complex society.

Moreover, there is a key barometer reading of our social condition that provides a clear warning: we have the highest crime rate in our history.

Economic policies have not always worked to the detriment of America's poor and unemployed. From 1961 to 1969, the Kennedy-Johnson Administrations presided over an economy that provided thirteen million new jobs. We had inherited high unemployment from the last year of the Eisenhower Administration, and we brought it down to 3.6 percent.

What is the corresponding record of the Nixon-Ford Administration? In the past three years, they have managed to increase employment by no more than a million jobs, compared to our thirteen. They have managed to push the official unemployment rate up to over an annual average of 8 1/2 percent and as high as 10 percent at one point. Since 1972, the Republicans have provided exactly one job for every four new job-seekers in this country.

That is, for one out of every four people trying to work, there has been a place. And for the other three -- nothing. To the other three, government, society and industry have sat back and said: "We don't need you. There is no place for you here. You are not wanted."

That is a terrible indictment of Republican economics. It is a telling comment on those whose response to millions of unemployed Americans is to say nothing but "Go slow -- not too fast."

That may be a satisfactory answer for those people who already have made it. But for the thousands and, yes, millions of Americans who are having a tough time getting through every week, whose personal budgets are unbalanced, who are in debt for their daily living and unsure where they can work tomorrow, who suffer the indignity of welfare or the limbo of unemployment -- for those Americans, I assure you "Go slow" is no answer at all.

This Administration has managed to reverse the trend toward greater economic equality established during the 1960's. Those were years full of promise for this country: 10 million Americans worked their way out of poverty in just three years, from 1966 to 1969. And I mean worked their way out, from below the poverty line into middle income.

That is a record which is unparalleled by any nation in our time. During the 1960's the income of Blacks increased from 50 percent of the income of whites to 61 percent; still a gross inequality but a substantial improvement. Since 1969, the trend has been reversed and Blacks are again losing ground in income distribution.

Since the Nixon-Ford Administration has been in office, three million people have slid below the poverty line. That is the price the Republicans want us to pay; price stability for the upper crust of this country at the expense of poverty for millions and millions of Americans. No public policy could be more morally bankrupt.

I say to you that 8 years of those policies are enough. I am sick and tired of hearing that we must let the market forces work their will. If we let the forces of the market work their will, an awful lot of people will be economic casualties.

The fact is that the past few years have drawn more attention to the inadequacies of economic policy. Each recovery from recession has brought a higher unemployment rate which implies greater waste of our economic resources.

In the late 1940's and early 1950's, we managed to achieve unemployment rates between 2.9 and 3.9 percent. After the 1958 recession, unemployment reached a new plateau -- it remained above 5 percent for 6 years. And now, after the combined 1970-71 and 1974-75 recessions, we can look forward to several years of unemployment above 6 percent if policies currently in place continue.

That is why, together with Congressman Augustus Hawkins, I have introduced S. 50, the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1976. This bill sets the President, the Federal Reserve and the Congress on notice -- it establishes as a national goal the reduction of adult unemployment to no more than 3 percent within 4 years of enactment.

This legislation is not merely another public service jobs bill. It would establish a cooperative process for the making of economic policy.

Look at what we've had for the last 8 years. It can't be described as a coherent policy by any stretch of the imagination. A much better word for describing it would be "chaos."

We've had a President who said he would never impose wage and price controls, and then turned around and slapped on freezes and controls.

We've had a Federal Reserve that has tightened up on credit just as most of us were beginning to experience a little prosperity.

We've had a President who in December, 1974, in the midst of a full-scale recession, called for a tax increase. Two weeks later, he made a 180 degree turn, and started calling for a tax cut.

S. 50 is based on the premise that economic mismanagement is no excuse for juggling with the lives of our citizens. It requires that each year the President and the Congress agree on specific goals for employment, production and purchasing power. It puts new requirements on the Federal Reserve to make it a responsible partner in national economic decisions.

The bill requires that the President, in consultation with Congress, decide each year how far we can get to full employment goals, by reliance on budget, tax, and monetary policy.

And if these are not enough, it provides for a package of programs designed to deal with specific stubborn pockets of unemployment, such as youth training and employment programs, expanded adult job training, countercyclical grants to state and local governments, and regional development policies.

