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Senate OKs Scaled-Back Service Corps

■ **Jobs:** The measure provides \$600,000 less than approved by the House. Both versions of the legislation would fund participation by at least 100,000 people.

By ELIZABETH SHOGREN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—The Senate approved a scaled-back version of President Clinton's national service program Tuesday, agreeing to provide \$1.5 billion over three years for the domestic Peace Corps-style operation—\$600 million less than was approved by the House last week.

The competing pieces of legislation now must be reconciled by a House-Senate conference committee and voted upon again by both chambers.

Although neither version of the legislation comes close to providing the \$7.4 billion initially sought for the program by the President, the Administration maintained that Clinton's vision had not been compromised.

"What emerged today was absolutely, essentially, fundamentally what the President introduced in May," said Eli Segal, head of the White House national service office. He added that differences between the House and Senate versions are "quite small" and that the Administration would be pleased even if the more modest Senate version is adopted.

Both versions of the legislation would enable at least 100,000 people to participate in the program over three years, proponents said. Patterned after the John F. Kennedy Administration's international Peace Corps program, it is designed to put people to work improving communities in exchange for small salaries and annual bonuses to help pay college or job training costs.

Passage of the initiative comes at a key time for the White House, which has been struggling to reverse the perception that the President has had difficulty winning legislative victories, even though his party controls both houses of Congress.

Clinton hailed the vote, saying in a written statement: "I've always said national service is the American way to change America. . . . I commend the United States Congress for taking action that will prove that true."

"National and community service is one of the best investments that we can make for the generations to come," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), who managed the bill on the Senate floor. "It is what the effort

to 'reinvent America' is all about, because it is the most significant step we have taken so far to return to our roots—to revitalize the sense of community that has always been the hallmark of America at its best."

Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.), who voted against the measure, said that Republican-inspired debate and delaying tactics succeeded in lowering the program's price tag. "I think it is still too much but that is certainly an improvement," Dole said.

Republican opponents of the bill argued that it is too expensive considering the limited number of people who would benefit. Furthermore, they said, Americans do not need to be bribed with large educational stipends to spark their spirit of volunteerism. But Republicans abandoned their effort to prevent the bill's passage because too many GOP senators decided to support the program, which has been popular among Americans.

Seven Republican senators joined Democrats to pass the bill, 58 to 41. Funding for the program must be passed separately.

More than just improving the lives of participants, the program is designed to help accomplish Clinton's broader domestic agenda of reinvigorating American communities through joint efforts between government agencies and grass-roots organizations.

Local groups will be asked to devise creative ways to solve some of the problems in their communities and then given money to hire the manpower they need to accomplish the tasks, Segal said. National service teams will be involved in many different kinds of activities, such as literacy workshops, urban rehabilitation projects, crime prevention and immunization drives.

Some of the money will be parceled out to states based on population and the remainder will be doled out competitively. The ratio between the two methods of disbursement will be determined by the conference committee.

The first teams of national service participants are expected to begin work next summer, Segal said. It will take that much time to ensure that the most innovative projects are chosen and that there is no local fraud or abuse.

The program was one of several high-priority initiatives that Clinton plugged repeatedly during his campaign. He has said that he hoped national service would be a defining symbol of his term in office, just as the Peace Corps has been a lasting legacy of the Kennedy Administration. The program was immediately popular, largely because it was perceived as a federal program that would benefit not only the poor but the middle-class, by offering a new way to pay the escalating costs of a college education. The perception, along with health care reform and other proposals that were seen to benefit average Americans, were crucial to creating Clinton's image as a new Democrat.

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★ ★
EASTERN EDITION

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1993

WHITE OAK, MARYLAND

House, Senate Conferees Agree on Service Measure

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON — House and Senate negotiators agreed to legislation that would provide educational assistance to young people who perform community-service work.

In the biggest concession, House conferees agreed to accept Senate provisions setting spending caps of \$300 million for fiscal 1994, \$500 million for fiscal 1995, and \$700 million for fiscal 1996. The House bill authorized spending at \$394 million in the first year, but hadn't specified amounts for the subsequent two years. The other differences in the two bills were minor and easily resolved.

The House and Senate are expected to approve the conference report and send the legislation to President Clinton before the start of the August recess at the end of the week.

The legislation would provide participants with \$4,725 a year for two years in aid for college or other postsecondary education. It also would provide a minimum-wage stipend and some health and child-care benefits. About 100,000 people could take part in the program in the first three years, according to congressional estimates.

Serving Their Way to College

Students Test Clinton's National Service Plan

By Meera Somasundaram
Washington Post Staff Writer

In last month's sweltering heat, Jennifer Wittman worked with a crew that painted the game room, gymnasium, dance studio, lounge, academic center, aerobics room and two restrooms of a Baltimore recreation center.

Applying the latex was a task that tested Wittman's commitment to her summer job, which she is counting on for college tuition.

"It was horrible," said Wittman, 21, who will be a senior at the University of Maryland at Baltimore County this fall. "Three of us painted the girls' bathroom with no windows and the fan would only reach the boys' bathroom, not ours. I've never sweated so much in my life. I didn't know if I was going to make it."

About the only thing that kept her going, Wittman said, was the paycheck that will go toward her college education.

"Plus the center hadn't been painted for 15 years, and I knew we were helping children," she said.

The work by Wittman and other college and college-bound students at the recreation center is part of President Clinton's national service initiative. The national Summer of Service pilot program allows students to earn money for college by performing community service projects.

Wittman is among 75 local students, ages 17 to 25, who are earning the minimum wage of \$4.25 an hour this summer by working for one of two Baltimore organizations: Civic Works and Summer Corps. The jobs are coordinated through a parent organization, MPower, developed by the University of Maryland at College Park. MPower is one of 16 pilot programs being tested nationwide. The eight-week Maryland program began June 28 and will end Aug. 20.

At the end of the summer, each student who completes the program will receive an additional \$1,000 to use toward college tuition.

Students in the Civic Works program are teaching basic mathematics and reading skills to middle-school students, counseling

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BY TYLER MALLORY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST
Jason White provides finishing touches to a Baltimore classroom painted by students in a national service pilot program.

10 Progra is es resident's Plan or National Service

SERVICE. From Page 1
agrees about substance abuse, contraception, building hiking trails and renovating recreation areas. Summer Corps employees are working with middle and high school students on reading, environment and their eating habits, as well as teaching about AIDS, fitness and the dangers of drugs.

The House and Senate passed identical versions of President Clinton's original national service bill and are working out their differences in conference committees. Under both plans, students would be required to serve a minimum of two years and would be eligible to earn \$10,000 a year. The money could be used toward college education or to back student loans. Under the House plan, employers are required to take a three-credit course on community service and to report at the University of Maryland. The \$8 million Summer Corps pilot program awarded over a \$500,000 grant, of which \$180,000 goes toward stu-

dents' salaries and stipends and the rest toward administrative salaries and supplies.

At a tutoring session at Baltimore's Southeast Middle School last month, the college students were enthusiastic about wanting to make a difference. Most participants said it was gratifying to do community service.

"You have to earn money in the summer," said Stephanie Suerth, 19, a junior at College Park. "I feel like I'm making a difference. I can take this experience with me for the rest of my life, and it beats working at McDonald's or selling clothes."

Most students said they would have been unable to perform community service this summer without a paying job. Several students said they are working two or three jobs in addition to the service because they need more money for college.

Brenda Davenport, a summer school teacher at Southeast, said the tutors have enhanced her classroom because they are able to offer one-on-one instruction to her students.

"When the tutors come in, the



Some good-natured clowning around with the paint results in this happy addition to a student's shirt.

children feel better. I can see it on their faces. I see smiles," Davenport said. "When we first started, I could not reach them. Now I'm able to get a little closer."

Students and organizers said the biggest frustration so far has been working with the Baltimore City government.

"The hard part is getting past the red tape and getting supplies," said Kathy Riga, a team leader in the Civic Works program. "There have been days when we didn't get paint rollers and basketball poles. We had the manpower, but no supplies. It's frustrating when we're trying to do a service for them."

Alma Bell, a spokeswoman for the Baltimore City Parks and Recreation department, said an unexpected number of students arrived to help this summer.

"We were expecting 12 people, but we ended up with 20 to 22 people," Bell said. "We were spending time trying to figure out how we wanted to use them. We wanted to make sure it was organized. Our experience has been very good and we would like them to come back."

Some students said there was friction among themselves because they were from different economic and academic backgrounds working with inner-city children.

"I come from a middle-class, predominantly white community where there's very little crime, so in the beginning I felt like people

didn't think I could do a good job because I didn't come from the inner city," said Erin Moran, 17, of Parkville, Md. "But we talked it out, and now we have a great relationship."

Seth Goldman, summer program director at Civic Works, said the program organizers and students addressed the issue by discussing it at the beginning of the program.

Organizers and members of the Commission on National and Community Service said they will soon begin assessing the success of the programs and will put together a

report at the end of the summer. A few program representatives are scheduled to meet with President Clinton at the end of the summer to discuss the programs' strengths and weaknesses.

Reilly said some successes would be measurable, others would not.

"We'll see if tutoring led to an increase in math and reading skills, if cleaning led to safer and healthier environments," Reilly said. "And we'll also see if participants developed leadership skills and walked away feeling committed to service."



Suzie Erb tapes up a sign in a wall.



Carrying the torch for youth

THOMAS OLIPHANT

WASHINGTON

Even as the national shouting match over the heart of President Clinton's domestic policy was reaching its climax Thursday and Friday, a quieter, more solid result was being achieved over its soul.

Down the hall from the tumult in the self-publicized White House "war room" of the budget battlers, the architects of the president's national service initiative were putting the finishing touches on what is part stunning legislative victory but part high-stakes roll of the dice.

Fortunately, the chief architect understands those stakes. The president's close friend Eli Siegel — a Boston businessman by vocation and a longtime political activist by conviction — is in a position like that of John Kennedy's brother-in-law, R. Sargent Shriver, 30 years ago, only Siegel's spot is probably tougher in this deeply cynical time.

Nothing symbolized the passing of the generational torch in 1960 the way the Peace Corps did, and no light from that confident period shines brighter today. The idea that something like it could happen again has intrigued people across the political spectrum — from Edward Kennedy to Sam Nunn to freshman Republican Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson of Texas.

Like the Peace Corps, however, the idea of national service — financial help for higher education and training in return for serious time on the front lines of the toughest domestic problems — is phony without careful planning and demanding performance standards.

Over lunch in his office last week, Siegel acknowledged the challenge in setting up the first major government initiative in more than 10 years at a time when it is chic to doubt that government can do anything effectively, and meeting that challenge during a three-year trial.

In today's climate, he also acknowledged, that means new criteria and concepts: meeting public service needs not now being met; decentralized administration by a new government corporation that operates through the

states; a strong emphasis on competitive merit, not automatic formulas, in disbursing money; selection of young people based on interest, background and ability, not income-based entitlement.

Siegel emphasizes that national service is not volunteerism. That commendable, part-time activity will retain official promotion, with George Bush's Points of Light Foundation alive under the new corporation's umbrella. Nor is national service a domestic version of the Peace Corps; the VISTA and the Older Americans Act programs will be similarly retained and even expanded.

National service seeks to get a flame out of the different spark that various pilot projects and the Clinton proposal have struck to see how much pragmatic idealism among young people there really is and how effectively it can be harnessed over three years with no more than \$1.5 billion in outlays.

Already the ideas are starting to take shape. There is, for example, no systematic effort to reach the urban and rural poor with the message that basic immunization services are now available. And thanks to budget cuts and neglect, there is a dearth of safe, supervised places where kids can go after school.

Interest in the effort has been surprisingly widespread. Arriving at the Pentagon recently to chat up chairman Colin Powell of the Joint Chiefs, Siegel found all the chiefs present, pushing hard for military involvement.

Siegel the businessman-politician is bullish about his task even if Siegel the rookie government official is a bit stunned after a long and difficult legislative struggle, which included a Senate Republican filibuster at the end. Nonetheless, he succeeded where the budget fight failed in helping forge a fair and workable bipartisan compromise that attracted seven GOP votes.

Siegel, in short, is the obvious choice to lead the three-year national service experiment. He had a long campaign year, and this year has been difficult, but in what amounts to a national war against cynicism, a leadership interruption would be a big mistake that the president shouldn't allow. The Sarge Shriver of the 1990s is in place, already tested and more than ready.

Thomas Oliphant is a Globe columnist.

National Service At Last

Hundreds of times in last year's campaign, President Clinton evoked thunderous cheers with the promise that he would "establish a trust out of which any American can borrow the money to finance a college education, as long as they pay it back with a small percentage of their income over time or with two or three years of national service here at home . . . doing whatever work the country urgently needs."

The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 and the legislation permitting direct government loans to students, both well on their way to the president for signature, fall short of redeeming that pledge. Even in their pared-down form, it's questionable if the government can finance them. But they represent a serious—and bipartisan—effort to move national policy forward in this area and to show voters that campaign rhetoric can translate into agenda-setting action.

