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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(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 THOSE 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 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 PLAGUES 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.
I AM SPEAKING ABOUT THE **IMPORTANT** 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 BUSINESSES PAY OFF FOR THE HARD CORE UNEMPLOYED, THE **ELEMENT** THAT **TRULY** MAKES LIFE WORTH LIVING...THE GREAT QUIET DRAMA OF **MAN HELPING MAN**...

IN RECENT YEARS WE HAVE SEEN MANY AMERICANS, PARTICULARLY THE YOUNG, AT WAR WITH THE 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 HOW TO APPLY FOR A JOB OR SIMPLY HOW TO PERFORM THE ROUTINE Tasks OF EVERYDAY LIVING, PERSONAL 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...
BY PRIVATE BUSINESS IF THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN AMERICA IS TO BE IMPROVED FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE.

BUT FULLY AS IMPORTANT AS THESE EFFORTS IS A THIRD... HELP FOR THOSE 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 BE TRULY SUCCESS IN AMERICA.

THE POTENTIAL FOR INDIVIDUAL GOOD IN AMERICA IS TREMENDOUS.

THERE ARE MORE THAN A MILLION INDEPENDENT, VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS IN AMERICA TODAY. THERE ARE 32,000 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
HAVE NOT BEEN DRAWN INTO THIS GREAT WORK, THIS WONDERFUL ACTIVITY BY WHICH MAN DRAW TO GOD, THIS WORK OF BROTHER HELPING BROTHER.

THE GALLUP POLLING ORGANIZATION 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 INVOLVED?

THINK OF WHAT ALL OF THESE VOLUNTEERS COULD ACCOMPLISH AS IN THE DAYS OF PIONEER AMERICA, THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT DIMENSION OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT. IT IS ALSO A MEASURE OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH A NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITY.

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

WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS SEEKING TO DO IS TO PROVIDE ANSWERS FOR THE WHO WANT TO TAKE UP THE LATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY'S CHALLENGE: "ASK NOT WHAT
YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU, BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY.

THE NEED IS FOR VOLUNTARY ACTION, ACTION GEARED TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE INDIVIDUAL WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, AND RESPONSIVE TO HIS DREAMS AND HIS HOPES.

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, ONE SUCH ACTION PROGRAM MIGHT BE CENTERED ON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES HOW TO APPLY FOR A JOB. IN DETROIT, VOLUNTEERS WORKING AT ONE ACTION CENTER FOUND THAT 65 PERCENT OF THE GRADUATES IN THAT AREA WERE NOT WORKING THREE MONTHS AFTER THEY FINISHED SCHOOL LARGELY BECAUSE THEY DID NOT KNOW WHERE TO GO OR HOW TO APPLY. THE DETROIT CENTER HAS GIVEN THEM THE BACKGROUND AND, WORKING THROUGH ANOTHER VOLUNTEER GROUP, HAS HELPED THEM GET JOBS AND KEEP THEM.

THIS IS THE KIND OF STUFF THAT BUILT AMERICA... THE KIND OF EFFORT THAT MADE ITS DREAMS FLOWER INTO BOUNDER REALITY.

THIS IS BASIC WISDOM, THIS IS THE ONLY SOUND WAY TO BUILD A GREAT AMERICA. IT'S NOT ENOUGH JUST TO SIT BACK.
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.
United Methodist Church