

Chief Justice Warren

Summer. A Republican
See common

Peter Goethe

Sarg Shriver & Givens

Billy Harris

PEACE CORPS CONFERENCE
March 5, 1965

Rw clergy

Welcome to Washington! And welcome to this Conference

on Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

As one of the Senators who worked with President

John F. Kennedy to pass the first Peace Corps bill in 1961,

I bring to this meeting ^{give me} a sense of personal joy, pride and

thanksgiving.

(National Advisory Council of the Peace Corps)

I am ^{so pleased} joyful to see so many hundreds of Volunteers

continuing to demonstrate their concern and involvement

in the work of the Peace Corps and in the task of

eliminating inequality of opportunity wherever it occurs --

in Nigeria or America. We expect an explosion of ideas

from this Conference -- and we are confident that the

fallout will invigorate many of America's private and

public institutions.

and exciting period!

I am proud of your manifold accomplishments in

behalf of human dignity, freedom and opportunity, and

State Dept - occupied

Rebellion

Henry Kissinger
Deek Hauberg
Kubark
Pilot Project

Explosion of Ideas

Explosion of Ideas

- NEA
- DISARM Agency
- Food for Peace
- Civil Rts

Peace Corps
War on Poverty

your labors for a more peaceful world, I know the great sacrifices you have made in the service of others, but I also know of the great personal benefits you have received from such service.

“

John Adams

↳ And I am thankful that within America we have witnessed a rebirth of what John Adams called "the spirit of public happiness." It was this spirit, said Adams, that possessed the American colonists and won the Revolution even before it was fought. ↳ It is a spirit which delights in participation, in public discussion and public action -- a spirit of joy in citizenship, self-government, self-discipline and in dedication.

Spirit of Public Happiness!

↳ Your presence here this evening -- and the continuing work of thousands of Peace Corps Volunteers serving in 46 foreign lands -- surely testify most eloquently to this rebirth of the spirit of public happiness in America.

46 Countries

↳ You have, in short, demonstrated to all the world

the vitality of one eternal truth: there exists a moral dimension to service beyond ^{that of} mere self-service. You have, in short, given of yourselves so that others might live and live more abundantly.

President Johnson served as Chairman of the National Advisory Council of the Peace Corps for three and a half years. When he asked me on January 26 to replace him as Chairman of this Council, he said, "The Great Society requires first of all Great Citizens, and the Peace Corps is a world-wide training school for Great Citizens."

X
X
X

This sentence sums up our theme for this Conference and our faith in the contributions you will continue to make in building the Great Society.

Right now, 3,000 Volunteers are home. By 1970, 50,000 will be back. It is not flattery, but a fact that you are the kind who can make a difference in building a

1970
50,000

better America and a better world.

As Volunteers, you discovered your collective *-combined* efforts could make a difference in the lives of people.

You learned -- and have helped others to learn -- that individual burdens can be lifted if national burdens can

be shared. And I know that 50,000 returned Volunteers

will have a profound effect on American society.

you are the difference needed for success

④

Peace Corps officials tell me that many Volunteers are experiencing certain problems of readjustment to

American life.

Some Volunteers -- eager to give of themselves and their talents in grappling with our domestic problems -- find themselves hemmed in and frustrated by rigid institutional procedures, seeming irrelevancies of academic course work, or the apparent indifference of friends and acquaintances.

Frustration
↓

Having been abroad and having seen America from a

variety of new perspectives, you return with a better understanding of both the strengths and weakness of our land. You know there is so much to be done in the world -- and in this country -- ~~that~~ ^{and} you are impatient with those who lack your experience, your enthusiasm or your insight.

Frustration, disillusionment, and even despair -- these are feelings experienced only by persons who also know the meaning of dedication, commitment and self-sacrifice. Remember, that as Peace Corps Volunteers, you learned to experience and endure big frustrations and rejoice over small successes. You never doubted for a moment that your work mattered, that it made a difference, that you were leaving the world a little better -- a little happier -- a little more humane.

But, in a developed society there are stubborn institutions

What a wonderful feeling!

And so you must never doubt this fact: we need, oh-so desperately your vision, your experience, your courage and your commitment in the many urgent tasks which confront

this land and people.

Permit me to suggest some of the specific areas where former Volunteers are most urgently needed *now*.

