

Commissioner Robert Brown

DEDICATION OF MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL
YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CENTERS

July 6, 1965

Exciting times!

Today's young generation faces a world of change and uncertainty. It faces, too, a world of opportunity.

Young Americans today are in the same position that an older generation was when the Wright Brothers took their small craft off the ground at Kitty Hawk.

2000#
12 records
2000#
4 DAYS
me Diver +
white

Today we are at the starting point of another new era. The course of that era depends on what we Americans do today.

Dedicate ourselves

Today we dedicate a building which will help young men and women prepare for the future! To many of you, this Youth Opportunity Center was not a new idea.

But ^{to some people} it was one of those things that would never really happen -- there were too many things and too many

people against it.

But today in this country we are building Youth Opportunity Centers, we are trying out ideas, we are doing things that people thought would never be done.

We are making change our ally, and not our enemy.

m mayor This Youth Opportunity Center is going to become an important place in this city.

L Thirty-five years ago, one American in four made his living at an unskilled job. Today, only about one American in twenty earns his living at unskilled labor.

L We are past the time when a living could be made without anything but willing hands. The school dropout today faces a hard task. Jobs are not easy to find without a diploma, without a skill. And all this comes

600,000 w/o the Diploma!

*Release
re. opportunity
neighborhood youth corp
501(c)(3)*

Drop out

at the time when the younger generation is bursting forth in great numbers. The War babies are coming of age.

Today, in this country, we need 60 thousand new jobs a week just to replace jobs lost to automation, and to make room for new people in the labor market. Yes, 60 thousand new jobs a week.

There are young people in this country today who need help to find their place in the world.

Many of these are young people who have been rebuffed at school. . . who started school with a limited beginning. . . who found little help at home. . . who have a dark self-image and little hope for the future.

↳ These young people are human resources
which this nation cannot afford to waste. In
the midst of our prosperity, we must do all we
can to provide full opportunity for every man and
woman in this country to contribute to and share
in that prosperity. ↳ If you have no skill, . . . if
you lack schooling, . . . if you have little hope, there
is little you can contribute, believe me.

Ⓚ

↳ What does this Youth Opportunity Center
offer?

✓ | It offers what one young boy told me not
long ago: "It was my last chance." This Youth
Opportunity Center is open to all who need it. The
door here will always be open.

↳ This Center offers a way to get back into
the mainstream. It will offer counseling. . .

education. . . training courses. . . it will
build skills. . . it will work with the Job Corps
and Neighborhood Youth Corps programs. . . it
will send people out into Community Action programs. . .

(V)

it will help young people find a job.

! |
youth employment
opportunity
Program
600,000

Federal government, state government,
local government and private agencies are all
joining in this program. It is the responsibility
of all of us.

I grew up in a time when earning a living
was not easy. I saw human hopes and human
lives destroyed. So did many others of you here
today.

Today we are dedicated to the task of
making sure this never happens again.

Today, ~~in this nation~~, the American
people are united in fighting ignorance, disease

and poverty.

We are united in doing things that have been too-long postponed, that have been overlooked, that have been forgotten. !

No, there will be no forgotten men in this generation. We are building a strong, safe, and free society. |

To the people who will work in this center, I express my gratitude and my admiration. You are doing what needs to be done. I am proud of you.

To the young men and women who will come to the Center, I say:

You can do what others have done. You can learn a skill. You can find a job. You can find a place in life. There is help for you here; there is a share of the future.



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org