

SUBJECT: "The Projected Peace Corps"

PARTICIPANTS: Senator Hubert Humphrey (D.-Minn.)  
Senator Alexander Wiley (R.-Wisc.)

MODERATOR: Harry W. Flannery

Time: 13:26

---

FLANNERY: WASHINGTON REPORTS . . . TO THE PEOPLE!

President Kennedy told a recent news conference that he had sent a message to Congress proposing authorization of a permanent Peace Corps.

KENNEDY: This corps will be a pool of trained men and women sent overseas by the United States Government or through private institutions and organizations to help foreign countries meet their urgent need for skilled manpower. It is our hope to have between 500 to 1000 people in the field by the end of this year. It will not be easy. None of the men and women will be paid a salary; they will live at the same level as the citizens of the country to which they are sent, doing the same work, eating the same food, speaking the same language. We're going to put particular emphasis on those men and women who have skills in teaching, agriculture, and health. I'm hopeful that it will be a source of satisfaction to Americans and a contribution to world peace.

FLANNERY: Senator Hubert Humphrey, Democrat of Minnesota, plans to introduce a bill to set up the peace corps. This radio station and the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations take you to the office of the Senator and the Senate Office Building to talk about the Peace Corps, and after that a discussion on the same subject with a ranking Republican member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Alexander Wiley, Republican of Wisconsin. First Senator Humphrey.

Senator, I understand you have a bill for the Peace Corps.

HUMPHREY: Yes, I have. It's the product of a good deal of thinking and a good deal of planning on the part of the Peace Corps operation under Mr. Shriver and some of the private groups that have been keenly interested in the program of the Peace Corps along with some of my own thinking not only now but as we planned it a year ago.

FLANNERY: As I understand it, some of these private groups would be able to continue to operate under the auspices of the Peace Corps project.

HUMPHREY: Yes, very much so. In fact I have come to believe that the best work of the Peace Corps can be through the private groups, working with established international agencies as well as private foundations and private charitable organizations, missions, etc. It seems to me that the Peace Corps at the Washington level would be able to train men and women that were selected for Peace Corps work. The Peace Corps would then make available, through a sort of pool of skilled and competent trained young people, trained persons for the voluntary agencies. Of course, there would also be actual Peace Corps men assigned to the International Cooperation Administration, our technical assistance program, the United Nations technical assistance program, and to other U.N. agencies. The Peace Corps is a supplemental operation. It is an assist more than just a program on its own. It steps in to assist established governments, established international agencies, established groups who are doing tremendous work overseas, and, of course, our own national programs that are working overseas.

FLANNERY: Supposing we take an example. Father Hesburg, the president of Notre Dame, has been suggesting that it would be a good idea for universities like Notre Dame to train some of these young people to go to a particular area, to be acquainted with that

area, to know the language there, with the university in charge.

Would this sort of thing be provided for?

HUMPHREY: Yes, this certainly could be within the scope of the program. In fact we'll be using universities here in the United States and I imagine overseas to train the young men and women who will participate as Peace Corps personnel. This fits into the pattern of overseas operation administratively. The International Voluntary Service is already operating overseas.

FLANNERY: Wouldn't it be important, Senator Humphrey, to select the members of the Corps most carefully?

HUMPHREY: Careful selection is most important. Selection must be on the basis of background and physical fitness, moral fitness, patriotic dedication to our country, and to the work that they're going to be involved in. It'll also require a certain amount of what we call security screening because we do not want to see the Peace Corps injured in its wonderful purpose by infiltrators. I can well imagine that some of the Communist groups would like nothing better than to try to infiltrate. There'll be preventive precautionary measures taken to see that that doesn't happen.

There will be intensive training for the job, language training, and training in the customs, the religion, the mores, the habits and the patterns of the people in the area to which a peace corps person would be assigned. I think there also should be, as I've indicated to Commissioner Shriver, the head of the Peace Corps, a staging area, in the country where the young people will be assigned, in the area at least. There they can become acclimated.

