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TRAINED YOUTH NEEDED AS "GRASS-ROOTS AMBASSADORS", SENATOR HUMPHREY SAYS

[Young men and women willing to serve their country abroad as "grass-roots ambassadors" are urgently needed to support our country's international role as a leader of the free world.] ~~Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, declared last night in an address at Lisner Auditorium before the George Washington University's 7th Annual Career Conference.~~

"We are desperately short of trained, qualified, dedicated foreign service personnel," he declared. "We need technicians as well as diplomats; we need young people who can speak other languages, who have a zeal to serve the cause of freedom by willingness to work among other peoples anywhere in the world."

"We need to encourage young men and women to dedicate their lives as grass-roots ambassadors, both in international public service and international private service for churches, foundations, and private enterprise."

At present, ~~Senator Humphrey warned~~, Soviet Russia is "threatening to outdo us" in sending trained young people into "now-neutral" areas of the world as technicians, doctors, educators and engineers." ✓

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~~Senator Humphrey made~~ two major proposals: the establishment of a Foreign Service Academy, designed to provide a regular flow of career diplomats to the Foreign Service; and the commencement of a scholarship program to provide specially-trained economic and technical assistance personnel, to intensify and broaden American efforts to help other peoples help themselves through economic and social development.

① Foreign Service
+
② Tech. Scholarships

"We need more young people trained in diplomacy, with a broad liberal arts background, to invigorate our posts abroad," ~~Senator Humphrey declared.~~ "But we also need young people who go abroad armed with technical knowledge, trained to get across practical ideas on sanitation, nursing, on farming, engineering, and construction methods, to people at the neighborhood and village level. We need young people who can speak the language of the region and understand the customs and mores of the people with whom they are working."

Trained in diplomacy
Tech. Knowledge
Village level
language

"A Foreign Service Academy can provide us with most of our diplomats," Senator Humphrey said, "but we can also proceed right now, without constructing one building, to get a program under way in our colleges and universities to provide a corps of young men and women to carry out a technical assistance program and a foreign economic policy which could also accomplish wonders in winning the understanding of the peoples of Asia and Africa."

"These young people should be carefully selected for their personable qualities as well as for their intelligence, for their ability to get along under unusual conditions as well as for their technical skills."

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all levels — *young people from all levels!*

"They should be drawn from all levels of our population, from all parts of the country, especially from farm families and the families of working-men, from our people who have themselves known difficulties, who have had to work hard with their minds and their hands. These are the kind of young people who can make contact with the peoples of Asia, Africa, and South America, who can talk their language -- both literally and philosophically -- who have the common touch. These are the kind of people we ought to have in India and Pakistan and Indonesia -- good, solid American young men and women, tough-minded and practical and knowledgeable.

"From these grass-roots ambassadors will come future Foreign Service career diplomats, as well as future commercial representatives overseas. And for those who eventually return to careers in the United States will come leaders in American public life who will bring to the government and education the invaluable experience of detailed knowledge of peoples and places which are for the most part today unknown to most Americans, ~~Senator Humphrey predicted.~~"

"Every year," ~~Senator Humphrey declared~~, "we are letting 150,000 of our brightest young minds, from among our low-income and lower middle income families, be turned away from college for lack of funds. If we could encourage only a third of these young people to go on to college for special training and then on into the technical assistance and foreign service programs, what a great blow we could strike for the cause of democracy and for the preservation of freedom throughout the world!"

"Such a program will cost money," ~~Senator Humphrey said~~, "but we must be prepared to spend money to create more trained intelligence, just as we set aside far greater sums for the development of new weapons."

In addition to the Foreign Service Academy and technical assistance scholarship programs, ~~the Minnesota Democrat~~ proposed that a "small portion, perhaps one half of one percent", of all dollar funds appropriated for foreign aid should be set aside and expended for creation within the United States of better mechanisms of study, teaching and research with respect to the under-developed countries in our educational structure.

"We have already made possible, through Public Law 480, the Agricultural Trade and Development Act, the expenditure of local currencies, received in exchange for our surplus food, for the purchase of cultural goods and services," Senator Humphrey reported. As one of the authors of P.L.480, he called for a broadening of this program, for the intensifying of the effort to bring "significant books, studies, and art objects" of Asia and Africa to American libraries and other cultural centers.

"But here we are talking about modest makeshifts in a major problem which ought to be faced in a more straight forward and realistic way," ~~Senator Humphrey said~~. "We must face squarely up to the problem that we are already a numerically minority society. There are already as many Russians as Americans and twice as many Indians and more than three times as many Chinese."

"Our influence in the world, and possibly our very survival, will depend upon the extent to which we discover, train, and utilize all our brains in all fields of inquiry and action. Desperately short of scientists and engineers as we are," ~~Senator Humphrey warned~~, "we are also woefully short of trained thinking people in all areas of public service, such as our overseas programs."

"What we must do," he said, "is to stop talking about this problem, stop setting up special commissions and special study groups and special boards, and get on with some action programs! I think it is up to Congress to provide these programs, and I intend to spend whatever time and energy it takes to persuade my colleagues in the Congress to join in a bi-partisan effort to get these programs under way."



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