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NAB's - 143,000 last yr
short 37,000 of goal
this yr goal 150,000

TESTIMONY ON

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

BY

SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT, MANPOWER, AND POVERTY

SPECIAL HEARING ON YOUTH POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

APRIL 28, 1971

Pres. Council on youth
opportunities

MR. CHAIRMAN, YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN THIS NATION HAS
REACHED EXTREMELY SERIOUS PROPORTIONS.

OF THE 10,400,000 YOUNG AMERICANS IN THE LABOR
FORCE, AGED 16 TO 21, 1,600,000 -- 15.4% -- WERE
UNEMPLOYED IN MARCH, ACCORDING TO THE BUREAU OF LABOR
STATISTICS.

FOR BLACK YOUTH, 16 TO 19 YEARS OF AGE, THE UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE IN MARCH WAS 32.3 PER CENT. FOR BLACK YOUTH LIVING
IN POVERTY NEIGHBORHOODS OF THE NATION'S 100 LARGEST
CITIES, IT IS AN UNBELIEVABLE 44.9 PER CENT.

THE PROBLEM IS NOT NEW. IT WAS TO MEET THE PROBLEMS
OF YOUTH JOBLESSNESS AND POOR PREPARATION FOR THE JOB
MARKET THAT I PROPOSED THE YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS
BACK IN 1957 IN THE 85TH CONGRESS.

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IN TESTIFYING BEFORE THE SENATE LABOR AND PUBLIC
WELFARE COMMITTEE IN 1963 ON THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ACT

(S.1, 88TH CONGRESS), WHICH I HAD INTRODUCED, I STATED:

" . . . RECENT UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES RELATING TO
YOUNG PEOPLE SHOW THAT THE PROBLEM IS ABOUT TO GET
TOTALLY OUT OF HAND. THERE ARE NOW BETWEEN 800,000
AND 1 MILLION SCHOOL DROP-OUTS UNEMPLOYED IN THE
UNITED STATES BETWEEN THE AGES OF 16 AND 21 YEARS. . . ."

IN THE EIGHT YEARS SINCE I TESTIFIED ON S. 1, THE
PROBLEM HAS ABOUT DOUBLED, FROM 800,000 UNEMPLOYED TO
1,600,000.

ROBERT F. KENNEDY, THEN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,

TESTIFIED AT THAT SAME TIME:

" , , , WE HAVE FOUND THE PROBLEM (OF JUVENILE
DELINQUENCY) FAR MORE SERIOUS THAN WE HAD THOUGHT.

IT IS NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT WE ARE RACING
THE CLOCK AGAINST DISASTER. THERE ARE 700,000
OUT-OF-SCHOOL UNEMPLOYED YOUTH IN THE COUNTRY NOW,
AND THE NUMBER IS GROWING EVERYDAY.

MANY OF THEM FEEL, WITH SOME CAUSE, THAT THE
WHEEL OF FORTUNE IS RIGGED AGAINST THEM. IS IT
ANY WONDER THAT MORE AND MORE OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE
ARE TURNING TO CRIME IN A HOPELESS EFFORT TO CATCH
UP? WE MUST GIVE THE MEMBERS OF THIS NEW LOST



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GENERATION SOME REAL HOPE IN ORDER TO PREVENT A
SHATTERING EXPLOSION OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN YEARS
TO COME. . . ."

S. 1 OF THE 88TH CONGRESS, THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ACT,
PROPOSED TWO PROGRAMS -- A YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS AND
A LOCAL AREA YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM, SOMETIMES REFERRED
TO AS THE "HOME TOWN YOUTH CORPS."

ALTHOUGH THE LEGISLATION PASSED THE SENATE APRIL 10,
1963, ON A VOTE OF 50 TO 34, IT DIED IN THE HOUSE RULES
COMMITTEE.

BUT THE NEXT YEAR, 1964, BOTH PROGRAMS WERE INCLUDED
IN THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT UNDER THE NAMES OF THE
JOB CORPS AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS.

