

TV Script - PEACE CORPS, with Sargent Shriver as guest.

November 7, 1963

BOB COAR: This is Washington and this is Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota. Today, the Senate Majority Whip has with him a distinguished guest. To introduce that guest here is Senator Humphrey.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Well, thank you. Yes, our distinguished guest today is one who is well-known, not only to the people of Minnesota, but to the people of the United States, and more and more so to all of the people of the world. I am very happy to have as my guest, Sargent Shriver, Mr. Shriver is the Director of the Peace Corps. And the Peace Corps is celebrating about its second birthday now. It just presented its Second Annual Report to the Congress, and by the way, I want you to see a copy of that report because it is available to you. The law requires that Mr. Shriver present to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House an annual report of the activities of the Peace Corps. Members of Congress can get this report and send it out to you. It is filled with illustrations and a truly dramatic story of the achievements and the work of the Peace Corps. Well, Mr. Shriver, I'm not going to take

the time. You're the expert on the Peace Corps and we're just anxious to get a word or two from you as to how you think it's going and how you like your job?

SARGENT SHRIVER: Well, answering the second question first, I like my job.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Fine.

SARGENT SHRIVER: Answering the first one about how the Peace Corps is going, I think it is going exceptionally well.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: How many people in it now?

SARGENT SHRIVER: We have 7,200 people now, and we are working in 46 different countries, mostly in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. But the thing which has been most encouraging to me about it is the extraordinary number of Americans who come forward and the great skill that many of them have. We have over 400 registered nurses, for example in the Peace Corps. We have 20 or 30 M.D.'s, fully-fledged doctors.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: How much do they earn per month?

SARGENT SHRIVER: \$75 dollars a month.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: \$75 dollars a month, and the nurses?

SARGENT SHRIVER: As a matter of fact, everybody in the Peace Corps gets the same pay. Except the Directors, you know I only get a dollar a year. But everybody who is a volunteer gets \$75 dollars a month. That's kept for them back here in the United States. They don't get that to spend abroad. It's kept for them payable upon their return. But if you are 18, 19 year old farmer, a 4-H worker, or a PH.D., you get the same amount.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: And you need both types of workers, don't you?

SARGENT SHRIVER: We certainly do.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: We in Minnesota have particular interests in the Peace Corps, Mr. Shriver. As I recall, our university does a little work for you, doesn't it?

SARGENT SHRIVER: The University of Minnesota has trained several Peace Corps groups, one the most recent one going to Pakistan. And they've done a fine job for us. Some people don't realize that the Peace Corps volunteers always need specialized training for the countries to which they are sent. We just don't send somebody over to Asia because he wants to go to India or Pakistan. He has to go, for example, to the University of Minnesota for three months. He learns the language of the country, he learns about the economical, agricultural, geographical and social history. He learns about America, his own country, so that he

qualified to answer questions that are asked him about the United States.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: And you have an intensive training program each year and then you take that training program out into the field. Is that correct?

SARGENT SHRIVER: ~~Is-that-correct~~ Yes, it is.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: I have presented to me by your office, Mr. Shriver, a list of Minnesotans, volunteers overseas. And by the way, I am mighty proud of it. We have over 200 Minnesotans that are presently in the Peace Corps.

SARGENT SHRIVER: Well, we are proud of that too. Actually Minnesota is one of the top ten states in the Union in supplying Peace Corps volunteers. In fact, I think, on a per capita basis, Minnesota is either first or second of all the States in the Union in supplying Peace Corps volunteer.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Well, I want to make it quite clear that we would like to be first. I hope that this program will motivate some of the people who want to volunteer for the Peace Corps. What do you need? I mean, what kind of skills do you need right now? Why

SARGENT SHRIVER: Well, you need everything. The demand for

Peace Corps volunteers has gotten so great that we do really need teachers from elementary school through university. Farmers of all kinds, ^{animal} husbandry people, veterinarianians, corn hog farmers, wheat farmers, rice farmers, people from the medical profession, not just doctors or nurses, but lab technicians; we need skilled craftsmen, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, diesel mechanics, automobile mechanics. We need lawyers.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: You don't need any senators, though, do you?

SARGENT SHRIVER: We do need politicians, we do need people who have a sense of other people, who can work with other people. That's one of the most important qualities that a man needs in the Peace Corps, or a woman.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: By the way, Mr. Shriver, in looking over the list of Minnesotans, I noticed the name of Mr. Oscar P. Wholgan, mechanic, and Mr. Arthur Wholgan, of Argyle, Minnesota. Now isn't Mr. Wholgan the one -- well, we often look upon the Peace Corps as for just young people. How old is Mr. Wholgan?

