

REMARKS
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
OCTOBER 19, 1966

What you are planning to do here today and tomorrow for the young people of the District of Columbia should be repeated in every major city of the United States.

We couldn't quite get Home Rule here this summer, so for the time being I guess I can be counted as one of the District's ad hoc mayors -- along with your Commissioners, Charles Horsky and the United State Congress.

Today we have the chance to stir up the programs and public and private institutions that affect our children and young people day by day.

I don't mean to say they aren't doing a good job with their resources. But it is good, too, to innovate, to experiment, bring teachers and students together in something other than classroom programs. — For example

--Let young people learn that they can make a contribution through volunteer work to their neighborhood.

--Toss a ball around with a Redskins quarterback.

--Go down to the Smithsonian and find what an exciting heritage of invention and ingenuity America has brought to the world.

--Visit an arts institute and see and feel the emotions of men expressed in ways never realized before.

--Learn of the contribution peoples of every race have made to the history of this nation and to the cultures of the world.

L We should be carrying on all these programs, every day.

h But with the right kind of summer programs we can do it better, with less rigidity, and we can experiment to find out where new breakthroughs can be made year-around in recreation, education, work opportunities, and youth services to communities.

It is my hope that with your planning, careful budgeting and fiscal management, and the right cooperation from all the Executive agencies, we can make greater progress in the District next summer than has ever been made before toward reaching every child and young person. That should be our goal ... I believe it can be done.

Say, We had a lot of fun this year.

Playgrounds were lighted -- what an obvious and simple thing, but it took some doing.

yes Some swimming pools collapsed, but a lot of youngsters were wet and cool in those hot days.

We should set as our goals for this city of the nation, and for every major city:

Not one idle child.

Not a vacant and unused playground.

Not an educational and recreation facility unused, but all opened and staffed for seeking horizons of the body, mind, and spirit.

Not one concert seat unfilled, or one ~~work~~ ^{vacancy}
~~position vacant~~ ^{unfilled}

We should involve not just the public and private
resources of the District but of the entire Washington
metropolitan area.

Our community stretches far beyond the District
line. Into this conference, if it has not already been done,
and certainly into our future planning, should be brought
the resources that can mobilize the entire Washington ^{metropolis} area.

I'd like to see the major universities planning with
you on how they can better become summer centers of new
outreach for the youth of our city.

Why shouldn't we find new ways of putting the college
student receiving work-study support to work with every
community agency?

I am convinced that we have only begun to tap the
talents of our university and metropolitan senior high school
students for summer programs.

well,

What could they do? We know that in this country about a million youngsters drop out of schools each year before high school graduation, and the experts tell us that the majority of these are not below average potential.

They are below average performance, but not potential!

↳ Their reading skills are low, they are low in math skills, but potentially they are good readers and have good potential for learning mathematics.

↳ The majority of these dropouts are quite capable of finishing high school, but we have to reach them.

↳ We have to find the people and the means to make them want to finish. *go on with their education*

So, Let's put our college students to work on these problems this summer.

↳ We can come up with new ways of tutoring, working with small groups where teaching skills are sharpened and individual concern is expressed. We must stop and reverse this terrible human waste.

LBS
L The President has asked the Vice President to keep
a year-around task force working to get the maximum impact
from federal programs for summer. (Submitted our Task
force Report - evaluation
suggestion

L We are doing just that. There are new federal
resources available in every community of the nation.

We are learning from last summer's experience
L and if we learned anything, it is that to make the best
impact... to get to the children who really need the help,
we have to do a year-around job to be ready for the
opportunities we have with these children during the
12 summer weeks.

L We know, for example, that nationally we made a very
fine overall numerical record of summer jobs... and shot
over our goal of one million. But what we also know is that
we really did not reach the Negro youth with the full impact
of this program. Now we have to find out why, and with your
help, devise the 1967 programs to overcome this failing. —

Negro youth

↳ We know that one of the long-range benefits of summer work programs is the catalyst of experiences that keeps a potential drop-out in school. New horizons are seen, undreamed of opportunities flashed across a mind filled with the drudgery of slum life.

↳ One result of our understanding is the United States Civil Service Commission's agreement to work in career opportunity programs with the summer government job programs. In every major center where the United States government is employing summer young people, there will be programs conducted under skilled personnel officers to introduce public and private career opportunities for these summer workers.

↳ That isn't a very complicated idea, but it is a good example of how a little experimentation here in the District of Columbia now turns into a national undertaking.

Well, there is work to do in this meeting. You know that one of your ad hoc mayors wants to work with you.

We are going to do this job better than ever in the summer of 1967.

That's because all of you here are starting to get that job done.

Our goals for the lost children of summer are quite simple:

Fun, happiness, hope, cheer, new horizons and a new feeling that they are the children of a society, and people, and a community that really cares. Cares not just about today, but about their individual plans, and preparations and goals for their lives.

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