

'Government Is Your Business'

Following is the complete text of the address delivered by Cong. William F. Broomfield (R-Royal Oak) at the 16th annual meeting of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

I am honored to have this opportunity to be here this evening at the 16th annual meeting of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

First of all, I want to extend my heartiest congratulations to Walter Carey on his selection as the president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

CONG. BROOMFIELD

Most of us think of the national Chamber of Commerce strictly in terms of business and business men. But I want to point out another facet of the chamber's operations which I consider of great benefit and which has received almost no recognition.

THAT EFFORT is in the field of foreign affairs. Last year, for instance, the chamber of commerce experts and research staff in this important area proposed a number of amendments to the foreign aid bill.

I am happy to say that many of these amendments became law and some of them are proving to be effective in attacking overseas problems on a businesslike basis.

I think all of us will agree that foreign aid is not the most popular Federal program in the world. Further, maladministration in the past few years has not increased the number of its friends.

YET ALL of us will agree, I think, that foreign aid could be a valuable tool in implementing a realistic foreign policy if it were only used as such.

Unfortunately it has not been. In too many cases, foreign aid has been used as a replacement for a foreign policy, as an effort to buy time with dollars.

The national chamber has been a great help to those of us who have been trying to get this program on the right track and who have been trying to find solutions to the many pressing problems we are facing abroad.

FURTHERMORE, the chamber is continuing its excellent research into this field, and I think it is one of the reasons we will be seeing some important steps to encourage American businessmen to look for markets and products abroad and the new foreign aid bill.

Businessmen may be wondering what the Chamber of Commerce in the United States is doing in such far-out fields as foreign affairs and foreign aid.

On the surface, these activities seem to have little to do with the operations of the individual chambers of commerce such as the fine organization we have here in Birmingham.

What your national chamber realizes, is that now, more than ever, government is your business.

I AM SURE each of you is well aware of this fact, also. After all, you just helped pay for this government a little earlier this month when you dropped your annual note to the Treasury Department in the mailbox.

What you may not have realized so acutely as the annual raid on your pocketbook by the Federal, state, county and city or township government, is that each of these units of government has taken a portion of your own personal freedom as well.

Some of these restrictions on the individual are, unfortunately, necessary. They are the result of more and more people living in less and less space moving at ever-increasing speeds in a world growing constantly more inter-related and complicated.

MANY OF US here this evening are old enough to remember the time when we could have taken a deer rifle and fired it down Woodward Avenue without hitting a thing.

Each of us had room to move, had room to swing our arms, had room to try and succeed without hurting, disturbing, distressing or being anyone's business.

But, those days are gone forever. There is less space for each of us in Oakland County now than there was 20, 10 or even five years ago. And our planners tell us that much space will be half again as much space for each of us in the next two decades when our population is expected to almost double again.

What does this mean to us? IT MEANS that government—somebody's government—is going to have to impose restrictions and regulations on you so that you and your neighbors can live in relative peace.

You are already limited in your right to go where you please as such as you please and in some instances even when you please in such devices as traffic lights, stop signs and police officers.

Your right to do with as you please on your own property is abridged by such devices as zoning ordinances, building codes, master plans and building inspectors.

THE BUSINESSMAN is particularly aware of the restrictions

man in the Federal government in going to increase over the years. Part of the reason is tremendous growth in production and efficiency of American business and industry.

Our manufacturing plants are now able to produce much more than we, as a Nation, can consume. Therefore, more and more of our manufacturing and business firms are going to have to turn to other parts of the world besides the United States for future markets for their products.

Also, our tremendous resources of raw materials which we used to possess here at home are not as plentiful as they once were.

WE HAVE already seen what has happened in Northern Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and West Virginia when mineral resources have been depleted. We have seen what happens to the economy and the people in a region when jobs and hope are lost.

But we in Michigan have also seen what vigorous, effective, energetic action at the local level can do to pull a region up by its bootstraps and get it back on the road to prosperity once again.

It won't be but a few short years that a great many people were counting Michigan out of the picture. While many had recognized and respected our ability to mass produce instruments of war during World War II and the Korean conflict, few thought that the economy and the people in a region when jobs and hope are lost.

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Y's Teen Dance Called Success

The first dance of its kind held on Saturday at Birmingham junior high school students at the Birmingham YMCA was termed a success. According to program secretary Chuck Rutherford, the group was both well behaved and happy.

As a result another dance will be held for the eighth and ninth graders this Saturday between 8 and 10:45 p.m. at the Y.

The dancers, a Birmingham teen combo, will wear the Dress will be casual, and again the admission fee is 50 cents.

Tentative plans call for a dance every other week throughout the summer.

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