

they relieve human suffering, are essential. Therefore, I was disappointed over the President's veto last week of the distressed area legislation, but it seems to me that we can never arrive at a permanent solution to the problems of the region until we stop thinking of the mountains as a "distressed area" and begin to think of them as an underdeveloped region with vast untapped human and natural resources—a region that can find its rightful economic level only through a plan of overall economic development, programmed for a period of five, ten, or even twenty years. Such a program must concentrate on curing the disease, not treating the symptoms. It must aim towards breaking down the interlocking obstacles of terrain and isolation which underlie and aggravate—and, in some cases, directly create—those chronic and recurrent economic problems with which we are all too familiar.

All of us are aware, I believe, that improving the economy of the Appalachian Region would also have a most favorable impact upon the remaining areas of all of our states. We here in Maryland, for example, are very much aware that the Appalachian Mountain area forms a significant part of our economic hinterland, and any improvement in conditions in the mountains will be felt promptly in our coastal ports and trading centers. I am sure this is equally true for those states whose eastern portions lie in the mountains and whose western lands project along the great river valleys of the south and midwest.

One of the encouraging aspects of the Appalachian picture is that the unfavorable economic conditions are not uniform throughout the area. Certain of the urban centers have recently begun to share a bit more in our nation's overall prosperity, and I would hope that, with encouragement, this trend could be strengthened to the point where these cities could become centers of employment and thus forces for economic development for ever larger areas. Bad as conditions may be in certain areas of this great region, they are not nearly as bad as some sensational reports would portray them. Whatever course of action is taken, it must be positive—not negative. It must be designed in a way which will point up the facts of our great potentials and not be aggravated by bad advertising of conditions which can and—I am sure—will be corrected in response to the intelligent leadership of government in partnership with private enterprise.

But, as I have said, I cannot begin to touch on all the intricacies of the problem, nor do I wish to pre-empt the time which we have to discuss our ideas together. Americans cannot afford to be complacent