Now, people have said to me, "Senator Humphrey, isn't this an awfully ambitious goal; how can we ever expect to achieve it?"

My answer to these critics is, "Sure, this is an ambitious goal. We may not be able to achieve it, but I'm not going to settle for 6 or 7 percent unemployment. Why not set a target and see if we can't achieve it?"

That's the way to get things done. Everyone else sets goals, why can't the Federal government? The automobile industry sets goals. How many cars are they going to produce and sell? How do you think they sell those cars if they don't have a goal? Even Muhammed Ali said, "I'll knock out Dunn in the fifth round" and he did.

In government, they tell us, "Just wait, and it will all work out in due time." I don't believe in that approach. I believe in goals and production and work, and lots of it, old-fashioned, hard work.

To me, the theme of your convention, "push for excellence," is clearly reflected in the spirit of the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act. Neither you nor I will be satisfied with a defeatist, go slow attitude.

I am not ready to concede that the United States, which actually made it possible for most countries of Europe and Japan to rebuild their economies following World War II, cannot equal their economic performance.

We are always talking about how we don't want to be second best to the Russians in defense; how we must have better missiles and ships and weapons than they do. I know that we need these weapons, but I'm not proud of it.

What I want to be proud of is that this great country could be first in employment, first in the welfare of its people.

There isn't a Member of Congress, or a Presidential candidate, who doesn't say "We don't want those Russians to have more missiles than we have." Why doesn't someone get up and say we don't want Japan to have a better rate of unemployment than we do? Why don't we have some priorities in this country?"

We are always worrying about whether the Russians have a new bomber or a new weapon system, but we never seem to worry about the fact that in the 1962 to 1973 period, when the U.S. had an average unemployment rate of 5 percent, the countries of Japan, France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Sweden had an average unemployment rate of 1.8 percent.

Why don't we strive to be first in our economic performance, first in getting people to work, instead of first in seeing whether we can get a bigger missile?

I believe that full employment is the keystone of solving many of our economic problems. The increased production, income and tax revenues which would result from a full employment economy would help us pay for the social programs we need:

- a program of long overdue reform to clean up the welfare mess so that sufficient help goes to those families who actually need it;

- a national health care system that provides quality health service for all at the lowest possible cost;

- a housing program that replaces slums with sound, low-cost, high quality housing, and decent neighborhoods;

- a transportation program that meets the needs of urban and rural people.

It is easy for those who are well paid and have full employment, a pension fund, health and fringe benefits to say there is nothing government can do, let the market forces work their will.

But let me remind you of the purpose of government. It is to establish justice, to assure domestic tranquility, to provide for the common defense, to promote the general welfare and to secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity. There's not a word in the Constitution about market forces. But there is plenty in there about justice, fair play, compassion and decency.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is what this Bicentennial year is all about. This nation was founded on a promise -- a promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We can keep that promise. And we will not rest until we have become the very best it is in us to be. That is the true meaning of the push for excellence.

# # # #



+ Jesse Hill - Atlanta  
 + Hermon Russell - Atlanta  
 (Atlanta Connection)

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF OPERATION PUSH

WASHINGTON, D. C.

JULY 23, 1976

- Rev Jesse Jackson -  
 - Rev Brackins -  
 - Mr Johnson -  
 in Project  
 Hermon Co. at the Right time

Robert Brown

② Costly unemployment  
Dragon women  
Blacks -  
& others  
Human Problems  
 - Education  
 - Housing  
 - Health  
 - etc  
War on poverty  
Cities  
Rising unemployment  
Figure  
Excellence -  
Excel

*Lessee*

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE TODAY WITH REVEREND JACKSON AND  
MY FRIENDS OF OPERATION PUSH. I APPLAUD AND SUPPORT YOUR GOAL OF  
A PUSH FOR EXCELLENCE, THE THEME OF THIS CONVENTION.

*Gang to  
Schools*

WE HAVE JUST CELEBRATED OUR NATION'S TWO-HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY.

WHEN I LOOK AROUND ME, I AM STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT IT IS THE PEOPLE  
OF THIS COUNTRY WHO ARE ITS GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCE. THE REST --

OUR TECHNOLOGY, BUILDINGS, CAPITAL, INSTITUTIONS -- ARE ONLY IMPORTANT  
TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY SERVE THE GENERAL WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLE.