The direct-loan program had to survive heavy lobbying by financial firms that profit from brokering government-guaranteed bank loans. To appease them, the compromise version in the budget reconciliation bill calls for direct loans to be phased in slowly over the next five years. It was Clinton's support that offset the lobby pressure and made it possible, finally, for people like Reps. Tom Petri (R-Wis.) and Robert E. Andrews (D-N.J.), Sens. Paul Simon (D-Ill.) and Dave Durenberger (R-Minn.), who had been pushing the direct-loan idea for years, to make headway.

On the national service legislation, the question for most members of Congress was not the goal but the pathway. During the campaign, Clinton escaped close questioning on how it would be possible for very many of the 6 million students now receiving some form of government aid to "pay back" their loans with public service.

Except for the World War II military and the Great Depression public works programs, the government has never had anything like that number of people working for it. The Peace Corps currently has only 5,500 volunteers in the field, while VISTA, its domestic counterpart, has about 3,300. The cost of the kind of program Clinton implied in the campaign would be out of sight.

In March, Clinton proposed a more modest but still expensive scheme. When the bill reached the Senate, Republicans forced further reductions in scale. No more than 100,000 youths will be involved in the three-year program. Each of them will work for the federal minimum wage in community-designed programs and, after two years of full-time service, be eligible for \$9,450 in education grants—a sum chosen to ensure that military volunteers would not see their civilian counterparts get a better deal.

Proponents of national service differ on the right scale, but this is a case where smaller may actually be better. Donald J. Eberly, a longtime proponent of national

But will there be money to pay for it?

service, told me that he worries that the projected program may be too small to have "the visibility and mass it needs" to become a recognized part of American life. But Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kan.), who made significant contributions to improving the legislation, still voted against it for the opposite reason; she thinks it is too ambitious.

Catherine Milton, who runs what is widely regarded as a successful set of pilot programs through the three-year-old Commission on National and Community Service, told me that she thinks "it will not be easy" to recruit and place 20,000 volunteers in the first year, as the new legislation contemplates. But she is supportive of the bill. And Eli Segal, the White House architect of national service, points out that if it hits the 20,000 level in its first year, the community service program will be larger than the Peace Corps was at its peak of visibility.

Critics of the proposal argue that it is just one more big government bureaucracy, meddling in an area where there are plenty of local and private efforts under way. But the structure is highly decentralized, and overhead costs are limited by law to 6 percent at the federal and the state level.

A more serious problem is that once authorized, the new program will have to scramble for financing. As with other campaign promises, Clinton said, "This program will pay for itself." It won't. Instead, it will have to compete for money in a budget where discretionary domestic spending is frozen for the next five years. In the House, it will fight for funds with all the existing student- and school-aid programs; in the Senate, it will be up against environmental programs, low-income housing, veterans hospitals and space programs.

Sen. Harris Wofford (D-Pa.), who helped Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) shepherd the legislation through a great many Senate mine fields, told me he counts on Clinton "increasing our investment in education . . . so I don't think there will be that competition in the next few years."

But that is more hope than reality. Many legislators who support the concept of national service voted against the bill, because they thought it unrealistic and unfair to promise even a down payment against Clinton's campaign promise in these times of massive federal debt.

On paper, Clinton has won a substantial victory. It remains to be seen if it becomes reality.

CAPITAL GAINS
JANE BRYANT QUINN

The New Youth Brigades

IT'S 7:55 A.M., AND IN THE ECHOING ESSEX COUNTY GYMNASIUM in Newark, N.J., 200 youthful volunteers for one of the Summer of Service (SOS) programs bend and stretch as the music rocks. After calisthenics, they scramble onto bleachers to cheer a stemwinding oration by the Rev. William Watley of St. James A.M.E. Church. They're among the advance guard for President Clinton's proposed national-service corps. Forming into teams, they scatter to work sites throughout the city, adding their daily dose of decency to neighborhoods that need all they can get.

Nearly 1,500 youthful volunteers, in 11 different parts of the country, are working in national-service demonstration programs this summer—cleaning up schoolyards, tutoring slow learners, promoting immunization, testing apartments for lead paint. Newark's contingent appears to reflect the president's intent. Nearly three quarters are college students. Most were recruited locally, giving them ties to the people they help. All are working on projects conceived in the community. Some had alternative summer jobs, but many others hadn't found work until they connected with SOS.

Although called "volunteers," none fit that word's traditional meaning. They're being paid the minimum wage—\$170 a week, \$1.615 for a summer's work. Those who stay the course also receive a \$1,000 credit toward higher education, either college or trade school. For the yearlong commitments asked for under national service—which hadn't been voted on at press time—volunteers would get a \$4,725 credit (double that for two years' work). But opponents were asking whether the service was worth its price.

Civic ideal: America can boast of a long tradition of personal volunteerism, although popular interest in it waxes and wanes. "At certain times, national service is held out as a civic ideal," Charles Moskos wrote in his 1988 book, "A Call to Civic Service." "At other times, it is a marginal factor, dismissed as irrelevant or utopian." Federal interest faded in the 1970s and 1980s, but then attention clicked on again. In 1990 the Congress, with bipartisan support, created a Commission on National and Community Service to help fund worthy local projects.

Considered a model of success, the commission awarded \$63 million in grants last year. But its authorization runs out by October. That's when Clinton's Corporation for National Service is supposed to take over, building on the commission's founding principles: small-scale programs, matching grants, local sponsorship, entrepreneurial ideas, committed community volunteers.

Few Americans realize how many community-service programs the government helps support already. Many of them have been starved for money in recent budgets and are looking to the Clinton plan to restore their reach. For those willing to engage for a year or so, a limited number of paid slots exist. VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), for example, employs 3,500 participants in local antipoverty work (for information, call 800-424-8867). A new program, the Civilian Community Corps, will use retired or laid-

off military personnel to run boot camps for community-service teams. State and locally funded youth corps field some 15,000 full-time volunteers. These and similar jobs now pay anywhere from \$100 to \$170 a week (taxable), plus some bonuses or education credits. Clinton would offer stipends, bonuses or credits, health insurance for those without it and day care for the children of lower-income volunteers.

Would you rather do part-time work? If you're 60 and up and your income is low, you can earn a tax-free \$2.45 an hour as a Senior Companion helping the homebound, or as a Foster Grandparent attending to sick or troubled children. Unpaid service in other federally assisted programs is offered by some 436,700 Retired Senior Volunteers, who do virtually anything the community needs; for information on local projects, call 202-606-4851. Another 18,600 unpaid Student Community Service workers volunteer in low-income neighborhoods. For yet more local-service opportunities, call the Points of Light Foundation (800-879-5400)—although most concerned Americans can find a calling without help.

For the government, paid volunteerism doesn't come cheap. It takes careful planning and supervision to ensure useful work, especially in programs staffed by teens. The expanded VISTA and youth-corps slots envisioned under national service would cost around \$17,000 to \$20,000 per person, including pay, bonus, school credits, benefits, training and

overhead. Today the major domestic programs cost the Feds around \$400 million, which Clinton would raise by 80 percent. But fog surrounds the issue of what that money is intended to buy.

Good kids: One hope is that gang members and other difficult youths will join the social-service crusade and reclaim their lives. As proof, an occasional penitent ex-tough turns up to testify before Congress. But in Newark, the eager volunteers look like kids every parent would love to adopt. They'll be responsible citizens whether paid for volunteering or not.

A clearer payoff lies in the work performed. At one of Newark's Boys and Girls Clubs, four summer volunteers are teaching 250 children to swim (formerly, instruction cost \$20 and many youngsters couldn't afford it). Others are running games at day camps or lecturing job-corps conscripts on the subtle art of the job interview. This sort of individual care is well worth an increased public investment. But for less money, Congress could simply help the club hire swimming teachers, or add to worthy self-help projects that get volunteers without having to pay education grants.

But would that happen? There's the rub. Even with the pendulum swinging back toward civic concern, the poor themselves remain unpopular. Middle-class parents worry more about paying for higher education and *that*, the president often suggests, is what national service is really about. Nothing should detract from the caring work performed by the youthful volunteers. But it's their well-being that commands the most support. Student subsidies have become the price of feeding more money down to the streets.

Reporter: TEMMA EHRENFELD



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PROGRAMS
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The Washington Post

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1993

Colman McCarthy

Touched by National Service

BALTIMORE—By late afternoon, the three college students had said their “see ya tomorrows”—accompanied by some hugs—to the grade-school kids they had been tutoring at the Koinania Baptist Church in the poor but resilient Waverly neighborhood. The collegians, halfway through what they are likely to recall as the most socially useful and intellectually alive summer of their undergraduate days, are volunteers in Summer of Service, the Clinton administration’s trial run for the national service program.

In Baltimore, one of 16 cities chosen from some 430 applications, they and 21 others have been counseling, teaching and befriending several hundred grade-school children in eight low-income neighborhoods. In addition to a minimum wage salary, a \$1,000 educational scholarship, is granted at summer’s end.

On the afternoon I came to Baltimore to learn what the college students thought of their labors and the program, the Senate was stalled by a Republican-led filibuster. It’s a tax-and-spend program, Republican leaders charged. Had Robert Dole and his obstructionist friends engaged in some taxing and spending of their own—tax themselves to visit a Summer of Service site and spend time with the serving and served—they might have converted to being champions, not blockers, of the program. A few days later the filibuster was broken, and the Senate passed bipartisan legislation—as had the House earlier—that would award up to \$4,725 a year for two years of community service before, during or after college.

If the talents and idealism of this summer’s 24 college students in Baltimore are a hint of what’s ahead for the national program, the country will be receiving a gift of irreplaceable value. More college students than we realize are ready to make commitments to community service. Some have been inspired by service programs in their high schools, where social studies departments now realize that as much can be learned about society by working for it as by studying it in class. Others have faith-based philosophies of service inspired by religious values that are alternatives to the world’s chaos and confusion. And some—the luckiest—have parents who raised them to find life’s meaning in getting involved, not getting ahead.

Those backgrounds were evident in the group I met with at the College of Notre Dame, in a Baltimore suburb, which is providing dorm rooms. They were mostly from East Coast schools—including Wesleyan, Yale, Goucher, Loyola, the University of Maryland and Salisbury State—and had been chosen from 200 applicants.

These are among the volunteers and some of their reflections on what their experience meant to them and to the children they tutored:

■ Michelle Vivanz, a spring Goucher College graduate: “My work this summer has given my children a sense of hope. Just today one of my campers commented that she could not be intelligent because only rich white people can be that. . . . By just explaining where I am from and what I have accomplished, I can give her hope.” Vivanz, who is black, is applying to law schools.

■ Gitte Peng, a Yale sophomore: “My experience this summer has given me a deeper vision. It is more important now that I do things that are truly meaningful. The summer has made me think about what I want to do with the rest of my life, knowing now that whatever it is, I want to serve in some way.”

■ Dale Crowell, a University of Maryland senior: “My kids are the future. Yes, that’s a cliché, but our society and the path it follows will rely on how we raise our kids. I’ve only been with them for a month, and my impact is a long shot, but it’s the only shot I’ve got at this moment.”

■ Manju Chatani, a University of Maryland honors program senior: “I’ve been in touch with a group of children who have seen and experienced so much more than I ever will. They are teaching me. It is sometimes depressing to realize how much these kids are up against. It is sad that a 7-year-old is so streetwise and has lost his childhood. I will never be the same. It is the most challenging experience I’ve had and the one that I will grow most from.”

Hillary Clinton, who speaks of service as the natural result of citizenship, argues that “the Me Decade [of the ’80s] must give way to the We Decade” of the ’90s. The dismissal of cynics aside, that appears to be happening.

An estimated 100,000 college students are expected to enroll in the national service program in the next three years. Should they turn out to be as spirited and giving as these volunteers in Baltimore, we’ll be asking: Why weren’t we doing this all along?

TOMORROW'S MORNING

August 9, 1993 • Volume 2 Number 48

BORN TO READ

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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL

— RIO DE JANEIRO — Hooded members of an "extremism group" killed seven homeless boys and wounded two others as they slept before dawn in the shadows of the city's symbols of luxury and power.

Cruising Rio's banking district in a taxi and a private car, men who survivors later claimed were police officers stopped in front of Candelaria Church and sprayed a group of 45 sleeping boys and girls with pistols. Five boys died. Driving through empty streets, the men shot to death two more boys who were sleeping in gardens at the Museum of Modern Art. They said they were policemen, said Wagner dos Santos, who was recovering from a gunshot wound. Two policemen were arrested in connection with the shootings, a police spokesman said.

Usually escaping from broken or abusive families, the children try to survive on the streets. Despite a national outcry (meaning people are very upset) over the issue, children are being killed in Rio this year at twice the rate of 1991, according to one of the social agencies that works with street children.

Brazil's President, Itamar Franco, was "horrified" by the killings and demanded a "rigorous investigation."

