

COMMENTS BY SENATOR EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSEN,  
MINORITY LEADER, UNITED STATES SENATE, ON THE STATE  
OF THE UNION ADDRESS DELIVERED ON JANUARY 4, 1965,  
TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS BY THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES:

"It was a glowing blueprint for paradise.

"It was, in a sense, a restatement of an American dream that has been uttered over and over for many decades. There was about it a Messianic touch and perhaps its essential weakness was that it undertakes to redress every need, both foreign and domestic.

"It is doubtful that one nation out of one-hundred fifteen in this whole world could undertake such a burden and survive. Certain it is that it would require an overall and complete centralization of federal power and the virtual destruction of local and state authority. Any person can share this dream and these goals but it constitutes a perfect dream in a very imperfect world and we can never be unmindful of that fact. Our approaches must still be very practical and within the means of the country and its people.

"Notwithstanding the fact that the theme of freedom was emphasized over and over, one can scarcely believe that this dream can be consummated without a sacrifice of essential freedoms and liberty of the American people."