YOUTH PROGRAMS UNDER THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION

DURING THE YEARS OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION, YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT HAS INCREASED STEADILY. ACCORDING TO THE 1971 MANPOWER REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, THE FIGURES ARE:

UNEMPLOYED YOUTH 16-19 YEARS OLD

1968	839,000
1969	853,000
1970	1,105,000
1971	1,330,000 (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED RATE IN MARCH, 1971)

IN THE FACE OF THIS RAPID RISE IN THE ALREADY CATASTROPHIC RATE OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT, WHAT HAS BEEN THE RESPONSE OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION? LET'S LOOK AT SOME SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.

THE JOB CORPS

THE JOB CORPS -- WITH ITS URBAN AND RURAL CONSERVATION RESIDENTIAL CENTERS -- IS OUR MOST COMPREHENSIVE MANPOWER PROGRAM FOR YOUTH, AND THE ONE MANPOWER PROGRAM WHICH IS BEST ABLE TO WEATHER A RECESSION.

SOON AFTER TAKING OFFICE IN APRIL, 1969, THE ADMINISTRATION SLASHED THE JOB CORPS BUDGET BY \$100 MILLION, CLOSING 59 JOB CORPS CAMPS, DESPITE NATIONWIDE PROTESTS.

AT THE TIME THEY PROMISED TO OPEN 30 NEW "INNER CITY JOB CORPS CAMPS," AND TO CARRY OUT A TREMEMDOUS EXPANSION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR PROGRAM KNOWN AS JOBS -- JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BUSINESS SECTOR. THEY ASSURED US THESE TWO STEPS WOULD MORE THAN MAKE UP FOR 17,000 TRAINING SLOTS LOST IN THE JOB CORPS CUTBACKS.

TODAY, TWO YEARS LATER, ONLY NINE OF THE PROPOSED 30 INNER CITY JOB CORPS CENTERS HAVE BEEN OPENED. THE JOB CORPS BUDGET HAS DROPPED FROM \$282.3 MILLION AND 37,000 CORPSMEN IN 1968, TO \$170 MILLION AND ONLY 23,000 CORPSMEN IN 1971.

AT THE APRIL, 1969, SENATE HEARINGS ON THE CUTS IN THE JOB CORPS PROGRAM, THEN LABOR SECRETARY GEORGE SCHULTZ PLEDGED A \$420 MILLION JOBS PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 1970, PROVIDING 140,000 JOBS. BUT NEITHER THE FUNDS NOR THE JOBS MATERIALIZED.

THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE, IN ITS MARCH 24, 1971 AUDIT ON THE JOBS PROGRAM, REPORTED THAT IN FISCAL YEAR 1970 ONLY A TOTAL OF \$21.7 MILLION WAS SPENT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN THE JOBS PROGRAM.

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AND FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM IN 1968 THROUGH
JUNE 30, 1970, ONLY 48,351 TRAINEES WERE ON BOARD.

THE ADMINISTRATION FAILED IN ITS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO
OPEN 30 NEW INNER CITY JOB CORPS CENTERS (TO PARTIALLY
REPLACE THE 59 JOB CORPS CAMPS WHICH WERE CLOSED) BECAUSE
IT UNDERESTIMATED THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN STARTING
UP NEW PROGRAMS. FINDING ACCEPTABLE SITES HAS BEEN DIFFICULT.
FINDING QUALIFIED SPONSORS HAS BEEN DIFFICULT. START-UP
COSTS HAVE BEEN HIGHER THAN EXPECTED. BUT THESE ARE
FACTS ANYONE WOULD KNOW AFTER A NUMBER OF YEARS IN
OPERATING MANPOWER PROGRAMS. YOU DON'T SHUT DOWN OPERATING
PROGRAMS AND THROW UP SUCCESSFUL NEW PROGRAMS IN THEIR
PLACE OVERNIGHT -- NOT EVEN IN TWO YEARS, AS OUR
EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN.

