

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

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February 1, 1966

Gentlemen:

Enclosed you will find the first two "Facts For Democrats" - a service of the Research Division of the Democratic National Committee - designed to provide a quick and convenient source of information for speeches or position statements.

Fact sheets on Presidential Messages or new legislation will include quotes from the President's statement of Administration goals, a resume of the problem, a list of programs in progress and a summary of the message or legislation. From time to time, "Facts For Democrats" will provide political information. For instance, the next issue will give a breakdown on the importance of the votes of the 71 new Democratic Congressmen in passage of Great Society legislation.

"Facts For Democrats" will fit into a standard looseleaf notebook for easy storage and reference. We hope you will find it a useful research tool.

Sincerely,

Carol Tucker Foreman

Carol Tucker Foreman, Director
Research and Publications

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January 25, 1966

FACT SHEET

ON

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON RURAL PLANNING

"The roots of our economy and our life as a people lie deep in the soil of America's farm land.

"Our policies and programs must continue to recognize the significant role of agricultural and rural life." (1964 Democratic Platform)

"The task of achieving a life of quality and dignity in rural as well as in urban America is one that will engage our minds and hearts and our energies for a lifetime." (The President's Message on Agriculture, February 4, 1965)

"Rural poverty has proved an almost intractable problem in past decades. Its abolition may require a journey of a thousand miles.

"But the first step in that journey is the pooling of the common resources of rural Americans--joining them in a common planning effort that will magnify the resources of each." (The President's Message on Agriculture, January 25, 1966)

THE PROBLEMS

1) It is difficult, if not impossible, for most small towns to offer a complete set of public services. Nor is it economic for the small city to try to achieve metropolitan standards of service, without relation to its surrounding rural areas.

2) Comprehensive planning for the rational use of the resources available to rural governments and small cities is essential.

3) Health facilities in rural areas are so inadequate that rural children receive one-third less medical attention than urban children.

4) Nearly half of the poor in the United States live in rural areas.

5) Almost one in every two rural families has a cash income under \$3,000.

6) One-fourth of rural nonfarm homes are without running water.

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7) Rural people lag almost 2 years behind urban residents in educational attainment.

8) 72% of all poor rural families today are headed by persons who have finished only 8 years of schooling or less.

1965 ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

1) Each Department and Agency administering a program that could benefit rural people was directed to assure that its benefits were distributed equitably between urban and rural areas.

2) The Secretary of Agriculture put his field offices to the task of assisting other Federal agencies in making their programs effective in rural areas.

3) The Rural Community Development Service was created to help the Dept. of Agriculture carry out this task. Its field personnel are active in informing rural people of their eligibility for medicare and its requirements. They work with the Economic Development Administration in planning and encouraging new rural industrial developments.

4) The Office of Economic Opportunity has increased its efforts in rural areas. Community action programs are underway in a number of rural counties supporting community action planning; providing remedial reading courses, vocational instruction, and adult education; and assisting small cooperatives to acquire farm machinery.

5) The Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 extends rural housing programs for 4 years and authorizes loans for purchases of previously occupied dwellings, farm buildings, and farm land to persons of any age.

6) The annual insured loan authority for rural water systems, community recreation projects, shifts in land use and farm ownership loans was increased from \$200 million to \$450 million. Sewer systems have been added to the list of projects that can be financed.

WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO DO

Community Development Districts

Spur planning for better use of resources through federal assistance in establishing Community Development Districts to be composed of representatives of rural governments and smaller cities and corresponding to normal commuting and trading patterns.

Provide Federal grants to the districts to support:

Planning for public services, development programs, and governmental functions within the district.

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Continuing liaison with Federal and state agencies.

A comprehensive survey of resources and news within the district, such as labor skills, industrial sites, land and water resources, health care, education, cultural opportunities and public services.

Insure cooperation with Community Development Districts by all Federal agencies administering programs relevant to the expressed needs.

Medical Needs

Help meet the medical needs of rural America through a system of loans to attract more doctors to rural areas.

Commission on Rural Poverty

Establish a Presidential Commission on Rural Poverty to report, within a year, on new ways to attack the problems of the rural poor.

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FACTS FOR DEMOCRATS
Prepared by
The Research Division
Democratic National Committee
1730 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

NO. 2

February 1, 1966

FACT SHEET

ON

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON DEMONSTRATION CITIES

THE GOAL

"The vitality of our cities is essential to the healthy growth of American civilization...

"We will continue to assist broad community and regional development ...and other programs for our metropolitan areas." (1964 Democratic Platform)

"In some of our urban areas we must help rebuild entire sections and neighborhoods containing in some cases as many as 100,000 people. Working together, private enterprise and Government must press forward with the task of providing homes and shops, parks and hospitals, and all the other necessary parts of a flourishing community where our people can come to live the good life.

"I will offer proposals to stimulate and to reward planning for the growth of entire metropolitan areas.

