

GOODLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ANNUAL MEETING

VFW CLUB

GOODLAND, KANSAS

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1968

I APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU HERE IN GOODLAND THIS EVENING TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH AFFECT US HERE IN KANSAS AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY. AS THE NUMBER OF ISSUES WE NOW FACE IS EXTENSIVE, I WILL LIMIT MY TALK TONIGHT TO THREE PRIME AREAS: FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC SPENDING, OUR INCREASING CRIME RATE, AND LOW FARM PRICES -- ALL MATTERS WHICH WILL COME BEFORE OR WILL BE SERIOUSLY STUDIED BY THE CONGRESS THIS SESSION.

THE COUNTRY'S FISCAL PROBLEMS HAVE TAKEN SEVERAL CRITICAL TURNS IN RECENT WEEKS, AS YOU KNOW.

DURING THE LAST SESSION OF CONGRESS, SOME OF US FOUGHT TO HEAD OFF THE DISASTROUS EFFECTS OF AN INFLATION CAUSED BY MASSIVE FEDERAL SPENDING AND HUGE RED INK DEFICITS. IT APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT CURRENT THINKING IN ADMINISTRATION CIRCLES IS TO ATTEMPT TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE NOT BY REALISTIC CUTBACKS, BUT RATHER BY TAKING ANOTHER SPIN ON THE CYCLE OF TAX AND SPEND.

- EXPECT TAX INCREASE -

INDEED, THE ADMINISTRATION CAN BE EXPECTED TO PUSH AHEAD WITH ITS PROPOSAL OF AN INCOME TAX SURCHARGE DURING THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 90TH CONGRESS.

THIS TAX INCREASE -- A 10 PERCENT SURCHARGE ON PERSONAL AND CORPORATE INCOME -- IS OPPOSED BY MANY LEGISLATORS FROM BOTH PARTIES.

CONGRESSMAN WILBUR MILLS, DEMOCRAT FROM ARKANSAS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE POWERFUL HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, SAYS, "WHAT MANY OF US FEAR IS THAT TAX INCREASES NOW MAKE MORE REVENUE AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE PROGRAMS IN THE FUTURE."

- 2 -

THE POINT IS SIMPLY THAT IT WON'T DO MUCH GOOD TO INCREASE TAXES JUST TO ENLARGE GOVERNMENT SPENDING PROGRAMS, RATHER THAN REDUCE THE DEFICIT.

CONSIDER THIS BACKGROUND TO OUR CURRENT FISCAL DILEMMA:

SINCE 1961, THE GOVERNMENT HAS SPENT SOME 60 BILLION DOLLARS MORE THAN IT HAS TAKEN IN -- MOST OF IT FOR NON-DEFENSE PROGRAMS, DESPITE INCREASING COSTS IN VIETNAM.

IN NOVEMBER, THE NATIONAL DEBT REACHED 340.8 BILLION DOLLARS -- UP 14 BILLION LAST YEAR. IT NOW COSTS 15 BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR JUST TO PAY THE INTEREST ON THIS ENORMOUS AND FAST-GROWING DEBT.

OBVIOUSLY, THE PROBLEM OF STRENGTHENING THE DOLLAR WILL BE A HIGH-PRIORITY ISSUE DURING THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 90TH CONGRESS.

- FOREIGN AID -

THE QUESTION OF INCREASING FOREIGN AID WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE ANOTHER HOT ITEM DEBATED DURING THE SECOND SESSION. LAST YEAR, THE CONGRESS CUT BACK THE ADMINISTRATION'S INFLATED FOREIGN AID REQUESTS.

THE WISDOM OF THIS ACTION WAS REAFFIRMED TWO WEEKS AGO WHEN THE PRESIDENT -- FINALLY REALIZING THE THREAT POSED OUR ECONOMY BY THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM -- IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON AMERICAN PRIVATE BUSINESS INVESTMENTS OVERSEAS. YET NOT ONE WEEK LATER, THE VICE PRESIDENT CHOSE AN OVERSEAS FORUM AND A FOREIGN AUDIENCE TO CONDEMN THE CONGRESS FOR LAST YEAR'S FOREIGN AID CUTBACK.