I am particularly conscious of the crucial role which Peace Corps Volunteers can play in our national effort to banish all forms of racial and religious prejudice + discrimination from our country and to promote equal opportunity in education, employment and other vital areas of life.

you can lead the war on prejudice + bigotry

That great citizen of the world, Eleanor Roosevelt,

who in a way could be considered the first and most successful Peace Corps Volunteer, wrote just before her death: that "Anyone who believes that in every human being there is a spark of the divine, that he is not merely an animal, must believe that to enable him to develop his potentialities to the maximum is the highest purpose his government can fulfill."

Eleanor Roosevelt

win it. Eleanor Roosevelt

This is my Philosophy

"To enable him to develop his potentialities to the maximum." As simple as that. Not to guarantee him success or happiness -- but to give him a fair chance to achieve these ends.

In 1964, this nation took two historic steps toward the elimination of barriers towards self-fulfillment. In the Civil Rights Act, we strengthened the Constitutional rights of all our people to equality of opportunity. And in the Economic Opportunity Act, we opened the first battles in the war against poverty, giving new hope to millions of families trapped in the quagmire of want.

Civil
Rts

Econ
Opportunity
Act

yes the
Politics
of
Hope

But, ultimate success will take more than laws or sanctions or dollars or even moral commitment. It will ~~take~~ special insights, special skills, special sensitivities.

It isn't enough to identify with the world of the suffering -- we must also bring the indignation of the aggrieved to the attention of the comfortable.

the misery of the poor to the attention of the Rich + fortunate.

I invite your participation in the hundreds of private and governmental human rights and anti-poverty institutions -- in the human relations commissions, and in equal employment and housing commissions.

Join
the
battle

I invite your participation in the trade unions, in the local community action programs, in the Job Corps centers, and in the VISTA program.

I invite your participation in the work of mental retardation, in vocational rehabilitation, in the field of juvenile delinquency, and in special education centers and health centers proposed by President Johnson.

Be
advocate
Be the
Tribunes
of
the
People

Educ

Peace Corps Volunteers like to be where the action is. And, just in case you hadn't noticed, these days the action is taking place in the classrooms of America.

One-fourth of all Americans are now attending school -- and that percentage is rising steadily. But we must insist upon excellence in education -- from

Challenged old methods.
darts
Try!
here!

nurseries to post-graduate school. We need to devise new ways to educate the specially gifted, the so-called average students, as well as the slow learners. We need to experiment with new teaching methods and devices without falling into the rut of worshipping gadgets.

Many of you would-be teachers have run into a wall -- in the form of state and local accreditation requirements which fail to recognize your teaching experience abroad.

How foolish

You will encounter other types of barrier too, some sound, some unjustified.

I've looked over your replies to the Questionnaire.

Your questions -- your requests -- your aspirations will hopefully encourage our academic institutions and school systems to re-examine their criteria and standards in light of today's needs and opportunities. No institution -- in industry, labor or education, government or any other -- can thrive if it does not hold open the door of opportunity to new talent and new ideas.

Speak up.

Our many philanthropic foundations and our churches are natural avenues for Peace Corps returnees' talent.

One of the most exciting developments in America today is the way the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish faiths have related their religion to social action.

This is your theme,

And to the owners of American business, the leaders of trade unions, the heads of Federal and local agencies, to the directors of the anti-poverty programs, to the superintendents of our school systems, I say: You are

fortunate to have this great new American asset of returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

Trained by experience, seasoned, matured.

For many returning Volunteers, the Peace Corps can be a training ground for future careers in the Foreign Service, in the foreign aid program, or in the many multilateral international organizations that now are flourishing -- the United Nations, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Foreign Service

*We need your thinking, your
voice - Be Ambassadors for Peace*

Reason for

Any Job but Presid + U.P

Politics

and L

I hope that ex-Volunteers will flock into the
 service of our two great political parties. What a
healthy infusion of new blood that will be! I look
 forward to the day when former Volunteers will be serving
in both Houses of Congress - running this Country,

L We in America are indebted to the Peace Corps for
 pointing up once again an old but vital aspect of american
citizenship, an aspect noted by Alexis de Tocqueville a
 century ago: the contribution of volunteer groups to
 American life.