Then you must expect that once and a while someone will bobble. There will be someone who won't do his job well. And there'll be the right to summarily dismiss persons who do not fit in. In other words, if a person is assigned to a private agency, that agency will have administrative control of the person. If that individual does not fit into the pattern, does not seem to get along, is incompetent, if he's done something wrong, they will have to be sent back. I don't think you can afford to fool around on this. This has to be in a sense a voluntary organization with the spirit and the desire to serve but with the kind of discipline almost that you have in a military organization.

FLANNERY: Will the members of the Peace Corps be paid?

HUMPHREY: There will have to be travel provided for, clothing provided for, medical care provided for, and there will be maintenance in the area where the individual is stationed. Also we will provide for payment to be held in reserves so that when the Peace Corps person returns to the United States, on deposit in account will be a limited amount of money that he or she has been able to accumulate which they didn't need overseas. This will be a kind of severance pay.

FLANNERY: We've been talking principally about those at the college level going into this operation. Should this not also include some who have technical skills?

HUMPHREY: Oh, indeed it should. In fact, I'm hopeful that we'll draw from our trade unions, our farm cooperatives, our rural life groups, from many of the voluntary groups where a person may not have any college training at all. What we want is not a college diploma -- what we want is skill. What we want is ability; what we want is physical fitness, moral fitness, spiritual fitness; what we want are people who are dedicated and dedicated to helping others. The Peace Corps will make its greatest contribution in three areas: basic agriculture, literacy, and finally health.

FLANNERY: Supposing this is, and I presume it will be, passed by the current Congress, how soon would the program be able to get into operation, Senator?

HUMPHREY: Right now, under the Executive Order of the President. There is sufficient law for a pilot project. We ought to have some Peace Corps personnel at work this fall. If we can pass this program before too far along in the summer -- which I think we can -- it will come along about the same time as the Mutual Security -- we ought to be ready with some Peace Corps personnel under the established program by late fall or around that period.

FLANNERY: Thank you, Senator Humphrey. Senator Humphrey's office is in the new Senate Office Building. Senator Wiley is in the old Senate Office Building. Senator Wiley, the new Administration as you know is moving ahead with plans for establishing a Peace Corps. What do you think of the idea?

WILEY: Well, I think the objectives are meritorious. The Peace Corps as now proposed differs somewhat from the previous experiments. Overall the corps in my judgment has a real potential for good if it's operated as it should be. At the same time serious mistakes could be committed that would adversely affect our interests abroad. Consequently, I believe we'd better take a good look and go slow.

FLANNERY: Would you tell us how it would get the manpower as proposed, Senator?

WILEY: Well, according to Mr. Shriver, the head of the corps, they would come through five different channels, grants to Peace Corps type programs carried out by private agencies. Trade unions for example, would be encouraged to participate in the program through arrangements with colleges, universities, or other educational institutions. Currently some 57 universities are working under ICA contract in 37 countries on development of our educational project. It will also work through other U.S. Government agencies, through the United Nations and other international agencies and through directly administered Peace Corps programs with the host countries.

FLANNERY: Senator, you mentioned the need to go slow. What are your reservations?

WILEY: Well, fundamentally, the Peace Corps, or any other program of that nature, depends upon the quality, the capability, the dedication of individuals involved in its activities. In regard to the corps these factors should be considered. First the careful screening of personnel to ensure enlistment only of individuals of high integrity, capability, dedication, and patriotism. Proper training in the language of the host country is very important. Obtaining the necessary skills to be a real help to the people of the land where they are. Proper education to avoid actions that violate the culture, custom, and sense of good conduct among the local people. The question also arises about the ability of individuals to adapt from our relatively high standards of living to the standards of the host country, sometime at almost a primitive level. For the volunteers, even though dedicated and idealistic, this will be no joy ride.

FLANNERY: How many individuals would such a project involve as you see it, Senator?

WILEY: Well, at most perhaps a few hundred, not thousands, and those should be sent only after it is ascertained that they are adequately trained, wanted and equipped to do the job. Eventually the program may expand, but I believe it would be a serious mistake to shot-gun ill-trained, ill-equipped students, regardless of how well meaning and dedicated they may be. To shot-gun them around the globe would be a very serious matter.