THE ADMINISTRATION FAILED IN ITS ANNOUNCED PLANS
TO SPEND \$420 MILLION ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS PROGRAM,
TO PROVIDE "140,000 JOBS," BECAUSE IT TRAGICALLY
UNDERESTIMATED THE EFFECT WHICH THE RECESSION WOULD HAVE
ON THIS PROGRAM. MANY OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS --
CONSCIENTIOUS AS THEY WERE -- COULD NOT GO ON HIRING
DISADVANTAGED JOBS TRAINEES WHEN THEY WERE BEING FORCED
TO LAY OFF VETERAN EMPLOYEES WITH HIGHLY DEVELOPED
SKILLS AND SENIORITY. MANY JOBS CONTRACTS HAD 100%
LAYOFFS. SOME CONTRACTS HAD TO BE CANCELLED SOON AFTER
THEY WERE SIGNED.

AGAIN, ISN'T THIS SOMETHING WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN
CONSIDERED BEFORE WE CLOSED 59 JOB CORPS CAMPS -- CAMPS
WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SERVE THESE YOUNG MEN
DURING THE DIFFICULT RECESSION PERIOD?

special
JOB CORPS THREATENED BY REVENUE SHARING

NOW, THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES TO ABOLISH THE
ENTIRE JOB CORPS AS A NATIONAL PROGRAM, AND TO DISTRIBUTE
THE JOB CORPS MONEY TO GOVERNORS AND MAYORS AS A PART OF
"SPECIAL REVENUE SHARING." REVENUE SHARING IS AN
ATTRACTIVE CONCEPT. THE CITIES AND THE STATES ARE
DESPERATE FOR REVENUE. THE FEDERAL TAX STRUCTURE, THOUGH
FLAWED, IS THE MOST PROGRESSIVE WE HAVE, FAR BETTER THAN
THE SALES AND PROPERTY TAXES WHICH STATES AND MUNICIPALITIES
MUST RELY ON FOR REVENUE.

BUT SPECIAL REVENUE SHARING REQUIRES VERY CLOSE
EXAMINATION.

WHAT REVENUE IS TO BE SHARED? IN THIS CASE IT IS
THAT SMALL AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT IS STILL LEFT TO THE
JOB CORPS AND THE OTHER PROGRAMS LIKE IT.

TO MY MIND THAT IS NOT REVENUE SHARING, THAT IS
NOT REORGANIZATION, THAT IS NOT REFORM, THAT IS THE
SURRENDER OF THE FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE YOUNG
PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP, THE KIND OF HELP WE OFFERED IN THE
JOB CORPS PROGRAM.

THE JOB CORPS IS A PROVEN AND SOUND PROGRAM, THE
MONEY WHICH FINANCES IT OUGHT NOT TO BE SOWN TO THE
WINDS AS "REVENUE SHARING." THE PROGRAM OUGHT TO BE
EXPANDED AND IMPROVED TO MEET OUR NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS

WHILE UNEMPLOYMENT OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUNGSTERS
(AGE 16-19) HAS CLIMBED FROM 839,000 IN 1968 TO 1,105,000
IN 1970, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS REDUCED THE ENROLLMENT
IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS (OUT-OF-SCHOOL) FROM
62.7 THOUSAND TO 45.4 THOUSAND. IT NOW PROPOSES A FURTHER
REDUCTION IN ITS FISCAL YEAR 1972 REQUEST TO 37,000.

IN FISCAL YEAR 1967 -- THE LAST FULL FISCAL YEAR
OF THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION -- \$147.8 MILLION WAS
SPENT TO PROVIDE WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES TO 79.3
THOUSAND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAM.