TOMORROW'S MORNING will follow this story very closely.

NATIONAL

— As the rain keeps falling and the water keeps rising, it's becoming clear that the terrible flooding of 1993 will have a much bigger effect on the nation's economy than seemed likely just a short time ago.

Seems like we get bombarded with heavy rain and heavy rain. In between, we get light rain. And Ray A. Arends, a farmer in Alexander, Iowa, it's been hard to get the crops in. It's hard on equipment. It's hard on nerves. The financial impact is yet to be seen, but right now it really looks bleak.

Heavy rain continued to fall along the Mississippi River in Nebraska, making the flooded area even larger and opening the door to more trouble ahead.

And to show how weird the weather is these days, while the Midwest is reeling from the flood, parts of the Southeastern United States without a trace of rainfall since June 15 are feeling the bite of a drought.

(What's going on here?)

INTERNATIONAL

Canada: It Must Be The Mounties

Celebrations got a bit out of hand in Montreal on June 9th, after the Montreal Canadiens won the Stanley Cup, making them hockey's champs. Rioters did millions of dollars worth of damage, smashing shop windows, attacking police and overturning anything, police cars included, in their path.

Canadians were troubled by this unusual violence. Americans might wonder why. On June 21st in Chicago, crowds rioted after the victory of their city's basketball team (da Bulls). Three people died from gun wounds, one a motorist pulled from his car at a crossroads.

Is Canada (one of whose most famous symbols is that of a mounted [on a horse] policeman) really less violent than the United States? The statistics say so.

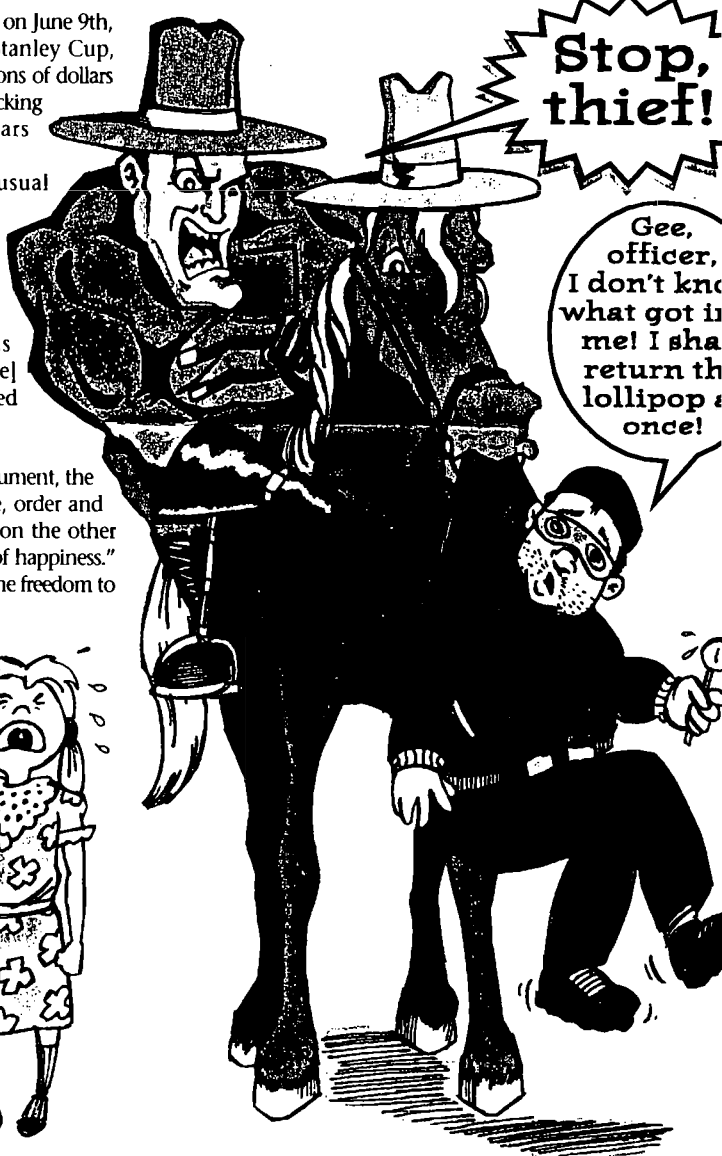
And if so, why?

One reason is plain. Canada's founding document, the British North American Act of 1867, set "peace, order and good government" as what counted; the U.S., on the other hand, talked about "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." One of those American liberties has always been the freedom to have guns.

Canada has far fewer guns and much tighter controls, and this year its rules were made even stricter. But fewer guns are only part of the story. The inner-city slums of the United States are murderous, bombed-out-looking places. American visitors to Canada's big cities often ask where the slums are. The answer is that there really aren't any slums, and the level of violence reflects it. Also, Canada's more generous welfare benefits and universal health insurance have made for safer cities.

Canada may seem a peaceful place compared with its violent neighbor (us), but it's no calmer than most rich countries. The question, says one lawyer, is not why Canada has so little violence, but why Americans put up with so much.

Good point. ☺



NATIONAL

Clinton Youth: 'Summer Of Service'

When lots of Bill Clinton's economic package was wrecked on Republican rocks in Congress, a small piece managed to survive. This was his "Summer of Service" idea, rescued when the Commission on National and Community Service decided to put \$10 million of its own cash behind it.

For eight weeks this summer, 1,475 young people in 16 cities are earning the minimum wage of \$4.25 an hour for 32 hours a week. In Oakland they are cleaning up parks; in Philadelphia they are immunizing children (giving them shots); in New York they are testing kids for lead-paint poisoning.

The program has echoes of Jack Kennedy's Job Corps, and of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s; but it's not really like either of them. Instead of being set up and managed at the national level (through Washington), "Summer of Service" provides money to expand local programs that are already up and running. It's intended to have what is known as a "multiplier effect"—encouraging teenagers to clean up their own cities and to get and stay involved with their own communities.

The Oakland program, run by the East Bay Conservation Corps (EBCC), has been going on for ten years.

BILL WANTS



YOU!

Around 200 recruits (kids who joined up) are already working for rock-bottom pay, cleaning up the shoreline and school playgrounds. EBCC received the biggest "Summer of Service" grant, a little over \$1 million, which supports 250 more recruits.

About 100 of these will go into six school centers, where the recruits will help around 400 12- to 14-year-olds with their reading and writing for half the day, and do community cleaning-up for the other half.

This year's "Summer of Service" is seen as a beginning for what may become, in time, a big-time program of national service. By some estimates, 150,000 young people might be enrolled by 1997. The present small group took part in a week of boot camp at Treasure Island Navy Base, in San Francisco Bay, to prepare themselves for the experience. They mobbed Vice President Al Gore, who told them they could change the world.

And besides doing the right thing, these young folks will also each earn \$1,000 towards the cost of a university education. Good stuff all the way around. ☺

New York Times

8/18/93

A Challenge for Kids — and the Military

America's military forces are redefining themselves in the post-cold-war era. At the same time, many poor and minority youths aren't succeeding in school or in life. That's why a new National Guard initiative seems like a good idea for the military, for troubled youths and for society.

The initiative is the Youth Corps Challenge program (the capitalized NG is for National Guard), which enlists current and former military personnel to teach and counsel young men and women who have dropped out of school. The teaching is aimed at preparing them to obtain a high school equivalency diploma. The counseling is to help them cope with life.

To qualify for the program, which is now getting its first test in Connecticut, a dropout must be 16 to 18 years old and unemployed; only those on probation or parole or with charges pending against them will be disqualified. The program's mission is to intervene before it's too late in the lives of youths

who are at risk. While these young people are not recruited for military service, they do get a healthy dose of military discipline. Their uniforms consist mainly of T-shirts and sweat pants, and their days are carefully structured.

Over 22 weeks, participants attend classes in academic subjects like English, math and science. They also hear talks on citizenship and leadership and learn routine skills like balancing a checkbook. At the end of the program, each participant who receives an equivalency diploma, gets a job or goes on to college will be awarded a stipend of \$2,200.

The Federal Government has appropriated \$44 million for the program's first year, which will finance pilot projects in 10 states. "We offer the gift of hope," says Dan Donohue, the Guard's public affairs director and the principal developer of the Challenge program. That could be true for the military services seeking new challenges as well as for the dropouts.

Zero-Sum Game

ONE OF the questions with regard to the Clinton administration's national service bill has always been, at what other program's expense was it likely to be funded. Early on, because the service proposal was couched in part as a kind of college student aid, some in the higher education community saw it as a possible threat to the never adequately funded Pell grant program.

That's because Pell grants, which go to the lowest-income college students, were the other major student aid program subject to the appropriations process. The effect would have been regressive—a transfer of support from the poor toward the middle class—because the service grants won't be limited to low-income students. But not to worry, said administration officials. The service program wouldn't be in the same appropriations bill—for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education—as the other student aid programs. Therefore it wouldn't directly compete with them. Instead, the aides said happily, the Clinton program would be in the bill that covers Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and independent agencies.

The Clinton people may have been the first in history to be happy about finding themselves in the shark tank of VA-HUD and independent agencies bill. The competitors for funds include segments of the housing industry, the mayors (for urban aid), the huge

veterans' lobby, the space agency and the Environmental Protection Agency, the last two among the independents. But the administration had a secret weapon: Sen. Barbara Mikulski, a strong supporter of the service idea, is the chairman of the VA-HUD appropriations subcommittee on the Senate side.

Appropriations are a zero-sum game these days, however, and while the service people were pleased, some veterans' advocates were not. When the service bill was on the House floor, Rep. Gerald Solomon made the unusual motion that it be considered "a component of budget function 500" and thereby "related to the programs of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education for budgetary purposes." Veterans' groups had already objected to one aspect of the service bill, the size of the stipend. Mr. Solomon read into the record letters from veterans' groups saying it was unfair to have an education program compete with veterans' programs for funds. His amendment passed, 259 to 171.

One reason doubtless was the clout of veterans' groups. But another may have been that at least some members knew it was a free vote. The appropriations committees aren't bound by budget functions, can split programs up as they please and will apparently leave the service program where it is. It is a zero-sum game, but played according to the appropriators' rules.

Matters of Interest

INTEREST RATES have been falling steadily—in political terms, a reward to President Clinton and the country for the attack on the budget deficit. Lower federal deficits, and investors' lower expectations of inflation ahead, bring unequivocal benefits. But less welcome factors also contribute to the decline—the deep recession in Europe and slow recovery in Japan. They increase the worldwide availability of capital, but they make it hard for Americans to increase their exports. The United States is counting on exports to get its own economy growing faster.

Long-term interest rates are among the most influential numbers in any economy, because they set the cost of investing for the future. The long rates are partly the result of simple supply and demand in the financial markets. The more borrowers competing for loans, the higher they bid up interest. But the rates are also heavily affected by investors' guesses about inflation, since a loan is profitable only as long as the interest it earns is higher than inflation.

After the great surge of inflation in the 1970s, interest rates peaked in the fall of 1981 when a 20-year government bond yielded 15.78 percent—a dire moment in financial history. (The inflation rate the previous year had been 13.5 percent.) By last week, the Treasury's 30-year bond was selling 6.18

percent (and, not incidentally, inflation over the past year has been just under 3 percent). In an even more dramatic demonstration of the return to stability, last month two corporations, Walt Disney Co. and Coca Cola Co., were able to sell 100-year bonds—the first sold in this country in more than a generation. In the 12 years since 1981—a relatively short time for people making 100-year bets—the consensus regarding the financial future has been transformed.

The great question of policy now is whether it's possible to get the American economy growing faster without jeopardizing this precious stability. The traditional way of speeding up sales and employment is to widen the federal deficit. But if Mr. Clinton tries that, interest rates will leap up and more than offset any stimulus from spending. The people who make policy are trying to find their way back to the conditions of the two decades after World War II, when interest was low, deficits were low and the economy roared ahead.

To do that under present circumstances would be very difficult without rapidly rising exports. That's why higher employment and wages in this country—and the voters' judgment on the Clinton strategy—are now largely beyond American control. They depend heavily on economic recovery in Japan and Europe.

The Washington Post

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1993

Gregory S. Prince Jr.

National Service Is Everybody's Business

Congress is close to passing President Clinton's national service bill. Under the proposed National Service Corporation, young people who agree to work in community service can receive up to \$10,000 to pay for college. Ideally, the program will help restore to the fabric of our society the understanding that helping others is an important and valued endeavor.

At Hampshire College, we share the president's commitment to public service. Since the college's founding, students have been required to engage in some form of public service during their studies here. We also believe that Washington can't and

Our college will match the national service scholarships dollar for dollar.

shouldn't be solely responsible for national service programs. The whole nation should be involved—state and local governments, private organizations, universities and colleges. We too should serve. In that spirit, Hampshire College's Board of Trustees has voted that the college will match—dollar for dollar—the national service scholarships of students who attend this school. Simply put, we will double national service scholarships.

Hampshire would also like to encourage—dare we say challenge?—other colleges and universities to establish similar matching programs for National Service Corporation Scholarships.

