

✓ May 12 Sumner
✓ Dean Phillips
✓ Mr. Roy Kline

• Summer Jobs
• Part Time Jobs

TALKING POINTS FOR BUSINESSMEN'S LUNCH IN COLUMBUS
September 29, 1967

Negro Leadership

1. Plans for Progress is one of the many groups working
on this difficult problem of expanding job opportunities for
all citizens.

a. These companies are looking at how to upgrade
employees.

Upgrade

Columbus
"Call of Post"

Amos Lynch

b. How to remove personnel barriers from entrance
requirements like mandatory high school diploma.

Personnel

c. How to recruit among the hard core.

Recruit

2. Some of you are already participating in Plans for
Progress, and I hope I can stimulate you to do more. Others
of you may be interested in considering joining in developing
a program under the Plans for Progress idea and coming aboard
this national effort.

"Things are Changing"

Today I wanted to share with you some recent ideas that

I heard discussed and explained by Secretary Willard Wirtz talking

2100 Young People - Summer Employment
Youth Oppn Program

✓ Communicate -
✓ Earn & Learn
✓ Participate to Progress
✓ OIC's

at a meeting of corporate executives a few days ago who were interested in this problem of reaching the hard core unemployed in our center cities:

-- national August unemployment 3.8 percent low

-- 76.2 million employed; 2.9 unemployed

-- we are producing annually 1.5 million new jobs in the U.S. industrial community.

-- to bring urban adult Negro unemployment which in our cities ranges from 9 to 40 percent down to this national average, we need only 330,000 new jobs

If we could get 225,000 jobs in one hundred cities, we could break the back of this disadvantaged unemployment as far as the major cities of the United States are concerned.

This doesn't solve rural unemployment particularly in the South nor teenage, but it is a reasonable achievable goal

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The whole administration is actively seeking ~~the innovative~~ proposals for federal participation to do this job. I want to tell you about two of them:

a. Watts Manufacturing -- Aerojet General.

- 500 hard core employed
- wholly-owned Aerojet General subsidiary
- one-third of male employees have felony records
- Negro company management
- new employee brought in under the "buddy" system
- full resources Aerojet General management and engineering to back up this plant
- employees to own shares of stock when company is profitable

b. Pride, Incorporated -- Washington, D.C.

- government funded; militant Negro youth leadership
- started as summer employment; now funded \$2 million year round
- beginning with simple clean up public rat control type programs
- now encouraged to work young men into training spots and perhaps even start some own business ventures

* * *

If the summer tells us anything, it is the great desire of those in America's slums to share their part of the pie.

They want to be their own small businessmen, help manage their own stores and plants, help police their communities, show that they can be given the opportunity to become responsible participants in the full life of the economic and civic community.

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Suggested Remarks for Vice President Humphrey--Dayton, Columbus, Ohio

There has been racial unrest in Dayton and Columbus and many other cities. I am sure many of the business and civic leaders are asking now: "Why did this happen here? Why did this happen to us? We have tried to do something about jobs for minorities. We have been aware of the problem."

Operation Back-up

I am familiar with the work of the Plans for Progress Local Councils in this area such as Columbus, Dayton and Cincinnati--groups of businessmen who have met with civil rights representatives to try to find jobs for Negroes. I am aware that the Columbus council conducted a program called "Operation Back-Up," through which member companies volunteered personnel executives to man recruiting stations in the "inner city."

"The people cry for peace. But there is no peace." Why?

We have learned that anything can trigger a disturbance. A minor police incident, a routine arrest, a rumor concerning racial mistreatment. A Brandeis University study has revealed that "the higher the grievance level in the ghetto, the more minor the incident required to start a riot." This same study shows that lack of communication between the races is a crucial issue which must be resolved.

Consider therefore, how much worse the disturbances in these Ohio cities might have been if the Plans for Progress councils did not exist--if no effort at all had been made to establish a meaningful contact between races. Consider how bleak the future can loom if such efforts are not pursued diligently and greatly intensified.

There is evidence that no city can "insure" itself against riots or buy off trouble in advance unless and until equal opportunity for all Americans is completely implemented. But the disturbances are dramatic evidence that this is no time to falter in efforts to heal the malignancy. If there has been a step backward, there is an even greater need for two steps forward.



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