

SOURCE: Broadcast from White House, Jan. 30, 1946

"Our problems of government are chiefly the conflicts of growth and change. They are the ebb and flow of national existence. But despite these we move toward tomorrow with the conviction that the spirit of our nation is best expressed in the improving standard of American life."

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SOURCE: State of Union Message, Jan. 7, 1948

"Our fourth goal is to lift the standard of living for all people by strengthening our economic system and sharing more broadly among our people the goods we produce.

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"the amazing economic progress of the past ten years points the way for the next ten. Today 14 million more people have jobs than in 1938. Our yearly output of goods and services has increased by two-thirds. The average income of our people, measured in dollars of equal purchasing power, has increased--after taxes-- by more than 50 per cent. In no other ten years have farmers, business men and wage earners, made such great gains.

"We may not be able to expand as rapidly in the next decade as in the last, because we are now starting from full employment and very high production. But we can increase our annual output by at least one-third above the present level. We can lift our standard of living to nearly double what it was ten years ago. If we distribute these gains properly, we can go far toward stamping out poverty in our generation. To do this agriculture, business and labor must move forward together."

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"Although the average farmer is now better off than ever before, farm families as a whole have only begun to catch up with the standards of living enjoyed by people in the cities. In 1946 the average income of farm people was \$779, contrasted with an average income of \$1,288 for non-farm people. Within the next decade, we should eliminate the elements of inequality in these living standards.

"To this end our farm program should enable the farmer to market his varied crops at fair price levels and to improve his standard of living."

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"Growth and vitality in our economy depend on vigorous private enterprise. Free competition is the key to industrial development, full production and employment, fair prices and an ever-improving standard of living. Competition is seriously limited today in many industries by the concentration of economic power and other elements of monopoly. The appropriation of sufficient funds to permit proper enforcement of the present anti-trust laws is essential. Beyond that, we should go on to strengthen our legislation to protect competition."

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"If we surmount our current economic difficulties, we can move ahead to a great increase in our national income which will enable all our people to enjoy richer and fuller lives.

"All of us must advance together. One fifth of our families now have average incomes of less than \$850. We must see that our gains in national income are made more largely available to those with low incomes, whose need is greatest. This will benefit us all through providing a stable foundation of buying power to maintain prosperity."

STANDARD OF LIVING

SOURCE: State of Union Message, Jan. 7, 1948

"As we enter the New Year, we must surmount one major problem which affects all our goals. That is the problem of inflation.

"Already inflation in this country is undermining the living standards of millions of families. Food costs too much. Housing has reached fantastic price levels. Schools and hospitals are in financial distress. Inflation threatens to bring on disagreement and strife between labor and management.

"Worst of all, inflation holds the threat of another depression, just as we had a depression under the unstable boom following the first World War."

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