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~~Statement~~
Youth Employment

May 28 1970

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The Nixon-Agnew Administration has demonstrated an attitude of callous unconcern for our nation's young people, particularly those who need work most urgently this summer.

This year there are almost 400,000 more young people looking for jobs than last year. In the face of this, the Republican Administration is planning a summer job program that is little if any larger than last year. In addition, the Republican economic policies have brought us rising unemployment and this has made it more difficult for employers to hire young people this summer.

I use the term "callous unconcern" quite deliberately. Vice President Agnew, the Chairman of the President's Council on Youth Opportunity, in a position I occupied when I was Vice President, has never personally met with the Council since assuming office (Susan is checking this and will call if it isn't accurate). Equally serious is the fact that the last delegates meeting of the Council occurred 8 months ago.

In other words, with a summer jobs crisis looming on the horizon, the Nixon-Agnew Administration took no initiative whatsoever to meet this crisis.

And there is a crisis. For example, in Los Angeles youth unemployment is already 45 per cent and it will go higher once the schools have closed for summer vacation.

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ⓧ It's true -- the principles of the Council have never met. In other words, the President's Council on Youth Opportunity has never met since the Nixon Administration took office.

When I was Chairman of the Council and when President Johnson was in the White House, both of us spent considerable time and effort talking about this program, traveling around the country speaking to business groups, speaking to departments and agencies urging the fullest possible employment of young people. We believed in this program, and we did everything within our power to implement it.

An estimated 15.7 million young people age 14 to 21 will be seeking employment this summer. And more than 3 million who desire jobs will not find them.

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Throughout America this summer young people who want to work, who need work, will be denied that opportunity because Vice President Agnew and the Republican Administration were more interested in attacking young people than in doing something to help them.

Despite the Administration's neglect in this area, I say it's not too late to help our young people. I personally call upon our employers -- public and private -- to hire that extra one or two students who will be coming to them for employment in the next several weeks. I know it's difficult to do in present economic conditions. But there is no better investment ^{any} American can make in the future of our country.

S T A T E M E N T

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CRISIS IN SUMMER JOBS FOR YOUTH

Hubert H. Humphrey
May 28, 1970

One of the sad stories of our time is the callous neglect and callous unconcern that the Nixon-Agnew Administration has demonstrated for our nation's young people -- particularly those who need work most urgently this summer.

We are in serious difficulty. Over 15,700,000 young people between the ages of 14 and 21 will be seeking employment this summer -- and more than 3 million who want and need jobs will not be able to find them according to the most recent estimates. We have a summer job crisis looming on the horizon, and regrettably, sorrowfully, the Nixon-Agnew Administration has taken little or no initiative whatsoever to meet this crisis.

What are the facts in this regard? Vice President Spiro Agnew, the Chairman of the President's Council on Youth Opportunity, has never convened the full Council since taking office in January 1969. He has never personally met with the Council members. Today Vice President Agnew called together a second-level group of the Council to deal with the present summer job crisis. And did the Vice President attend this meeting? No, indeed, he left Washington to address a Republican fund raising luncheon in Huntington, West Virginia.

This is what I mean by callous neglect and callous unconcern. Despite the Administration's neglect in this area, we simply must act. And if the action doesn't come from Washington, then we must take the leadership right back home where we live. So,

Mr. Mayor, I ask you to take the lead now. Call in your governmental officials and your community leaders, and launch immediately a major program of youth opportunity in the fields of employment, of recreation, education, and community service.



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