FLANNERY: Senator, from what you've said, I imagine that you're envisioning this project as one that would include not only young people but possibly those who are older and have the skills needed.

WILEY: Yes. If the program is properly directed; if the man in charge has the spirit of dedication and can infuse and enthuse those under him with the challenge that is here and they can become in fact real missionaries of the things that they stand for, then there is a real opportunity for putting that into action. But if they go out ill-trained and more in the field of adventure then it would be a great mistake.

FLANNERY: Thank you, Senator Alexander Wiley, Republican of Wisconsin, and Senator Hubert Humphrey, Democrat of Minnesota. To keep you up to the moment on major issues before Congress, your reporter, Harry W. Flannery, invites you to be with us each week at the same time for WASHINGTON REPORTS . . . TO THE PEOPLE!



April 11, 1961

#### DULUTH TO GET UNION-BACKED HOUSING PROJECT FOR ELDERLY

Duluth, Minn.--The Housing & Home Finance Agency has approved a loan of \$864,000 in federal funds to build the first union-sponsored housing project of its kind, a 65-suite apartment for elderly persons in downtown Duluth.

The private building venture was sponsored by union and employer trustees of the Duluth Electrical Workers Vacation Fund after a survey showed that elderly workers would prefer to stay in Duluth instead of moving after they retire.

Agency Dir. Robert C. Weaver approved the loan application under a program of direct loans for homes for the elderly, for which Congress last year appropriated \$20 million.

In Washington, Pres. Gordon M. Freeman of the Intl. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers commended IBEW Local 31 and vacation fund trustees for their work in planning the five-story apartment.

Pointing out that the project is unusual among housing projects for the elderly in that it will be built in the downtown section, Freeman said the sponsors decided to ask elderly prospects where they would like such an apartment to be built.

They found, said the IBEW president, that workers "wanted to stay where they could continue their active participation in community activities, without the need to set up new friendships and new relationships." He added: "So the fund selected a site served by transit lines, and in the heart of an area with stores and community facilities."

Officers of the Vacation Fund have set up a non-profit organization to build and operate the apartment. Planned for occupancy by July 1, 1962, it will have 46 efficiency suites, 16 with one bedroom and three with two bedrooms.

It will have a lounge, meeting room, snack bar, craft and hobby rooms, and a sun deck protected by glass shields. Units will be open to all eligible persons over 62 at rents ranging from \$51 a month for an efficiency unit, \$67 to \$80 for one bedroom and \$110 or \$115 for two bedrooms. (4/11/61)

-----

#### MEANY LAUDS USO ON 20th ANNIVERSARY

Washington--The "wholehearted participation" of organized labor in the 20th anniversary observance of the United Service Organizations has been pledged by AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany.

In a letter to USO chairman Harvey Firestone, Jr., he also expressed confidence that "the 13.5 million members of the AFL-CIO will continue their efforts in behalf of USO."

Joseph A. Beirne, president of the Communications Workers and an AFL-CIO vice president, pledged the continued cooperation of the AFL-CIO Community Services Committee, of which he is chairman. He noted that the USO program "finds a quick and easy response in the hearts of trade unionists and their families throughout the country." (4/11/61)

-----

## HAYES ATTACKS MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FEE-RAISING

Urbana, Ill.--Medical associations have attempted to "destroy the effectiveness" of union-won medical care plans by "arbitrarily raising" fees, Machinists Pres. Al J. Hayes has charged.

Addressing the annual educational conference of the Illinois State Council of Machinists here, Hayes said that the medical lobby is vigorously opposing health care for the aged through the social security system because doctors fear the government may begin "to analyze and question the sacred system of private fees."

The IAM president, an AFL-CIO vice president and Executive Council member, cited labor's "bitter experience" with fee hiking by the doctors. He declared:

"Time after time we have been able to get specific insurance payments to cover specific kinds of illnesses and disabilities, only to have the medical association erase these benefits by arbitrarily raising the fee structure.

"What happens, for example, is that the standard fee for an appendectomy is \$150. We negotiate with an employer to get insurance providing \$100 for an appendectomy. The next day all the doctors in town raise the fee to \$250. They get richer and we are no better off than we were before."