SARGENT SHRIVER: Mr. Wholgan was 70 a few months ago. He celebrated his 70th birthday in the Peace Corps, at work in the city of Tunis, in Tunisia, North Africa. Arthur Wholgan is an expert diesel mechanic, and he is over there working in diesel repair shops for the Peace Corps in Tunisia.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: So what you really need is to be young at heart. Isn't that correct?

SARGENT SHRIVER: We even have little pamphlet--I was looking for one here for all the people in the Peace Corps. Here's one right here. It tells older people the kind of work they are best specifically best-qualified to do in the Peace Corps. We have over 400 people more than 50 years of age in the Peace Corps now.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: By the way, I was just going to hold these pamphlets so that the camera might be able to get a glimpse of them. We have pamphlets here on trade and Technical School graduates in the Peace Corps. Geology in the Peace Corps, American Labor, you need people in the labor movement, don't you? Health professions?

SARGENT SHRIVER: Definitely.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: The community development opportunities for junior college graduates in the Peace Corps, and here's the registered nurses in the Peace Corps, engineering, political, medical professions, women in the Peace Corps, librarians, you just name it, the Peace Corps really covers the whole gamut of social organizations.

SARGENT SHRIVER: Well, the truth is, that as of today, we have over 400 different jobs on file in Washington which we have been asked to fill by foreign countries. Anybody who has the

right health, the right attitude, the right character, and good intelligence, should be able to serve their country successfully through the Peace Corps overseas.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: I noticed that you said the University of Minnesota trained for Pakistan and in this Second Annual Report there is a wonderful picture here in the very back of the Report. I don't suppose that will reflect very well in our camera, but this picture shows the young lady 27 years of age, she is from Kansas City, as I recall, who is the, what is her profession, here?

SARGENT SHRIVER: She is a psychiatric nurse. She is the only one in the entire country of Pakistan. She takes care of a whole hospital of 500 women patients part of the day, and the rest of the time, she is working in another hospital for men. She is an extraordinary woman. Well, Senator, since you are calling attention to this particular pamphlet, I'd like to call your attention to the front of the same pamphlet. Here on the front is a description, a short description of the work being done in Caracas, Venezuela, by a boy named Jerome Paige, he's 28 years old. I know why you are smiling, but the reason the Senator is smiling is that he visited in Caracas and met Mr. Paige; because of Senator Humphrey's interest lots of baseball equipment and athletic equipment and other types of equipment were sent to Jerome Paige working in the

slums of Caracas, of Venezuela, has helped him to become a tremendous success. Here in the picture, you can see on the wall of the building CUBA SI, YANKEES NO! That's where he is working, right in that environment, with the people up 'til now who have said CUBA SI, YANKEES NO, but Jerome Paige, with the help you have given him, has turned out to be a great success, in these slums where he is working.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Well, I was delighted to see those pictures of Jerry Paige, he is a remarkable young man, he is working in the field of recreation, and I recall going up to that slum area, the most unbelievable, broken-down, area that I have ever witnessed. In fact, there wasn't even a road going up there at first. You had to carve it out of the dirt, and the building of the playgrounds there and how at first the Communists actually torn down the back-ball stop of the baseball field.

SARGENT SHRIVER: That's right.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: And by the way, they love baseball in Latin America. And I wish those Minnesota Twins, by the way, would go down, and we've got a few Latin Americans on our baseball team, go down there and play some games. It would be a good idea, because they love American baseball. Speaking now of the work of the Peace Corps, I want to just show a few photographs that you have made available through your splendid organization, I think tells a wonderful

story. You mentioned something about doctors. Now here is a photograph, from Togo. And tell us a little bit about that, Mr. Shriver.

SARGENT SHRIVER: Well, I think this man in the picture is an extraordinary man, an extraordinary American. He is a doctor, he has his national boards in Pediatrics and in Internal medicine. He is about 33 years old. He has gone to Togo along with 6 other American doctors and 20 American nurses and they on behalf of the Peace Corps are running a full scale hospital up country in Africa, in a place called Socotee, that's about 500 miles up into central Africa. That's the only hospital in an area where they serve about 500,000 Togolese. Now Togolese, I want to make clear, is in charge of the hospital, we only work for the people. But most of the people and the staff are Americans, Peace Corps volunteers.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Well, now we have another -- that's a remarkable story, that's a beautiful picture too, a doctor taking care of that little child -- here is a photograph, as I recall from West Pakistan. This is a Peace Corps, American Peace Corps worker with apparently some of the young farmers. Is that correct?