AND YET, AS WE CELEBRATE OUR BICENTENNIAL, WHAT IS THE  
CONDITION OF OUR PEOPLE?

MORE THAN 40 YEARS SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION BROUGHT THIS COUNTRY  
TO ITS KNEES, WE STILL HAVE NOT FOUND A WAY TO ENSURE OUR PROSPERITY  
OR PROVIDE EVERY AMERICAN WITH A PRODUCTIVE PLACE IN OUR FUTURE.

unemployment

-2-

OVER 7 MILLION PERSONS ARE OFFICIALLY UNEMPLOYED, ANOTHER  
4 MILLION HAVE EITHER BECOME SO DISCOURAGED THAT THEY HAVE DROPPED  
OUT OF THE LABOR FORCE COMPLETELY, OR CAN FIND ONLY PART-TIME  
JOBS. AMONG MANY GROUPS, UNEMPLOYMENT IS AT CRISIS LEVELS.

AMONG BLACKS, IT IS 13.3 PERCENT; AMONG TEENAGERS, 18.4 PERCENT;  
AMONG BLACK TEENAGERS, 40.3 PERCENT.

CONSIDER ANOTHER FACT: OVER 40 MILLION AMERICAN ADULTS --  
ONE IN FIVE -- LACK THE BASIC KNOW-HOW TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY IN  
A COMPLEX SOCIETY.

millions - Low income -  
- Poor housing  
- Poor healthcare

MOREOVER, THERE IS A KEY BAROMETER READING OF OUR SOCIAL  
CONDITION THAT PROVIDES A CLEAR WARNING: WE HAVE THE HIGHEST CRIME  
RATE IN OUR HISTORY.

ECONOMIC POLICIES HAVE NOT ALWAYS WORKED TO THE DETRIMENT  
OF AMERICA'S POOR AND UNEMPLOYED. FROM 1961 TO 1969, THE KENNEDY-

JOHNSON ADMINISTRATIONS PRESIDED OVER AN ECONOMY THAT PROVIDED

*13 million new jobs*  
THIRTEEN MILLION NEW JOBS. WE HAD INHERITED HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT

FROM THE LAST YEAR OF THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION, AND WE

BROUGHT IT DOWN TO 3.6 PERCENT.

*3.6% unemp*

WHAT IS THE CORRESPONDING RECORD OF THE NIXON-FORD ADMINISTRATION?

IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, THEY HAVE MANAGED TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT

BY NO MORE THAN A MILLION JOBS, COMPARED TO OUR THIRTEEN. THEY HAVE

MANAGED TO PUSH THE OFFICIAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE UP TO OVER AN ANNUAL

AVERAGE OF 8 1/2 PERCENT AND AS HIGH AS 10 PERCENT AT ONE POINT.

SINCE 1972, THE REPUBLICANS HAVE PROVIDED EXACTLY ONE JOB FOR EVERY

FOUR NEW JOB-SEEKERS IN THIS COUNTRY.



L THAT IS, FOR ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR PEOPLE TRYING TO WORK, THERE  
HAS BEEN A PLACE. L AND FOR THE OTHER THREE -- NOTHING. L TO THE OTHER  
THREE, GOVERNMENT, SOCIETY AND INDUSTRY HAVE SAT BACK AND SAID: "WE  
DON'T NEED YOU. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR YOU HERE. YOU ARE NOT WANTED."

THAT IS A TERRIBLE INDICTMENT OF REPUBLICAN ECONOMICS. IT IS  
A TELLING COMMENT ON THOSE WHOSE RESPONSE TO MILLIONS OF UNEMPLOYED  
AMERICANS IS TO SAY NOTHING BUT "GO SLOW -- NOT TOO FAST."

