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NAB's - 143,000 last yr  
short 37,000 of goal  
this yr goal 150,000

TESTIMONY ON

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

BY

SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT, MANPOWER, AND POVERTY

SPECIAL HEARING ON YOUTH POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

APRIL 28, 1971

Pres. Council on Youth  
Opportunity

MR. CHAIRMAN, YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN THIS NATION HAS REACHED EXTREMELY SERIOUS PROPORTIONS.

OF THE 10,400,000 YOUNG AMERICANS IN THE LABOR FORCE, AGED 16 TO 21, 1,600,000 -- 15.4% -- WERE UNEMPLOYED IN MARCH, ACCORDING TO THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

FOR BLACK YOUTH, 16 TO 19 YEARS OF AGE, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN MARCH WAS 32.3 PER CENT. FOR BLACK YOUTH LIVING IN POVERTY NEIGHBORHOODS OF THE NATION'S 100 LARGEST CITIES, IT IS AN UNBELIEVABLE 44.9 PER CENT.

THE PROBLEM IS NOT NEW. IT WAS TO MEET THE PROBLEMS OF YOUTH JOBLESSNESS AND POOR PREPARATION FOR THE JOB MARKET THAT I PROPOSED THE YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS BACK IN 1957 IN THE 85TH CONGRESS.

IN TESTIFYING BEFORE THE SENATE LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE IN 1963 ON THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ACT (S.1, 88TH CONGRESS), WHICH I HAD INTRODUCED, I STATED:

" . . . RECENT UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES RELATING TO YOUNG PEOPLE SHOW THAT THE PROBLEM IS ABOUT TO GET TOTALLY OUT OF HAND. THERE ARE NOW BETWEEN 800,000 AND 1 MILLION SCHOOL DROP-OUTS UNEMPLOYED IN THE UNITED STATES BETWEEN THE AGES OF 16 AND 21 YEARS. . . ."

IN THE EIGHT YEARS SINCE I TESTIFIED ON S. 1, THE PROBLEM HAS ABOUT DOUBLED, FROM 800,000 UNEMPLOYED TO 1,600,000.

ROBERT F. KENNEDY, THEN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,

TESTIFIED AT THAT SAME TIME:

" . . . WE HAVE FOUND THE PROBLEM (OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY) FAR MORE SERIOUS THAN WE HAD THOUGHT.

IT IS NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT WE ARE RACING THE CLOCK AGAINST DISASTER. THERE ARE 700,000 OUT-OF-SCHOOL UNEMPLOYED YOUTH IN THE COUNTRY NOW, AND THE NUMBER IS GROWING EVERYDAY.

MANY OF THEM FEEL, WITH SOME CAUSE, THAT THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE IS RIGGED AGAINST THEM. IS IT ANY WONDER THAT MORE AND MORE OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE TURNING TO CRIME IN A HOPELESS EFFORT TO CATCH UP? WE MUST GIVE THE MEMBERS OF THIS NEW LOST



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GENERATION SOME REAL HOPE IN ORDER TO PREVENT A  
SHATTERING EXPLOSION OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN YEARS  
TO COME. . . ."

S. 1 OF THE 88TH CONGRESS, THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ACT,  
PROPOSED TWO PROGRAMS -- A YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS AND  
A LOCAL AREA YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM, SOMETIMES REFERRED  
TO AS THE "HOME TOWN YOUTH CORPS."

ALTHOUGH THE LEGISLATION PASSED THE SENATE APRIL 10,  
1963, ON A VOTE OF 50 TO 34, IT DIED IN THE HOUSE RULES  
COMMITTEE.

BUT THE NEXT YEAR, 1964, BOTH PROGRAMS WERE INCLUDED  
IN THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT UNDER THE NAMES OF THE  
JOB CORPS AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS.

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YOUTH PROGRAMS UNDER THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION

DURING THE YEARS OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION, YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT HAS INCREASED STEADILY. ACCORDING TO THE 1971 MANPOWER REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, THE FIGURES ARE:

UNEMPLOYED YOUTH 16-19 YEARS OLD	
1968	839,000
1969	853,000
1970	1,105,000
1971	1,330,000 (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED RATE IN MARCH, 1971)

IN THE FACE OF THIS RAPID RISE IN THE ALREADY CATASTROPHIC RATE OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT, WHAT HAS BEEN THE RESPONSE OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION? LET'S LOOK AT SOME SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.

