

July 31, 1967

Senator Richard B. Russell  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dick:

Why is it impossible to get anyone to discuss the true causes of riots, civil disturbances, disorders and racial problems?

The actual facts are very simple, and have been developing over a long period of time.

These facts are:

1. Inflation, caused by top political leaders of both parties for "vote getting" purposes.
2. Inflation has been caused by willingness of top political leaders to stand idle while unions have pushed wage scales to unreasonable heights, and by political increase of minimum wage levels.
3. Increased wages have forced all employers to dispense with most unskilled workers.
4. Unskilled workers have migrated to areas especially conditioned for political nursing, and vote control.
5. Nursing and idleness become unacceptable and intolerable for teens and adults, both black and white, after some period of time. Different cities, or different geographical areas, probably have different time periods of tolerance in this respect.

Harry Hopkins announced this policy years ago as, "Spend and elect, elect and tax, tax and spend".

Effective treatment for these problems will be drastic, but until something effective is done there will only be continued deterioration on our national scene.

The most sensible and effective treatment would be:

1. Elimination of the 20¢ per hour increase in minimum wage scale, scheduled to become effective February, 1968.
2. Absolute refusal of top political leaders and all government agencies to sanction wage increases, both by unions and by governmental employees.



3. A freeze, or capping, of these policies for 5 or 10 years.
4. Excess Profits Tax for Business, Corporate & Personal for this period.
5. Location of future housing projects in rural areas, with some units spaced to provide green areas, and some spaced to provide working ground areas. Removal of unskilled persons (families) from central city areas to these rural areas.
6. Gradual improvement of education at all levels, with emphasis on trade schools above high school level. Forget about the hysterical approach to education, such as now exists which is in effect calling for a "college degree for everyone".

The elimination of the minimum wage ~~scale~~ increases, and other wage increases, plus imposition of excess profits taxes would permit our economy to take a breathing spell, with its primary purpose being to reduce the elimination of jobs for unskilled workers.

There is nothing dishonorable in being an unskilled worker. Only when our national attitude reaches a condition of hysteria does this have authoritative voice, and we are now apparently in that state. I think it is time labor is recognized for its worth, both unskilled and skilled.

It is certainly much better for an unskilled person to be busy at a productive job, than to be idle, on relief, or rioting. Make it possible for employers to provide unskilled jobs, instead of creating a climate which forces employers to eliminate unskilled jobs.

How can an effective group be put together, hopefully out of which a national leader could emerge to "put the seal" on this type of a national program? Is the country too far down the drain for the people to return to common sense?

I am sending this same letter to Senator Talmadge, Congressman Flynt, and Congresswoman Stephens.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely,

N. A. Hardin

*I regard this as a national emergency. It is really more, truly than war -*  
 NAH:gtw  
*Unless we can develop a leader who can communicate the urgency of the situation to the people, and develop leadership to insure effective action, I think we are in a long range hopeless situation. Can't we do something about it? Even the some may regard necessary corrective action as "political suicide".*  
 Sincerity.  
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