"I recommend to you a program to rebuild completely, on a scale never before attempted, entire central and slum areas of several of our cities in America." (State of the Union Message, January 12, 1966)

"Nineteen sixty-six can be the year of rebirth for American cities.

"The prize--cities of spacious beauty and lively promise, where men are truly free to determine how they will live--is too rich to be lost because the problems are complex.

"Let there be debate over means and priorities.

"Let there be experiment with a dozen approaches or a hundred.

"But let there be commitment to that goal." (The President's Message on Demonstration Cities Act of 1966, January 26, 1966)

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THE PROBLEM

- By the year 2000, 4 out of 5 Americans will live and work in metropolitan areas.
- In 10 years we will need over two million new homes a year, schools for 10 million more children, and transportation facilities to move 200 million people daily.
- Urbanization consumes a million new acres each year.
- 4 million urban families are living in substandard housing.
- 30 per cent more housing is needed annually.
- The poor and Negroes are unable to move from their ghettos.
- The high human costs, in crime, delinquency, welfare, and health hazards, resulting from broken neighborhoods are incalculable.
- The size and scale of urban assistance is too small, too widely dispersed and too often the victim of archaic building practices.
- Insufficient resources cause delays in many renewal projects.
- The social and psychological aspects of relocating the poor have not been given adequate attention.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONEBy Federal Housing and Renewal Programs:

- 800 cities are participating in urban renewal programs undertaken and designed by themselves.
- 300,000 dwelling units have been supported under urban renewal.
- 8 million single family dwellings have been assisted by the FHA, and 6.7 million have been assisted by VA.
- 1.1 million multiple units have been created.
- 605,000 families moved out of decayed, unsanitary buildings into decent public housing.

By the 89th Congress:

The Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 provides:

- a new program of rent supplements for low-income people.
- home rehabilitation grants in urban renewal areas.

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--4-year program of low-rent public housing construction.

--grants for urban growth and renewal projects.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development Act creates:

--at Cabinet-level a new agency with all functions now in the Housing and Home Finance Agency and its constituent agencies to administer major Federal programs relating to the physical development of urban areas.

The Rapid Transit Bill authorizes:

--the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a 3-year, \$90 million research, development and demonstration project in high-speed ground transportation.

WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES

Demonstration Cities Program:

- \$2.3 billion over the next six years to rebuild entire slum neighborhoods, combining physical rehabilitation of slum areas with the social rehabilitation of the people who live in them, in 60 to 70 American cities of varying population.
- an initial \$12 million Federal contribution of "planning funds" to cities to draw up detailed plans for demonstration projects that:
 - 1) Are large enough to erase blight and decay in entire neighborhoods.
 - 2) Provide for schools, parks, playgrounds, community centers, access to all necessary community facilities.
 - 3) Make use of every available social program; reduce human cost of reconstruction and relocation; offer new opportunities for work and training.
 - 4) Contribute to narrowing the housing gap between the deprived and the rest of the community; add to the number of sound dwellings; afford equal opportunity in the choice of housing to members of every race.
 - 5) Employ residents of the demonstration area in all phases of the program.
 - 6) Foster development of local and private initiative and citizen participation in planning and executing the program.

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- 7) Take advantage of modern cost-reducing technologies without reducing the quality of work; do not allow the structure of real estate taxation, cumbersome building codes, nor inefficient building practices to deter rehabilitation or inflate costs.
 - 8) Make major improvements in the quality of the environment; demand high quality of design in new buildings; give attention to the need for open spaces and attractive landscaping.
 - 9) Make relocation housing available at a cost commensurate with the incomes of those displaced; provide counseling services, moving expenses, small business loans, and assistance in job placement and retraining to those affected.
 - 10) Establish a single authority with adequate powers to carry out and coordinate all phases of the program.
 - 11) Offer proof that adequate municipal appropriations and services will be available throughout the demonstration period.
 - 12) Maintain or establish a residential character in the area.
 - 13) Establish coordinated transportation plans.
- Federal grants of up to 80 per cent of the non-Federal costs of approved demonstration projects.
- Assignment of a Federal coordinator to each project to assist local officials in bringing together all relevant Federal resources.

Metropolitan Planning:

- \$6.5 million for a series of demonstration projects to encourage comprehensive metropolitan planning and insure the orderly growth of cities and suburbs.
- Extension of existing Federal programs for State and local planning.
- Imposition on the Department of Housing and Urban Development of continuing responsibility for stimulating effective planning.

New Communities:

- Increased Federal aid to encourage the planning and construction

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of satellite cities outside metropolitan areas to absorb some of the 3 million new residents that are added annually to the present urban population.

Rent Supplement Program:

--Appropriation of funds to carry out the existing authorization, under the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965, for rent supplements to low-income families.

Housing for All:

--Legislation to bar racial discrimination in the sale or rental or housing.

Mass Transportation:

--An additional one year authorization for the urban mass transportation program.

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