SARGENT SHRIVER: That's correct. We do quite a bit of agricultural work with farmers such as are shown in this picture. Our men are doing 4-H Club work, agricultural economics, various types of agronomy, animal husbandry, and we need lots of them. The great

tragedy today is that this country, our country, the United States has performed the greatest miracle of agricultural production, food production, in the world, but we don't have enough Americans who are willing to go overseas and tell the rest of the world how to do it. This

SENATOR HUMPHREY: This is desperately needed in under-developed areas. Now here is a remarkable picture of a young American Peace Corpsman down in El Salvador, in Central America. What's he doing?

SARGENT SHRIVER: Well, down there, we're trying to help the El Salvadorians to develop little local industries so that they can get some cash of their own. They can't afford to continue to live from hand-to-mouth. Now in this case, he has helped this woman create a little cookie business, and as you can see she has just brought out into the market-place a big basket of cookies, and you can see the customers are pretty pleased with what she's got.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Yes, indeed. By the way, ^{don't} ~~the~~ Peace Corpsmen even teach people how to build homes.

SARGENT SHRIVER: Yes.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: I noticed there was a pilot project down in the Puerbo Rico or Virgin Islands, I think it was in the Virgin Islands or one of these areas where there was a little home-building

program.

SARGENT SHRIVER: Actually, Senator, in most cases we are just training, but when we actually go out, for example, the Dominican Republic, we do build homes and schools and other structures.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: By the way, we have time for about one more photograph which tells a marvelous story. Here is the photograph from Malaya, and what, needless to say you can tell us what's going on, but why don't you tell us what's happening in Malaya.

SARGENT SHRIVER: Well, we have 35 nurses in Malaya. This is one of them. They work in maternity centers, and so for all over Malaya. The Minister of Health said that this was the sort of thing which moved Malaya ahead a whole generation in medical services. Our nurses out there have done a magnificent job, we have about 200 volunteers in that country, in addition to the nurses.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: That's amazing, and what a wonderful picture. By the way, I hope that you good friends and neighbors will write in information on the Peace Corps and I appeal to our fellow Minnesotans and all persons in our upper midwest area to give real thoughtful consideration to volunteering for the Peace Corps. I think this is the finest expression of American life and the export of American ideas and know-how abroad. You know, I'm going to conclude on this note with you Mr. Shriver. All the things I've had a hand in in Congress, I know of none which has pleased me more than the Peace Corps, and of all the Administrators we have in

Washington, I know of none of whom I am more proud than you, sir. You have made a remarkable record. And what do you think of the prospects for the future?

SARGENT SHRIVER⁴: Well, we are very optimistic. People are volunteering for the Peace Corps now three times the rate they did when we first started. The House just last week approved \$102,000,000 for us for next year. I hope the Senate goes along

SENATOR HUMPHREY: We're going to do it.

SARGENT SHRIVER: And with that amount of money, and with the continued support of the people in Congress, I think we can make a growing success of this work.

SENATOR HUMPHREY: Well, I can tell you that this "child" so to speak of two years will have a chance to grow to full maturity. I am happy to be with you in this program, and to have had a share in it, and I am delightful that you told us this story.

END

MINNESOTA TOPS IN PEACE CORPS

It is appropriate that Minnesota has produced ^athe highest number of Peace Corps volunteers, on a per capita basis, than any other state.

For the "father of the Peace Corps" is Senator Hubert H. Humphrey who on June 15, 1960 offered the first legislation to establish the Corps. Since then, he has worked consistently in behalf of the Corps and in recognition of this, he was recently asked by Sargent Shriver, head of the Corps, to speak to its Washington staff at its second anniversary meeting.

In a TV interview done with Shriver, the Senator pointed out that over 200 Minnesotans were participating individually as volunteers while the University of Minnesota was training people from other states, too.

Since the Peace Corps was set up, over 7,200 American men and women have volunteered to serve and are, today, at work in 46 countries. Humphrey noted recently that 67 Minnesotans are working in Africa, 38 in the Far East, 74 in Latin America, and 27 in the Near East and South Asia.

Humphrey emphasized that the Peace Corps is for the young at heart, regardless of age. He said, "One of the eldest members of the Peace Corps, Mr. Arthur Wholgan, is from Argyle, Minnesota. He is an expert diesel mechanic who recently celebrated his 70th birthday in Tunisia. But people of all ages, with widely varying backgrounds, talents, and skills are serving--farmers, doctors, teachers, nurses, plumbers, lawyers, mechanics, veterinarianians.

"The Peace Corps is the finest expression of American life and the best export of American ideas and know-how abroad. Of all the things I've had a hand in in Congress, I know of none which has pleased me more than the Peace Corps."

Humphrey concluded by urging "my fellow Minnesotans to give thoughtful consideration to volunteering for the Peace Corps."



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