

The original documents are located in Box D30, folder “Breakfast Club, Grand Rapids, MI, October 21, 1970” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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As community leaders you are particularly interested in Federal legislation which has a direct impact on the local community and may well lead to a better life for individuals and for all of our citizens.

I would therefore like to talk with you this morning about a ^{key} ~~major~~ Administration bill ~~which~~ on which the Congress will complete action after the present congressional recess. I am speaking of the Comprehensive Manpower Act of 1970, a vital piece of legislation. I predict enactment of this bill before the end of the year.

The Manpower ~~Act~~ ^{turning} is a part of President Nixon's New Federalism, an integral part of a program aimed at ~~moving~~ some of the power ~~back~~ back to the States and local communities from the Federal Government.

In addition, it promises to greatly improve ~~the~~ the overall operation of the various government job training and placement programs.

Since 1961, the ^{Congress} ~~Federal Government~~ has created a maze of job training and placement programs, each intended to meet a particular need at a particular time. Today we have a patchwork of ~~disconnected~~ disconnected programs with duplication of services, ~~the~~ proliferation of funding, ~~incompatible~~ incompatible program standards and overcentralization of ~~administration~~ administration at the Federal level. In short, ~~we~~ we have a manpower system which is competing against itself.

In August 1969 as part of his comprehensive package of social reforms President Nixon proposed a complete revamping of our manpower system. The Senate has passed such a bill. Immediately after the current recess, on Nov. 17, the House is scheduled to take up H.R. 19519, which is designed to carry out the President's objectives.

Title I of ^{H.R. 19519} ~~the bill~~ consolidates the authority and funds from the two principal existing manpower training statutes--the Manpower Development and Training Act ~~of~~ of 1962 and the Economic Opportunity Act. It ~~decentralizes~~ decentralizes responsibility for planning and administering ~~manpower~~ manpower programs, giving it to governors and community officials. It decategorizes major existing programs and gives local planners the flexibility to shape available resources to meet individual needs.

Title II of H.R. 19519 establishes a new program for upgrading the skills of employed workers to move them to more responsible and better-paying jobs. With these workers moving up, jobs are opened up at the entry-level for new employees.

Title III of the bill creates a program of public service employment as a supplement to manpower training and placement efforts in the private sector. This is badly needed legislation which fills an obvious gap. It will provide meaningful jobs for those who cannot obtain regular employment in the private or public sector. This is not "make work." It is designed to develop a participant's skills and then move him from a federally- an unsubsidized subsidized job to one in the private or public sector.

Title IV of H. R. 19519 will create a national computerized job bank to match people with jobs. [Title IV also provides for other activities designed to improve the delivery of manpower services, ~~and to increase our knowledge of~~ increase our knowledge of manpower needs and uses, and to augment the ability of the States and local communities to carry out effective manpower programs.

As we move from a wartime to a peacetime economy, it is imperative that we coordinate our Federal, State and local efforts in the area of manpower ~~training~~ training and placement.

This is one of our greatest challenges as we deal with the problems of inflation and unemployment. We can meet that challenge with the help of the Comprehensive Manpower Act of 1970.

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