THE JOB CORPS

THE JOB CORPS -- WITH ITS URBAN AND RURAL CONSERVATION RESIDENTIAL CENTERS -- IS OUR MOST COMPREHENSIVE MANPOWER PROGRAM FOR YOUTH, AND THE ONE MANPOWER PROGRAM WHICH IS BEST ABLE TO WEATHER A RECESSION.

SOON AFTER TAKING OFFICE IN APRIL, 1969, THE ADMINISTRATION SLASHED THE JOB CORPS BUDGET BY \$100 MILLION, CLOSING 59 JOB CORPS CAMPS, DESPITE NATIONWIDE PROTESTS.

AT THE TIME THEY PROMISED TO OPEN 30 NEW "INNER CITY JOB CORPS CAMPS," AND TO CARRY OUT A TREMEMDOUS EXPANSION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR PROGRAM KNOWN AS JOBS -- JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BUSINESS SECTOR. THEY ASSURED US THESE TWO STEPS WOULD MORE THAN MAKE UP FOR 17,000 TRAINING SLOTS LOST IN THE JOB CORPS CUTBACKS.

TODAY, TWO YEARS LATER, ONLY NINE OF THE PROPOSED 30 INNER CITY JOB CORPS CENTERS HAVE BEEN OPENED. THE JOB CORPS BUDGET HAS DROPPED FROM \$282.3 MILLION AND 37,000 CORPSMEN IN 1968, TO \$170 MILLION AND ONLY 23,000 CORPSMEN IN 1971.

AT THE APRIL, 1969, SENATE HEARINGS ON THE CUTS IN THE JOB CORPS PROGRAM, THEN LABOR SECRETARY GEORGE SCHULTZ PLEDGED A \$420 MILLION JOBS PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 1970, PROVIDING 140,000 JOBS. BUT NEITHER THE FUNDS NOR THE JOBS MATERIALIZED.

THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE, IN ITS MARCH 24, 1971 AUDIT ON THE JOBS PROGRAM, REPORTED THAT IN FISCAL YEAR 1970 ONLY A TOTAL OF \$21.7 MILLION WAS SPENT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN THE JOBS PROGRAM.

AND FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM IN 1968 THROUGH  
JUNE 30, 1970, ONLY 48,351 TRAINEES WERE ON BOARD.

THE ADMINISTRATION FAILED IN ITS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO  
OPEN 30 NEW INNER CITY JOB CORPS CENTERS (TO PARTIALLY  
REPLACE THE 59 JOB CORPS CAMPS WHICH WERE CLOSED) BECAUSE  
IT UNDERESTIMATED THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN STARTING  
UP NEW PROGRAMS. FINDING ACCEPTABLE SITES HAS BEEN DIFFICULT.  
FINDING QUALIFIED SPONSORS HAS BEEN DIFFICULT. START-UP  
COSTS HAVE BEEN HIGHER THAN EXPECTED. BUT THESE ARE  
FACTS ANYONE WOULD KNOW AFTER A NUMBER OF YEARS IN  
OPERATING MANPOWER PROGRAMS. YOU DON'T SHUT DOWN OPERATING  
PROGRAMS AND THROW UP SUCCESSFUL NEW PROGRAMS IN THEIR  
PLACE OVERNIGHT -- NOT EVEN IN TWO YEARS, AS OUR  
EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN.

THE ADMINISTRATION FAILED IN ITS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO SPEND \$420 MILLION ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS PROGRAM, TO PROVIDE "140,000 JOBS," BECAUSE IT TRAGICALLY UNDERESTIMATED THE EFFECT WHICH THE RECESSION WOULD HAVE ON THIS PROGRAM. MANY OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS -- CONSCIENTIOUS AS THEY WERE -- COULD NOT GO ON HIRING DISADVANTAGED JOBS TRAINEES WHEN THEY WERE BEING FORCED TO LAY OFF VETERAN EMPLOYEES WITH HIGHLY DEVELOPED SKILLS AND SENIORITY. MANY JOBS CONTRACTS HAD 100% LAYOFFS. SOME CONTRACTS HAD TO BE CANCELLED SOON AFTER THEY WERE SIGNED.

AGAIN, ISN'T THIS SOMETHING WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE WE CLOSED 59 JOB CORPS CAMPS -- CAMPS WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SERVE THESE YOUNG MEN DURING THE DIFFICULT RECESSION PERIOD?

