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MARCH 18, 1967 FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT CHANGE MARCH 18, 1967 State-Local Coo More young Americans will be seeking work this summer of 1967 than ever before, and as the chairman of the President's Council on Youth Opportunity I appeal to you for help. -- 2 million 16 to 21 year olds will fail to find a job unless

you and other public and private leaders act.

-- even if we do as well as we did in 1966 -- and we did well in finding more than a million jobs for young people, cutting their unemployment rate 6.3 percent from the previous year -- total youth unemployment will be 10.5 percent.

-- and for nonwhite youth, even if we do as well as last year, there will be 22.8 percent unemployed.

2. In a few days you will receive a formal appeal from the President and from his Council on Youth Opportunity. We will be appealing also to the mayors, and to business, industry, labor and religious and civic organizations. We will ask you to lend the great prestige of your office to a national effort to open up job opportunities for these 2 million young people who would otherwise be idle, and frustrated -- and resentful. We will suggest three general steps you may wish to take:

> -- Form a task force at the state level of the groups I have mentioned plus your top state officials. This task force, in your name, could encourage the groups they represent

to open up new opportunities for summer jobs.

- -- Encourage the agencies and offices of your state government to dig deep in order to provide new jobs for youth, just as we ask private employers to do.
- -- Issue a proclamation calling upon these groups to join with you in this effort and declaring the month of June, 1967, Youth Opportunity Month.
- 3. We should also start now in a maximum effort to provide additional thousands of children with a camping adventure -- an opportunity to spend some time away from the crowds and heat and aimlessness of the city streets. The President's Council on Youth Opportunity will encourage a national campaign to help local groups public and private make certain that no bed in a summer camp lies empty when a child of camping age is available to fill it. Your help in this effort too will be essential.

Jobs Training - Education Retreation Camping

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON, D.C.

FOR YOUR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

(Drafts of materials for appeal to Governors -- not yet released but scheduled soon)



HELP THEM HELP THEMSELVES

THE YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CAMPAIGN FACT SHEET

This summer, more young Americans will be searching for work than have ever searched for it before.

It's expected that 400,000 more 16 to 21 year-olds will enter the job market than did last year, pushing the total in this age group seeking work to 12,714,000. About 2 million of these, or 16 percent, will fail to find a job unless we do something about it.

For some, not finding a job will mean not returning to school.

For others, unemployment may mean the beginning of a long, frustrating effort to become self-sufficient.

In 1965 and 1966, Youth Opportunity Campaigns were successful in finding needed extra jobs for young people because of the whole-hearted support and cooperation of business, government, industry, labor and religious and civic organizations in this National effort.

In 1966 alone, despite a 16 percent increase in the number of 16 to 21 year-olds seeking work, the number of youths unemployed was cut 6.3 percent from the previous year.

But, all youth did not share equally in the chance for a summer job.

- -- Nonwhite boys had 3 times the unemployment rate that white boys had.
- --- For nonwhite girls, it was almost as bad; their unemployment rate was 2.5 times that of white girls.
- -- Overall, nonwhite young men and women suffered a

 23 percent unemployment rate last summer -- for
 white youth, it was 9 percent.

We must do better this year.

If we do as well as we did in 1966

- -- Total youth unemployment -- white and nonwhite will be 10.5 percent, a drop of 0.2 percent.
- --- Among the white youth, 8.7 percent will be unemployed,
 a drop from 9 percent last year.
- -- But for nonwhite youth, 22.8 percent will be jobless.

We are faced with the challenge to do better, particularly for those young people who in the past have fared the worst.

By a little extra effort, by a few more jobs among the many, by a determination that this generation will not turn its back on prejudice, on disadvantage, on ignorance and on poverty, we can provide summer jobs for this future American generation in numbers equal to the numbers who seek them.

1967 is the year to help them help themselves.

THE VICE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON

Dear Governor:

I need your help.

This is the third year of the Summer Jobs for Youth Campaign which seeks to help young people of our country who want to help themselves. About 2 million of these youngsters (16 to 21) leaving classrooms in June are unwilling victims of economic and educational disadvantages which disallow their coming in contact with opportunities to advance themselves. They know, and we know, that summer jobs can make it possible for them to return to school in the fall and that meaningful training opportunities can set others on the road to real careers that will assure their becoming good and useful citizens.

