

REMARKS BY SENATOR JOHN HEINZ  
UNITED STEELWORKERS CONFERENCE  
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA  
MARCH 2, 1977

It's an honor to be here today with many old friends  
with whom I've worked so closely in the past.

In the last five years, we have shared in the fight  
to get Pennsylvanians back to work, <sup>to</sup> ~~and~~ get America moving  
again, ~~to~~ and to restore faith in this great nation.

As I embark on a new career in the United States Senate...

I want you to know that for my part, the fight for jobs  
and for human dignity has just begun.

There are more battles to be fought...

And with your help, I plan to fight them...

And I plan to fight until we win.

page two

The most crucial battle of all -- this year or any year -- is the battle to get men and women off the unemployment rolls and back on ~~the~~ payrolls.

~~today~~ hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians can't <sup>today</sup> work because they can't find jobs.

If ours is going to remain a good and just society, we must give every American a chance to do an honest day's work for an honest day's pay.

~~I believe~~ The desperation of an unemployed man or woman is a threat to faith in America. Joblessness is a curse and it is on human dignity. nation's destiny.

Enforced idleness is a curse that demeans human dignity.

It is an enemy we must attack and we must conquer...

And we must begin now.

page three

We must begin by enacting a new a public works program to help towns and cities across America build for the future.

And as your senator, I want to make sure that this time, Pennsylvania gets its fair share of the money that we spend in Washington to create new jobs.

It makes sense to invest in the future by putting Americans back to work rebuilding America...

But it makes no sense at all to make working people carry the burden of a slow economy when there's so much work to be done and so many willing hands who are ready to pull their share of the load.

We can put people back to work...

And don't let anyone tell you differently.

page four

Public works programs are just a first step...

We can do more.

I have proposed that we put 50,000 people back to work rebuilding our railroads...

And with the support of working people, we can get that legislation enacted into law this year.

We can do more to get men and women back on the job.

The first bill I introduced as a United States Senator would create 34,000 new jobs for people replacing and repairing old and deteriorating bridges across our nation.

Aside from the thousands of people this bill will employ directly, it will indirectly account for 48,000 new jobs for working men and women in steel and other industries that supply the tools of growth in this country.

With your support, we can get this bill passed and signed and we can get steelworkers back on the job and keep them on the job.

Creating new jobs is essential if we are going to fulfill our commitment to give every man and woman a chance to earn a decent living.

That is a moral commitment we must keep...

But unless we start doing a better job planning for the future and developing a sensible long-term energy policy, we are going to watch the moral commitment to jobs dwindle away as fast as our supply of natural gas.

Energy is a tough problem -- one of the toughest we face today -- and in facing up to this problem I'm not going to forget your own stake in the solution.

page six

Our difficulties with energy get the working man coming and going...

Since when we don't have enough energy you are the ones who lose the jobs...

And when the price of energy keeps on going up, you are the ones who have to find a way to make ends meet.

So I think it's imperative that we finally get down to the business looking for answers in a reasonable and intelligent way.

Yesterday, I was pleased to cosponsor the President's bill to reorganize all the government agencies that deal with the problem of energy.

Even though Jimmy Carter is a Democrat and I'm a Republican, I'm glad to work with the president...

page seven

Because for too long our energy policy has been the victim of partisan, confrontation politics.

In the face of the job that needs to be done, we need a better approach to energy than mindless, reckless confrontation.

We need solutions that will evenly distribute the demands of conservation...not a solution that imposes the burden only on the poor and those unable to pay.

We need realistic solutions that will encourage the domestic energy industry to produce new supplies...

But not in a way that forces the consumer to bear all the burdens of sacrifice while the oil companies bear none.

page eight

And we need creative solutions -- creative solutions that harness untapped sources of energy and that harness the determination of the American people to solve a problem on which the future of our nation rides.

I've said that energy is a tough problem...

But that doesn't mean we can't work together to solve it.

No one here wants to see a day when energy is available only to the privileged few.

Working together, I think we can head that sort of tragedy off in a way that protects your jobs, your livelihoods and the well-being of our nation.

In looking for answers to the problem of energy, or any other problem for that matter, we need solutions that



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are fair to all concerned.

We need solutions that require everyone to take an equal share of the burdens and an even part of the benefits.

Federal programs don't always work that way.

Right now, every Pennsylvanian is the victim of regional discrimination that undermines the health of our state's economy.

Part of the problem is that we don't get a fair return on our tax dollar because federal spending formulas are biased against the needs of older industrialized states like Pennsylvania.

Another culprit -- one that concerns me as much as the biased formulas -- is the rampant bias in the way that the

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installations.

Defense is a good case in point.

The way money is distributed now, Pennsylvania receives about 35 less than the national average in prime defense contracts.

That means 35 percent less jobs...

Less local tax revenues...

And less economic stimulation.

And that's not fair, because Pennsylvania needs this indirect federal aid as much, if not more, than states like California, which gets twice the national average in defense contracts.

page eleven

Military bases are an indirect but crucial form of support for local economies...and again, Pennsylvania loses its fair share.

In fact, the United States government spends half as much on defense installations here in Pennsylvania than it does on the average for any other state.

Instead of mending its ways, Washington is only making the problem worse.

It has promised to close the Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia...

We have heard threats against the survival of Fort Mifflin at Indian town Gap...

And there is talk about drastic cutbacks at the New Cumberland Army Depot.

page twelve

I think it's time for Washington to put an end to the discrimination.

I think the federal government should give the economy a chance to grow and prosper...rather than taking a new step to snuff out each and every sign of life.

As a matter of fairness, and as a way doing its share to restore health to Pennsylvania's economy, I'd like to see a moritorium on base closings here and in other parts of the Northeast...

And I'd like to see that moritorium last until the Defense Department can find a way to give us a fair share when it spends our hard-earned tax dollars.

We are going to need a new sense of fairness from Washington if we are going to see our economy recover.

page thirteen

And economic recovery must be Washington's first priority because its the first priority of the men and women who work the steel mills, who mine our coal, who make our factories run and who keep our country moving.

Working people want a chance to work...to earn a decent living...to provide their families with a safe and satisfying life.

The federal government owes it to the working men and women of America to give them that chance...whether by creating jobs, finding solutions to the energy problem, or helping local economies to survive.

That's the job I was elected to do...

Working together, we will see the job gets done.

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