L THAT MAY BE A SATISFACTORY ANSWER FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO  
ALREADY HAVE MADE IT. L BUT FOR THE THOUSANDS AND, YES, MILLIONS  
OF AMERICANS WHO ARE HAVING A TOUGH TIME GETTING THROUGH EVERY  
WEEK, WHOSE PERSONAL BUDGETS ARE UNBALANCED, WHO ARE IN DEBT  
FOR THEIR DAILY LIVING AND UNSURE WHERE THEY CAN WORK TOMORROW,  
WHO SUFFER THE INDIGNITY OF WELFARE OR THE LIMBO OF UNEMPLOYMENT --  
FOR THOSE AMERICANS, I ASSURE YOU "GO SLOW" IS NO ANSWER AT ALL.

out of Poverty -

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS MANAGED TO REVERSE THE TREND TOWARD  
GREATER ECONOMIC EQUALITY ESTABLISHED DURING THE 1960's. THOSE  
WERE YEARS FULL OF PROMISE FOR THIS COUNTRY: 10 MILLION AMERICANS  
WORKED THEIR WAY OUT OF POVERTY IN JUST THREE YEARS, FROM 1966 TO  
1969. AND I MEAN WORKED THEIR WAY OUT, FROM BELOW THE POVERTY  
LINE INTO MIDDLE INCOME.

THAT IS A RECORD WHICH IS UNPARALLELED BY ANY NATION IN OUR  
TIME. DURING THE 1960's THE INCOME OF BLACKS INCREASED FROM  
50 PERCENT OF THE INCOME OF WHITES TO 61 PERCENT; STILL A GROSS  
INEQUALITY BUT A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT. SINCE 1969, THE TREND  
HAS BEEN REVERSED AND BLACKS ARE AGAIN LOSING GROUND IN INCOME  
DISTRIBUTION.

Cities Homey Blacks.  
(Discrimination)

SINCE THE NIXON-FORD ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN IN OFFICE, ~~THREE~~  
<sup>more</sup> MILLION PEOPLE HAVE SLID BELOW THE POVERTY LINE. THAT IS THE PRICE  
THE REPUBLICANS WANT US TO PAY; PRICE STABILITY FOR THE UPPER CRUST  
OF THIS COUNTRY AT THE EXPENSE OF POVERTY FOR MILLIONS AND MILLIONS  
OF AMERICANS. NO PUBLIC POLICY COULD BE MORE MORALLY BANKRUPT.

I SAY TO YOU THAT 8 YEARS OF THOSE POLICIES ARE ENOUGH. I  
AM SICK AND TIRED OF HEARING THAT WE MUST LET THE MARKET FORCES  
WORK THEIR WILL. IF WE LET THE FORCES OF THE MARKET WORK THEIR  
WILL, AN AWFUL LOT OF PEOPLE WILL BE ECONOMIC CASUALTIES.

THE FACT IS THAT THE PAST FEW YEARS HAVE DRAWN MORE ATTENTION  
TO THE INADEQUACIES OF ECONOMIC POLICY. EACH RECOVERY FROM  
RECESSION HAS BROUGHT A HIGHER UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WHICH IMPLIES  
GREATER WASTE OF OUR ECONOMIC RESOURCES.

Creeping unemployment  
-7-

IN THE LATE 1940'S AND EARLY 1950'S, WE MANAGED TO ACHIEVE  
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BETWEEN 2.9 AND 3.9 PERCENT. AFTER THE 1958  
RECESSION, UNEMPLOYMENT REACHED A NEW PLATEAU -- IT REMAINED ABOVE  
5 PERCENT FOR 6 YEARS. AND NOW, AFTER THE COMBINED 1970-71 AND  
1974-75 RECESSIONS, WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO SEVERAL YEARS OF  
UNEMPLOYMENT ABOVE 6 PERCENT IF POLICIES CURRENTLY IN PLACE  
CONTINUE.

S. 50 - H.R. 50

THAT IS WHY, TOGETHER WITH CONGRESSMAN AUGUSTUS HAWKINS, I  
HAVE INTRODUCED S. 50, THE FULL EMPLOYMENT AND BALANCED GROWTH  
ACT OF 1976. THIS BILL SETS THE PRESIDENT, THE FEDERAL RESERVE  
AND THE CONGRESS ON NOTICE -- IT ESTABLISHES AS A NATIONAL GOAL  
THE REDUCTION OF ADULT UNEMPLOYMENT TO NO MORE THAN 3 PERCENT  
WITHIN 4 YEARS OF ENACTMENT.

L THIS LEGISLATION IS NOT MERELY ANOTHER PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS  
BILL. L IT WOULD ESTABLISH A COOPERATIVE PROCESS FOR THE MAKING  
OF ECONOMIC POLICY.