JOB CORPS THREATENED BY <sup>special</sup> REVENUE SHARING

Now, THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES TO ABOLISH THE ENTIRE JOB CORPS AS A NATIONAL PROGRAM, AND TO DISTRIBUTE THE JOB CORPS MONEY TO GOVERNORS AND MAYORS AS A PART OF "SPECIAL REVENUE SHARING." REVENUE SHARING IS AN ATTRACTIVE CONCEPT. THE CITIES AND THE STATES ARE DESPERATE FOR REVENUE. THE FEDERAL TAX STRUCTURE, THOUGH FLAWED, IS THE MOST PROGRESSIVE WE HAVE, FAR BETTER THAN THE SALES AND PROPERTY TAXES WHICH STATES AND MUNICIPALITIES MUST RELY ON FOR REVENUE.

BUT SPECIAL REVENUE SHARING REQUIRES VERY CLOSE EXAMINATION.

WHAT REVENUE IS TO BE SHARED? IN THIS CASE IT IS THAT SMALL AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT IS STILL LEFT TO THE JOB CORPS AND THE OTHER PROGRAMS LIKE IT.

TO MY MIND THAT IS NOT REVENUE SHARING, THAT IS NOT REORGANIZATION, THAT IS NOT REFORM, THAT IS THE SURRENDER OF THE FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP, THE KIND OF HELP WE OFFERED IN THE JOB CORPS PROGRAM.



THE JOB CORPS IS A PROVEN AND SOUND PROGRAM, THE MONEY WHICH FINANCES IT OUGHT NOT TO BE SOWN TO THE WINDS AS "REVENUE SHARING." THE PROGRAM OUGHT TO BE EXPANDED AND IMPROVED TO MEET OUR NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS

WHILE UNEMPLOYMENT OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUNGSTERS (AGE 16-19) HAS CLIMBED FROM 839,000 IN 1968 TO 1,105,000 IN 1970, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS REDUCED THE ENROLLMENT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS (OUT-OF-SCHOOL) FROM 62.7 THOUSAND TO 45.4 THOUSAND. IT NOW PROPOSES A FURTHER REDUCTION IN ITS FISCAL YEAR 1972 REQUEST TO 37,000.

IN FISCAL YEAR 1967 -- THE LAST FULL FISCAL YEAR OF THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION -- \$147.8 MILLION WAS SPENT TO PROVIDE WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES TO 79.3 THOUSAND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAM.

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IN 1970, WITH YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT GOING THROUGH THE ROOF DUE TO RECESSION, ONLY \$97.9 MILLION WAS BUDGETED FOR THE PROGRAM,

MEANWHILE, IN THE PAST NINE MONTHS, A WHOLE NEW DIRECTION HAS BEEN MANDATED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS PROGRAM BY THE ADMINISTRATION,

THE PROGRAM IS NOW TO SERVE ONLY THOSE WHO ARE 16 AND 17 INSTEAD OF THOSE 16 TO 21 AS PROVIDED IN THE AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION, THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT,

AND RIGID EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN BUILT INTO THE PROGRAM, TRAINING AND EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS THAT CAN PERHAPS ONLY INCREASE THE FRUSTRATION OF ENROLLEES IF JOBS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO THEM UPON THE COMPLETION OF THEIR PROGRAMS,

SUMMER JOBS

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 1.8 MILLION POVERTY YOUTH WILL SEEK JOBS THIS SUMMER IN THE WORST JOB MARKET OF A DECADE. AS I SAID EARLIER, 1.6 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE 16 TO 21 YEARS OF AGE ARE UNEMPLOYED AS OF RIGHT NOW. COME THE SUMMER, WHEN SCHOOL LETS OUT, THERE WILL BE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS MORE SEEKING WORK.

WHAT WILL THEY FIND? THE MATTER IS OF THE UTMOST URGENCY. HOW CAN THEY BE EMPLOYED?

FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS THE CONFERENCE OF MAYORS AND THE LEAGUE OF CITIES HAVE CONDUCTED A CAREFUL SURVEY OF THEIR MORE THAN 600 MEMBER CITIES TO DETERMINE THEIR NEED FOR ADDITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

THIS YEAR THEIR FIGURE IS 641,639 FULL TIME JOBS,  
DIVIDED ABOUT EVENLY BETWEEN THE 50 LARGEST CITIES  
AND THE OTHERS.