Volunteers

L Peace Corps Volunteers have shown what this can mean
 in Yala, Thailand, in Sassandra on the Ivory Coast, and
 in Medellin, Colombia. Now Peace Corps returnees are
 ready to serve in America, not just for two years, but
 for all the years of their lives.

L Returning Peace Corps Volunteers now combine the
wisdom of experience with the creativity of youth. We

L need an America with the wisdom of experience. But we must not let America grow old in spirit.

L This Conference is privileged to include many special participants -- leaders of American business, industry, government and the professions. I am confident these special participants recognize that returned Volunteers also embody the virtues of self-reliance, sensitivity, self-discipline, ability to innovate and a willingness to work hard. These are rich resources and I know they will be cultivated fully.

L Above all, let us continue to be an America of new faith in old dreams. Let us continue to be an America eternally vigorous and creative. Let America continue to be an arsenal of ideas and hope for this weary planet.

L Let us retain compassion in the midst of indifference, ideals in the midst of cynicism, belief in the midst of despair.

but

Let America continue to be what it was meant to be
by its Founders -- a place for the renewal of the human
spirit.

Lincoln's Second Inaug - yesterday -

"With Malice toward none
With charity for all

With firmness in the Right -
as God gives us to see the Right -

Amen, last best hope on earth

Remarks by

P. 7
JFK

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey

at the

Peace Corps Volunteer Conference

Washington, D. C.

March 5, 1965

Welcome to Washington and welcome to this Conference.

We expect an explosion of ideas here, and we hope that the fallout will invigorate many of America's private and public institutions.

President Johnson served as Chairman of the National Advisory Council of the Peace Corps for three-and-a-half years. When he asked me on January 26 to replace him as Chairman of the Peace Corps National Advisory Council, he said, "The Great Society requires first of all Great Citizens, and the Peace Corps is a world-wide training

school for Great Citizens."

Better than anything else, that sentence of President Johnson's describes the theme of this Conference. In short, before we can have the great society, we first must have a nucleus of great citizens.

No group can make such a long-range contribution to the quality of American life as the returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Peace Corps reports show that you Volunteers finish your two-year service with a greater love and appreciation of the greatness of America. Yet, having been abroad and having seen America through a different set of lenses, you return more enthusiastic and more constructively critical of certain aspects of American society. You know both the ingredients of change, ^{and} the attributes of permanence. To do what we need to do in America, we must break some of our old habits and find

new paths. Who can better help us do this than the returned Volunteer.

Right now, 3,000 Volunteers are home. By 1970, 50,000 will be back. It is not flattery, but a fact that you are the kind who can make a difference. As Volunteers, you learned that you could have a real effect, not only as individuals, but as a collectivity. You have learned -- and have helped others to learn -- that individual burdens can be lifted if national burdens can be shared. In the magnitude of 50,000 of you working back here at home, you can have a profound effect on American society.

Peace Corps officials tell me that many of the Volunteers who have returned indicate that they are having problems of adjustment, some quite serious.

The list of reported frustrations often include

the difficulties of making meaningful contributions while hemmed in by rigid institutional structures. They allege that much academic course work seems irrelevant to the real world. They often find the family and acquaintances indifferent to the meaningfulness of the Peace Corps experience.

These are real problems but I am confident that you will look upon these problems as challenges and opportunities. If you do, then your present period of readjustment can be one of the most creative periods of your total Peace Corps experience.

After all, as Peace Corps Volunteers you learned to experience and endure big frustrations and small successes. You must use your widely-known resources of adaptability to deal with different problems. In tackling these problems, I hope that you will not lose

your way of doing what may seem to be a mundane job,
but seeing it in relation to the big picture.

To the returning Volunteers, I would offer three
general comments:

First -- Discover that you really want to do with
your life. "Rediscover" America -- the America you want to
serve. Match your deepest personal interests with the
things that need doing.

Second, apply yourself -- just as you did in your
Peace Corps assignment. Learn all you need to know
about your

chosen field -- whether it be business, or education,
labor or Government.

And third, reach. Set your sights high for America.

This Nation, this Government, this people ask you to
give us your best -- once again. We welcome change, not
for change's sake -- but for the sake of improvement.

Allow me to suggest how some of the specific areas
where former Volunteers are most desperately needed.

