

May 31, 1967 1
Calvert County, Md.

1. I am pleased to be here -- in this company of distinguished community leaders -- to reopen and rededicate this beautiful camp to an enlarged program of service to youth. The program which we inaugurate today is particularly appropriate to the life and values of the great American President, Theodore Roosevelt, whose name this Camp bears. No American President is so well identified with a deep belief in the joys of living in the out-of-doors and with the values such experiences can have for young boys. He never got enough of the world, in this sense. When questioned why, at age 55, he undertook the arduous exploration of the River of Doubt in Brazil, he explained: "It was my last chance to be a boy."

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2. Our association with President Theodore Roosevelt in this program today is appropriate for another reason. As President, in his Second Annual Message to the Congress in 1902, he said of the District of Columbia: "The city should be a model in every respect for all the cities of the country." And throughout his Presidency, he urged that the District be such a model city in its laws and its facilities.

I know all of you here share with me the goal I have often stated that the Nation's Capital must be a model city -- one which the country and the world will hold up as an example of the very best in the quality of its people's lives, and particularly in the fullness of opportunity made available to its youth.

3. The details of this expanded program of camping and Scouting are stated in the fact sheet which has been distributed, so I will not repeat them. In a word, it will open up some of these opportunities and joys of "being a boy" to hundreds of boys who might otherwise spend their summers and evenings in idleness and despair. Helping to provide these opportunities to boys in the Nation's Capital is, by itself, worthy of praise and support. But let me review briefly some of the reasons why this program represents in several ways the objectives of the President's Council on Youth Opportunity with respect to recreation and camping opportunities for disadvantaged young people.

(a) It is based on cooperative community support:

- * The District Government and UPO for basic financing.
- * Other elements of the District Government for other services, e.g., Recreation Board and Neighborhood Councils will help with recruiting boys and volunteers; D. C. Department of Public Health with physical exams.
- * We expect business support in providing an outfit of camp clothes for each boy, as well as some camp equipment.

- (b) It will direct the vast resources, professional leadership, and experience of the Boy Scouts to providing increased opportunity for inner city young people.

The point is that a successful summer^{of} opportunity for our disadvantaged young people must come from the cooperative efforts of local communities, and the increased assistance of private voluntary organizations in serving needy youth is particularly important. The Federal Government cannot provide these opportunities for youth. It can help -- with grant programs, ideas and coordination, but the responsibility rests with local leadership.

4. I particularly want to commend two groups here today.

First, may I thank the leadership of the National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts for their leadership in directing the benefits of Scouting to inner city youth. I look forward to working with Mr. Mortimer Lebowitz, chairman of the Inner City Committee; Mr. J. Howard Kautz, Scout Executive for the Council; and Mr. Thomas McFadden, Director of Special Programs.

Secondly, I want to congratulate the officers and members of the 20 Neighborhood Planning Councils in the District of Columbia who have worked very hard to develop an overall program of recreation and education for District youths ~~this~~ summer. Your work is very important, both in developing recommendations which meet the needs of your neighborhoods and in cooperating in the carrying out of District youth programs generally.

REMARKS AT CAMP ROOSEVELT

I HAVE ASKED VARIOUS CORPORATIONS AND UNIONS TO DONATE WEARING APPAREL AND SNEAKERS FOR THE KIDS AT CAMP.

I HOPE YOU WILL MAKE SOME STATEMENT LIKE THE FOLLOWING: "I HAVE URGED A NUMBER OF OUR COMPANIES AND UNIONS TO HELP MAKE THIS THE

2.

BEST SUMMER IN THE LIVES OF OUR YOUNG CAMPERS. AND I AM PROUD TO REPORT TODAY THAT WE HAD EXCELLENT RESPONSE. FOR EXAMPLE, B. F. GOODRICH COMPANY HAS DONATED 2000 PAIR OF SNEAKERS, THE AMALGAMATED CLOTHING WORKERS HAS ARRANGED THROUGH THE COMPANIES FOR WHOM THEY WORK TO SUPPLY A LARGE QUANTITY OF TEE SHIRTS, SHORTS, AND SWIMMING TRUNKS. THE HANES CORPORATION OF WINSTON-SALEM,

3.

NORTH CAROLINA, IS DONATING \$1,000 DOLLARS WORTH OF TEE SHIRTS. "

NOTE: SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOODRICH COMPANY ARE IN THE AUDIENCE. MR. FITCH, A DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS; AND MR. McCLAIN, THE DISTRICT MANAGER.

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NOTES FOR CAMP ROOSEVELT REMARKS

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