IN 1970, WITH YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT GOING THROUGH THE
ROOF DUE TO RECESSION, ONLY \$97.9 MILLION WAS BUDGETED
FOR THE PROGRAM,

MEANWHILE, IN THE PAST NINE MONTHS, A WHOLE NEW
DIRECTION HAS BEEN MANDATED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH
CORPS PROGRAM BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

THE PROGRAM IS NOW TO SERVE ONLY THOSE WHO ARE 16
AND 17 INSTEAD OF THOSE 16 TO 21 AS PROVIDED IN THE
AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION, THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT,

AND RIGID EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS HAVE
BEEN BUILT INTO THE PROGRAM, TRAINING AND EDUCATION
REQUIREMENTS THAT CAN PERHAPS ONLY INCREASE THE
FRUSTRATION OF ENROLLEES IF JOBS ARE NOT AVAILABLE
TO THEM UPON THE COMPLETION OF THEIR PROGRAMS.

SUMMER JOBS

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 1.8 MILLION POVERTY YOUTH WILL SEEK JOBS THIS SUMMER IN THE WORST JOB MARKET OF A DECADE. AS I SAID EARLIER, 1.6 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE 16 TO 21 YEARS OF AGE ARE UNEMPLOYED AS OF RIGHT NOW. COME THE SUMMER, WHEN SCHOOL LETS OUT, THERE WILL BE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS MORE SEEKING WORK.

WHAT WILL THEY FIND? THE MATTER IS OF THE UTMOST URGENCY. HOW CAN THEY BE EMPLOYED?

FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS THE CONFERENCE OF MAYORS AND THE LEAGUE OF CITIES HAVE CONDUCTED A CAREFUL SURVEY OF THEIR MORE THAN 600 MEMBER CITIES TO DETERMINE THEIR NEED FOR ADDITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

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THIS YEAR THEIR FIGURE IS 641,639 FULL TIME JOBS,
DIVIDED ABOUT EVENLY BETWEEN THE 50 LARGEST CITIES
AND THE OTHERS.

LAST YEAR, IN RESPONSE TO THE CONCERN OF MAYORS,
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND CITIZENS ALL OVER THE NATION,
THE ADMINISTRATION REQUESTED A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION
IN THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE THAT WHEN FINALLY ENACTED
IN MID-JULY PROVIDED FUNDS FOR 414,000 SUMMER JOBS OF 10
WEEKS DURATION EACH.

THIS YEAR A SIMILAR NUMBER OF JOBS WERE BUDGETED,
DESPITE THE DEMONSTRABLY GREATER NEED, AND THE DURATION
OF THE JOBS WAS CUT TO 8 WEEKS.

THEN, ON APRIL 2, THE ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED THE
ABOLITION OF THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON YOUTH OPPORTUNITY.

I HAD THE HONOR AS VICE PRESIDENT TO BE CHAIRMAN
OF THAT COUNCIL WHEN IT WAS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE
ORDER MARCH 5, 1967. I KNOW WELL THE CRUCIAL ROLE IT
PLAYED IN PERSUADING BUREAUCRATS IN WASHINGTON TO MAKE
SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FUNDS AVAILABLE, AND TO PROVIDE FUNDS,
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND VITAL INFORMATION TO CITIES
ALL AROUND THE NATION WHO SOUGHT TO COPE WITH THEIR
RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE NATION'S YOUNG PEOPLE. THE
COUNCIL HAD PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE BOTH AS A PRACTICAL
SOURCE OF HELP AND AS A SYMBOLIC RALLYING POINT FOR
THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO AROUSE THE NATION TO THE NEEDS OF
YOUTH.

I BELIEVE ITS ABOLITION IN THIS TIME OF THE HIGHEST
YOUTH JOBLESSNESS IN OUR MEMORY IS KIND OF SYMBOLIC
TOO OF THE PRIORITIES OF THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION.

