

Charles Dugg - 13th Dist
Telegrams

Mayor Cavanagh
Sen M. Namara
Sen Hart

OPENING REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AT
MEETING WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS AND STUDENTS,
PHILIP MURRAY SENIOR SCHOOL IN DETROIT

Mr. Lynn Townsend

Chrysler -
outstanding example
of cooperation with
the Negro school
youth corps

I come to you from the Chrysler

Corporation where, with officials of that great
company and with leaders of the United Auto

Workers, I witnessed a demonstration of the

benefits which can flow from the common efforts of Government,

of labor and management.

When the trainees under the

manpower training project in progress there have

completed their studies, the auto industry will be

benefited by the addition of superbly trained


workers --

the labor movement will have contributed to
the welfare and to the prospects of previously
unemployed and underemployed men -- and
this city and your nation will be the better
for it.

From ^{the} ~~a~~ Chrysler Corporation to a
Phillip Murray High School is a short journey,
but a symbolic one. It is a journey which could
be made in any city in America -- but in none
more appropriately than Detroit. For Detroit
typifies what can be done by a people unified
in spirit and resolute in their determination.

- 3 -

And now I come to talk with you
about another critical issue -- one which
summons the best efforts of each of you and of
the organizations and interests which you represent: —
the future of the young people in our ~~ethnic~~ *nation* ,



(3)

OPENING REMARKS OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT
AT MEETING WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS AND
STUDENTS, PHILIP MURRAY SENIOR HIGH
SCHOOL IN DETROIT

Handwritten: L. J. [unclear]
I welcome the occasion to meet with you this
Handwritten: L. J. [unclear]
afternoon to discuss the urgent national problems of
school dropouts and youth employment.

Handwritten: L I come to Detroit in my capacity as Chairman of the
President's Youth Opportunity Task Force, a group of
Americans concerned with *assuming* giving every young person in
this country an opportunity to finish their schooling and
to acquire a challenging and rewarding job.

Handwritten: L. J. [unclear]
It is a special pleasure to come to Detroit because this
Handwritten: [unclear] city, under the leadership of your dynamic young Mayor,
Detroit Jerry Cavanagh, has set the pace in conducting enlightened

and effective programs to deal with the problem of school dropouts.

✓ ~~But, even though~~ ^{and} you have already accomplished a great deal, I have every confidence that you will do even better in the future.

✓ I know, for example, of the Detroit Job Upgrading Program sponsored by the public schools of this city.

Job upgrading

✓ Started in 1949, the "Job Upgrading Program" has enrolled nearly 10,000 dropouts--with heartening results.

✓ I know that you have received approval for a new work training program for 14 and 15 year old young people--a program to deal with the junior high school youngster before he reaches the critical dropout stage.

✓ I know of your Skills Center where thousands of youth and adults have been given essential job training and employment counseling.

I know that many of your labor unions and your businesses have collaborated closely with state and local job training programs, and with the federal government, to provide not only training but a guaranteed job at the conclusion of that training.

I know that the Women's Advertising Club in Detroit mounted a major public service campaign to get school dropouts of this community back in school. And I understand your stay-in-school campaign met with overwhelming success.

All of these accomplishments demonstrate one vital factor in any school dropout effort: the resources of the entire community must be mobilized and focused on this critical issue.

Schools must revamp and revitalize their curriculum, to make sure they are offering meaningful and worthwhile

courses that meet the needs of contemporary American life.

Businesses and the labor unions must make sure they are offering job and apprenticeship opportunities to young people so that they may become full participants in the economic life of this community.

The civic and service organizations must organize programs to communicate with actual or potential school dropouts, demonstrating a personal interest in the future of this young person--and thereby motivating him to continue his education and training.

and, Why should we do this? ??

For two basic reasons:

1) If school dropouts continue at the present pace, we will have 32 million adult non high school graduates in the labor force by 1975. This nation cannot afford this immense waste of human resources, and

2) We have the moral obligation to see that no human being is consigned to a life of insecurity, poverty and all the attendant evils which plague the untrained and unskilled worker in today's technological society.

One statistic is especially relevant to this situation: more than four-fifths of our school dropouts have the capacity to finish high school. Our challenge today is to guarantee that these young people have this opportunity.



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