Not only can this commitment enhance higher education's service to the nation, but it can also become an invaluable part of a young person's education. It can provide a set of goals; it can impart a sense of shared concern more powerful than anything they can read in a book; it can provide money for school for students who desperately need it. Equally important, public service, if the funding and commitment are real, can be an effective way to address many of the problems facing our society.

We've seen all of this first-hand at the Five Colleges, a group of schools in western Massachusetts committed to innovation and a wide vision of education. Each year, the public service projects undertaken by our students—at Amherst, Mount Holyoke, Smith and Hampshire Colleges and at the University of Massachusetts—fill hundreds of pages. We know that, given opportunity and encouragement, young men and women are eager to serve their community and their country.

At the Five Colleges, community service takes many forms: working in health clinics on preventive care; planting and harvesting crops for the Western Massachusetts Food Bank to feed the hungry of the Pioneer Valley; teaching English to immigrant families seeking better lives in our state. The examples go on and on. But no matter the form of service, the lesson is clear: The young will invest their time and efforts—their inherent energy, enthusiasm and creativity—to solve the problems of their communities.

Hampshire College opened its doors in 1970, shortly after Robert Kennedy wrote that "at the most simple and direct level, the contributions of young people are needed by the nation." Those words are as true today as they were amid the promise and pain of the 1960s.

Therefore, Hampshire College is ready to enlist in national service, to give to it and not just receive from it. Higher education as a whole can do no less.

The writer is president of Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass.

The Boston Globe

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1993

A good start for national service

ROBERT L. TURNER

President Clinton and congressional Democrats fought Republican efforts to trim their national service bill last week, with mixed results. On the whole, backers said they were pleased with the compromise version scheduled for final approval on Sept. 7, the first day Congress is back in session.

Among people already working with such programs at street level – including Boston's City Year – the response was nothing short of jubilation, and it was well deserved.

Even the cutbacks – the reduction in the number of participants, especially in the second and third years, and the small amount of seed money to attract private donations, for instance – were seen not as defeats but as challenges.

Once everyone sees how successful the startup programs are, supporters say, the pressure to enlarge them will grow naturally.

From the first there has been a tension between scope and quality.

Clinton campaigned across the country describing a plan to stimu-

late community service by having it earn credit toward college tuitions. It sounded like a program that could have an enormous demand.

The bill agreed to in Congress calls for 20,000 service slots the first year – starting next spring and summer – rising to 33,000 and 47,000 in succeeding years. This represents a two-thirds reduction in the third year from Clinton's original bill, which envisioned slots starting at 25,000 and growing over three years to 150,000.

But even at 20,000, the program will contain 4,000 more workers than the Peace Corps did at its peak, points out Nick Littlefield, staff director for the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, which is headed by Sen. Edward Kennedy, the strongest proponent of national service in Congress.

Equally important, according to those directly involved, is the need to focus initially on quality over quantity. City Year has been an enormous success by almost any standard, partly because it has not been an enormous program. "It is better to start small and do it right," Alan Khazei, a cofounder of City Year, said yesterday. This fall City Year is

scheduled to grow again, but slowly, with 300 slots in Boston and 60 in a satellite program in Providence.

Sending a bunch of kids out to pick up trash or paint a fence may do some good, but City Year has pioneered a program that is much, much more. "There is structure and discipline," Khazei said in an interview earlier this year. "There are uniforms. There are rules and standards. And we are unabashedly idealistic."

Most City Year participants are high school graduates taking a year of service before work or college. But some high school dropouts are enrolled and are actively encouraged to finish their high school equivalency.

City Year splits up its participants into teams, each of which has ethnic, economic and cultural variety. The team members work and learn together and inevitable grow interdependent. They find, Khazei said, "you have to give up some of your individualism to find your true individualism."

One after another, participants tell similar stories.

"It really inspired me," said Amber McMurtie of Newton. "Now any-

thing I do in my life is going to involve community service."

"It changes you," said Marilyn Cuba of Chelsea, who described herself as a mixed-up dropout when she lucked into City Year. "It makes you want to go to work every day."

As inspiring as many individual stories are, supporters of national service point to many other benefits.

Michael Brown, City Year's other cofounder, sees national service as "completing the civil rights movement."

Robert Coles, the writer, suggests that those who have completed service will be better students. "They will serve to energize the universities," he said.

And Gary Orren, a political science professor at Harvard's Kennedy School, on leave to be City Year's national policy and planning director, points out that the Clinton bill does not call for a new bureaucracy but sets up a corporation to pick and fund programs around the country, encouraging private and nonprofit participation. "This is really reinventing government," he said.

Robert L. Turner is a Globe columnist.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Thursday, August 12, 1993

Summer immunization project gets a final boost

The program is short of its goal with a week left. So city officials put the pinch on community leaders.

By Vanessa Williams
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Despite six weeks of canvassing, cajoling and counseling, the city's summer immunization project is about halfway short of its goal of giving free shots to 5,000 Philadelphia children.

So yesterday, Mayor Rendell and City Health Commissioner Robert K. Ross held a pep rally to energize about 150 community leaders, who were asked to help the city reach its goal before the program ends next Thursday.

"We have seven working days to go on the ICARE project," Rendell said, referring to the acronym for the federally funded Immunize Children at Early Risk program. The city received a \$1 million grant under President Clinton's Summer of Service program, a pilot for the national service initiative.

"We've got the money," Rendell said. "Now it's on us. . . . Let's get this done." Rendell, noting that Ross will be leaving Philadelphia at the end of the month to head the county health

department in San Diego, asked community leaders "to make this program a success as a final tribute to him."

Ross explained to the group gathered in the Mayor's Reception Room in City Hall that the target audience for the summer immunization program was children not yet of school age. He said about 98 percent of school-age children were immunized because parents know that their children won't be allowed to enter public schools without their proper shots.

He also asked the volunteers to help dispel rumors and fears about immunizations. He said some people are afraid of catching diseases from a needle, while others don't believe the

shots protect children against illness.

The commissioner urged the audience, which included ministers, block captains, neighborhood program heads and other grassroots activists, to use their influence with parents in their communities to get the message out.

"If each of you could find 10 kids and get them to an immunization site, it would be a great help toward reaching our goal."

In the middle of his comments, Ross paused and said, "Oh, Big Bird's here." The fuzzy yellow *Sesame Street* character was joined by a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle and Barney, the purple dinosaur of television fame, and his sidekick Baby Bop.

The cartoon characters were being played by four of the youths who have been employed in the program, one of 11 Summer of Service grant programs in the country. High school and college students are paid minimum wage and receive a \$1,000 grant toward college or vocational school costs.

From now through next Thursday, shots are being offered at several sites around the city, including district health centers; private, federally funded health clinics; churches, and community centers. At health centers, express lines have been set up for families seeking immunizations.

For information about the nearest immunization site and other questions, call 466-2100.

The Boston Globe

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1993

Service plan sounds good to some students

Others say it doesn't go far enough

By Stephen Power
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

CAMBRIDGE - Eating his bag lunch beneath the trees in Harvard Yard, Christopher P. Hays, 19, had no trouble explaining the appeal of President Clinton's national service plan.

"Community service is something a lot of people want to do, but never get around to," said Hays, who is working this summer at Widener Library. "But this is something to give them the motivation to do it."

A junior at Brown University, Hays knows the cost of a college education firsthand. A year ago, his parents sold their house in Lincoln and moved to a cheaper one in Sudbury so they could afford Brown's \$26,000-a-year price tag. Financial aid helps Hays cover about 15 percent of his tuition, he said.

A few miles away, on the campus of Northeastern University in Boston, Kim Brighton, 25, was not so generous.

"It won't work, especially with that new bill. Clinton's raising taxes," said Brighton, a junior from Newport, R.I. "I'd like to see it happen, but they better compensate me when I get out of school. It depends on how much money I'd be making."

Hays' and Brighton's comments reflect the range of opinions many college students have about the plan.

Under the plan, those who complete 1,700 hours of community work would receive \$4,275 for each year, up to two years, to use for college tuition. Graduate students also are eligible to participate.

Students also would receive a living stipend of \$7,400 to \$14,800 a year. About 20,000 people could take part in the first year of the program, increasing to 47,000 in the third year.

Although most students agreed Clinton has good intentions, many question whether they or their friends would be willing to sacrifice that many hours of community service to receive less than \$5,000.

"I'm not sure if I would go for that," said Cathleen A. Bruni, 18, who will be a freshman at Northeastern University in the fall. "I'm not sure if the money I'd receive would be incentive enough to do it."

For Bruni, who is considering a career as a nurse, a safer course lies in getting a job at a hospital and going to night school. Community service, she said, would only postpone her plunge into the job market.

Still, most students said they like the plan because it can give them a sense of responsibility to their com-

munity at a time when they might be eager only to make money.

"I know a lot of kids whose parents pay for everything through college, and then they don't know what to do when they graduate," said Pamela Yanakopoulos, 19, a junior at Boston College who works as a teller at Cambridge Savings Bank. "I think something like this would make them realize they need to work for others."

Clinton's director of national service, Eli J. Segal, agreed that the program's success depends on attracting students who want to serve their country and broaden their skills - not just pay for their schooling.

"Our objective is to make this prestigious and limited," Segal said yesterday after a speech to members of the Bostonian Club. "If you focus this on education repayment, it won't work."

The plan is especially popular among students such as Milan Jain, 17, a high school senior from Tulsa, Okla.

In between biology classes at Harvard's summer school, Jain is already thinking about graduate school - and the cost of an extra year or two of tuition.

"This plan sounds really good from what I've heard," Jain said. "I think more emphasis needs to be placed on education. If it's easier for people to go to school, it is one of the best things the nation could do."

But like most, Jain said he harbors doubts.

"I wonder if the people in the middle class will get squeezed out again," he said. "That's happened to a lot of my friends. They've been offered full scholarships at state colleges and can't get aid from the best private ones. So the brightest students are prevented from getting the best education."

'Our objective is to make this prestigious and limited. If you focus this on education repayment, it won't work.'

ELI J. SEGAL
National service director

Reaction to the national service plan



Manta Perikis, 19
of Allston, a junior at BU
majoring in chemistry

"I'd take part in this if I was given it and had no other choice. It's a step in the right direction. But more needs to be done. This won't solve everything."



Wesley E. Strawn, 21
of Boston, a senior majoring in
chemistry at BU

"That's a lot of work. I'd rather take out a loan and work full time. This will help get you through, but not by itself. But every little bit helps."



Matthew M. Walsh, 20
a junior studying architecture at
Roger Williams College in
Bristol, R.I.

"I'm willing to give some hours to the government for urban planning, which for me could be good experience. I could even work for the city of Boston."



Ray Niera, 23
of Sudbury, a continuing
education student studying
applied math at UMass-Boston

"Obviously it will cost money. If there was enough money to bail out the savings and loans the Republicans destroyed, there's enough for this. It's worth cutting something. There's got to be something in Washington they can do without."

Interviews conducted by Stephen Power with college students at various campuses around Boston. Globe photos by John Bohn.

Carrying the torch for youth

THOMAS OLIPHANT

WASHINGTON

Even as the national shouting match over the heart of President Clinton's domestic policy was reaching its climax Thursday and Friday, a quieter, more solid result was being achieved over its soul.

Down the hall from the tumult in the self-publicized White House "war room" of the budget battlers, the architects of the president's national service initiative were putting the finishing touches on what is part stunning legislative victory but part high-stakes roll of the dice.

Fortunately, the chief architect understands those stakes. The president's close friend Eli Siegel — a Boston businessman by vocation and a longtime political activist by conviction — is in a position like that of John Kennedy's brother-in-law, R. Sargent Shriver, 30 years ago, only Siegel's spot is probably tougher in this deeply cynical time.

Nothing symbolized the passing of the generational torch in 1960 the way the Peace Corps did, and no light from that confident period shines brighter today. The idea that something like it could happen again has intrigued people across the political spectrum — from Edward Kennedy to Sam Nunn to freshman Republican Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson of Texas.

Like the Peace Corps, however, the idea of national service — financial help for higher education and training in return for serious time on the front lines of the toughest domestic problems — is phony without careful planning and demanding performance standards.

Over lunch in his office last week, Siegel acknowledged the challenge in setting up the first major government initiative in more than 10 years at a time when it is chic to doubt that government can do anything effectively, and meeting that challenge during a three-year trial.

In today's climate, he also acknowledged, that means new criteria and concepts: meeting public service needs not now being met; decentralized administration by a new government corporation that operates through the

states; a strong emphasis on competitive merit, not automatic formulas, in disbursing money; selection of young people based on interest, background and ability, not income-based entitlement.

Siegel emphasizes that national service is not volunteerism. That commendable, part-time activity will retain official promotion, with George Bush's Points of Light Foundation alive under the new corporation's umbrella. Nor is national service a domestic version of the Peace Corps; the VISTA and the Older Americans Act programs will be similarly retained and even expanded.