As Chairman of the Youth Opportunity Council I am asking all governors to lend the prestige of their offices to this vital effort.

A proclamation of endorsement, read at a well advertised press conference would provide an appropriate inauguration of the campaign in your state. Your continuing, personal endorsement of this effort among the leaders of the government, business and labor communities would certainly bolster the chances for an even greater success in 1967.

The campaigns in the past helped our young people and our country. If you will subscribe to this effort or if you have other plans aimed at relieving this problem please write and let me know of your efforts so I might acknowledge them.

Sincerely,

Hubert H. Humphrey

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CAMPAIGN

Woven into the national fabric are threads that weaken it -- that make it sometimes ravel or tear. One of these threads is unemployment, particularly among youth.

Hundreds of thousands of young people walk the city streets and rural roads, in search of meaningful employment. Hundreds of thousands more work part-time at tasks that bring them neither monetary nor emotional satisfaction.

In the last two years, we have been reaching out to help them with special summer employment programs. In 1965, the first Youth Opportunity Campaign created a million extra jobs for young men and women between the ages of 16 and 21.

We bettered that effort in 1966, when America's response to the need for "Summer Jobs for Youth" produced more than a million new opportunities.

Now, in June 1967, two million youngsters will join the job market who will have no help unless it is ours. Many of them could be on their way to becoming tomorrow's replacements for the left-behind Americans of today ... unless a continued effort is made by private industry, by American labor, and by local, state, and Federal governments to prevent that from happening.

To help these youngsters help themselves I am asking the Vice President, as Chairman of the new President's Council on Youth Opportunity, to appoint task forces of responsible leaders in 30 major cities of our Nation, who will give their time and efforts to finding summer jobs and opportunities for those young people who most need help.

Theirs will be a great task, but they cannot do it alone. They must have the support and cooperation of all our people. I am asking for that cooperation now.

The Private Employer's Role

The private employer supplied the great majority of the more than one million extra opportunities last year. Again his help is most essential of all.

Thousands of smaller businesses and offices throughout the land, who have already demonstrated a willingness to help in this endeavor, can do so again.

Governors and Mayors, labor unions, trade associations, civic and fraternal groups, churches and colleges have already demonstrated that they can find extra places for our young citizens. They can do so again.

It is important that we begin immediately.

Many employers will hire extra help directly this summer. Others will hire young persons through their local state employment service offices. In either case, I ask that word of what they have done, including the name of the trainee, be forwarded by mail to --

The Vice President of the United States Youth Opportunity Campaign Unit Washington, D. C. 20500

It will be appropriately acknowledged.

All boys and girls 16 through 21 who want to work this summer, and who do not have assured jobs, should immediately contact the nearest State Employment Service office. If this is difficult, write to the Department of Labor, Youth Opportunity Campaign Unit, Washington, D. C. 20210.

The Federal Government's Role

I am again directing the government departments and agencies to lead this campaign. They should make every effort to find meaningful work or training opportunities this summer for young men and women. These opportunities will be given so far as is practicable to those boys and girls, aged 16 to 21, who need them most because of their economic or educational disadvantages.

The young men and women who want a chance to work and who are denied that chance cost this country more than it can afford.

All America can help them help themselves. We do it for the sake of the America to come.

PROCLAMATION (States)

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has again called upon all Federal, State and local Governmental agencies and departments and all private employers throughout the nation to cooperate in providing summer employment opportunities for millions of young Americans leaving school in June, and

WHEREAS, last summer, the State of was able to
provide youths 16 through 21 with jobs over and above tho
generally provided during the summer, and
WHEREAS, this month in the State of more than
young men and women from 16 to 21 will be seeking summer work, and
WHEREAS, our youth constitute our future and represent our greatest
resource, and
WHEREAS, summer work experience is needed to provide these youths
with training in job discipline, future careers and earnings to make
possible a return to school in the fall,
THEREFORE, I, Governor of the State of, do
hereby declare and proclaim the month of June, 1967 YOUTH OPPORTUNITY
MONTH, and encourage all citizens to join with me in developing extra
work and training opportunity this summer for these young Americans
who represent our State's future citizens and leaders.

Minnesota Historical Society

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