Hayes said that if medical payments were provided for under social security, instead of under private insurance, doctors "will be less able to engage in practices so directly at variance with the public good."

He called on union members to become "insurance salesmen" and help inform the people of the need to provide health care for the aged under social security as advocated by Pres. John F. Kennedy.

The "powerful and well-financed doctors' lobby" is trying to kill the health-care program, he warned, and declared that doctors have fought prepaid medical care "as though they fear the outbreak of an epidemic of good health."

Hayes said that financing health care through the social security system would mean that each worker would pay during his productive years "when he can best afford it, for the health care he will need in his retired years when he most needs it." (4/11/61)

-----

## HIGHER INTEREST OFFERED ON LONG-HELD SAVINGS BONDS

Washington--Millions of trade unionists holding Series E Savings Bonds that were issued from May 1941 through May 1949 have been advised by the Treasury Dept. that higher interest rates can be earned by holding these bonds for an additional 10 years.

Under new Treasury regulations, these bonds--the first of which will be 20 years old on May 1 this year--will earn a full 3.75 percent interest per year, compounded semi-annually, if held for the longer period.

The bonds, originally costing \$75, had a maturity value of \$100 at the end of the first 10-year period. By May of this year these bonds will be worth \$134.52, and if held for the next 10 years will be worth \$195.04. (4/11/61)

-----

## UAW, 'BIG THREE' AGREE ON ADDITIONAL SUB

Detroit--The Auto Workers have reached agreement with the industry's "Big Three" to insure additional supplemental unemployment benefits for laid-off workers during the period of the new federal temporary unemployment compensation law.

The union announced the signing of memorandums of understanding with the Ford Motor Co. and the Chrysler Corp. similar to agreements entered into earlier with the General Motors Corp. under which UAW members will receive a maximum of 39 weeks of SUB benefits. This new ceiling, the same as the one established under TUC, replaces the previous limit of 26 weeks.

The UAW also negotiated similar pacts for extended SUB benefits with the American Motors Corp. and the Eaton Manufacturing Co. (4/11/61)

-----

## ACTION TO CONTINUE ROAD-BUILDING URGED ON CONGRESS

Washington--The AFL-CIO has urged speedy congressional action to continue the nation's highway construction program and complete the interstate road network needed to meet the country's growing needs.

AFL-CIO Legislative Rep. George D. Riley in a statement to a Senate Public Works subcommittee asked continued authorization for the program under which funds from federal gasoline and diesel fuel taxes are earmarked for highway construction grants.

At the same time, he said, Congress should authorize direct appropriations from the federal treasury for relocation allowances for families, businesses and industrial plants displaced by new highway construction. (4/11/61)

-----

## TIME LOST IN STRIKES UP SLIGHTLY IN FEBRUARY

Washington--Idleness due to strikes increased from 700,000 man-days in January 1961 to 850,000 in February, or from eight-one hundredths to one-tenth of 1 percent of estimated working time, the Labor Dept.'s Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported. This was about a third less than in the two previous Februarys. Some 210 work stoppages involving 100,000 workers began in February, and 120 other stoppages involving 30,000 workers continued into the month. (4/11/61)

-----

## USE OF WORKERS' LEISURE CALLED CHALLENGE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

New York--Effective use of leisure time may help workers offset on-the-job boredom, Leo Perlis, director of AFL-CIO Community Service Activities, told a session of the 25th anniversary conference of the Public Affairs Committee here.

The average worker, he said, finds "no real satisfactions on the modern assembly-line, pushbutton job." He added that the situation poses a challenge to public and private institutions to help workers use their leisure for public and community service.

The CSA director urged the Committee to develop community legislative discussion groups, to broaden citizen participation on governmental advisory committees and commissions, and to enlist more participation on the boards and committees of the nation's more than 200,000 voluntary health and welfare agencies. (4/11/61)

-----



April 11, 1961

## UNION SKILLS TO BE NEEDED IN PEACE CORPS, SENATORS PREDICT

Washington--Major emphasis has been on young students in the projected Peace Corps, Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) asserted on Washington Reports to the People, AFL-CIO public service program, heard on 460 radio stations, but the corps will also include skilled trade unionists, farmers, teachers and doctors.

