

**The original documents are located in Box D28, folder “United Methodist Church, Grand Rapids, MI, January 15, 1970” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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Jan. 15, 1970

(Jerry: the pastor wants a speech that will stimulate his people to become "involved" in solving community problems...and so the following is along that line.)

AMERICA HAS PASSED THROUGH YEARS OF TURMOIL IN WHICH THE CALL REPEATEDLY HAS BEEN FOR MORE MASSIVE FEDERAL SPENDING...FOR FEDERAL SOLUTIONS TO EVERY PROBLEM...FOR A MARSHALL PLAN FOR THE CITIES.

LET US ANALYZE THESE DEMANDS. IS TOTAL FEDERAL ACTION THE ANSWER? IS MASSIVE FEDERAL SPENDING THE SOLUTION?

WE HAVE GONE THAT ROUTE BEFORE, THE PROBLEMS PERSIST, AND SO WE MUST CONCLUDE THAT SOME ELEMENT OF THE REMEDY IS

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MISSING.

OF COURSE GOVERNMENT HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN SOLVING AMERICA'S PROBLEMS. BUT GOVERNMENT ALONE CANNOT PROVIDE THE ANSWERS. MONEY ALONE DOES NOT BRING SOLUTIONS.

COMPASSIONATE STUDY OF THE MILLIONS OF PERSONAL TRAGEDIES THAT STILL PLAGUE US IN AMERICA POINTS TO THE ALL-IMPORTANT ELEMENT THAT IS MISSING IN THE REMEDIAL MIX...THE HUMAN ELEMENT, THE ELEMENT THAT PUT AMERICA ON THE PATH TO GREATNESS FROM ITS EARLIEST DAYS.

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I AM SPEAKING ABOUT THE ~~KIXXZET~~ ELEMENT THAT MAKES  
COMMUNITY CLINICS IN HARD-CORE POVERTY AREAS SUCCEED,  
THE ELEMENT THAT MAKES THE ON\*THE\*JOB TRAINING EFFORTS  
OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF BUSINESSMEN PAY OFF FOR THE  
HARD CORE UNEMPLOYED, THE~~EXE~~ ELEMENT THAT TRULY MAKES  
LIFE WORTH LIVING...THE GREAT QUIET DRAMA OF ~~IX~~ MAN  
HELPING MAN ~~TO FIND HIMSELF~~ ~~INSTEAD OF~~ ~~TO LIVE A LIFE OF~~

~~IN~~ IN RECENT YEARS WE HAVE SEEN MANY  
AMERICANS, PARTICULARLY THE~~Y~~ YOUNG, AT WAR WITH THE

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MACHINERY AND THE MEN OF GOVERNMENT...WHAT THEY CALL  
THE SYSTEM.

HOW MUCH MORE THEY MIGHT ACCOMPLISH IF THEY WOULD  
JOIN HANDS IN SOME CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT...A SLUM  
CLEANUP PROJECT OR THE ORGANIZING OF CLASSES WHICH  
TEACH THE BACKWARD ~~MAN~~ HOW TO APPLY FOR A  
JOB OR SIMPLY HOW TO PERFORM THE ROUTINE TASKS OF  
EVERYDAY LIVING, PERSONAL ~~IX~~ HYGIENE AND THE LIKE.

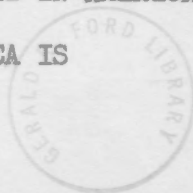
I SAID THERE IS AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR GOVERNMENT  
THERE IS. AND THERE IS LIKEWISE A VITAL PART TO BE PLAYED

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BY PRIVATE BUSINESS IF THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN AMERICAN AMERICA IS TO BE IMPROVED FOR ALL OF OUR PEOPLE.

BUT FULLY AS IMPORTANT AS THESE EFFORTS IS A THIRD... HELP FOR THESE LESS FORTUNATE BY PEOPLE WHO CARE. ONLY IF THIS PERSONAL ELEMENT IS RESTORED TO AMERICAN LIFE, IS PRACTICED AS IT WAS BY THE PIONEERS WHO HELPED EACH OTHER LEST ALL SHOULD PERISH, CAN WE TRULY SUCCEED IN AMERICA.

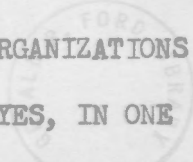
THE POTENTIAL FOR INDIVIDUAL GOOD IN AMERICA IS TREMENDOUS.



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THERE ARE MORE THAN A MILLION INDEPENDENT, VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS IN AMERICA TODAY. THERE ARE 320,000 CHURCHES, WITH MORE THAN A MILLION MEMBERS. THERE ARE 2,000 UNITED FUNDS AND COMMUNITY CHESTS, 3,500 VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS, 6,000 PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS, MORE THAN 100,000 VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES. THIRTY-SIX MILLION AMERICANS BELONG TO FRATERNAL AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS.

BUT, YOU MAY SAY, ALL OF THESE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ARE FUNCTIONING NOW IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. YES, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. BUT THERE ARE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WHO



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HAVE NOT BEEN DRAWN INTO THIS GREAT WORK, ~~THE~~ THIS WONDERFUL ACTIVITY BY WHICH ~~THE~~ MAN DRAWS CLOSEST TO GOD, THIS WORK OF BROTHER HELPING BROTHER.

THE GALLUP POLLING ORGANIZATION~~X~~ HAS ESTIMATED THAT 61 MILLION ADULT AMERICANS WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE 245 MILLION MAN\*HOURS A WEEK TO VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES. AND WHAT OF THOSE WHO DO NOT EXPRESS WILLINGNESS BUT NEED ONLY SOME KIND OF STIMULUS TO BECOME~~X~~ INVOLVED?

THINK OF WHAT ALL OF THESE VOLUNTEERS COULD ~~E~~ ACCOMPLISH!

AS IN THE DAYS OF PIONEER AMERICA, THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT DIMENSION OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT. IT IS ALSO

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~~WAS~~ MEASURE OF ~~DERXESIZNEELETZIZER~~ A NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITY.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE PRESIDENT IS SETTING IN MOTION A VOLUNTARY ACTION PROGRAM ~~WEXENXW~~ AIMED AT ENLISTING MANY MORE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS IN PRIVATE EFFORTS TO HELP SOLVE COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ILLS. THAT VOLUNTARY ACTION PROGRAM IS HEADED BY OUR FORMER GOVERNOR, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY GEORGE ROMNEY.

WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS SEEKING TO DO IS TO PROVIDE ANSWERS FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO TAKE UP ~~PREXX~~ THE LATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY'S CHALLENGE: 'ASK NOT WHAT



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PAY OUR TAXES AND PERSONALLY OBEY THE LAW. WE ALL HAVE TO TAKE A HAND IN RIGHTING WRONGS AND HELPING OUR BROTHERS TO HELP THEMSELVES.

WE KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT THE GOOD WE SEND OUT INTO THE LIVES OF OTHERS COMES BACK A HUNDREDFOLD INTO OUR OWN. THERE IS JOY IN HELPING OTHERS, BECAUSE IN HELPING OTHERS WE ARE MOST LIKE THE SON OF GOD. AND THIS, INDEED, SHOULD BE THE GOAL OF US ALL.

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NOTES

GRAND RAPIDS

JAN. 15, 1970

Congress of the United States

Office of the Minority Leader

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

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