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SPECIAL RADIO TAPE FOR STATION WMRN IN MARION, OHIO-----APRIL 29, 1963

I want to thank Station WMRN for this opportunity to comment on its recent editorial on the Youth Employment Act.

I will be brief.

First, the editorial broadcast a few weeks ago on this station says that my Youth Employment Act is "^Tstrictly political," and that it has won many co-sponsors in the Senate and House only because it is---and a quote--- "a Kennedy Administration measure and all the co-sponros are trying to climb aboard the Kennedy bandwagon."

Really, this is nonsense. The Senators and Congressmen who support this bill do so primarily because they believe it is a good bill and responsible legislation. ~~They are not climbing aboard the Kennedy bandwagon, because~~ ^{Most} of them supported the bill when I introduced it ^{six} ~~four~~ years ago---before President Kennedy took office.

(more)

It is grossly unfair
~~I would say also that it is a personal insult to every member of~~

the Senate and the House who co-sponsored this bill to suggest that they are motivated only by political factors. We learn in the Congress to judge issues on the basis of facts, and not on the basis of efforts to psych^(AN)analyze the motives of the men involved. It would be just as unfair for me to sugges^Y that radio stations are motivated only by a concern for dollar profits as it is to suggest that the backers of the Youth Conservation Corps are motivated only by politics.

There are a few facts which I want to record here in response to this station's recent editorial.

It was asked "why aren't some of these unemployed teen-agers subject to military service?" This I consider to be a below-the-belt attack on the Youth Employment Act. It is not true that any volunteer in the Youth Employment Act will be exempt from the draft. We have emphasized, in fact, that young men still face their military obligations and will get no favored treatment because of service in the Youth Conservation Corps.

(more)

Station WMMR also said

~~It was also suggested~~ that the Youth Employment Act program won't really accomplish anything in the way of training unemployed young men. It is called, in the editorial, a "leaf-raking, broom leaning corps." Once again, I suggest: let's give the listeners of this station the facts. The enrollees in the Youth Conservation Corps will receive practical on-the-job training in more than 20 different types of skills. In addition, they will receive classroom instruction through contact with local school authorities. I will be pleased to send a list of the specific types of job skills which can be learned in the Corps to any citizen who writes to me.

Finally, it was suggested that the Youth Employment Act would create a vast new youth movement but would not really do anything to cut down on youth unemployment. Both these arguments misrepresent the basic facts, and they are ~~mutually~~ contradictory.

The Youth Employment Act begins modestly---only 15,000 volunteers for the first year of operation. I and the other sponsors of the bill do not pretend that this will "solve" youth unemployment problems. But it is a

start. It is a positive step forward in the effort to help reduce youth unemployment in America. And to achieve that purpose, we need more than talk.

It is inaccurate to say that a vast new bureaucracy will be created by this program. The Youth Conservation Corps and the Hometown Youth Corps will be administered by existing Federal and State agencies.

Let me conclude by saying that the Youth Employment Act is not designed solely to reduce unemployment. Its basic purpose also involves vitally necessary conservation work on our public lands and forests. This is not a "make work" project. It is a positive program which will build up our great natural resources through the work of young citizens who want and need employment and training.

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