Humphrey said he expected that his bill to authorize the corps, will be passed at this session of Congress, with the corps in operation late this fall. Pilot projects, he predicted, will be under way before that.

Sen. Alexander Wiley (R-Wis.), ranking Republican member of the Senate Foreign Relations, of which Humphrey is also a member, said the objectives of the corps are good, but he urged that the U.S. "go slow."

"Fundamentally, the Peace Corps, or any program of that nature, depends upon the quality, the capability, the dedication of the individuals involved in its activities," he said. "These factors must be considered: careful screening, proper training in the language of the host country, obtaining the necessary skills to be of real help to the people in the visited land, proper education to avoid actions that might violate the culture, customs and sense of good conduct of the local people, and the ability of some persons to adapt from our relatively high standard of living to standards that are sometimes almost at a primitive level. For the volunteers, even though dedicated and idealistic, this will be no joy ride."

Both said that trade unionists would be needed. Humphrey said he was hopeful that "we would draw also from our farm cooperatives, our rural life groups, from many of the voluntary groups where a person may not have any college training at all. What we want is not a college diploma; what we want is skill."

Both also spoke of the importance of making certain that the corps is free of infiltrators.

"I can well imagine that some of the Communist groups would like nothing better than to infiltrate," Humphrey said. "There will be preventive precautionary measures."

Wiley felt that the project should be restricted to a few hundred persons at first.

"Eventually the program will expand," he declared, "but I believe it would be a serious mistake to shot-gun ill-trained, ill-equipped students, no matter how wellmeaning and dedicated they may be, around the globe."

(NOTE TO EDITORS: Mats of Humphrey and Wiley taken during interview being sent under separate cover.) (4/11/61)

-----

## TEXAS UNIONIST NAMED JOB OPPORTUNITY PUBLICIST

Washington--John McCully, public relations director of the Texas State AFL-CIO, has been named information director for Pres. John F. Kennedy's newly created Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity.

McCully, who has headed the public relations operations of the state body since its formation by merger in 1957, has been connected with Texas labor since 1951 when he became public relations director of the former Texas State Federation of Labor. (4/11/61)

--0--



file — HAN TRANSCRIPTS  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

GEORGE MEANY  
PRESIDENT

WM. F. SCHNITZLER  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

WALTER P. REUTHER  
WM. C. BIRTHRIGHT  
DAVID DUBINSKY  
EMIL RIEVE  
MAURICE A. HUTCHESON  
L. S. BUCKMASTER  
RICHARD F. WALSH  
JAMES A. SUFFRIDGE  
PAUL L. PHILLIPS

GEORGE M. HARRISON  
JAMES B. CAREY  
CHARLES J. MACGOWAN  
WM. L. MCFETRIDGE  
A. J. HAYES  
JACOB S. POTOFKY  
LEE W. MINTON  
O. A. KNIGHT  
PETER T. SCHOEMANN

HARRY C. BATES  
WM. C. DOHERTY  
DAVID J. McDONALD  
JOSEPH CURRAN  
JOSEPH D. KEENAN  
A. PHILIP RANDOLPH  
JOSEPH A. BEIRNE  
KARL F. FELLER  
L. M. RAFTERY



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

GEORGE MEANY  
WALTER P. REUTHER  
GEORGE M. HARRISON  
JAMES B. CAREY  
HARRY C. BATES  
DAVID J. McDONALD  
DAVID DUBINSKY  
WM. F. SCHNITZLER

815 SIXTEENTH STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON 6, D. C. NATIONAL 8-3870

Win  
April 12, 1961

The Honorable Hubert Humphrey  
The Senate Office Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator:

Many thanks for your cooperation in connection with the recent program in the WASHINGTON REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE series.

Enclosed is a script of the program. Also please note page 4 of the AFL-CIO News Service which is sent to 450 AFL-CIO newspapers.

If you would like to have additional copies of either, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Harry W. Flannery  
Radio Coordinator

HWF:mb  
oeiu#2-afl-cio

Enclosures



# 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](http://www.mnhs.org)