National service seeks to get a flame out of the different spark that various pilot projects and the Clinton proposal have struck to see how much pragmatic idealism among young people there really is and how effectively it can be harnessed over three years with no more than \$1.5 billion in outlays.

Already the ideas are starting to take shape. There is, for example, no systematic effort to reach the urban and rural poor with the message that basic immunization services are now available. And thanks to budget cuts and neglect, there is a dearth of safe, supervised places where kids can go after school.

Interest in the effort has been surprisingly widespread. Arriving at the Pentagon recently to chat up chairman Colin Powell of the Joint Chiefs, Siegel found all the chiefs present, pushing hard for military involvement.

Siegel the businessman-politician is bullish about his task even if Siegel the rookie government official is a bit stunned after a long and difficult legislative struggle, which included a Senate Republican filibuster at the end. Nonetheless, he succeeded where the budget fight failed in helping forge a fair and workable bipartisan compromise that attracted seven GOP votes.

Siegel, in short, is the obvious choice to lead the three-year national service experiment. He had a long campaign year, and this year has been difficult, but in what amounts to a national war against cynicism, a leadership interruption would be a big mistake that the president shouldn't allow. The Sarge Shriver of the 1990s is in place, already tested and more than ready.

Thomas Oliphant is a Globe columnist.

THE SUN®

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1993

National Service: Too Costly

National Service is one of those good ideas that no one can oppose — in principle. We certainly don't. Yet in today's world, it is an idea whose time has not come. The national government can't afford it. (Neither can state and local governments, which would be coerced into picking up part of the bill.) Given the huge, continuing federal deficit, a potentially expensive new program is a bad idea.

The new program would provide grants, primarily to youths, in return for two years of community service — working as aides in hospitals, parks, police stations, etc., at about minimum wage, with benefits. The grants would be used to pay college tuition or for other educational purposes.

What we like about this program is that it touches a strain of idealism in the nation's youths, and introduces them to public problems they might not become aware of otherwise. Then it assists them with higher education. A fine combination.

But we are worried about how we will pay for all this. It is not an insignificant amount. The first phase is expected to cost \$1.5 billion over three years. The bill's sponsors admit they regard it as a camel's nose under the tent (though they phrase it

differently). The administration and the bill's chief sponsors in Congress originally sought \$7.4 billion over four or five years. They had to cut back to get the votes to pass the bill, but if history is any guide, when the bureaucratic apparatus is in place, there will be pressure to increase spending.

Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., praised the program as one "that builds on lessons learned from VISTA, Peace Corps and other programs. It also builds on the Commission on National and Community Service." *The Sun* supported all of those, but now, as Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kans., said, before reluctantly voting against the proposal last week, there is some question as to whether the new money can be competently and efficiently spent. VISTA, for example, has an annual budget of only \$35 million; the community service commission, only \$77 million. Even the venerable Peace Corps gets just \$212 million a year. Force-feeding an average of half a billion dollars a year into this system is bound to be wasteful.

Congress should re-think this when it comes time to appropriate funds for a National and Community Service program.

ONS

- FYI.

- P.J.

House-Senate Compromise Gives White House Most of What It Wanted on Direct Lending

Plan requires that within 5 years 60% of federal student loans be made through colleges

By Jim Zook

WASHINGTON

THE CONGRESSIONAL COMPROMISE on direct lending gives the Clinton Administration most of what it wanted.

Lawmakers on a House-Senate conference committee approved a plan requiring that, within five years, three of every five student loans be issued by the federal government—through colleges, not banks. Further, they left it optional for all colleges to enlist if they want to, making a complete national transition possible if the program builds momentum.

"It's a major achievement in helping students across the country to genuinely have a variety of pay-back arrangements, and at the same time we are saving money for the students in a way that provides savings for the American taxpayer," said Richard F. Rosser, outgoing president of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

NOT AN EASY COMPROMISE

As *The Chronicle* went to press last week, Congress had not given final approval to the President's budget package, of which direct lending is one provision. However, Congressional aides on both sides of Capitol Hill said the direct-lending portion would not be touched if the budget were rejected and needed to be negotiated again.

The compromise wasn't reached easily. The four-day conference that hashed out final legislative language on direct lending was combative, frustrating, tedious—a fitting conclusion to the six-month fight that encompassed the issue.

The conference became a test of wills between Sen. Edward Kennedy and Rep. William Ford, the committee chairmen responsible for education issues in their respective houses, on how more than \$4-billion in budget savings would be squeezed out of the student-loan program.

Representing the consensus position in the Senate, Mr. Kennedy adamantly refused to consider any approach that would require a 100-per-cent phase-in of direct lending. Bankers supported the Senate version of the bill, which capped direct lending at 50 per cent over four years in hopes of creating a competitive test of the two systems. To reach the savings targets, the Senate proposed more than \$2.3-billion in reduced subsidies and administrative charges to lenders and guarantee agencies.

Mr. Ford was equally insistent in rejecting any proposal that would limit the extent to which direct lending could grow. He supported the Clinton Administration's plan to move completely to direct lending over four years, a position supported by a majority of the House and most major higher-education associations.

He repeatedly predicted that the Senate plan would hit the financial industry so hard that it would drive banks out of the

student-loan business before direct lending could pick up the slack, especially in poor communities.

"Once you give the lender and the other players an exposure of 10 per cent of the risk, they are going to start red-lining and start picking and choosing which schools they lend to," he said.

'WE'VE LOST TRACK OF THE REALITY'

Opponents said that the push for direct lending was motivated more by the savings—which they questioned—than by the idea itself. "It just seems to me that we have lost track of the reality of the situation," said Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, a Kansas Republican.

Mr. Ford agreed with her that savings were a key to the debate. But he said there was no choice, given the need for the overall budget bill to save money. "It's a zero-sum game. It's a maddening way to make policy, because the accountants are making policy for us," Mr. Ford said.

He argued that failing to move to direct lending 100 per cent would hurt low-income students. That would happen, he said, because the Senate plan would end the government's policy of fully backing the loans—forcing financial institutions to assume some of the risk.

After seven head-butting sessions, the conferees finally agreed to a five-year plan that opens with 5 per cent of the total loan volume to be issued by direct lending in

1994-95. That will climb to 40 per cent in 1995-96, to 50 per cent in 1996-97, and to 60 per cent each in 1997-98 and 1998-99. In the last two years, the 60-per-cent mark can be exceeded if additional institutions want to enlist in direct lending.

The agreement came after several months of intense lobbying over an issue that left colleges divided,

More...

'Direct Lending'

Continued...

party lines blurred, and the banking industry waging an expensive campaign to defeat the plan.

Despite the costs incurred by the lending and guarantee industries under this legislation, industry representatives vow to keep a close watch on the performance of the new program.

"The legislation, by not including a complete phase-in to 100 per cent, in essence holds out the hope that if the direct-lending program has problems in implementation, Congress may reconsider its action," said John E. Dean, special counsel to the Consumer Bankers Association. "It creates a tremendous incentive to try to satisfy the needs of schools and students."

'A TRUE MARKET SITUATION'

Senators said their primary interest in opposing a full phase-in of direct lending was to insure a true test of the concept. "I believe direct lending will be the winner in this race," said Sen. James Jeffords, a Vermont Republican. "But I also believe that the best way to find that out is not to guess, but to run a test with a true market situation."

Supporters of direct lending said the compromise gave them cause to celebrate. But they said their glee was tempered by fears that Congress's unwillingness to make an all-or-nothing call will lead to still more confusion in the years ahead.

"We are trying to take what we know has worked in the Perkins loan program and apply what is available with today's technology to create a new program that is a lean, clean, mean machine," said Elizabeth Hicks, coordinator of financial aid at Harvard University and a member of the Education Department's direct-lending advisory board. "Any way that we divert our energies away from the mission of direct lending to a comparison

worries me a little bit."

David A. Longanecker, Assistant Secretary for postsecondary education, said the department would publish guidelines later this month on how institutions can apply to enlist in the first year, and would meet with the players in the guaranteed-loan program "to continue to work with them to successfully phase it down."

The biggest challenge facing the department "is selecting a really good contractor for that first round of servicing, selecting a good set of institutions, and doing the training that is necessary with those institutions long enough in advance to start this program up well," Mr. Longanecker said. "We want the best program that the federal government can provide, and we don't have a lot of time to put that together."

The time crunch will seem especially acute under Congressional and private-sector scrutiny. Congress assigned to its Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance the task of monitoring the new program and filing annual reports on it through 1997. The committee has never previously performed auditing or oversight functions of this nature.

"What will be new for us is the whole issue of administering contracts," said Stanley Z. Koplik, executive director of the Kansas Board of Regents and a committee member. "We don't have the capacity to do the work ourselves, so we will have to be very careful in selecting the right people to do objective analysis."

SKEPTICS REMAIN

The Clinton Administration still must win over some skeptical education constituencies and mold the program in a way that insures universal access.

Many smaller colleges have opposed direct lending, fearing that their liability will be greater as they serve as the originator of loans. The United Negro College Fund

has repeatedly criticized the proposal, saying its member institutions would have to bear added expenses that they cannot cover. Financial-aid officials with professional schools said their institutions could not sign up for direct lending because the limits in federal loan programs are below the cost of attending their institutions.

NEW FINANCIAL OFFICER

"Without the availability of these private loans, which would probably not be available to students at institutions participating in direct loans, our students would be at a serious loss for funds," said Deb Heineman, director of financial aid and information systems at the Medical College of Ohio.

Even up to the last minutes of the House-Senate conference, both sides came up with new strategies.

President Clinton moved to allay fears of Education Department mismanagement by nominating a critic of the department as its chief financial officer. The nominee, Donald R. Wurtz, is director of financial-integrity issues at the General Accounting Office, a position from which he has repeatedly criticized the way student loan programs have been run by the department.

Education Secretary Richard W. Riley wrote to members of the conference committee, hailing the selection of "one of the toughest and most knowledgeable critics of the management of the student-loan programs."

^AM-Clinton National Service,470

^Clinton Cites Young People for Public Service

^By NANCY BENAC= ^Associated Press Writer=

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) President Clinton told enthusiastic young veterans of a two-month Summer of Service project Tuesday that they were "pioneers" of a national service program that will change America.

"Don't you find that you see the world in a different way once you do this?" Clinton asked 79 young people who participated in service projects in Georgia and elsewhere around the country. "I mean, you know what the problems are, but you also have a sense that you can solve them and make a difference."

Clinton spent four hours at a Summer of Service forum at the University of Maryland, learning about the youths' experiences and answering their questions about the future of his national service program.

The young people told Clinton about their work in a wide variety of areas, including projects to immunize inner-city children, clean up polluted rivers, deliver meals to AIDS victims and teach youngsters to avoid gangs and stay in school.

Marcus Pinkney, who helped teach elementary school children in Atlanta, said he learned that giving time and attention to youngsters was "the most basic tool of all."

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Matthew Rasmussen, a Denver youth who helped restore a Colorado wetlands area, told Clinton, "this summer we helped give back what had been taken away."

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The legislation would allow students to trade public service work for college tuition. Students who complete two years of community service work can earn \$4,725 a year to apply toward college tuition. Participants also would receive living allowances of at least \$7,400 a year and health-care and child day-care benefits.

One youth asked Clinton what he thought the program would look like in 10 years.

"I don't believe it will be 10,000 kids a year or 50,000 or 100,000," Clinton said. "I think that the program will become so popular and will so capture the imagination of the country that, in effect, anybody who wants to be a part of it to help defray their college costs or just because they want to serve will be able to do it."

He told the youth that one day they that will look back and say, "I was a pioneer in something that changed America for the better."

^BC-MN--Public Service, Bjt,470

^Minnesota Students Praise Community Service Program

^With AP Photo

^pblab

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Senogles and Jill Cobernais, 21, were among 50 youths who cleaned up a stream and created a nature trail on their reservation as one of 16 Summer of Service projects. The participants were paid minimum wage and a \$1,000 stipend for their education.

The program is a trial run for a more ambitious national service program that is awaiting final approval in the Senate. The president's legislation would allow young people to earn money for college in return for a year or two of public service work in their communities.

Representatives of each of this summer's projects were invited to the forum Tuesday on the University of Maryland campus.

"I have always believed that you and tens of thousands, eventually hundreds of thousands of young people like you, could change the future of America and in the process could change your lives," the president said.

Senogles was one of seven participants invited to sit on the dais with the president and describe their projects as he listened.

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About 400 people came to help the students clean up the stream, which was filled with downed trees, old tires and other debris.

Senogles and Cobernais were easy to pick out in the crowd of young people. They were dressed in their native clothes while the others were wearing Summer of Service T-shirts.

"It's national pride for our people," Cobernais said.

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She only had one complaint about the program. "I thought it was too short. If I could do more, I would," she said.

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PM-MN--Youth-Clinton,160

Redlake Youth Workers to Meet With President Clinton

amsjs

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"It has been a very successful project," said Renee Senogles, project director of Red Lake's Summer of Service Program.

