

## ***Great Society Liberalism***

Big government *is* ‘we, the people,’ and it can make good things happen for Americans, especially Americans in need.

Racism is un-American, and the *national* government needs to make sure that states don’t treat African-Americans as second-class citizens.

Everybody should vote, and the *national* government should make sure that states don’t keep African-Americans from their rights as citizens.

All men and women are created equal, and it’s wrong for society to create inequalities so large that we lose sight of that fact. Johnson on equality not just as a pious aspiration, but as a fact. Not just equality of opportunity, but some minimal equality of condition.

--civil rights act (focused on race, but included “sex” as an attempt to derail it)

--JFK Commission on the Status of Women (est. 1961, report Oct. 1963)

--forerunner of NOW (National Organization for Women, 1966)

Economic freedom is as important as political freedom, and “freedom from want” is an essential part of American freedoms. Poverty is a moral scandal in an affluent society, and the market isn’t equipped to deal with it because poor people don’t have money to buy solutions. So the national government will make sure that poor kids get the education they need (Head Start, etc.) to succeed in life, and it will help old people to live in dignity after they’ve left the workplace.

*Office of Economic Opportunity (1964)*

--VISTA

--Job Corps

--Community Action Program

--Head Start

--food stamps

*Medicare (health care for old people)*

*Medicaid*

*Department of Housing and Urban Development (to counter discrimination and segregation)*

*1968 Fair Housing bill*

Public service: “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.”

*Peace Corps*

*Job Corps*

*VISTA*

A great country deserves great art, and the market doesn't make enough of it available to people, so the national government will create programs that will

*The National Endowment for the Arts*

*The National Endowment for the Humanities*

Commercial broadcasting is limited quantitatively and qualitatively by its profit motive, so the national government will subsidize public broadcasting.

--*Corporation for Public Broadcasting, 1968*

Foreign ideologies (like Russian communism) are a threat to the freedoms of liberal America, and must be contained where they are. And (as JFK said in his inaugural address), the US must maintain massive military (and technological—ie, space) superiority.

One of the ways to win the Cold War is to make sure that Americans are the best-educated people in the world, so the Federal government will offer aid to education, esp. in the form of grants and scholarships and low-interest loans to college students.

America has always been “nature's nation,” but commercial capitalism doesn't see profits in conservation or preservation, so the national government will declare some places to be wilderness areas, off-limits to exploitation.

--*Wilderness Act, 1965*

--*National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 1968*

One of the costs of doing business is environmental externalities, so the Federal government will regulate and remediate the pollution caused by private businesses.

*Water Quality Act*

*Air Quality Act*

Expertise and intelligence are a good thing, so government agencies should be staffed with “the best and the brightest.”

Corollary: Especially with understanding of Keynesian economics, experts can help fine-tune the economy to promote economic growth.

Freedom of access to the United States is part of American freedom, and the Western European quota system in place since 1964 violates equal access.

*Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965*