

~~Miss out~~ Mr. Vanden Heuvel
Cole

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AT THE TRAINING SESSION
FOR PROJECT STEP UP, CARDOZO HIGH SCHOOL, JUNE 27, 1966
Wash. D.C.

6 to 15 yrs

Step-up

Today you begin your training for Project Step Up --
a vital part of the comprehensive summer program for the
young people of the District of Columbia.

This meeting is the culmination of many months of
planning and hard work by the Summer Planning Committee,
and you should be proud to be part of this exciting program.

Several months ago I was asked by President Johnson to
assume general responsibility for making sure that all
federal programs relating to special summer activities were
operating at the peak efficiency. At that time I expressed
the hope that we could make Washington summer programs a model
for the rest of the nation.

This morning I can say this goal has been achieved.

I know of no city or town today whose summer programs
match those of the District. Beginning with Project Head
Start, continuing with Project Step Up, Operation Champ,
special educational and remedial programs sponsored by the
school system, and culminating with a comprehensive youth
employment program, each age group has an opportunity to
participate in constructive, exciting and simply enjoyable
summer programs.

And these programs have been directed specifically at those areas of the city most in need.

This is all good news. But it also presents each of us with this challenge--to insure that the potential is realized--that the planning and organization pays off in a wholesome, constructive summer for thousands of our District youngsters.

Everything we have tried to do and everything that has been achieved will be wasted if the programs themselves do not meet our expectations. ~~H~~

① In recent weeks the national media have been full of dire predictions about what the summer months will hold for our big cities--Washington included.

Summer I hope very much these predictions will be proven false. But I must repeat one theme which I have emphasized in many cities across our country: summer should be a time of opportunity for our youngsters. It is not a question of stopping riots. It is a question of meeting the urgent personal needs of our young people.

Summer is a time to give thousands of teenagers their first introduction to the world of work.

Summer is a time to provide physical recreation, cultural enrichment and supervised play for those too young to hold a job.

Summer is a time to get our young people from culturally deprived homes off on the right foot through Project Head Start.

Summer is a time for all of these things--if we plan wisely and if we execute and implement our plans.

Washington has tried to do this through the Summer Planning Committee.

All segments of the Washington community were drawn into these discussions--the Council of Churches, the D. C. Recreation Department, the D.C. Public School System, the Health and Welfare Council, UPO and the D. C. Government.

I want to commend everyone who participated in this venture. You understood the vital importance of coordination and cooperation among all public and private bodies concerned with summer problems.

I have just received from Charles A. Horsky, Advisor to the President on D. C. Affairs, a memorandum setting forth plans for a Conference on Summer Programs for Children and Youth to evaluate the results of our work this summer and to make plans for 1967 and beyond.

⌞ I understand the Conference will be held in the Departmental Auditorium on October 18, 19 and 20, 1966. This Conference will give us an opportunity to continue this process of developing a model summer program here in Washington -- a program which can be studied and used by other cities throughout the United States.

Finally, I know you are looking forward to your work this summer.

It will be challenging and exciting.

It will be rewarding.

⌞ You will touch the lives of thousands of D. C. youngsters who would otherwise find summer not a time of opportunity but a time of boredom, frustration and idleness.

⌞ Your work will also require great ~~results~~ of patience, understanding and a sense of humor.

→ I recently paid an unannounced visit to one of our District playgrounds to see how the special lighting was working. It was an exciting experience for me. It also demonstrated to me once again the great opportunity we have to help our young citizens become self-respecting, responsible

*Shenwood
Playground
10-16
H.C.*

Lighting

members of this community.

Yes, we do have a great opportunity. And I know each of you will make the most of it.



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