

From the Office of:
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
1313 New Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.
Capitol 4-3121, Ext. 2424

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APRIL 15, 1964

HUMPHREY URGES REBIRTH
OF VOLUNTEER SPIRIT
IN WAR ON POVERTY

Senate Majority Whip Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) called tonight for a "rebirth of the spirit of caring and volunteering to help all over America to win the War on Poverty.

Humphrey made his remarks at a national convention dinner of the Volunteers of America in which the Senator was presented the Ballington and Maud Booth Award for "outstanding service to the people of our nation" by Gen. John F. McMahon, National Commander of the Volunteers.

Humphrey praised President Johnson's declaration of War on Poverty and said his action had committed the Nation "to care" about the plight of unfortunate fellow Americans.

"President Johnson has made this a matter of conscience for the American people, and that is how all of us are going to face it," Humphrey said.

But he added that "Federal government activity alone cannot win the War on Poverty. We must also have the fullest mobilization of the resources of entire communities and the most complete cooperation of all agencies in the communities. We must have a rebirth of the spirit of caring and volunteering to help all over America."

Humphrey added:

"This was the spirit with which our late beloved President Kennedy electrified America in his Inaugural Address. 'Ask not what your country can do for you,' he challenged, 'ask what you can do for your country.'

"That spirit immediately animated the Peace Corps, which in three short years has become the most exciting new program that has been developed for peace in the world. We

(MORE)

can do the same thing at home in waging the War on Poverty.

"The Peace Corps revealed the tremendous reservoir of good will and spirit we have in America. You here tonight have long known this. And you should find it a high compliment that in developing the plans for the attack on poverty the Johnson Administration was inspired to think of your organization in calling for 'Volunteers for America.'

"The program may not have your exact name," Humphrey told the Volunteers of America, "but it must have your spirit, and that is exactly what we are calling for.

"President Johnson is not asking for a crash program. The War on Poverty is the beginning of a long-term assault. No crash program will wipe out slums, inadequate education, low income, broken homes, poor motivation, prejudice, bigotry, delinquency, crime, discrimination and segregation no matter how much money is poured into it over a short period of time.

"Each community must make up its mind as a community to attack these evils. Each must define its own peculiar problems and cut them up into pieces of manageable size. But our most urgent task right now is wanting to get the job done. Then we must maintain a spirit of never-failing faith in the power of democracy and religion to unite all men.

"America is grateful to the Volunteers of America for what you have been doing. We need you now more than ever. We need your inspiration, dedication, counsel and knowledge. We have made the commitment to care in America. We have found a will. I am confident we will find the way."

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(MORE)

Sect John James Mitchell
Sect Brucker -
AB Chandler
ceals & miller

Pat Mc Namara
Lectr Mrs Lydon Johnson
Sen Magnuson.

A COMMITMENT TO CARE

Volunteers of America, April 14, 1964

Howe Keldin

It is a great honor for me to receive the Ballington and Maud Booth award. The wonderful record of humanitarian service written by the Volunteers of America is an inspiration to all Americans. Your more than 500 hundred service programs in more than 100 cities have indeed carried forth the purposes of the Son of Man "to bring good news to the poor, and release to prisoners." And you have served all regardless of race, creed, or color.

I can only echo the words President Johnson has already spoken to you: "our country is fortunate in having such an organization devoted to the service of all Americans."

Pres Johnson

John F
Lester Me Mahon
Robert (Bob) Malte
(youth Commission)

Keep a good heavy away
club table heavy
toward

The Volunteers of America have had the commitment
to care - to care for fellow Americans, for fellow
humans, suffering from whatever disability or misfortune.

You care enough to help them physically and spiritually,
and help them get back on the road of helping themselves.

You have helped America become aware. You have
helped America care. For America tonight has been

awakened to the fact that one-fifth of its fellow citizens -
more than 40 million of them - are living in the state
of poverty. They suffer all of the physical depression,
and the moral and spiritual difficulties that grow in
such a state. The shocking thing is that this exists
while America has become the richest nation on the face of
the earth.

↳ America is great in other respects than wealth. It is not perfect but there has been a greater development of democracy, freedom, and justice here than anywhere else.

↳ Yet America is somewhat like the rich young ruler who

came to Jesus and asked: "What shall I do to be saved?"

Questioning revealed that he had done much in all the

conventional ways. Then Jesus said: "Sell all you have

and give to the poor." It is reported that the rich young man turned away sorrowfully.

↳ America is not going to turn away sorrowfully.

President Johnson has declared an "all out war against poverty" by the American people. ^{now} ~~He has made~~ one billion ~~dollars available~~ ^{has been asked} for the next fiscal year to start the attack.

↳ We have been made aware. We have made the commitment
to care. It is not a partisan matter or a political issue.

↳ President Johnson has made this a matter of conscience
for the American people, and that is how all of us are
going to face it.

↳ As you so well know, the cities of America are the
places in which this problem of poverty is growing more
and more acute. The cities are where our people are
piling up. Cities are bearing the brunt of a double trend.

Cities

↳ On one hand, the population of America is growing at a
great pace. We are adding more than 3 million persons per
year. ↳ At the same time people are moving to the cities.

