LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM ON DOMESTIC ISSUES FOR THE 80TH CONGRESS

This is a statement of ADA's position on certain domestic issues that may be expected to come before the 80th Congress. It does not cover all important domestic problems that the Congress might properly consider. A number of these we have reserved for inclusion in a long range program which will be issued only after thorough study. This statement, therefore, is presented as that immediate minimum program upon which men of all parties with a sense of public welfare should be able to agree and act.

1. Full Employment. The Congress has already established the responsibility of the federal Government for maintaining maximum employment. It should now give serious consideration to the recommendations in the President's first Economic Report. In the face of accumulating evidence of a possible recession, the Congress should promptly study these recommendations to determine whether they offer realistic safeguards against a slump, and whatever action is indicated by that study should be taken now. We condemn without qualification what appears to be a deliberate decision on the part of the Congressional leadership of the majority party to undermine the minimum planning that has been done and to ignore one of the crucial problems in preserving stability at home and peace in the world.
II. **Labor.** We believe that a free and democratic labor movement is essential to the effective functioning of our democracy. We believe that the basis of successful labor-management relationships is the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing without interference from management. We are for the preservation and strengthening of existing legislation designed to safeguard these rights. We oppose federal and state legislation that would remove those safeguards and reduce the common responsibility of labor and management for the settlement of disputes. We, therefore, oppose such proposals as the elimination of industry-wide bargaining, compulsory arbitration and prohibition of the closed shop. We favor enlarged appropriations for the Department of Labor, including the Labor Education Program and the National Labor Relations Board and an expansion of the government's role in conciliation, mediation and voluntary arbitration.

In essential industries both management and labor have a special responsibility to settle disputes through collective bargaining. The exercise of compulsion on labor endangers a free society and establishes conditions which would inevitably lead to comparable restrictions on the rights of ownership and management.

We further believe it is labor's responsibility to eliminate jurisdictional disputes and unjustified secondary boycotts, and to insure the democratic operation of trade unions. We urge the prompt establishment of a Commission representing management, labor and the public interest, to investigate the long-time relationships of management and labor.
We believe cost-inflating restrictive labor practices, growing out of the workers' sense of economic insecurity, are contrary to sound public policy. Their elimination, however, depends in large part on the attainment of a higher degree of security in employment and wages. We, therefore, support the full employment program, extension of the existing social security program, annual wage plans, and higher minimum wages and wider coverage.

III. Agriculture. We recognize and affirm the mutuality of interest of farmers and workers, and support such legislation as will aid farmers to achieve parity of status with workers.

We favor agricultural policies designed to stimulate abundant production, rather than policies of restriction aimed at holding price levels through scarcity. We believe that human values can best be served through the family ownership and operation of farms.

As steps to the achievement of these objectives we support loan and tax programs designed to encourage family-type ownership and operation, accelerated rural electrification programs, rural slum clearance programs, a national fertilizer program, crop insurance, government-controlled farm credit, soil conservation, increased emphasis on farm and consumer cooperatives, farm price supports, guaranteed adequate hospitalization, nursing and medical care for farm communities, improved rural educational facilities, and food allotment plans designed to improve nutrition. We oppose the current efforts to destroy cooperatives by taxation.

IV. Atomic Energy. We support the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 as passed by the Congress. We are against current proposals to weaken the
Act, either by giving patent rights to private enterprise, or by increasing the influence of the military in the administration of the atomic energy program. We believe that the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes offers an unparalleled promise for the welfare of the peoples of the world.

V. Taxation and Budget. We are against politically inspired budget cuts that have no relation either to the nation's requirements or obligations. We favor the elimination of wartime excise taxes because they place an unfair burden on the ordinary consumer. We are against uniform percentage income tax cuts which provide disproportionate benefits for high income groups. Whatever income tax reductions are warranted should be made through raising the income tax exemptions.

VI. Social Security, Education and Research. We are for a comprehensive social security system, based on the insurance principle; we are against limitation of social security rights based on an indigent or means-test approach. We are for the extension of old age insurance to all who work, including the self-employed, with increased benefit payments.

We are for the extension of unemployment insurance to all who work, under a federal system of compensation and employment services, with increased benefit payments and with universal provisions for dependency benefits; we are against relating employers' tax rates to the amount of unemployment among former employees, and against present illiberal disqualifying provisions in state laws.