THE SPECTACLE OF THE SECOND HIGHEST RANKING OFFICIAL OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ABJECTLY APOLOGIZING TO FOREIGN RECIPIENTS OF UNITED STATES AID BECAUSE, IN HIS OPINION, THAT AID ISN'T SUFFICIENT, IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF WHY THIS COUNTRY'S PRESTIGE IS ON THE DECLINE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

THE VICE PRESIDENT SAID TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY IN A SPEECH IN ADDIS ABABA, AND I QUOTE, "BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND I DEEPLY REGRET THAT OUR REQUESTS FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE HAVE BEEN REDUCED THIS YEAR. BUT WE DO NOT IN-

TEND TO RETREAT IN THE FACE OF THESE REDUCTIONS . . . WE INTEND TO TAKE OUR CASE BEFORE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE . . . TO LET THEM DECIDE THE COURSE WE SHOULD FOLLOW IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD."

NOW, KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS STATEMENT WAS MADE ONLY A FEW HOURS AFTER MR. HUMPHREY WAS FORCED TO CANCEL AN ADDRESS AT ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY. AND WHY? BECAUSE THE STUDENTS THERE WERE HANGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN EFFIGY!

TWO OBSERVATIONS COME TO MIND:

FIRST, THAT NO AMOUNT OF FOREIGN AID IS GOING TO EARN THIS COUNTRY RESPECT OVERSEAS, IN AFRICA OR ANY PLACE ELSE, WHEN THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ISSUES PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO FOREIGN AUDIENCES IMPLICITLY ATTACKING THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF HIS GOVERNMENT.

SECOND, THAT, WHETHER OR NOT HUBERT HUMPHREY UNDERSTANDS IT, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE STILL SPEAK THROUGH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CONGRESS, ON FOREIGN AID AS ON OTHER MATTERS IMPORTANT TO OUR NATION.

- CAN'T BUY FRIENDSHIP -

THE FACT THAT OUR COUNTRY HAS PUT BILLIONS OF DOLLARS INTO FOREIGN AID IN THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY -- WITH THE RESULT THAT THE PRESIDENT IS REGULARLY BURNED IN EFFIGY, NOT ONLY IN ADDIS ABABA, BUT IN CAPITALS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD -- WOULD SEEM TO MOST MEN AN EXCELLENT ARGUMENT AS TO THE FAILURE OF OUR EFFORTS TO BUY FRIENDSHIP.

THUS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS DON'T INTEND TO KEEP POURING MONEY DOWN A FOREIGN AID DRAIN.

- CRIME INCREASE -

HERE AT HOME, ONE PROBLEM CERTAIN TO COME IN FOR A LARGE SHARE OF ATTENTION DURING THE COMING YEAR IS THE SPIRALING RATE OF CRIME AND LAWLESSNESS IN OUR COUNTRY.

- 4 -

IN KANSAS, WE PERHAPS HAVE IN THE PAST TENDED TO CONSIDER THE PROBLEM OF CRIME AND THE BREAKDOWN OF LAW AND ORDER AS THE PROBLEM OF OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. TRUE, KANSAS HAS NOT BEEN PLAGUED WITH MANY OF THE PROBLEMS COMMON IN URBAN CENTERS.

STILL, IN EARLY DECEMBER, MANY KANSANS WERE JOLTED BY STATISTICS RESEARCHED FOR THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. SCIENTISTS FOUND THE RATE OF CRIME IN KANSAS DURING 1958 TO 1963 INCREASED AT LEAST 20 PERCENT FOR EVERY CATEGORY OF OFFENSE, EXCEPT MURDER. IN ADDITION, THEY FOUND FROM 1940 TO 1960 THE KANSAS ILLEGITIMACY RATE TRIPLED -- FROM 7.1 PERCENT TO 21.8 PERCENT PER 100,000 POPULATION.

THE NEXT SHOCKER CAME ONLY 10 DAYS LATER. THE FBI CRIME REPORT WAS RE-LEASED SHOWING KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI CRIME - UP 22 PERCENT: TOPEKA - UP 40 PERCENT: AND WICHITA CRIME - UP 45 PERCENT.

A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO, THE PRESIDENT REPORTED TO CONGRESS THAT IN THE UNITED STATES THERE IS:

- * A FORCIBLE RAPE EVERY 25 MINUTES,
- * A ROBBERY EVERY 5 MINUTES,
- * A CAR THEFT EVERY MINUTE, AND
- * A BURGLARY EVERY 28 SECONDS.

LITTLE WONDER THAT AMERICA HAS BECOME KNOWN AS A LAWLESS LAND WHERE PEOPLE THINK SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY BURNING AND LOOTING . . . BY DROPPING OUT AND TURNING ON . . . BY PUFFING POT AND EXPLORING THE DISASTROUS DEPTHS OF LSD.

- WHY CRIME HAS INCREASED -

WHY, YOU ASK, IS CRIME AND LAWLESSNESS IN OUR COUNTRY ON THE UPSWING?