PERHAPS THE OUTCRY AGAINST ITS ABOLITION HAS HAD
SOME EFFECT. FOR ON APRIL 9, THE ADMINISTRATION
ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD SEEK A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION
OF \$64.3 MILLION TO BRING THE TOTAL FUNDING FOR SUMMER
JOBS REQUESTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO \$217.2 MILLION,
ENOUGH FOR 514,000 JOB OPPORTUNITIES, EACH 9 WEEKS LONG
(OR 462,600 JOB SLOTS ON A FULL-TIME BASIS), WHILE
THAT IS CLEARLY INADEQUATE, AT LEAST THE ADMINISTRATION
ANNOUNCED ITS POSITION EARLIER THAN IT DID IN PAST
YEARS.

*Earlier
than
last year -
documented
in June*

IT IS MY VIEW THAT THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON YOUTH
OPPORTUNITY PLAYED AN INDISPENSABLE ROLE IN WASHINGTON.

I HOPE ITS DEMISE PROVES TEMPORARY. I COMMEND THE
ADMINISTRATION FOR MOVING PROMPTLY IF INADEQUATELY TO
MEET PART OF THE PROBLEM OF THIS SUMMER'S YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT.
IF ITS UNWISE ACTION IN ABOLISHING THE COUNCIL LED IN
ANY WAY TO THE DECISION ON ADDITIONAL FUNDING, THEN THE
DEATH WAS NOT ENTIRELY IN VAIN.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST
IS STILL WOEFULLY INADEQUATE.

THE FULL AMOUNT REQUESTED BY THE MAYORS OF OUR CITIES
FOR FUNDS FOR ⁶³⁹641,000 JOBS IS A MINIMUM.

I HAVE JOINED THE RANKING MINORITY MEMBER OF THE
SENATE LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE, THE DISTINGUISHED
SENIOR SENATOR FROM NEW YORK, MR. JAVITS, AND THE
CHAIRMAN OF THIS SUBCOMMITTEE, SENATOR NELSON, AND A
NUMBER OF OTHER SENATORS, IN COSPONSORING AN AMENDMENT
TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL TO PROVIDE
\$144,628,359 IN SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING TO BRING THE
TOTAL FOR SUMMER YOUTH JOBS TO THE \$308,628,359 NEEDED
TO PROVIDE THOSE ⁶³⁹641,000 JOBS ON A TEN-WEEK BASIS.

I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ALSO MAKE A GREATER EFFORT
THIS SUMMER TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM WITHIN THE
EXISTING BUDGETS OF THE FEDERAL AGENCIES TO HIRE
YOUNG PEOPLE IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

THIS IS ANOTHER OF THE EFFORTS WHICH THE PRESIDENT'S
COUNCIL ON YOUTH OPPORTUNITY WAS DESIGNED TO CARRY OUT.

BEYOND EXISTING PROGRAMS

MR. CHAIRMAN, WITH YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AT TRULY
CATASTROPHIC LEVELS I BELIEVE IT IS HIGH TIME TO MOVE
BEYOND THE EFFORT TO PRESERVE OUR EXISTING YOUTH MANPOWER
PROGRAMS. IT IS TIME TO EXPAND THOSE PROGRAMS SO THAT
WE DO IN FACT MEET THE NEED.

THIS IS NO TIME TO PASS RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNDERFUNDED
PROGRAMS TO OVERBURDENED LOCAL OFFICIALS.

IT IS TIME FOR US AS A NATION, AND US AS THE
ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR NATION, TO MEET THE
NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO AMERICAN YOUTH AND FUND A
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM OF SUFFICIENT SIZE TO DO THE
JOB.

EXISTING YOUTH TRAINING PROGRAMS ARE NOW UNDERMINED
BY THE FACT THAT FOR MANY YOUTH NO REAL JOB OPPORTUNITY
FOLLOWS HIS TRAINING OPPORTUNITY.

