

(Also used extracts from the
Regionalism material)

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Greater North Dakota Association
Minot, No. Dak. November 14, 1966

The stages of development of a talk are fairly predictable - The first is the invitation to speak - usually, by design, far enough in advance of the occasion so ~~that~~ it is easy to accept. After all with a lead time of two to six months the prospective speaker is ^{easily} lulled into a feeling he has all the time in the world, which even frequent reminders from his secretary can not dispell~~ed~~. ~~The next~~ The next step is the ^{first of a series of} requests from the program chairman for a title, requests which become frantic as the time to print the program approaches. The concern of the program chairman for the success of his meeting is not allayed at all by having to explain ^{each type} to the uncomprehending person at the other end "what talk?" he is asking about. But finally he gets a title - even though he has an uncomfortable feeling that is all the speaker has prepared at that point - a feeling that becomes a certainty when his requests for an advance copy for printing or for publicity leads - or whatever other use program chairman make of advance copies - meets with either with cold silence, or a series of

(2)

evasions that wouldn't fool a four-year old child. Finally, the program chairman gives up and starts looking through his old speeches for an inspiration, ~~to~~ convinced that he ~~may~~ will be substituting at the last minute.

And the speaker — as the time narrows he looks with increasing ^{and despair} dissatisfaction at the title which had seemed so apt the month before. What ~~does it mean?~~ on earth had he in mind when ~~he chose~~ he chose that label for the remarks which were non-existent at the time? But gradually as the weekend before the talk wears on, it begins to take form, and the random impulse that inspired the title turns out to have been far more appropriate than either the speaker or the program chairman thought ~~at first~~ during those last few weeks.

And that is the case today. Providence intervened last week.

19 months

For Robertson

Recognition that we as a nation can not leave to ~~the blind operation~~ chance the social development and economic growth

(3)

of this country has been slow coming - ^{acceptance,} ~~the~~ but is now a fact of general public
The implications of this for government and private structures alike are only dimly perceived. There are many dialogues ^{underway} across the country prompted by honest doubt ~~and~~ legitimate concern over the directions ~~they~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~we~~ we have taken as a nation and legitimate concern for the respective roles of the private sector, ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~and~~ the federal ~~government,~~ state and local governments. Nobody knows what pattern or patterns will emerge from all these discussions. Certainly not I. But this is an exercise anyone can join in and should. It is one to be joined with as wide open a mind as possible, with your most cherished prejudices held in leash at least until the neutral facts have been noted and your homework done. The era that has closed forever is the one in which the citizen of Bottineau, Minot, Devils Lake - everywhere USA could afford remain oblivious of what was taking place in the next town, the next county, the adjoining state, or another country. The simple approach of a resolution condemning the ~~the~~

(2)

encroachment of the federal government
the twin cities, the efforts of ~~Bo~~^{town} ~~to~~
to steal ^{one of your} ~~the~~ industries of ~~St. Louis~~, adopted once
a year at the meeting of the chamber is no
longer enough - It never ~~did suggest~~ altered
a thing ^{which we knew was so at the time} and no longer does it even ~~not~~
~~these~~ relieve us much. The paradox is
that we now can do ~~something about~~
influence the direction of our society, if we
care enough to become involved in the
process, to do the homework that is
essential for understanding the problem,
and flexible enough to settle for the
possible instead of our pre conceived
notion of the ideal.

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