

Provide training for dental assistants to help bring care to schools and other community agencies.

Explore better methods of furnishing care.

THE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT OF 1967

Youth can mean high spirits, great ambitions, wide intellectual interests, constructive group activities, and the exciting tests of physical and mental power.

But too often it means failure in school, dropouts, the emptiness of unplanned days, joblessness, flights from a broken home, and trouble with the police.

The rapid urbanization of our Nation and the sharply growing numbers of young people can mean new vigor and opportunity for our society—or new crime problems and more wasted lives.

This Nation has already committed itself to enrich the lives of our young people and to free the disadvantaged from the waste and boredom that would otherwise characterize their lives:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Higher Education Act of 1965 are greatly expanding educational opportunities.

The Upward Bound program is preparing disadvantaged boys and girls for entry into college.

Work-study programs, grants, loans, and scholarships are helping to provide an education for young people unable to afford it.

The Manpower Training and Development Act, the Job Corps, and the Neighborhood Youth Corps are providing needed job skills.

Despite these achievements, much remains to be done to fulfill our commitment to your Americans. In later messages, I will propose additional measures that will assist young Americans—in education, in health, and in special employment programs.

But today, I propose to deal with the young American who is delinquent or potentially delinquent. Too many schools and agencies close their doors and minds to a young person with serious behavioral problems, and then pass him on to sterner but frequently less effective authorities. Most youth who commit delinquent acts ultimately grow into responsible adults. But if a youth behaves badly enough or is unlucky enough to enter the courts and correctional institutions, he is more likely to continue in criminal activity as an adult.

The past 5 years of experience under the Juvenile Delinquency Act and the report of the National Crime Commission have shown the need for new approaches for dealing with delinquent and potentially delinquent youth:

Special community-based diagnostic and treatment services for youth in trouble.

The strengthening of ties between the community and the correction and probation system.

The construction of modern correctional facilities employing the most advanced methods of rehabilitation.

We must pursue a course designed not merely to reduce the number of delinquents. We must increase the chances for such young people to lead productive lives.