Two principal assignments which I have
received from the President make me particularly
conscious of the crucial role which Peace Corps
Volunteers can play in the life of our nation.
These two assignments -- civil rights and the war
against poverty -- are really two sides of the
same coin. They add up to a simple -- but really

profound -- objective: greater opportunity for self-
fulfillment for every American.

That great lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, who in a way
could be considered the first and most successful
Peace Corps Volunteer of all, wrote just before her
death: "Anyone who

believes that in every human being there is a spark of the divine, that he is not merely an animal, must believe that to enable him to develop his potentialities to the maximum is the highest purpose his government can fulfill."

"To enable him to develop his potentialities to the maximum." As simple as that. Not to guarantee him success or happiness -- but to give him a fair chance to achieve these ends. That means the elimination of barriers to such achievement: discrimination, inherited poverty, lack of opportunity.

In 1964, this nation took two historic steps toward the elimination of barriers towards self-fulfillment. In the Civil Rights Act, we strengthened the Constitutional rights of all our people to equality of opportunity. And in the Economic Opportunity Act, we opened the first battles in the war against poverty, giving new hope to millions of families trapped in the quagmire of want.

Ultimate success will take more than laws or sanctions or dollars or even moral commitment. It will take hard work by dedicated people, people like yourselves.

But even that is not enough. It will take special insights, special skills, special sensitivities. It isn't enough for us just to be forecivil rights in the philosophical sense; more of us must learn to be practitioners in the art of inter-groups relations. It isn't enough to believe in the concept of self-help; we must perfect the techniques for the involvement of the poor themselves in the programs aimed at helping them. It isn't enough to identify with the world of the suffering; we must also bring the indignation of the aggrieved to the attention of the comfortable.

To the Volunteers who have returned, I invite your participation in the hundreds of private and governmental human rights and anti-poverty institutions which have been created, in the bi-racial commissions, and in equal employment

commissions. I invite your participation in the trade unions, in the local community action programs, in the Job Corps centers, and in the VISTA domestic Peace Corps. I invite your participation in the work of mental retardation, in vocational rehabilitation, in the field of juvenile delinquency, and in special education centers and health centers to be created under pending legislation.

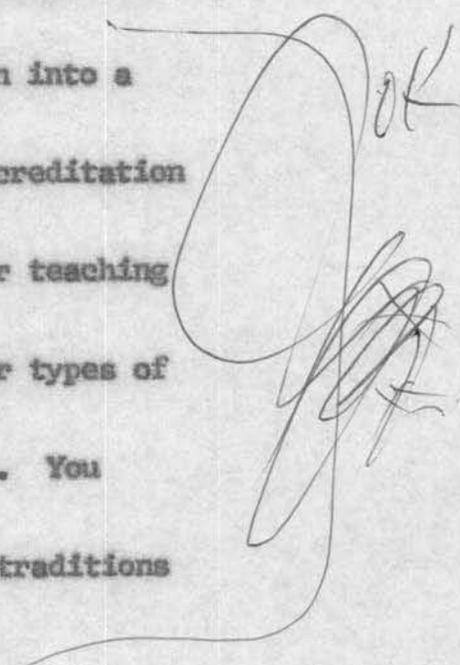
Another obvious area where returned Volunteers are urgently needed is in education. One-fourth of all Americans are now in the nation's classrooms, and that percentage is going to increase. Peace Corps Volunteers like to be where the action is, and I know of few sections in American life where there is more action than in the noble field of education. We need returned Volunteers to bring their enthusiasms, their intimate knowledge of the cultures of the developing areas, and their abilities of communication to the nation's primary and secondary schools. And as one who was once a political science professor in Minnesota, let me testify that there

is no more rewarding life than teaching at the college level.

We need ~~the highest~~ excellence in schooling from nurseries to post-graduate education. We need to devise new ways to educate the specially gifted, the so-called average students, as well as the slow learners. We need to experiment with new teaching methods and devices without falling into the rut of worshipping gadgets.

Many of you would-be teachers have run into a "wall" -- in the form of state and local accreditation requirements -- which fail to recognize your teaching experience abroad. You will encounter other types of barriers, too, some sound, some unjustified. You "want in", but some of Society's rules and traditions may temporarily keep you out.