THIS SUBCOMMITTEE WAS TOLD BY SEGGIE COLLINS, A
24-YEAR-OLD WATTS RESIDENT, AT HEARINGS LAST YEAR IN
LOS ANGELES THAT HE HAD BEEN IN THREE DIFFERENT TRAINING
PROGRAMS, AND HAD NEVER BEEN ABLE TO LAND A DECENT JOB.
OTHERS TESTIFIED THAT SEGGIE COLLINS' EXPERIENCE WAS
TYPICAL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, BACK IN 1957, NOW NEARLY 14 YEARS
AGO, I PROPOSED A PROGRAM TO PUT UNEMPLOYED YOUTH TO
WORK ON CONSERVATION AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECTS.

WITH JOBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE INCREASINGLY HARD TO
FIND IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR OF OUR ECONOMY I BELIEVE THE
TIME HAS COME FOR A REALLY MASSIVE YOUTH PUBLIC SERVICE
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.

WE ARE IN MUCH BETTER SHAPE TO MOUNT SUCH A PROGRAM
NOW THAN IN 1957.

WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH THE
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS ON WHICH TO BUILD.

FROM 1965 THROUGH 1970 OVER 2.8 MILLION YOUNGSTERS
HAVE BEEN HELPED BY THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS, COUNTING
ALL THREE OF ITS PROGRAMS, SUMMER, IN-SCHOOL, AND OUT-OF
SCHOOL.

THE YEAR-ROUND OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAM HAS PROVIDED
NEARLY 400,000 YOUNGSTERS WITH MEANINGFUL WORK
EXPERIENCE OVER THAT FIVE-YEAR PERIOD.

I BELIEVE WE HAVE ENOUGH EXPERIENCE TO MOUNT A
REALLY SERIOUS PROGRAM. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD DO IT.

FIRST, IT NEEDS TO BE LARGE ENOUGH TO DO THE JOB.
ONLY SERVING 45,000 YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE OUT-OF SCHOOL
PROGRAM, AS THIS ADMINISTRATION DID IN 1970, IS NOT
ENOUGH. WITH 1.1 MILLION YOUNGSTERS AGE 16 TO 19
UNEMPLOYED ON THE AVERAGE DURING THAT YEAR, A 45,000 MEMBER
PROGRAM WAS ONLY A DROP IN THE BUCKET.

I WOULD PROPOSE A PROGRAM FOR AT LEAST 250,000
YOUNGSTERS EACH YEAR.

IN EXTENDING THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT, I HOPE THIS COMMITTEE WILL AUTHORIZE A PROGRAM OF THAT SCOPE.

SECOND, THE PROGRAM MUST PROVIDE REAL JOBS, JOBS THAT EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY KNOWS NEED DOING. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT HELPING TO PROVIDE A MORE LIVABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR NATION'S COMMUNITIES IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY, ESPECIALLY THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITIES AND OF PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS IN OUR INNER CITY NEIGHBORHOODS THAT HAVE THE VERY WORST DAY-TO-DAY LIVING ENVIRONMENTS IN THE NATION.

I WANT TO COMMEND CHAIRMAN NELSON FOR PROPOSING A COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT SERVICE LAST YEAR. THE LEGISLATION

AND THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT SERVICE WAS

THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORIZATION FOR A COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT SERVICE WAS INCLUDED AS A SPECIAL PROGRAM IN THE EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER ACT WHICH CONGRESS PASSED LAST DECEMBER. AS DESCRIBED IN THAT BILL, WHICH THE PRESIDENT UNFORTUNATELY VETOED, THE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT SERVICE WOULD HAVE PROVIDED --

" . . . EMPLOYMENT ON A FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME BASIS FOR PERSONS TO HELP RESTORE A LIVABLE ENVIRONMENT IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS, INCLUDING RESTORATION OF HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS; THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS AND FACILITIES IN INNER CITIES AS WELL AS ROADSIDE RECREATION PROJECTS; AND SANITATION AND CLEANUP PROJECTS, INCLUDING SOLID WASTE REMOVAL. SUPPORT MAY ALSO BE PROVIDED FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AIDES IN COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, AND WATER AND AIR POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAMS. COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT SERVICE PROGRAMS SHALL BE ENCOURAGED TO INVOLVE VOLUNTEERS FROM THE COMMUNITY IN ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ACTION CAMPAIGNS."

