

Roger Wolfe  
to Sen

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EXCERPTS OF REMARKS BY  
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
FEBRUARY 7, 1963

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the Second  
Urban County Congress sponsored by the National Association of  
Counties.

*need to think in terms of urban life*  
*openspaces*  
*mass transit*  
*Recreation*  
*Public works?*  
*Sanitation*

I come to express my deep appreciation for the fine support  
your association provided last year in my attempts to establish  
positive programs for unemployed young people in both rural and  
urban communities. And I come as an unapologetic advocate of the  
need for even greater support this year for my Youth Employment  
Act, S. 1 and H.R. 1 in the 88th Congress.

We are currently facing the final "moment of truth" in the  
history of this legislation. Your support could well prove to  
be the decisive factor in the success or failure of S.1.

Public works  
ARA

President Kennedy has given his unqualified endorsement  
of this legislation and has indicated his personal hope that  
the Youth Employment bill will be the first major act of the  
88th Congress. Let this be our objective in the coming weeks.  
Let us adopt the slogan: "Make S. 1 number one!"

While most of you know the basic features of this legis-  
lation, I would like to review the highlights for you. The  
Youth Employment Act of 1963 contains two principal parts: the  
Youth Conservation Corps and a program of local area public  
service employment. I have been stumping for the Youth Conserva-  
tion Corps since the 85th Congress and my enthusiasm has grown  
over the years. I often think of the many young people who would  
have benefited from the Youth Conservation Corps if it had been  
established in 1957. Recent unemployment figures for teenagers  
demonstrate that we have already waited too long; we can hardly  
afford to wait any longer.

The Youth Conservation Corps is the essence of common sense itself. We have thousands upon thousands of unemployed young men, lacking education, skills, experience, and hope.

In this Nation of plenty, in this country of unlimited potential for progress, we should be ashamed of the fact that more than 800,000 out-of-school teenagers are looking for full-time jobs.

We should be shocked by the result: wasted manpower, wasted energy, wasted years of young people who want to work, to contribute, and to learn.

We should be stirred to action by the most tragic outgrowth of youth unemployment: delinquency and crime.

I'm not trying to fool anyone. My Youth Employment Act--and the Youth Conservation Corps it would establish--is not going to end the problem of unemployment and waste of our young people.

But it is a start--a positive, significant first step which can lead to a day when all of our young people are learning, instead of stagnating; when all of our young people have opportunities to

Unemployment

Waste

Delinquency  
crime

to build, instead of facing temptations for trouble; when all of our young people are given guidance and skills in their formative years, instead of being forced to spend empty and shallow years wandering the streets of our cities.

This first step will be a big step. Under my bill, up to 60,000 young men would be put to work in the Nation's great forest and out-door recreation areas--building not only their bodies and minds, but also building up the valuable natural resources this nation must develop and protect.

The second important feature of the bill would give on-the-job training and service opportunities to tens of thousands more young people. Matching grants to States, counties and communities would let these young people serve their communities in hospitals, recreation centers, settlement houses and other facilities at the same time they are learning valuable skills for permanent careers.

I should stress one point to clear up any potential confusion.

My Youth Employment Act is not in conflict with the President's

recommendations for what has been called a "domestic peace corps."

Both programs are needed, but for different reasons. Here is the

distinction: The Youth Employment Act would take unskilled young

men and women, train them, and put them to work on positive tasks

while they are learning. The "domestic peace corps" would recruit

men and women of all ages who already have skills, and put them

into service projects throughout the nation.

We have a good head start this year in the effort to win

Congressional approval for the Youth Employment Act. I am confident

of passage. But the goal cannot be won without additional public

support. That's where you come in.

We need your help. I ask for your support. The Youth

Employment Act will face many Congressional hurdles--in the

committees, in the Senate, in the House. <sup>and</sup> Don't just tell me that

you want this program established. Write your Congressman and ask for his vote. Get the editors of your local newspapers interested--and expressive--about the Youth Employment Act. Go back to your communities and encourage local organizations, clubs and other groups to endorse the Youth Employment Act. Above all, tell them to make their support known--in letters to Congress, in meetings of their own organizations, in letters to newspapers.

You may run into one big argument against the Youth Employment Act.

The argument goes like this: "Sure, it's a fine idea, but it will cost too much. We can't afford the cost of these youth employment programs. How can you ask for a new item in the budget when the Administration is talking about cutting taxes?"

My answer to that argument is this:

Yes, I am against fiscal deficits. I am against waste of tax dollars and Federal funds. I am against careless or imprudent appropriations of tax revenues.

But I am also against--and am working to end--the real and most tragic deficit in America: the deficit of wasted manpower, wasted energies of our young people, wasted lives.

The Youth Employment Act will require additional appropriations. But this program is an investment--an investment in America's most precious resource, its young people. It is an investment in the future of our country.



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