Your questions -- your requests -- your aspira-

A large, handwritten scribble or signature in black ink, located on the right side of the page. It consists of several overlapping loops and lines, with the letters 'OK' visible at the top right of the scribble.

tions will -- hopefully - give pause to institutions and make them re-examine themselves. No institution -- whether it be industry, labor or education, government or any other -- can thrive if it does not hold open the door of opportunity to new talent.

Let me mention several other areas -- and this is certainly not an exhaustive list -- where the skills and insights of former Volunteers are needed.

The foundations and the churches are natural avenues for Peace Corps returnees' talent. One of the most exciting aspects of America in the 1960's is the way the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish faiths have related their religion to social action. How can our great religious bodies further work towards the goal of narrowing the gap between professed ideals and concrete reality?

And to the owners of American business, the leaders of trade unions, the heads of federal and local agencies, to the directors of the anti-poverty programs, to the superintendents of our school systems, I say: You are fortunate to have this great new American asset of returned Volunteers.

Above all, I hope you will consider continuing your career in public service. One of the great accomplishments of the Administrations of President John F. Kennedy and the Administration of President Lyndon Johnson has been to restore to American life the spirit described by John Adams as one of "public happiness". It was this spirit, said Adams, that possessed the American colonists and won the Revolution even before it was fought, a spirit which is reflected in delight in participation in public discussion and public action, a

JFK

X

joy in citizenship, in self-government, in self-control,
in self-discipline, and in dedication.

The Peace Corps Volunteers -- who have demonstrated
to all the world that there is a moral imperative to
service beyond that of mere self-service -- have con-
tributed much to this spirit of "public happiness". I
would hope they will continue to do so.

For many returning Volunteers, the Peace Corps can
be a training ground for future careers in the Foreign
Service, in the foreign aid program, or in the many
multilateral international organizations that now are
flourishing -- the United Nations, the World Bank, and
the Inter-American Development Bank.

I hope that ex-Volunteers will flock into the
service of our two great political parties. What a
healthy infusion of new blood that will be! I look

forward to the day when dozens of former Volunteers will
be in the halls of Congress.

I hope that our special participants here will
forgive my addressing most of my remarks to the former
Volunteers. Now, I would like to say something to you.
The returned Volunteers owe a lot to you. For if it were
not for your vital public support during those early

critical days of the organization, there might not have been a Peace Corps.

The Peace Corps has learned that overseas the Volunteer was usually just as good as his job supervisor and assignment. If there was poor leadership, there were disappointing results, even by potentially excellent Volunteers. The same is true in the United States. Because the Volunteers are generally young, they have little status. They know how to fight to introduce new ideas. But for them to be forced to is wasteful. Volunteers want and need challenge. They have proven that they respond to it. But the leaders of American life themselves have a responsibility to give ex-Volunteers challenging assignments. If you American leaders, with your broader experience and maturer skills, do not help define the challenges to which youth will respond, then

a very valuable American asset will be neglected.

The former Volunteers have proven that they have the frontier virtues: self-reliance, sensitivity, self-discipline, ability to innovate, and willingness to work hard. They are a rich resource. I hope you cultivate that resource.

We in America are indebted to the Peace Corps for pointing up once again an old but vital aspect of citizenship, an aspect noted by Tocqueville a century ago. I refer to the contribution to volunteer groups to American life. Peace Corps Volunteers have shown what this can mean in Yala, Thailand, in Sassandra on the Ivory Coast, and in Medellin, Colombia. Now Peace Corps returnees are ready to serve in America, not just for two years, but for all the years of their life. I do not mean that they will be "full-time"

Volunteers for the rest of their life, but rather that a spirit of "volunteerism" will pervade all that they do. Thus, we need to recognize more than ever before that Volunteering is not only an important but an essential attribute of citizenship.

Returning Peace Corps Volunteers now combine the wisdom of experience with creativity of youth. We need an America with the wisdom of experience. But we must not let America grow old in spirit.

Let us continue to be an America of new faith in old dreams. Let us continue to be an America eternally vigorous and creative. Let America continue to be an arsenal of ideas and hope for this weary planet. Let us retain compassion in the midst of indifference, ideals in the midst of cynicism, belief in the midst of despair.

Let America continue to be what it was meant
to be by its founders -- a place for the renewal of
the human spirit.

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