↳ By 1980 we will have 250 million people in America.

↳ Eighty per cent of them - more than the total present
population - will all be clustered in a handful of giant
cities.

These cities are showing a marked pattern. There is an in-migration of the poor to the center or "core" city.

There is an outward migration by those who are better off to a series of ~~concentric~~ suburban rings around this core. The Negro is a conspicuous element in the poor of the central city. He comes mostly from the deprived areas of the rural South. But he is not alone. As the rural heartland of America is drained, other groups of poor stream in from the rural and mountain areas. Squeezed out of economic opportunity in the sections from which they have come, they wander to the cities looking for opportunity.

Sadly, their situation becomes worse. They find the city a strange, alien, anonymous place.

all over the world

↳ Poverty is piling up in the cities. The mass of it is becoming greater in one spot. The contrasts get sharper. But the well-to-do who have left the cities tend to leave their human awareness and sensitivity behind too. ^{and} What they do not see closely anymore, they tend to think does not exist. What is out of sight is out of mind.

↳ The Nation as a whole has to become aware of this situation. One of the most immediate things we have to do is attack the problems of youth in our core cities and particularly at the point of their education.

Frank

↳ We have become a technological and scientific society almost overnight. It has greatly expanded our wealth. ~~_____~~

But it has put an ever-increased emphasis upon skill to ~~_____~~ find a place in our economic life. ~~_____~~ The poor who have ~~_____~~ fallen through the cracks of our affluent society, have ~~_____~~ never been adequately trained to compete and take a ~~_____~~ place in the jobs needed by our new society. ~~_____~~ It is desperately ~~_____~~ important that the misfortunes of the fathers not be ~~_____~~ visited upon their children. ~~_____~~

Greater demands are being placed upon our schools to deal with overcrowding, special teaching, new methods to overcome the emotional disturbance and learning blocks that come from the condition of poverty, cultural deprivation, lack of motivation and hope. At the same time the resources of the cities have become reduced. An increasing number of children lack any medical care. The schools must spend more of their budgets for health services. Hungry, malnourished, poorly clothed children demand increasing welfare services from the school staff. Dropouts do not begin at age 16. The seeds of it begin long before.

Elementary and even pre-school situations are the places where basic problems of prevention begin, yet customarily the elementary schools have the lowest share in school budgets.

And over-all, as wealth tends to escape the city into separate political jurisdictions on the outskirts, the taxing sources of the city dwindle.

L I firmly believe that the Federal government must recognize its share of responsibility in the national interest in helping elementary and secondary education, particularly in the cities, meet their massive problems.

L We have helped, and wisely I believe, the top of the educational pyramid in America. We have begun to recognize a responsibility to aid and develop proper vocational education. We must do more.

L Not only can America afford it. America cannot afford not to do this. The first 1 billion dollars which has been found to start the war on poverty has come from savings in our defense procurement. More is coming from this source alone, and with no sacrifice of any capacity on the part of America to resist Communist or any other aggression. We have no better place to put some of the money than to fight the enemy of poverty from within.

The "Job Corps" phase of the first attack on poverty shows how important education is. Selective service testing has identified more than a million young men who cannot read well enough even to fill out a job application. They cannot articulate well enough in ordinary forms of communication to put themselves forward. They lack other things too. They have no sense of regularity about meeting a schedule on a job. They lack other habits of discipline. The Job Corps camps will give experience in these things, but at least half the time will be spent in a basic education that was not gained in school. Basic intelligence is not the problem. Basic training is.

But no one in the government has any illusion that Federal activity ^{ALONE} can win the War on Poverty. We must also have the fullest mobilization of the resources of entire communities and the most complete cooperation of all agencies in the communities. We must have a rebirth of the spirit of caring and volunteering to help all over America.

This was the spirit with which our late beloved President Kennedy electrified America in his Inaugural Address. "Ask not what your country can do for you," he challenged, "ask what you can do for your country."

L That spirit immediately animated the Peace Corps, ~~_____~~ which in three short years has become the most exciting new program that has been developed for peace in the world. We can do the same thing at home in waging the War on Poverty.

L The Peace Corps revealed the tremendous reservoir of ~~_____~~ good will and spirit we have in America. You here tonight ~~_____~~ have long known this. And you should find it a high compliment that in developing plans for the attack on poverty, the Johnson Administration was inspired to think of your organization in calling for "Volunteers for America".

↳ The program may not have your exact name, but it must have your spirit, and that is exactly what we are calling for. President Johnson is not asking for a crash program. The War on Poverty is the beginning of a long term assault.

↳ No crash program will wipe out slums, inadequate education, low income, broken homes, poor motivation, prejudice, bigotry, delinquency, crime, discrimination and segregation, no matter how much money is poured into it over a short period of time.

↳ Each community must make up its mind as a community to attack these evils. Each must define its own peculiar problems and cut them up into pieces of manageable size.

↳ But our most urgent task right now is wanting to get the job done. Then we must maintain a spirit of never-failing perseverance and a never-failing faith in the power of democracy and religion to unite all men.

America is grateful to you, the "Volunteers of America"
for what you have been doing. We need you now more than
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way.

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