She said she hopes the program will develop into a year-round project.

The call to national service

When Congress returns from its summer recess, it is expected to give final approval to President Clinton's national service proposal. Not only will that approval bring Clinton his first solid legislative victory, it also will present a challenge to America's young people.

So far, at least, there has not been the kind of emotional response that greeted the announcement of the Peace Corps and the VISTA program some 30 years ago.

Among Boston-area college students interviewed by the Globe last week, there was a noticeable lack of enthusiasm for the national service plan. The strongest support the Globe's reporter could find was from a Brown University junior who said the plan might give his contemporaries the motivation to do something that "a lot of people want to do but never get around to."

But even he, along with a number of others, noted that the scholarship or loan-forgiveness offered by the program - \$4,275 for each of two years of full time (1,700 hours) service - represents only a modest contribution toward the \$100,000 that now looms as the cost of a college education.

In outlining the program last week to members of the Bostonian Club, Eli J. Segal, the Boston lawyer and entrepreneur who will head the program, emphasized that its recruits will come not only from college campuses but from inner-city

neighborhoods.

"This is not an antipoverty program," Segal said, "but 50 percent of the funding will be for programs in economically at-risk communities," and participation will come from those communities. Boston's City Year program, which draws students from city high schools to work in a variety of community service programs, is thus a better model than the Peace Corps for Clinton's national service plan.

Domestic service, as opposed to overseas service, carries its own set of problems. Segal noted that the "goodwill ambassador" approach of the Peace Corps in developing countries will not suffice to justify the national service program, which "must be able to document success" from specific accomplishments in American communities if it is to win continued support from Congress.

But what the program will really have to document, even more than specific accomplishments, is that American youth are willing to accept the challenge of national service.

In his Boston speech - to an audience that included several veterans of the Peace Corps and of older domestic service programs like VISTA - Segal noted that "it has now been too long since any of us have been challenged to serve our country. And for our children, it's been a lifetime."

The challenge is about to be offered again, and America can only hope that it will be accepted.

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8-18-93

The drumbeat to serve

"And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country."

— John F. Kennedy
Jan. 4, 1961

It was a simple statement that touched the most noble of American spirits — our desire to give to others in times of need.

That is what has moved so many to come to the aid of Midwesterners whose hopes and dreams have been washed away by the raging Mississippi River. And that is what drove people all the way to Florida to help strangers rebuild after Hurricane Andrew.

Three decades later, the former president's words still resonate. His was a call to sacrifice for the common good, a belief that every American — rich or poor, educated or not — could make a difference.

That same appeal provides the underpinnings to President Clinton's National Service Plan. His is the same call to service, the same belief in America's goodness and young people's idealism. And it is very popular.

In these debt-ridden times, the \$1.5 billion program that offers young people college tuition assistance in exchange for community service also reflects a popular theme of the '90s: You have to work for life's rewards; no one's entitled to anything.

It is true that young people will get something in return for their efforts. But Clinton officials make no apologies in pointing out that this is not voluntarism, it's service — what one sociologist calls "a GI bill for middle-class kids."

If it works as planned, some 20,000 young people will fan across the country next year and, for minimum wage, spend one to two years working in homeless shelters and soup kitchens, tutoring illiterate adults and pre-schoolers, or doing whatever else communities need. For each year of service, the federal

government will pay up to \$4,725 toward their education. No funds will be paid toward their tuition until after they've completed their service. It's one of the program's safeguards.

There are also pitfalls, and that's why it is imperative that the program be carefully scrutinized every step of the way. This is an ambitious new program at a time when the country has no money to spare. Even its director, Ed Segal, admitted while in Atlanta this week that neither he nor the president really know "when we throw this party, how many will come." At its height in the '60s, the Peace Corps attracted only 16,000.

There is also the worry over any good idea government gets hold of: Too much bureaucracy will stifle it, like the ACTION agency did to its VISTA volunteers. Too little bureaucracy leaves it to spin out of control, like the jobs program CETA did.

Nevertheless, President Clinton is wisely building on programs that already work. He's looked to the tremendously successful Teach for America program, in which recent graduates compete to teach in underserved rural and urban areas. This year, the privately run national program received 3,600 applications for 600 spots.

The only payback for participants is the chance to make a difference.

Even here, the Hands on Atlanta program — involving 50 young people at an elementary school — is a harbinger of the national program's success.

In these violent, war-torn times, the notion of young people serving their country is a bright spot. And it is testament that the American spirit is still fresh and alive.

Support National Service

President Clinton's National Service bill, contrary to *The Sun's* editorial, is a well-constructed, cost-effective way to address real problems in our communities.

Young people not only provide needed services but they develop an ethic of citizenship which stays with them for the rest of their lives.

Members of the corps, for example, will return up to \$2.88 in services to the community for every dollar spent. In addition, 80 percent of young people who are involved in youth corps continue to volunteer in the community, as compared to 54 percent of the general population.

This summer the Maryland Student Services Alliance operated two National Service demonstration projects (Civic Works and Summer Corps) for 75 participants. We brought together high school dropouts, college students and college graduates, city and county residents who worked shoulder to shoulder to solve real problems.

The participants in Civic Works served as teacher's aides and tutors at summer schools run by Southeast and Herring Run middle schools.

They helped build basketball courts and renovated the Herring Run Recreation Center. One team gave Madison Square Recreation Center its first coat of paint in 15 years. Other teams worked as health outreach educators with the Baltimore City Department of Health and cleared trails along Gwynn's Falls.

A Civic Works tutor, working one-

on-one with a 13-year-old girl at Southeast Middle School, noticed that her student kept squinting every time she tried to read. The tutor discovered a solution to the student's reading problem that had escaped her parents and teachers: The girl needed glasses.

Summer Corps recruited over 80 high school and middle school students to work in the Governor's Mission Youth camps for urban children.

They taught substance abuse prevention, math and reading, good nutrition and used the Marylanders Against Handgun Control curriculum to develop conflict resolution skills. They also conducted stream clean-ups.

For far too long problems in our country have suffered from neglect, indifference and apathy. National Service offers a cadre of talented, trained and committed young people who will help rebuild our schools, address debilitating violence and preserve our environment.

Maryland has shown what young people can accomplish when given the chance.

It's time to support National Service and give ourselves this opportunity to make real and lasting improvements in our communities and in our country.

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend
Baltimore

The writer is executive director of the Maryland Student Service Alliance.

^AM-Clinton National Service,470

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Clinton hails national service participants
COLLEGE PARK. Md. (UPI) Declaring that volunteer work can
revolutionize our country," President Clinton hailed young Americans
Tuesday who contributed their time and effort this summer to national
service.

Speaking at the University of Maryland, where he once stayed as a youth
visiting Washington, Clinton told the 79 participants in the "Summer of
Service Forum: "If every American did what you did for the last two
months...we could revolutionize our country. There are no problems we could
solve. There is no future we cannot have."

"And I hope with all my heart, that what you have done here will set the
standard for the national service project in community after community that
young people will engage in when this bill becomes law," the president said.

Although smaller in size than he had envisioned because of a lack of
funding, Clinton met with participants who served in 40 different programs
nationwide.

He called for a "summer of service" March 1 but legislation still is
pending in Congress that would allow young people to serve in their
communities for one or two years, while helping to pay their way through
college or pay off existing loan debt.

"You are this country," he said. "I hope we will see it repeated
hundreds of thousands of times over the course of my presidency and I hope it
will become a permanent part of American life."

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 31, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT SUMMER OF SERVICE FORUM

Stamp Student Union
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

11:00 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: You know, I really love Senator Mikulski -- if she just weren't so laid back and passive and -- (laughter) -- soft-spoken, you might figure out what's on her mind. (Laughter.) She was terrific.

I'd like to begin by introducing some other people who are here, and I hate to do this only because I know I'm going to miss someone that I should introduce. But I want to begin anyway by introducing the distinguished Governor of Maryland, Governor Don Schaefer, one of my former colleagues when I was a governor. (Applause.) One of the most important leaders in the House of Representatives, Congressman Steny Hoyer from Maryland. (Applause.) I want to introduce a man who came all the way from his state of Connecticut to be here with us today, the first Republican sponsor we had for the National Service legislation, Representative Chris Shays from Connecticut. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

I see my good friend, Senator Mike Miller there, the Democratic Majority in the Senate of Maryland. (Applause.) A former Congressman from Maryland and now the Cochair of the President's Council on Physical Fitness -- when he stands up you'll see why -- distinguished former professional basketball player, Mr. Tom McMillan, my friend in the back. (Applause.)

I was really -- Tom and I ran four miles together the other day, and he's almost seven feet tall and he ran at a pace I had difficulty maintaining. So I was very impressed. (Laughter.) He convinced me he was qualified for the job I gave him.

And finally, I would like to acknowledge the President of the University of Maryland, President William Kirwan, who is here. (Applause.) And in some ways, most important of all, the person who I put in charge of creating and carrying out the National Service Program, my friend of nearly 25 years, Mr. Eli Segal. I'd like to ask him to stand. (Applause.)

I'll tell you, I just saw -- there's one other person way in the back I've got to introduce because he and I started working on this concept of national service a few years ago through an organization I was involved in called the Democratic Leadership Council. And he's a professor here at the University of Maryland, but he's on leave. He's working in the White House for me now, Professor Bill Galston. Thank you, Bill, for your help. (Applause.)

I came here mostly to listen to you today and to thank you, but I wanted to just say a few words. This campus has a special meaning in my life. The first time I ever came to the University of Maryland was 30 years ago this summer when I was a delegate from my

MORE

home state of Arkansas to the American Legion Boys Nation program. We stayed here and then went to Washington frequently to learn about the government. I met President Kennedy then; I saw members of Congress, members of the Cabinet, and really had my eyes opened to a whole world of possibility.

But the thing that I remember I think most clearly after all these years is that President Kennedy said in his inaugural that we should not ask what our country could do for us, but we could do for our country. And he also said that we must always remember that here on Earth God's work must truly be our own. That's what all of you have done.

I just finished a two-week vacation, which I needed very badly because I worked pretty hard the last several years. But you just finished two months of very important work -- the Summer of Service ends today, and I hope you feel refreshed by the time you gave to other people and the service you rendered. And we are about to begin, as Senator Mikulski says, when the Senate passes the national service bill next week, we'll start the first full year of national service at the community level.

I always believe that you and tens of thousands and eventually hundreds of thousands of young people like you could change the future of America, and in the process, could change your lives.

I ran for President for two big reasons: One is I thought our country was not going in the right direction; and the second, I thought our country was coming apart when it ought to be coming together. I wanted to get the country moving again, and I wanted to bring the country together again. I wanted people to have a sense of the common good. I wanted us to draw strength from our diversity and to face our problems honestly, and to seize our opportunities. I wanted people to recognize again that we don't have a person to waste and that too many of our young people are being lost.

And I believe that we could do it. I never thought the government could do all these things alone; I just don't believe that. And for too long our country has been in the middle of this great debate where some people say, well, the government ought to solve these problems, and other people say the government ought to walk away. And I don't believe either is right. The government basically has to be a partner. In order for government to work, it has to be a partner.

And I have now, for the last several years, long before I started running for president, tried to capture this idea in three simple words: It's those of us in government, it's our responsibility to try to help create opportunity. So our watchword should be "opportunity." That's what the economic program's all about. That's what trying to reform the health care system's all about. That's what creating a national service bill is all about -- trying to create opportunity.

Then, citizens have to recognize that all the opportunity in the world doesn't amount to a hill of beans unless there is someone there to seize responsibility -- personal responsibility -- for themselves, their families, their communities and for their neighbors. And, finally, out of that we can build a new American community.

There are so many people lost today because they don't think anybody really cares about them, because they can't imagine the future, because they have never been the most important person in the world to anybody else. We have got to create a sense of community in this country where we're prepared to take responsibility for each

other, not just to point the finger at each other and tell each other what we ought to do, but to offer a helping hand.

So I say all these thing to you because I think you represent that. You represent the best of the opportunity you were given to be in the Summer of Service, of the personal responsibility you displayed by doing your work, and of the sense of community that you helped to create by what you have done.

If every American did what you did for the last two months, if we all could do that for several years, we could revolutionize our country. There are no problems we could not solve. There is no future we cannot have. And I hope with all my heart that what you have done here will set the standard for the National Service Project in community after community that young people will engage in when this bill becomes law.

I told Eli on the way up here today I'm convinced now there are tens of thousands of young people who could do this every summer who may not need to, want to, or be able to do it during the year. And I'm not sure we shouldn't go back to the Congress, Senator Mikulski and Representative Hoyer and Representative Shays, and at least file a report on this Summer of Service, and consider having a special summer program over and above the year-long program we do because so many young people could do it just during the summer. (Applause.)

I just want you to remember that you are this country. You are America. You are this country. (Applause.) And so now I want to hear from you, but I want you to know that not just your President but your country is grateful to you for showing what America can be at its best. And I hope that we'll see it repeated hundreds of thousands of times over the course of my presidency. And I hope it will become a permanent part of American life. If it does the whole country will be stronger. (Applause.)

