

STATEMENT

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CAMPAIGN

WASHINGTON, D. C.

APRIL 22, 1968

Four years ago the Federal Government had no summer youth opportunity program. Today I have been conducting an intensive review of where we stand in our efforts to reach disadvantaged young people this year with summer jobs, educational programs, sports and recreation, and arts, cultural and entertainment activities.

I have just come from the first meeting of the Citizens Advisory Board on Youth Opportunity, recently appointed by President Johnson. These outstanding private citizens have given freely of their talents and time in helping us mount an effective and comprehensive program of youth activities, with

special emphasis on the urgent needs which arise during the summer when the schools close.

∟ Within the hour I will convene a unique and innovative attempt to review the status of our summer youth programs in the 50 largest cities through closed circuit TV.

∟ In each city the local leaders responsible for a successful youth opportunity program have gathered--the Mayor, Superintendent of Schools, Youth Coordinator for summer programs, Community Action Director, Metropolitan Chairman of the National Alliance of Businessmen, and key leaders representing business, labor, youth groups and participating voluntary associations.

∟ Through the closed circuit facilities of NBC-TV, these leaders will examine progress in meeting all major segments of the summer youth opportunity program.

We believe this format--one which includes Government officials and private persons who are cooperating on the summer youth program--will be extremely useful in fully mobilizing the community resources which are essential to success.

└ We also plan to answer questions about the Federal Government's contributions to the local summer youth programs.

└ ~~Let me be exceedingly frank.~~ └ Since I last reported on the status of summer youth programs at the Youth Opportunity Conference on January 29, 1968, we have made considerable progress in all areas of endeavor. I will enumerate the specifics of this progress shortly.

At the same time, however, we also recognize the need for an increased sense of urgency and commitment in the remaining weeks.

I know of no city currently satisfied with its present summer plans, even though many cities have far surpassed prior levels of activity.

↳ We have prepared detailed summaries of the Federal support for summer youth activities. ↳ Excluding the funds allocated to the states under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act--funds whose expenditure in the summer is entirely a matter for local decision--we forecast that the Federal Government will make available under various programs approximately 490 million dollars. ↳ This compares to approximately 448 million dollars last year.

↳ In the crucial area of jobs, we forecast almost 800 thousand jobs for disadvantaged youth this summer, including the 200 thousand jobs from the private sector committed by the National Alliance of Businessmen.

Last year Federal support produced approximately 550 thousand summer jobs for disadvantaged youth.

↳ Your press kits contain a detailed listing of other activities of the President's Council on Youth Opportunity during the past months. I will enumerate only the major highlights of this record:

--The Neighborhood Youth Corps has been brought to last year's level--294 thousand jobs--through reprogramming of funds and administrative adjustments.

--The Office of Economic Opportunity has allocated 35 million dollars of special summer program funds more than two months earlier than last year.

--The Teacher Corps has agreed to enlist one thousand
local Teacher Corpsmen in summer youth activities.

--By May, 43 Mayors' Councils on Youth Opportunity
will be operating among the 50 largest cities.

--A National Communications Coordinator has been
named, Dan Seymour, President of J. Walter
Thompson Company, and 50 local coordinators are
assisting the Mayors' Councils on Youth Opportunity
in presenting the local program to the community
and in mobilizing local support.

--A National Entertainment Committee has been
established to make available the services of professional
entertainers to the 50 cities.

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- The National Endowment for the Arts will make grants between 25 thousand dollars and 50 thousand dollars to 16 major cities to promote summer arts programs for disadvantaged youth.
- In cooperation with the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, regional teams of sports and recreation consultants will work with local officials in designing sports and recreation programs in the inner city. Ed LeBaron, the former quarterback for the Washington Redskins and now a lawyer, will direct this summer sports program.
- A National Sports Committee for Youth Opportunity has been appointed to solicit additional support for these programs. Chairman of the Sports Committee is James Oates, Chairman of the Board of the Equitable Life Insurance Society.

Troester

Mr. Oates serves with Dr. Carl Troester, Executive Director of the American Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, and one of our great Olympic champions and great Americans, Jesse Owens, ~~who is with us this afternoon.~~

--An outstanding example of private support is the photographic program supported by the National Association of Photographic Manufacturers. Cameras, film, instruction, and developing facilities will be made available to inner city youth free of charge--a creative educational program is planned.

--100 voluntary organizations are actively cooperating in the programs of the President's Council on Youth Opportunity, at the national, state and local levels.

- A highly detailed and specific Manual for Youth Coordinators has been prepared and distributed to all persons involved in planning summer youth programs.
- The field staff of the President's Council on Youth Opportunity has been in the cities providing planning assistance. The Washington staff has been expediting program requests and helping in formulating national programs.
- With the cooperation of the Advertising Council, a special advertising campaign to generate support for summer programs has been prepared. In cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, the "Summer Jobs for Youth" promotional campaign has been launched.

--Many local school systems are keeping their schools open all summer and have designed a number of highly innovative summer programs. I have met personally with the superintendents of schools of the nation's largest school districts.

This is only a listing of the highlights. Many additional activities are noted in the material you have received.

The Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders notes that "segregation and poverty have created in the racial ghetto a destructive environment totally unknown to most white Americans." As I have noted on many other occasions, I endorse the principal conclusions and recommendations of this Report.

The program of the President's Council on Youth Opportunity is conceived as a beginning in the change of this environment, especially in terms of the constructive activities available to young people when school lets out for the summer.

∟ We have accomplished much toward this goal. But we also acknowledge that more must be done.

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