PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON YOUTH OPPORTUNITY



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NOTES FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

June 7, 1967

Douglass Pool

I am particularly glad to be introduced by such an outstanding representative of this neighborhood -- probably outstanding aspect of summer program is broad involvement of citizen groups in its planning -- 20 neighborhood councils in various areas working for months -- despite great problems, plans soon go into operation -- programs by as well as for people of Washington - your programs -- like summer programs, pools have been subject of citizen activity -- not long ago, government agencies would have built facilities without consulting with neighbors -- here community groups been involved in discussing and planning playground - so it is your pool, not Recreation Department's -- important we work to make citizen participation even more effective in all aspects of government, such as securing participation from very start.

Citizen activity particularly great in Anacostia -- about year ago

Rebels with a Cause organized and brought attention to problems of youth
generally and Anacostia in particular -- Anacostia received more attention
ever since - symbolic that 3 of 4 new pools are in Anacostia -- Concentrated Employment Program start in few weeks in Cardozo and Anacostia
providing jobs and job training for 4,000 people - been so many television

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shows and newspaper stories on Anacostia that soon people wonder if rest of Washington being forgotten -- no longer forgotten part of Washington.

Rebels with a Cause become famous all over city and even country -showed what youth can do when organize and work for benefit of everyone -their effort produced network of neighborhood youth centers all over city
which is model for country.

This pool only part of what will be done here -- to have basketball and tennis courts, community center, trails, and picnic areas -- be one of the finest recreation centers anywhere.

This pool bears great name in American history -- Frederick Douglass was great Negro and great American -- as leading abolitionist was in line of great protestors against injustice -- after Civil War, marshall and then recorder of deeds in Washington -- Minister to Haiti -- closely connected with Anacostia, dying here in 1895.

These new pools show D.C. can meet its problems -- only year ago, D.C. had 8 outdoor pools - one opened in Northeast last summer - today opening four new ones, three in Southeast and Southwest -- increase 60 per cent, 8 to 13 (plus two indoor pools).

Before last year, no special pools for children -- last summer temporary pools leased -- not work out, bad sanitation, faulty structure, high maintenance -- now 15 new permanent walk-to pools for young children.

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Important as accomplishments represented by pools are, not enough to provide recreation or even jobs for summer - we know must deal with more important problems -- housing, employment, education, crime, health -- those are basic problems -- same dedication and urgency needed to meet these problems as produced these pools.

(Final admonition to kids) - if 14 or over, get jobs by going USES - regardless of age participate in summer recreation activities -- stay in school -- keep working together to make community better for everyone.

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Fort Stanton was Civil War Fort -- played its part of protecting Washington in war which freed Negro -- must now make that freedom real and complete -- job of all of us.

This pool, like one at Douglass, shows what can be done by joint effort -- half money from D.C. budget, appropriated by Congress -- half from Land and Water Conservation Fund of Department of Interior -- much of money of Fund from purchase for \$7 annual passes to 2,500 Federal recreation areas -- so joint effort of several Government agencies and millions of American citizens all over country.

Not just pool -- structure being replaced by community center -- should become hub of community life -- so all people can organize together and participate in decisions which affect them.

(Admonition to kids) - if 14 or over, get jobs by going to USES - participate in summer recreation activities -- planned by people in neighborhood -- stay in school.

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Oxon Run Pool

Symbolic to be introduced by neighborhood leader -- community groups been involved in planning this playground -- so it is your pool and playground -- just like your neighbors been involved in planning summer program -- so it is your program.

Important organize for better of community -- efforts of tenants of Valley Green (public housing) show what can be done -- adults give time to supervise childrens' programs and teen-age clubs -- classes for adults in typing, baking, and sewing.

(Admonition to kids) - if 14 or over -- get jobs by going to USES -- participate in summer recreation programs -- stay in school -- keep working together to improve community.

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Going to be marvelous center -- don't think I'm biased by saying it will be best in city -- besides pool, center has been completely redone and about to be opened -- this center used to be dog pound -- it will have community rooms, arts and crafts -- be real community center -- about to redo outdoor area -- adjacent softball field will soon have lights (may be done by June 7).

(Final admonition to kids) - if 14 or over, get jobs by going to USES -regardless of age -- all participate in summer recreation -- stay in school -work with Southwest House and other groups to improve community.

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Lighting represents projects all over Washington -- until year ago only 18 of 137 playgrounds lit at night -- over 101 of 137 now.

Allow greater use of playground -- programs until 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday, instead of until dark -- dances on weekends can last even later until 11 p.m. -- allow children to do useful things rather than be left idle. Shows what we can do in District when everyone gets together.

This public housing project soon be place for new kind of center -provide all kinds of services to tenants -- should also be center for
organization to improve community by activities of tenants themselves.

(Admonition to kids) - if 14 or over, get jobs by going to USES -participate in summer recreation activities -- planned by people in own
neighborhood -- stay in school.

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