

SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG AMERICANS

Last year, summer took on a new and brighter meaning for millions of needy young citizens:

Headstart served 570,000 preschoolers.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act provided funds to bring remedial courses and day camps to 2½ million children.

Upward Bound enabled 25,000 high school students to live on college campuses and gain new learning experiences.

The Youth Opportunity Campaign found more than a million jobs for 16- to 21-year-olds.

The Neighborhood Youth Corps offered summer work to 210,000 young people.

Community Action and other OEO programs, such as Operation Champ, offered recreation to nearly 1 million children.

This summer we can do more.

We can enable additional schools and playgrounds to remain open when vacation comes.

We can, with the help of public-spirited local organizations, bring fresh air and cool streams to the slum child who has known only a sweltering tenement and who must sleep on a crowded fire escape to get relief from the heat.

We can enlist the volunteer help of many citizens who want to give needy children a happy summer.

To further these purposes, I will—

Establish a Cabinet-level Council headed by the Vice President to promote Summer Youth Opportunities.

Direct this Council to make public facilities available to provide camping opportunities for additional needy children this summer.

Request the Council to call on public and private groups to sponsor and operate these camps and to enlist college students and others to work in them.

Request the Council to call a national "Share Your Summer" conference to encourage more fortunate families to open their vacation homes to disadvantaged children for part of the summer.

In addition, I recommend legislation to provide funds for the construction of summer camp facilities for at least 100,000 children in 1968. These camps would be built only where there is an agreement with a private institution or local government agency to operate and finance them.

I am directing every Federal agency to strengthen its programs which provide summer employment, education, recreation, and health services. These summer programs must become a permanent feature in the year-round effort to develop our children and teenagers for responsible citizenship.

I call upon every city and local community to help make summers happy and productive for the youth of America. It should not take an act of Congress to turn on a fire hydrant sprinkler, to keep a swimming pool open a little longer, or provide lights and supervision for a summer playground.

A NEW PRIORITY

No ventures hold more promise than these curing a sick child, helping a poor child through Headstart, giving a slum child a sum-