LAST YEAR, IN RESPONSE TO THE CONCERN OF MAYORS,  
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND CITIZENS ALL OVER THE NATION,  
THE ADMINISTRATION REQUESTED A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION  
IN THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE THAT WHEN FINALLY ENACTED  
IN MID-JULY PROVIDED FUNDS FOR 414,000 SUMMER JOBS OF 10  
WEEKS DURATION EACH.

THIS YEAR A SIMILAR NUMBER OF JOBS WERE BUDGETED,  
DESPITE THE DEMONSTRABLY GREATER NEED, AND THE DURATION  
OF THE JOBS WAS CUT TO 8 WEEKS.

THEN, ON APRIL 2, THE ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED THE ABOLITION OF THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON YOUTH OPPORTUNITY.

I HAD THE HONOR AS VICE PRESIDENT TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THAT COUNCIL WHEN IT WAS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER MARCH 5, 1967. I KNOW WELL THE CRUCIAL ROLE IT PLAYED IN PERSUADING BUREAUCRATS IN WASHINGTON TO MAKE SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FUNDS AVAILABLE, AND TO PROVIDE FUNDS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND VITAL INFORMATION TO CITIES ALL AROUND THE NATION WHO SOUGHT TO COPE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE NATION'S YOUNG PEOPLE. THE COUNCIL HAD PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE BOTH AS A PRACTICAL SOURCE OF HELP AND AS A SYMBOLIC RALLYING POINT FOR THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO AROUSE THE NATION TO THE NEEDS OF YOUTH.

I BELIEVE ITS ABOLITION IN THIS TIME OF THE HIGHEST YOUTH JOBLESSNESS IN OUR MEMORY IS KIND OF SYMBOLIC TOO OF THE PRIORITIES OF THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION.

PERHAPS THE OUTCRY AGAINST ITS ABOLITION HAS HAD SOME EFFECT. FOR ON APRIL 9, THE ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD SEEK A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$64.3 MILLION TO BRING THE TOTAL FUNDING FOR SUMMER JOBS REQUESTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO \$217.2 MILLION, ENOUGH FOR 514,000 JOB OPPORTUNITIES, EACH 9 WEEKS LONG (OR 462,600 JOB SLOTS ON A FULL-TIME BASIS), WHILE THAT IS CLEARLY INADEQUATE, AT LEAST THE ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED ITS POSITION EARLIER THAN IT DID IN PAST YEARS.

*Earlier than last year - 20 June*

IT IS MY VIEW THAT THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PLAYED AN INDISPENSABLE ROLE IN WASHINGTON.

I HOPE ITS DEMISE PROVES TEMPORARY. I COMMEND THE ADMINISTRATION FOR MOVING PROMPTLY IF INADEQUATELY TO MEET PART OF THE PROBLEM OF THIS SUMMER'S YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT.

IF ITS UNWISE ACTION IN ABOLISHING THE COUNCIL LED IN ANY WAY TO THE DECISION ON ADDITIONAL FUNDING, THEN THE DEATH WAS NOT ENTIRELY IN VAIN.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST IS STILL WOEFULLY INADEQUATE.

THE FULL AMOUNT REQUESTED BY THE MAYORS OF OUR CITIES FOR FUNDS FOR <sup>639</sup>641,000 JOBS IS A MINIMUM.

RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT ON JULY 14 1965

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I HAVE JOINED THE RANKING MINORITY MEMBER OF THE SENATE LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE, THE DISTINGUISHED SENIOR SENATOR FROM NEW YORK, MR. JAVITS, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THIS SUBCOMMITTEE, SENATOR NELSON, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER SENATORS, IN COSPONSORING AN AMENDMENT TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL TO PROVIDE \$144,628,359 IN SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING TO BRING THE TOTAL FOR SUMMER YOUTH JOBS TO THE \$308,628,359 NEEDED TO PROVIDE THOSE <sup>639</sup> 641,000 JOBS ON A TEN-WEEK BASIS.

I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ALSO MAKE A GREATER EFFORT THIS SUMMER TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM WITHIN THE EXISTING BUDGETS OF THE FEDERAL AGENCIES TO HIRE YOUNG PEOPLE IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

THIS IS ANOTHER OF THE EFFORTS WHICH THE PRESIDENT'S  
COUNCIL ON YOUTH OPPORTUNITY WAS DESIGNED TO CARRY OUT.