- 5 -

FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER SUGGESTS THIS REASON, AND I QUOTE: "WE HAVE SEEN CRIMINAL FEEDBACK CAUSED BY JUDICIAL LENIENCY, INCLUDING PARDONS, PAROLES AND PROBATION WHICH IS A DISGRACE TO OUR SYSTEM OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, AND WE HAVE SEEN LOOPHOLES, TECHNICALITIES AND DELAYS RELEASE HUNDREDS OF HARDENED CRIMINALS ON THE STREETS TO PREY AGAIN ON THE PUBLIC, WHILE AWAITING TRIAL ON EASILY PROVABLE CHARGES."

WHAT THIS MEANS IS THAT TOO OFTEN THE CRIMINAL IS BEING FAVORED AT THE EXPENSE OF THE LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN. THE CRIES OF INNOCENT VICTIMS ARE DROWNED BY THE CLAMOR FOR MERCY AND LENIENCY FOR GUILTY LAWBREAKERS WHO SCOFF AT LAW AND ORDER AND THE RIGHTS OF SOCIETY.

TO THOSE WHO SAY THAT SOCIETY CAUSES CRIME, I SAY INDIVIDUALS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CRIME. TO THOSE WHO SAY THAT HAVING A POOR CHILDHOOD IS AN AUTOMATIC ROAD TO RUIN, I SAY THAT IF THIS WERE TRUE, MANY OF US HERE THIS EVENING WOULD BE IN JAIL.

IN MY OPINION, THE TIME HAS COME -- IN FACT, IT IS LONG OVERDUE -- TO ADOPT A HARD LINE TOWARD THE LAWLESS. IT IS TIME TO DO AWAY WITH THE BELIEF THAT SOCIETY HAS FAILED THEM, AND CONSIDER FOR A CHANGE, THAT PERHAPS THEY HAVE FAILED SOCIETY.

- CITIZEN SUPPORT NEEDED -

TO DO THIS, ALL CITIZENS MUST INSIST UPON LAWS BEING VIGOROUSLY AND FAIRLY ENFORCED.

THERE MUST BE A PUBLIC CONDEMNATION, RATHER THAN TOLERANCE AND EXCUSE, OF THOSE WHO TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS.

THERE MUST BE RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO OBEY THE LAW.

THERE MUST BE RESPECT OF AND PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

- LOW FARM PRICES -

ANOTHER AREA OF CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN IN 1968 -- ONE CERTAIN TO AFFECT LEGISLATORS FROM RURAL AREAS -- WILL BE THE LOW FARM PRICES.

- 6 -

AMERICAN FARMERS EXPERIENCED A DROP OF MORE THAN 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS IN NET INCOME IN 1967. HAND IN HAND WITH THIS LOSS CAME PRODUCTION COST INCREASES OF 1.1 BILLION DOLLARS.

TODAY'S NET FARM INCOME IS AT A PER CAPITA AVERAGE OF \$1,731. THIS IS 60 PERCENT BELOW THAT OF THE URBAN DWELLER.

SINCE ORVILLE FREEMAN HAS BEEN SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE:

- * FARM POPULATION HAS DECREASED BY OVER 4 MILLION,
- * THE NUMBER OF FARMS HAS DECREASED BY OVER 700,000,
- * FARM EMPLOYMENT IS DOWN 1.7 MILLION, AND
- * FARM DEBT HAS INCREASED BY 19.6 BILLION DOLLARS.

IT IS A PARADOX OF ENORMOUS IRONY THAT WE ASK THE FARMER TO FEED THE WORLD -- AND THEN WE CRUSH HIM IN THE COST-PRICE SQUEEZE.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE MUST BE ENCOURAGED, NOT DISCOURAGED. AMERICA AND THE WORLD NEED THE TRAINED POOL OF FARMERS -- WHO TODAY ARE BEING DRIVEN FROM THE FARM AND INTO THE ALREADY CROWDED CITIES.

AS HAS SO OFTEN BEEN SAID, BECAUSE THE FARM ECONOMY IS THE BACKBONE OF THE NATION, FARM POLICY AND THE FUTURE OF THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM WILL CERTAINLY BE GIVEN PRIORITY ATTENTION BY THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 90TH CONGRESS.

- 1968 -- YEAR OF DECISION -

THUS, HERE IN KANSAS AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THE COMING YEAR WILL BE ONE OF GREAT DECISION FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

BUT THE NEW YEAR WILL ALSO AFFORD THE NATION A CHANCE TO RESTORE SOUND, EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP TO POWER IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL. AND I HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY HAVE THE WISDOM AND FORTITUDE TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES BY THEIR DECISIONS IN THE YEAR AHEAD.