L LOOK AT WHAT WE'VE HAD FOR THE LAST 8 YEARS. IT CAN'T  
BE DESCRIBED AS A COHERENT POLICY BY ANY STRETCH OF THE  
IMAGINATION. A MUCH BETTER WORD FOR DESCRIBING IT WOULD BE

"CHAOS."

L WE'VE HAD A PRESIDENT WHO SAID HE WOULD NEVER IMPOSE WAGE  
AND PRICE CONTROLS, AND THEN TURNED AROUND AND SLAPPED ON  
FREEZES AND CONTROLS.

L WE'VE HAD A FEDERAL RESERVE THAT HAS TIGHTENED UP ON CREDIT  
JUST AS MOST OF US WERE BEGINNING TO EXPERIENCE A LITTLE PROSPERITY.

L WE'VE HAD A PRESIDENT WHO IN DECEMBER, 1974, IN THE MIDST  
OF A FULL-SCALE RECESSION, CALLED FOR A TAX INCREASE. L TWO WEEKS

LATER, HE MADE A 180 DEGREE TURN, AND STARTED CALLING FOR A TAX CUT.

L S. 50 IS BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT ECONOMIC MISMANAGEMENT IS  
NO EXCUSE FOR JUGGLING WITH THE LIVES OF OUR CITIZENS. L IT

REQUIRES THAT EACH YEAR THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS AGREE ON  
SPECIFIC GOALS FOR EMPLOYMENT, PRODUCTION AND PURCHASING POWER,

L IT PUTS NEW REQUIREMENTS ON THE FEDERAL RESERVE TO MAKE IT A  
RESPONSIBLE PARTNER IN NATIONAL ECONOMIC DECISIONS.

L THE BILL REQUIRES THAT THE PRESIDENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH  
CONGRESS, DECIDE EACH YEAR HOW FAR WE CAN GET TO FULL EMPLOYMENT  
GOALS, BY RELIANCE ON BUDGET, TAX, AND MONETARY POLICY.



AND IF THESE ARE NOT ENOUGH, IT PROVIDES FOR A PACKAGE OF  
PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC STUBBORN POCKETS OF  
UNEMPLOYMENT, SUCH AS YOUTH TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS,  
EXPANDED ADULT JOB TRAINING, COUNTERCYCLICAL GRANTS TO STATE  
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES,

NOW, PEOPLE HAVE SAID TO ME, "SENATOR HUMPHREY, ISN'T  
THIS AN AWFULLY AMBITIOUS GOAL; HOW CAN WE EVER EXPECT TO  
ACHIEVE IT?"

MY ANSWER TO THESE CRITICS IS, "SURE, THIS IS AN AMBITIOUS  
GOAL. WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE IT, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO  
SETTLE FOR 6 OR 7 PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT. WHY NOT SET A TARGET  
AND SEE IF WE CAN'T ACHIEVE IT?"

Dir. of Ind. - ambitious goal  
self govt - " "

L THAT'S THE WAY TO GET THINGS DONE. L EVERYONE ELSE SETS  
GOALS, WHY CAN'T THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT? L THE AUTOMOBILE  
INDUSTRY SETS GOALS. HOW MANY CARS ARE THEY GOING TO PRODUCE  
AND SELL? HOW DO YOU THINK THEY SELL THOSE CARS IF THEY DON'T  
HAVE A GOAL? L EVEN MUHAMMED ALI SAID, "I'LL KNOCK OUT DUNN IN  
THE FIFTH ROUND" AND HE DID.

L IN GOVERNMENT, THEY TELL US, "JUST WAIT, AND IT WILL ALL  
WORK OUT IN DUE TIME." L I DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT APPROACH. I  
BELIEVE IN GOALS AND PRODUCTION AND WORK, AND LOTS OF IT,  
OLD-FASHIONED, HARD WORK.

L TO ME, THE THEME OF YOUR CONVENTION, "PUSH FOR EXCELLENCE,"  
IS CLEARLY REFLECTED IN THE SPIRIT OF THE FULL EMPLOYMENT AND  
BALANCED GROWTH ACT. NEITHER YOU NOR I WILL BE SATISFIED WITH  
A DEFEATIST, GO SLOW ATTITUDE.

L I AM NOT READY TO CONCEDE THAT THE UNITED STATES, WHICH  
ACTUALLY MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR MOST COUNTRIES OF EUROPE AND

JAPAN TO REBUILD THEIR ECONOMIES FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, CANNOT  
EQUAL THEIR ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE.

