

Bob Kennedy - Speech on GDP

We'll never find an end to the nation or our staff
satisfaction in the mere pursuit of wealth,
to amass endless worldly goods.

We can not measure national spirit by the Dow-Jones,
nor the successes of the country on the basis of gross national product (GDP).

GDP also includes air pollution and cigarette advertising,
and ambulances to clear our highways of carnage of the weekend.

GDP puts in counts special locks for our doors, and
prisons for those who break them. Includes television programs
exploiting the violence to sell products to our children violent.

It grows with the production of napalm and missiles and nuclear warheads, includes
Also research to improve the dissemination of the bubonic plague, is
increases with the equipment that the police used to quell riots, and not
only increases when their ashes are reconstructed the slums
popular.

GDP does not take into account the health of our families, the quality of their
education or the joy of their play. Do not include the beauty
of our poetry or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our
debate or the integrity of our public officials. Does not take account of the
justice in our courts, nor fairness in relations between us.

The GDP measures neither our wit nor our courage, neither our
wisdom nor our learning, neither our compassion nor our devotion to
our country. It measures everything, in short, except that which makes life really
worth living. Can you tell us everything about America, but not if we can
be proud to be Americans.

**Senator Robert Kennedy, candidate for President of the United States, March 18, 1968,
University of Kansas, *speech on the inadequacy of GDP as an indicator of the wealth of
nations economically developed.***