BEYOND EXISTING PROGRAMS

MR. CHAIRMAN, WITH YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AT TRULY  
CATASTROPHIC LEVELS I BELIEVE IT IS HIGH TIME TO MOVE  
BEYOND THE EFFORT TO PRESERVE OUR EXISTING YOUTH MANPOWER  
PROGRAMS, IT IS TIME TO EXPAND THOSE PROGRAMS SO THAT  
WE DO IN FACT MEET THE NEED.

THIS IS NO TIME TO PASS RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNDERFUNDED  
PROGRAMS TO OVERBURDENED LOCAL OFFICIALS.

IT IS TIME FOR US AS A NATION, AND US AS THE  
ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR NATION, TO MEET THE  
NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO AMERICAN YOUTH AND FUND A  
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM OF SUFFICIENT SIZE TO DO THE  
JOB.

EXISTING YOUTH TRAINING PROGRAMS ARE NOW UNDERMINED BY THE FACT THAT FOR MANY YOUTH NO REAL JOB OPPORTUNITY FOLLOWS HIS TRAINING OPPORTUNITY.

THIS SUBCOMMITTEE WAS TOLD BY SEGGIE COLLINS, A 24-YEAR-OLD WATTS RESIDENT, AT HEARINGS LAST YEAR IN LOS ANGELES THAT HE HAD BEEN IN THREE DIFFERENT TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND HAD NEVER BEEN ABLE TO LAND A DECENT JOB. OTHERS TESTIFIED THAT SEGGIE COLLINS' EXPERIENCE WAS TYPICAL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, BACK IN 1957, NOW NEARLY 14 YEARS AGO, I PROPOSED A PROGRAM TO PUT UNEMPLOYED YOUTH TO WORK ON CONSERVATION AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECTS.

WITH JOBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE INCREASINGLY HARD TO FIND IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR OF OUR ECONOMY I BELIEVE THE TIME HAS COME FOR A REALLY MASSIVE YOUTH PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.

WE ARE IN MUCH BETTER SHAPE TO MOUNT SUCH A PROGRAM NOW THAN IN 1957.

WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS ON WHICH TO BUILD.

FROM 1965 THROUGH 1970 OVER 2.8 MILLION YOUNGSTERS HAVE BEEN HELPED BY THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS, COUNTING ALL THREE OF ITS PROGRAMS, SUMMER, IN-SCHOOL, AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL.

THE YEAR-ROUND OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAM HAS PROVIDED  
NEARLY 400,000 YOUNGSTERS WITH MEANINGFUL WORK  
EXPERIENCE OVER THAT FIVE-YEAR PERIOD.

I BELIEVE WE HAVE ENOUGH EXPERIENCE TO MOUNT A  
REALLY SERIOUS PROGRAM. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD DO IT.

FIRST, IT NEEDS TO BE LARGE ENOUGH TO DO THE JOB.  
ONLY SERVING 45,000 YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE OUT-OF SCHOOL  
PROGRAM, AS THIS ADMINISTRATION DID IN 1970, IS NOT  
ENOUGH. WITH 1.1 MILLION YOUNGSTERS AGE 16 TO 19  
UNEMPLOYED ON THE AVERAGE DURING THAT YEAR, A 45,000 MEMBER  
PROGRAM WAS ONLY A DROP IN THE BUCKET.

I WOULD PROPOSE A PROGRAM FOR AT LEAST 250,000  
YOUNGSTERS EACH YEAR.

IN EXTENDING THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT, I HOPE THIS COMMITTEE WILL AUTHORIZE A PROGRAM OF THAT SCOPE.

SECOND, THE PROGRAM MUST PROVIDE REAL JOBS, JOBS THAT EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY KNOWS NEED DOING. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT HELPING TO PROVIDE A MORE LIVABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR NATION'S COMMUNITIES IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY, ESPECIALLY THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITIES AND OF PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS IN OUR INNER CITY NEIGHBORHOODS THAT HAVE THE VERY WORST DAY-TO-DAY LIVING ENVIRONMENTS IN THE NATION.

I WANT TO COMMEND CHAIRMAN NELSON FOR PROPOSING A COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT SERVICE LAST YEAR.

