

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE FOR WEEK OF AUGUST 12, 1964

FOR BROADCAST WEEK OF AUGUST 16, 1964

Ladies and gentlemen. . .

This is Senator Hubert Humphrey, speaking to you from my office on
Capitol Hill in Washington. . .

Today I am pleased to report on important progress being made in the
attack on the problems of our unemployed youth in the nation. The first pro-
gram is administered by the Department of Labor with funds from the Manpower,
Development, and Training Act. It is a crash program to train counsellors
to staff youth opportunity centers and assist young people who are without
skills or jobs. Twenty colleges and universities across the country started
training programs on July 13, to train these counsellors. Sixty of these
trainees are being trained at the University of Minnesota. Those being

trained must be at least twenty-one years of age, and must either be college graduates, or have had experience in counselling, psychology, education, social work, or related fields. When the eight week training program is completed, the counsellors will be assigned to employment service offices in each of the one hundred or more labor market areas.

The counsellors will work only with young people. They will interview them, test them for aptitudes, and advise them on how to get a job or training for a job. Referrals will come from schools, draft boards when draftees are rejected on educational grounds, from social agencies and agencies working with young people.

Unemployment hits youth harder than any other segment. There are four times as many youth unemployed as there are adults. Secretary of Labor, Willard Wirtz noted the seriousness of the situation recently when he said, "We are right now, at a time of record prosperity, adding between two hundred and fifty and three hundred thousand boys and girls to a human waste heap every year. Every undereducated, undertrained youth from a poverty background will cost us approximately thirty thousand dollars in various kinds of welfare payments in the course of his life. Either we help the youth, or we support the adult".

Happy as I am to report this counselling program, I am even more

pleased at the extent to which the basic concepts of youth conservation and vocational training have been incorporated into the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 as part of President Johnson's "War on Poverty".

For me, this means success after eight years of effort to get recognition of and aid for the idea of Youth Conservation. In the first session of the 85th Congress, in 1957 I proposed a Youth Conservation Corps modelled on the highly successful Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930's. On

several occasions legislation for such a Youth Corps passed the Senate, but failed in the other House, *altho Congressman John Blatnik has labored* ^{legislation} ~~the~~ By 1963, the ~~idea~~ had impressive support. *hard for it the*

Out of sixty-one witnesses at Senate hearings, only one opposed a Youth Corps. Government agencies representing twenty-two states, counties, and cities expressed strong support. The National Association of Counties, the American Legion, the VFW, the AFL-CIO, the American Municipal Association, the National Education Association, the National Farmer's Union, and the National Committee for the Employment of Youth--all expressed strong approval.

With this kind of support, President Johnson made it a central part of the anti-poverty legislation. Title I of the Economic Opportunity Act provides for conservation camps and training centers to give basic education and vocational training to youth. Other youth will be provided with part-time work

training programs in their home communities while they continue school.

The war on poverty will be won or lost in the youth sector. Here is the crux of the long-run situation. But we are recognizing it and therefore we will win the war. All our young people ask and all they need is a reasonable opportunity. We cannot and dare not do less than see that they get that opportunity, and I am glad we are on the way.

Thank you



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