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Q I'm from Philadelphia Eye Care Program and I was wondering, does your health care reform plan have any -- does it have anything to subsidize the kind of door-to-door service needed for these immunization programs, or any of that preventative medicine that really is needed in our communities?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, the health care plan that will be announced in the next few weeks will have a big component of preventative care in it and will also provide the resources necessary to support the community-based clinics.

I think it's very important that -- we have spent too little on preventive and primary care, causing us to have to spend too much on emergency care and care in later stages. So we're going to try to invest more in preventive and primary care and in those neighborhood clinics both in urban and rural areas.

I think it will make a huge difference. The Philadelphia program is very, very impressive.

Yes. Nice hat. (Laughter.)

Q Thanks. I'm from Montana, but I worked out in Seattle this summer. I'll be starting medical school actually tomorrow, and I just had a question of you for what medical students can do and how we can play a role in your new plan, and how we can get on board as advocates of the plan, maybe give some input. Do you have any plans for including students? Not necessarily just medical students, but students and people who work in the health care profession?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, actually -- of course, all the students in all the health care professions will be eligible to actually participate in some of these programs through the national service initiative, so there will be a continuing opportunity there both during the school year and during the summer to do that.

Secondly, we have tried over the last several months through the task force that the First Lady has headed to engage in dialogue -- medical students, nursing students, other people studying in the health care professions -- to try to make sure that the incentives we have in this program produce the kind of health care system we want and give young people who really want to serve in the problem areas a chance to do it.

For example, as compared with all other advanced countries, the United States has far more specialists and far fewer family practitioners -- dramatic difference, huge difference from any other country. That means it's much harder to get people out in the basic clinics doing the basic services. So what we tried to do was to construct a program which would provide more incentives for medical schools and for students themselves -- financial incentives and others to go out and practice family medicine, but at the same time would not frighten the American people into thinking we're backing off of medical technology. So there's going to be more invested in medical research under this program.

So I think that it will be good, and I hope that you will be able to take advantage of that and continue to participate.

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THE PRESIDENT: I'd just like to make one comment again to try to reinforce the importance of the whole service concept in the environmental area.

When you talk to most people, maybe even a lot of you and certainly in my mind, when you mention environmental issues often you think of policies that ought to be changed. So, for example, after I became President I had promised to take some different policies, so we committed ourselves to signing the Biodiversity Treaty that other nations signed after the World Conference in Rio De Janeiro last year, or we committed ourselves to reducing the amount of greenhouse gases in the environment to the 1990 levels by the year 2000, or last week we committed ourselves to no net loss of wetlands.

But as you can see, when you pass a law it's one thing to say these things and another to do it. Just like you did the Wetlands Restoration Project. An enormous number of the environmental things that need to be done in this country require the same amount of labor intensity that it does to go door to door and try to immunize children. The lead paint example in New York is just one, but it is a very good one. That's a serious problem in many of the major cities in America, exposing some of the most vulnerable children.

That's another irony that you brought out here in your environmental presentation. A lot of people think of the environment as preserving distant areas that most people never see. But the truth is that the people in this country who need a better environment than most may be those who live in inner cities who are most subject to pollution from dumps that are there, from paint -- lead in the paint, from any number of other threads.

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So I really appreciate this because I hope that we can come to see the environment not only in terms of the sweeping national policies that the Vice President and I have committed ourselves to, but also in terms of things that preserve the culture of Native Americans and that literally may preserve the lives of people not only in rural areas, but in the cities as well. So I thank you for that.

Anybody got any questions on that subject?

Q I worked at the Energy Coordinating Agency of Philadelphia this summer. I know you realize there's a link between the environment, energy and economic growth, because as part of your economic stimulus package you had asked for increased funding in energy conservation programs, which creates jobs. My question is, do you think you're going to continue to seek an increase in funding for energy conservation programs for low-income households such as WAP -- the Weatherization Assistance Program -- and LIHEAP -- the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. You know, having been a governor -- and the states operate those programs; Congress provides the funds, but the states specifically operate them -- I have seen firsthand how many jobs they create and also how much good they can do. I mean, a lot of this -- I didn't make that point before, but a lot of this weatherization work for poor people, especially for a lot of elderly people who are stuck in these old houses that have holes in the walls, literally, a lot of them, or in the floor -- not only make them warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer, they also save money on their utility bills. They literally do. They conserve energy and they put more money in the pockets of people who have just barely enough to get by. So I strongly support them.

I also think that, in general, we should move to more energy resources that are within our own control. We have vast amounts of natural gas, for example, in this country that are environmentally cleaner than a lot of the fuels we burn, and we ought to move to develop them.

So the short answer to your question is, yes. It's always -- it's interesting, it's kind of a hard sell in the Congress now because the price of oil is so low and energy is so cheap -- it's much cheaper in America than it is in any other major country. But if you just have enough to get by on, you're living on a Social Security check or you're living on a minimum wage, it's still very, very expensive and a big part of your budget.

Thank you. Yes?

Q I work at New York City ACORN. As you heard, we dealt with the lead in paint thing every day. And as we went on tours, looking, speaking to people, door-knocking, we found out that it wasn't just lead paint and lead poisoning, it was roaches, mice, ceilings that were caving in. So we found out the conditions were like Third World conditions in our backyards, in our own neighborhoods, my own house, my own neighbors. And as we went on we realized that the problem was much bigger than just the lead painting and we realized we needed more manpower. And we found that manpower not just in SOS, but in the community.

And my question to you is a very simple one, but it's a fundamental one. Being a college student I felt very privileged because I was getting money for the community service, but many times I wished that peers of mine who weren't in college and community members could get some type of benefit for the work they did, which no one asked them to do, and the help that they gave us. My question to you is what kind of commitment can your administration give to the

community that wants to be involved and who lacks the resources to get things going in their own communities? (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Good question. That's a good question not only on the housing issue, but on a number of other issues. And I wish I had a very good, complete answer for you today. I can tell you that that question is one that we have seriously discussed, and I have asked Henry Cisneros, who is the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to try to come up with a proposal for me that would help to do that -- where the federal government could basically help local communities trying to engage the energies of people who are prepared to volunteer, work part-time, do whatever it takes to solve some of these problems. They are also very labor-intensive.

I'm hoping beyond that, that some of the things that were in this economic program we passed, for example, making -- extending the low-income housing tax credit and some other things that we put in there, will help state governments and local communities to work with developers to try to rehabilitate a lot of these houses and try to put people to work in doing it.

If you look at the building structure of the United States, we still have a lot of commercial overbuilding; we haven't worked through that. And a lot of people are in a position now to finance or refinance their home mortgages or buy new homes because interest rates are low. But the population growth in America of people who can buy homes has kind of slowed down. So the real economic opportunity may be in rehabilitating existing housing structures. And we are looking at what can be done to try to deal with that terrible problem.

We went for 12 years without any kind of serious housing program in America, and it led to a lot of these difficulties. And now I hope that, through Henry's work, working in partnership with people at the local level, we can come up with a better idea. So I don't have an answer for you today, but I can tell you we're working on the problem. And I see it as a real area of economic opportunity for people, the rehabilitation of existing housing structures. It's a better opportunity than building new commercial real estate buildings in many places and a better opportunity than building even new houses in some places where there's no population growth and no demand for it.

So I hope we can come up with an answer to the problem you've posed.

Q First, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to have the opportunity to participate in the Summer Associates Program.

I work with lower income housing as a representative from North Carolina Lower Housing Coalition. My question is what type of plan do you have to better stimulate first-time homeownership programs with decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing?

THE PRESIDENT: The most important thing we can do is get the mortgages down, which we've done. I mean, we have now the lowest mortgage rates in 25 years. So that people can buy housing at lower costs.

The other thing that we did in this last economic program was to extend something called the Low Income Housing Tax Credit which basically gives people real incentives to build low-cost housing that is affordable.

The final thing we're doing is having Mr. Cisneros, the Secretary of the Housing and Urban Development Department, work with developers and people in local community groups all across the

country to try to figure out how we can either build or rehabilitate more low-income housing. So that those three things together I think should permit more people -- particularly low-income working people who have virtually given up on the idea of owning their own home over the last 15 years as the price of housing outstripped inflation dramatically -- I think you're going to see that kind of turn around now. And I believe that in the next five years the percentage of people owning their own homes, including lower-income working people, will go up rather dramatically, but only if we work on all three of those areas.

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THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. I think you could see we were all very moved by the presentation.

Before I ran for President, I was Governor for 12 years, and I spent during that time more time in schools and with children and with teachers and watching people learn and watching people struggle, not just in my state, but around the country I guess in anything else I did. What I saw there emphasizes some very basic things that, again, I would say the whole country could learn from and mobilize young people. Number one, the one-room schoolhouses in New York proved that children can help other children learn dramatically.

There's a lot of evidence of that, by the way. I could -- if we had time I could give you lots of other examples. But at phenomenal levels, phenomenal levels there's evidence of -- there's a school in Boston where in order to get in the school the seniors and juniors had to agree to tutor the 7th and 8th graders. And these kids were all basically from average or low-income families and most had average IQs and they all did very well and there was almost no dropout -- nearly everybody went to college, nearly everybody finished. And one of the keys things was -- and they had a very, very hard curriculum, very hard. But the older kids all did the tutoring for the younger kids -- made a big difference.

Second point that your slide show pointed out and your presentation was that learning should be fun for children, especially if they come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Instead of making it a pain, it should be fun and they should be taught to believe that they can learn things. That New Orleans Project I'm familiar with -- it is astonishing that kids that once would be given up as -- you know you'd be lucky if they could read at the 7th-grade level when they got out of high school are now being exposed to exposed to physics and computer technology and all that.

The third point I want to make -- and this is something that all of you should remember, too -- and that is, there's a lot of research in America which shows that kids that grow up in educationally-disadvantaged homes or poor homes may work like crazy in school, but they're always afraid that they're not going to do as well as other kids, so they're always afraid to say what they don't know. But most of the best learning occurs in groups.

There was a huge study done a couple of years ago -- and a lot of you going to college, you'll remember this -- a huge study done in California a couple of years ago which showed that different groups of kids going into the University of California at Berkeley were studied based on how well they did academically, and the connection to how hard they studied. The kids that actually spent the most time studying did the least well because they were afraid to study with each other because they were ashamed to say what they didn't know. The kids that studied in groups and talked with each other about what they didn't know and didn't understand, who worked together in a family learned like crazy.

All of these things could be affected nationwide, these learning patterns could be affected nationwide by programs like this. You could literally revolutionize the educational system of the country if there were enough service volunteers like you to reach these kids.

The last thing I want to say is, a lot of this stuff was done one on one. Every serious study of kids that grew up in difficult circumstances and succeeded against all the odds show that every one of them has got a different story, and there's only one constant that's almost always there: nearly every child had some sort of a relationship with a caring adult -- (applause) -- which you qualify for, for these little bitty kids. Keep in mind if you're 18 years old and you're helping some kid that's five, you are the caring adult. Right?

So those are the points I want to make. Again, I would say, I hope this work will somehow register on people throughout the country that may not be within our program, because these four simple things that you have shown here could change the face of American education.

Yes, sir? I've been wanting you to talk because I wanted to get a good look at that hat. (Laughter.)

Q I represent the Harlem Freedom Schools. We were talking about diversity and the strength in diversity. One of the major issues was that we have a structure in New York City that focuses on the basics. While the children that we taught, they had a range of issues that went beyond the schoolroom and, as you saw in our film, we had a lot of different ethnic groups and we had cultural diversity and of religion.

I was wondering, do you have a proposal to address the state and the board of education in New York City which doesn't push diversity throughout the year? Because what we did over the program, over the summer we thought was very successful, but throughout the school year just the basic three Rs. And we realize that that is leaving our children at a disadvantage in the community, as well as interacting and growing. So I was wondering if you had any plans in the future of addressing that. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Under our system of government, basically, public education from kindergarten through 12th grade is the province of the state government and the local school districts. The federal government provides extra help, by and large, to help poor kids through nutritional programs or extra educational resources.

So the New York City School Board would have to decide to change that. It's an issue, by the way, that you might want to see what you could do to get it made an issue in the coming mayor's race. There's going to be a mayor's race in New York. That's what politics is for, to debate these things. That's what elections are for, to discuss these.

But I want to try to support what you're saying in this way: When cultures live separately from one another, you didn't have to worry about any of this being done at school because it was always communicated at home, and besides, everybody was just like everybody else.

Now that we're crashing in on each other -- Los Angeles County, for example, has 150 different racial and ethnic groups living in one county. This has become a very important thing. And I was very moved by what you said about the kids that wouldn't get on the bus with other kids, that wouldn't go in the classroom with other

kids. You know, it seems, when you think about it, it's perfectly logical -- that people coming to another country would be terribly frightened by people very different from them and maybe the only image they had of them was something they saw in some cheap thrills gangster movie or one of those -- so I think it's important.