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT SERVICE

THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORIZATION FOR A COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT SERVICE WAS INCLUDED AS A SPECIAL PROGRAM IN THE EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER ACT WHICH CONGRESS PASSED LAST DECEMBER. AS DESCRIBED IN THAT BILL, WHICH THE PRESIDENT UNFORTUNATELY VETOED, THE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT SERVICE WOULD HAVE PROVIDED --

" . . . EMPLOYMENT ON A FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME BASIS FOR PERSONS TO HELP RESTORE A LIVABLE ENVIRONMENT IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS, INCLUDING RESTORATION OF HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS; THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS AND FACILITIES IN INNER CITIES AS WELL AS ROADSIDE RECREATION PROJECTS; AND SANITATION AND CLEANUP PROJECTS, INCLUDING SOLID WASTE REMOVAL. SUPPORT MAY ALSO BE PROVIDED FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AIDES IN COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, AND WATER AND AIR POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAMS. COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT SERVICE PROGRAMS SHALL BE ENCOURAGED TO INVOLVE VOLUNTEERS FROM THE COMMUNITY IN ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ACTION CAMPAIGNS."

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FINALLY, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE EXPANDED NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS PROGRAM I AM PROPOSING MUST INCLUDE A STRONG EDUCATIONAL ELEMENT. IT MUST BE FLEXIBLE, FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL ARE SHY OF THE CLASSROOM ATMOSPHERE, THE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH MANY HAVE ONLY LEARNED TO REGARD THEMSELVES AS HOPELESS FAILURES.

I WOULD SUGGEST CLOSE TIES WITH COMMUNITY COLLEGES. IN ONE EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS OVER 1,000 SUMMER NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS YOUNG PEOPLE WORKED SUCCESSFULLY AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN SAN FRANCISCO, NEW YORK, ST. LOUIS AND OTHER CITIES.

EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS LEGISLATION  
 IS BROADLY ENOUGH WRITTEN TO ALLOW SUCH A PROGRAM,  
 FUNDS SPENT TO EMPLOY YOUTH IN PUBLIC SERVICE  
 JOBS ARE MONIES SAVED FROM WELFARE PAYMENTS IN MANY  
 CASES. MONEY SPENT ACCOMPLISHING DESPERATELY NEEDED  
 WORK IS IN EVERY WAY MONEY BETTER SPENT THAN MONEY  
 SPENT IN WELFARE PAYMENTS.

FOR MOST OF US, FOR MOST OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, THIS  
 IS INDEED THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY. BUT FOR MILLIONS  
 THE REALITIES OF THEIR DAILY LIVES GIVES THE LIE TO  
 THAT GREAT PROMISE.

THEY EAK OUT AN EXISTENCE THAT IS PART WELFARE,  
 PART CASUAL JOBS, PART HUSTLING AND CRIME, WITH LARGE  
 PARTS OF IDLENESS AND EMPTY DESPAIR.

WE MUST DO BETTER FOR THEM. WE CAN DO BETTER FOR  
OURSELVES.

THEREFORE, I PROPOSE A FIVE-FOLD EXPANSION OF THE  
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS PROGRAM TO PUT UNEMPLOYED  
YOUTH TO WORK ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE  
EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS WHILE BEING GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY  
TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

AS PRESIDENT KENNEDY SAID IN HIS 1963 MESSAGE ON  
OUR NATION'S YOUTH:

"THE FUTURE PROSPECTS OF ANY NATION CAN BE DIRECTLY  
MEASURED BY THE PRESENT PROSPECTS OF ITS YOUTH."

LET US LOOK AT THE YOUTH PROGRAMS OF THE PAST  
DECADE AS THE PROMISING EXPERIMENTAL AND DEMONSTRATION  
PROGRAMS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN.

LET'S GET ON WITH THE JOB HERE AND NOW OF PROVIDING  
TRULY ADEQUATE PROGRAMS.

WHEN WE DECIDED AS A NATION TO GO TO THE MOON, WE  
DID NOT PROVIDE 10% OF THE MONEY NECESSARY TO GET THERE  
AND THEN CRITICIZE THE BUREAUCRATS FOR NOT DOING THE  
JOB. WHAT WE DID WAS PROVIDE THE CASH NEEDED AND THE  
ORGANIZATION NEEDED AND WE GOT THE JOB DONE.

IT IS TIME WE TOOK A SIMILAR HARD-NOSED AND REALISTIC  
LOOK AT YOUTH PROGRAMS AND PROVIDE THE CASH AND THE  
ORGANIZATION NEEDED TO DO THE JOB.

I SUBMIT THAT IF WE WILL BUT MAKE THE INVESTMENT,  
THE RETURNS TO THIS NATION WILL BE INVALUABLE, IN TERMS  
OF BOTH A STRENGTHENED ECONOMY AND THE HOPE AND PROMISE  
GIVEN TO ANOTHER GENERATION OF OUR PEOPLE.

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