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FINALLY, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE EXPANDED
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS PROGRAM I AM PROPOSING
MUST INCLUDE A STRONG EDUCATIONAL ELEMENT. IT MUST
BE FLEXIBLE, FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL
ARE SHY OF THE CLASSROOM ATMOSPHERE, THE ATMOSPHERE
IN WHICH MANY HAVE ONLY LEARNED TO REGARD THEMSELVES AS
HOPELESS FAILURES.

I WOULD SUGGEST CLOSE TIES WITH COMMUNITY COLLEGES.
IN ONE EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS
OVER 1,000 SUMMER NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS YOUNG PEOPLE
WORKED SUCCESSFULLY AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN SAN
FRANCISCO, NEW YORK, ST. LOUIS AND OTHER CITIES.

EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS LEGISLATION
 IS BROADLY ENOUGH WRITTEN TO ALLOW SUCH A PROGRAM,
 FUNDS SPENT TO EMPLOY YOUTH IN PUBLIC SERVICE
 JOBS ARE MONIES SAVED FROM WELFARE PAYMENTS IN MANY
 CASES. MONEY SPENT ACCOMPLISHING DESPERATELY NEEDED
 WORK IS IN EVERY WAY MONEY BETTER SPENT THAN MONEY
 SPENT IN WELFARE PAYMENTS.

FOR MOST OF US, FOR MOST OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, THIS
 IS INDEED THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY. BUT FOR MILLIONS
 THE REALITIES OF THEIR DAILY LIVES GIVES THE LIE TO
 THAT GREAT PROMISE.

THEY EAK OUT AN EXISTENCE THAT IS PART WELFARE,
 PART CASUAL JOBS, PART HUSTLING AND CRIME, WITH LARGE
 PARTS OF IDLENESS AND EMPTY DESPAIR.

WE MUST DO BETTER FOR THEM. WE CAN DO BETTER FOR
OURSELVES.

THEREFORE, I PROPOSE A FIVE-FOLD EXPANSION OF THE
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS PROGRAM TO PUT UNEMPLOYED
YOUTH TO WORK ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE
EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS WHILE BEING GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY
TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES
AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

AS PRESIDENT KENNEDY SAID IN HIS 1963 MESSAGE ON
OUR NATION'S YOUTH:

"THE FUTURE PROSPECTS OF ANY NATION CAN BE DIRECTLY
MEASURED BY THE PRESENT PROSPECTS OF ITS YOUTH."

LET US LOOK AT THE YOUTH PROGRAMS OF THE PAST
DECADE AS THE PROMISING EXPERIMENTAL AND DEMONSTRATION
PROGRAMS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN.

LET'S GET ON WITH THE JOB HERE AND NOW OF PROVIDING
TRULY ADEQUATE PROGRAMS.

WHEN WE DECIDED AS A NATION TO GO TO THE MOON, WE
DID NOT PROVIDE 10% OF THE MONEY NECESSARY TO GET THERE
AND THEN CRITICIZE THE BUREAUCRATS FOR NOT DOING THE
JOB. WHAT WE DID WAS PROVIDE THE CASH NEEDED AND THE
ORGANIZATION NEEDED AND WE GOT THE JOB DONE.

IT IS TIME WE TOOK A SIMILAR HARD-NOSED AND REALISTIC
LOOK AT YOUTH PROGRAMS AND PROVIDE THE CASH AND THE
ORGANIZATION NEEDED TO DO THE JOB.

I SUBMIT THAT IF WE WILL BUT MAKE THE INVESTMENT,
THE RETURNS TO THIS NATION WILL BE INVALUABLE, IN TERMS
OF BOTH A STRENGTHENED ECONOMY AND THE HOPE AND PROMISE
GIVEN TO ANOTHER GENERATION OF OUR PEOPLE.

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