We are for a system of disability insurance, with a program of cash benefits for temporary or permanent disability.
We are for a federal system of health insurance, and federal aid for expansion of health centers and other medical facilities, with the widest possible use of wartime medical discoveries and government support of medical research in special fields.

We are for federal aid to state educational programs to equalize educational opportunities. We are against quota restrictions on entry into schools and all limitations on academic freedom. We strongly support the teachers' requests for fair compensation for their services. We favor federal aid for scientific research, independent of military domination and with complete freedom of inquiry.

VII. Monopoly. We believe that monopoly threatens the free enterprise system in this country. We further believe that the anti-trust laws are inadequate to cope with the growing concentration of economic power. Pending the development of alternative mechanisms of control for the protection of public and human rights, we are against current efforts to exempt railroads, insurance companies, and news services, among others, from anti-trust regulation, and favor the appropriation of greatly augmented funds for more effective anti-trust enforcement.

We strongly recommend the immediate resumption of the investigation and studies initially undertaken by Temporary National Economic Committee (TNEC), with particular emphasis on recommendations for the establishment of effective social controls over monopoly power and growth.

VIII. Democratic Rights. We believe in freedom of speech and organization for all people of all political faiths. We oppose any attempt to illegalize, or to deny freedom of expression to, any minority group or (more)
party. We support the Government's right to exclude from government service persons who adhere to foreign governments or totalitarian political philosophies in any case where such adherence may endanger the best interests of the United States. We recognize that this right is subject to abuse and urge extreme care in its exercise.

We strongly condemn the reckless destruction of character by congressional committees and other agencies of government. Such abuse of power amounts not only to persecution against which the individual is helpless, but often strengthens the worst elements in the community by coupling them with the genuinely liberal and progressive forces of America. We favor the prompt establishment of a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission (FEPC) and enactment of federal anti-poll tax and anti-lynching laws with genuine enforcement teeth. We support the objectives of the President's Civil Rights Commission as defined in its charter of organization.

IX. Veterans. We believe that the future of veterans depends ultimately on the welfare of the country, not on the benefits of specific legislation. We are against special privileges for veterans as a class. We are for special privileges for veterans as individuals who have suffered because of the war. Accordingly, we are for such aids as are necessary to provide veterans with housing and to restore veterans to health, well-being and the opportunity to participate on equal terms in community life.

X. Housing and Rent Controls. The nation's housing problem should be met (1) by an overall housing law, which contains as a minimum the provisions of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill of 1946, and (2) by a government-supported program for large scale production of mass-produced and factory
built houses. We favor the use of controls in the distribution of materials wherever they are necessary to assure an adequate supply for residential building.

We favor continuation of rent controls and oppose any proposals for straight percentage rent raises as the price for continuing such controls.

XI. Conscription and Armed Services. We favor the maintenance of adequate armed services to support the United Nations and to prevent aggression. We favor obtaining the troops needed through voluntary recruitment based upon reasonable incentives, but if such incentives fail, we favor a system of selective service rather than universal compulsory military training. We favor unification of the Army, the Navy and the Air Forces into a thoroughly integrated Department of Defense. We are for all measures aimed at the abolition of the caste system and the democratization of the armed services.

XII. Immigration and Displaced Persons. We are for the enlargement of our immigration quotas to assume our full share of responsibility in providing homes for displaced and homeless victims of totalitarian brutality and religious persecution.

XIII. Natural Resources. We recommend further public development of resources through the establishment of river valley authorities in the nature of TVA for the Missouri, Columbia, Ohio, Arkansas and comparable rivers and their tributaries; we urge approval by the Congress of the existing agreement between Canada and the United States for the St. Lawrence Seaway and power project. We are against attempts to plunder the national domain by throwing upon to private exploitation and destruction of national park and forest areas and other publicly owned lands.
XIV. Congressional Reorganization. We urge that the Congressional Reorganization Act be supplemented by additional legislation eliminating the filibuster, providing for modification of the seniority system, establishing more responsible majority and minority policy, publicizing voting records and sources of outside income and granting more export assistance to both legislators and committees. The recent establishment of special committees is a destructive weakening of the existing law.

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