( Rebuild cities )  
Marshall Plan

L WE ARE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT HOW WE DON'T WANT TO BE SECOND  
BEST TO THE RUSSIANS IN DEFENSE; HOW WE MUST HAVE BETTER MISSILES  
AND SHIPS AND WEAPONS THAN THEY DO. I KNOW THAT WE NEED THESE  
WEAPONS, BUT I'M NOT PROUD OF IT.

First for People!

L WHAT I WANT TO BE PROUD OF IS THAT THIS GREAT COUNTRY COULD  
BE FIRST IN EMPLOYMENT, FIRST IN THE WELFARE OF ITS PEOPLE.

~~THERE ISN'T A MEMBER OF CONGRESS, OR A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE,  
WHO DOESN'T SAY "WE DON'T WANT THOSE RUSSIANS TO HAVE MORE MISSILES  
THAN WE HAVE."~~

WHY DOESN'T SOMEONE GET UP AND SAY WE DON'T WANT JAPAN TO HAVE A  
BETTER RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT THAN WE DO? WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME  
PRIORITIES IN THIS COUNTRY?"

WE ARE ALWAYS WORRYING ABOUT WHETHER THE RUSSIANS HAVE A NEW  
BOMBER OR A NEW WEAPON SYSTEM, BUT WE NEVER SEEM TO WORRY ABOUT THE  
FACT THAT IN THE 1962 TO 1973 PERIOD, WHEN THE U.S. HAD AN AVERAGE  
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 5 PERCENT, THE COUNTRIES OF JAPAN, FRANCE, THE  
UNITED KINGDOM, GERMANY AND SWEDEN HAD AN AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
OF 1.8 PERCENT.

WHY DON'T WE STRIVE TO BE FIRST IN OUR ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE,  
FIRST IN GETTING PEOPLE TO WORK, INSTEAD OF FIRST IN SEEING WHETHER  
WE CAN GET A BIGGER MISSILE?

# What We Can Do with Full Employment

-14-

I BELIEVE THAT FULL EMPLOYMENT IS THE KEYSTONE OF SOLVING

MANY OF OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, THE INCREASED PRODUCTION, INCOME

AND TAX REVENUES WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM A FULL EMPLOYMENT ECONOMY

WOULD HELP US PAY FOR THE SOCIAL PROGRAMS WE NEED:

L -- A PROGRAM OF LONG OVERDUE REFORM TO CLEAN UP THE WELFARE

MESS SO THAT SUFFICIENT HELP GOES TO THOSE FAMILIES WHO ACTUALLY

NEED IT;

L -- A NATIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES QUALITY HEALTH

SERVICE FOR ALL AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE COST;

L -- A HOUSING PROGRAM THAT REPLACES SLUMS WITH SOUND, LOW-COST,

HIGH QUALITY HOUSING, AND DECENT NEIGHBORHOODS;

L -- A TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF URBAN

AND RURAL PEOPLE.

IT IS EASY FOR THOSE WHO ARE WELL PAID AND HAVE FULL EMPLOYMENT,  
A PENSION FUND, HEALTH AND FRINGE BENEFITS TO SAY THERE IS NOTHING  
GOVERNMENT CAN DO, LET THE MARKET FORCES WORK THEIR WILL,

BUT LET ME REMIND YOU OF THE PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT. IT IS  
TO ESTABLISH JUSTICE, TO ASSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY, TO PROVIDE  
FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE, TO PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE AND TO  
SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY FOR OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY,

THERE'S NOT A WORD IN THE CONSTITUTION ABOUT MARKET FORCES. BUT  
THERE IS PLENTY IN THERE ABOUT JUSTICE, FAIR PLAY, COMPASSION AND  
DECENCY,

THAT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS WHAT THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR  
IS ALL ABOUT.



THIS NATION WAS FOUNDED ON A PROMISE -- A PROMISE OF LIFE,  
LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. WE CAN KEEP THAT PROMISE,  
AND WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL WE HAVE BECOME THE VERY BEST  
IT IS IN US TO BE. THAT IS THE TRUE MEANING OF THE PUSH FOR  
EXCELLENCE.

# # # #



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