But I think the only thing that we can do at the national level besides talk about it -- the President can talk about it -- is to try to make sure that we run the National Service Program all year round, like you said, not just in the summertime -- all year round to make sure that we have volunteers available for programs like this, and that if a program, for example, in your community is set up to do this year round, that we would give that a priority through national service so that we could direct our people and say you can earn your college grade, you can do it if you'll become a part of this program. We can support that and we will.

But you also have -- so you can say, look, to New York, you won't have to pay for all of it, the national service people will get you the volunteers if you will let the program go forward. And that's what I think we should do.

Q I am from the Public Service Corps of New York. I am wondering where do you see national service in 10 years, actually providing for more young people not just for year-round programs, but for years into the future? How far do you see this program going on?

THE PRESIDENT: Ten years from now I believe this will be a major fixture of our national life. I don't believe it will be 10,000 kids a year or 50,000 or 100,000, I think that the program will become so popular and will so capture the imagination of the country that, in effect, anybody who wants to be a part of it to help defray their college costs or just because they want to serve will be able to do it. I think it will become a very, very big part of American life.

Because you can see -- just look at what we've seen already and look at what your experience is. This country simply has -- first of all, we've got all these young people full of energy and passion and belief and without any cynicism and all this talent out there dying to serve, at a point in your life when you don't have to support a lot of other people so you can work for a fairly modest wage, particularly if you get some educational credit out of it.

And secondly, we've just got an unbelievable number of problems out there that have to be solved in a personal, highly labor-intensive way that neither the government nor the private sector could otherwise afford. So I believe 10 years from now, you will look back 10 years from now and say, I was a pioneer in something that changed America for the better. (Applause.)

Q Good morning. I served with the East Bay Conservation Corps in Oakland, California. And in my service I worked in a middle school with junior high kids. And you have called for a great national debate and a new philosophy of government in many of our social problems, for new solutions. And one of our major social problems is education and education reform. What role do you see for national service programs in reforming and innovating our nation's educational system?

THE PRESIDENT: First, let me tell you what I think the innovation should be. We have a bill now that we're trying to pass through the Congress which would write into law the national education goals that the governors and President Bush's administration agreed on back in 1989. And I care a lot about them because at that time I was the Democratic governor representing the governors to write the goals, so I believe in them.

One of the things that we learned, after years and years in studying schools, is that all the magic of education and the learning occurs not in the White House, not in the statehouse, but in the schoolhouse and in the school room between the teacher and the students and then among the students and then at home, if the student is lucky. We have to find more individual ways of reaching kids and we've got to make our education system far less bureaucratic, and we've got to give school by school much more flexibility to principals and teachers and students to design their learning programs and to be flexible and to be creative.

So I believe that the role that the National Service Program will have in the revolution of American education will be very large if, but only if, we can persuade the schools of our country, in effect, to restructure themselves to give more flexibility and authority to the principals, the teachers and the students on a school-by-school basis.

Q I'm representing Clarke University, and as you know, our program's primary focus was education. And as a future educator, I want to know when will we start making the school system accountable for educating our children or are we going to have to continue educating them through community service.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think the schools -- community service should help, but I think the school system should be held accountable for it. The answer to your question is, we will start doing that when we start evaluating our schools based on the results they get rather than the input. For example, let me just give you one simple example.

We evaluate teachers for whether they can get hired in most school districts in this country based on whether they've got an education degree from a certified college of education. Right? So there are all kinds of Americans who are retired from the military -- right now, we will take, from 1987 to 1998, the United States military will go from having 3.5 million people to 1.5 people. Two million folks out there walking around among the best educated, best trained, most highly motivated people in the world, with the best values that know how to get things done. Right? You can have one of these people, a graduate of the United States military academy and a massive amount of knowledge in chemistry, and they can't teach in most of the schools of the country. Most states now have some sort of exception, but it's a real problem.

Why? Because we evaluate people not on whether they're good teachers, but on whether they've got good -- the qualifications. We evaluate schools based on how many kids are in the classroom, what the schoolbook certification or what does the building look like. All these things may be important, but we don't have any way of evaluating our teachers, our schools and our school systems in most states based on the results they get. What do the kids know when they started, what do they know when they finished? What happened to them? What kind of problems did they have, and did they get services -- that goes back to your question -- did the school actually serve the problems they had instead of the problems that some kids had a generation ago -- we're still doing it the way we used to do.

So that's what I'm trying -- I'm trying to be a part of a movement, at least, that will decentralize authority, let the principals, the teachers, the kids and the parents, in effect, design more and have more flexibility over their own school year, and then measure them by the results they achieve. So that if you don't get results, you stop doing what you're doing and you do something else. But we don't measure -- anything funded by tax dollars is normally measured by rules and regulations on the front end instead of results on the back end. We need less rules and regulations and more results, and we need it in schools. (Applause.)

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THE PRESIDENT: I just would make one point about that. When we had a commission to study the needs of the Lower Mississippi River area, starting in southern Illinois and going all the way to New Orleans. That is still the poorest part of America. And one of the things that you forget -- we always think of public safety as an urban issue, but one of the things that's easy to forget is, it becomes a big rural issue. And at periodic times in this country you will see crime waves will sweep across rural America. And one of the reasons is that a lot of people are just out there and nobody can even find them.

The story she told you about the county in our state where people are literally unidentified, where they don't have an address, where they called for help -- you know, it would take you five minutes to explain where they were, this is a serious problem in all of rural America. And I appreciate the work you did on it.

Q Mr. President, I'm from Sacramento, California. My question pertains to each of the four policy areas we have been discussing today. Many of us have found while working in service this summer that many Americans, generations of Americans have found welfare has become a way of life for them. You spoke during your campaign and also in recent months since taking office of reforming our welfare system. And I'd like to know if you could give me three concrete examples of how you intend to change our welfare system to break this cycle of poverty and make sure America's children don't end up impoverished in the future.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I can. That's a good question. (Applause.) I will give you three concrete examples, but let's talk about what's wrong with the system now. The original -- very briefly. The original welfare system was set up for -- again, it goes back to the question the young man from Harlem asked me about education, where a lot of the schools are being run for a time that no longer exists instead of a time that does exist. The original welfare system was set up to deal with an American society that existed about 50 years ago, where nearly everybody who wanted to work could find some kind of job at some low level, but they could find some kind of job; there were very few women in the work force if they were in the home and they had children; and the typical welfare recipient in the beginning was, let's say, a West Virginia minor's widow, 60 years ago. The husband gets killed in the mines. They live up in the hills and hollows of West Virginia. The woman has a 4th-grade education, she's got three or four kids, no way to go to work, no job to find. And the welfare supports the kids.

Then there was another typical welfare recipient that represents about half the people on welfare today, for whom welfare should exist -- the people who hit on hard times. Suddenly a spouse dies and there's two little children in the home and you can't work. Or you lose a job and you can't get another one and you run out of unemployment benefits. In other words about half the people on welfare only stay for four, five, six months and then they get off. Those are the people we would all want a welfare system for, because they fall through the unemployment system cracks, or they need support or they have little children. They can't be working because they have a whole slew of them or whatever.

Increasingly, however, there are people on welfare whose parents were on welfare, whose grandparents were on welfare, who never have worked, and who basically can stay on forever as long as they have children under a certain age, because welfare's proper name is aid to families with dependent children, AFDC -- that's what it means.

So, why do people stay on welfare? To know how to fix it, you have to know why they stay. The benefits aren't all that great in most states. In fact, over the last 20 years, benefits have not kept up with inflation. Why do people stay? They stay for one reason: because they, by and large, have very little education, may not know how to get into the system; if they did get a job, their job would pay low wages and they would lose two things they have on welfare: medical coverage for their kids under the Medicaid program, and they would then have to pay for child care that they, themselves, are providing.

Now, I see the Governor paying close attention. Maryland's done a lot of work on this whole issue in this state. He can maybe give a better answer than I can. But if you look at the system -- and, by the way, I have spent hours and hours in my life talking to people who are on welfare, and nearly all of them want to get off quick as they can. So what would you do to fix it? First thing you've got to do is make sure work pays. Eighteen percent of the American work force, almost one in five, work for a wage that will not lift a family of four out of poverty.

In the last economic program that we passed just before the Congress went on recess, one of the most important parts of it was to increase something called the earned income tax credit, which is a refund you can get from the government on your tax system to say to the working people of this country: If you work 40 hours a week and you have a child in your house, you will be lifted above poverty by the tax system. We will not tax you into poverty. If you're willing to work hard, play by the rules and raise your kids, we'll lift you out of poverty. That's the first thing. That's one specific thing, very important.

The second thing you have to do is to provide medical coverage for all Americans without regard to whether they're working or not. Seventy percent of all the people in this country who don't have health insurance are working for a living. So if you're on welfare, let me just give you an example. This is something that actually happens now. I helped work on a welfare reform program which Congress passed and President Reagan signed in late 1988 right before he left office. And to try to deal with this medical coverage program, we said, if you get a job that doesn't have health insurance we will provide you health insurance for six or nine months to get you off welfare. That's great, but guess what happens? You've got two people working side by side, one of them that used to be on welfare has got health insurance for her kids for nine months, working next to somebody who has never been on welfare that doesn't have any health insurance.

So the second thing you have to do if you want to end welfare as we know it is to provide a system like every other advanced country has, that has affordable health care for all Americans. If you don't do it, you're going to continue to have these problems. The third thing you have to do is to make sure that all the states that run the welfare program have the resources they need and the incentives they need to actually train people for jobs that it will exist.

And then there's one final thing -- there's a fourth thing you have to do. If you want to end the welfare system as you know it, you have to say, if you have health care for your kids and yourself, and you have the education and training, after a certain amount of time if you don't go to work there will be some sort of community service job provided for you by the local government, and that's what you have to do if you want to get an income. In other words, there has to be an end of it.

Finally, you have to move people to independence and away from dependence. If we did those four things, we could end the

welfare system as we know it and we could leave welfare for the people that really need it. And all of you would feel good about the program instead of bad about it. (Applause.)

Q First of all, I wanted to say that the reason why I supported you in your campaign for the presidency is because of your commitment to national social service. And I'm proud to be part of this program.

I work for Uptown Habitat for Humanity in Chicago. And we thank you for your support of Habitat. I spent my summer of service on the west side of Chicago at one of our newer sites where we are rehabing three newer buildings. We've been working in partnership with the local organizations, as well as the schools, because we believe that if you put decent housing in communities with families who feel that they have a stake in their community it will work hand in hand with improving our education system.

But we have had many obstacles; one of them is funding, obviously. We are working right now on trying to get funding from HOME and funding programs such as that. My question to you is would you support a lessening in restrictions in such programs such as HOME because they sort of prefer rental as opposed to homeownership which we believe is the key? Would you support lessening in restriction on those kinds of funding programs?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I do support that. I don't know if I can prevail, but I do support that. There's a reason why there's been a longstanding debate in the Congress about this. And a lot of the members of Congress who really believe in providing affordable housing to people are afraid if you move away from -- if you have a really strong bias in favor of homeownership, that the good things that would be done by Habitat for Humanity, for example, would be offset by people being, in effect, cut lose in these public housing units that then they won't have the resources to maintain.

So what we have to do it in a delicate way but you're -- I think you're absolutely right. And I think it has to be done.

By the way, for those of you who don't know about -- we talked about it a couple of times, but Habitat for Humanity is arguably the most successful continuous community service project in the history of the United States. (Applause.) It is -- started by two wonderful people, Millard and Linda Fuller, who I was lucky enough to meet in another life before I ever thought about doing this job. But it is literally -- it is organized on a community service basis, community by community. They never take any government money. And it has revolutionized the lives of -- how many houses has Habitat built now?

Q -- are we building now?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I mean where are they now in the cumulative total? Does anybody know? How many?

Q Twenty-one thousand around the world.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that's how many they're building right now. They've built more, though. But anyway, it's an amazing thing. And I think -- I wish I knew. I did know a couple of months ago but I've forgotten.

I just -- you're absolutely right. What we need to do -- that's one way we can have a partnership with Habitat. If we use the HOME program to favor more homeownership. And I think we can do it in a way that will satisfy the legitimate concern of members of Congress that we not be in a position of handing over big housing

units to people who don't have the capacity, the resources to maintain them. That's the real problem there.

Q My question, this summer we did a joint education and public safety project with conflict resolution and issues of safety. And my question was, as the national service progresses, will it provide opportunity for former participants to serve in advisory roles in development of new projects, new service projects, especially in the field of public safety since we've been out in the field and we've been in the trenches and I think we have a lot to give to the commission in terms of developing new projects? (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: I'll let Mr. Segal answer that. Eli.

MR. SEGAL: We've learned so much in the course of the last eight weeks I think. Had we not thought of it we would have said to you yes to you right now. It's a great idea, and we certainly need to make certain we're enjoying all the benefit of all the wisdom you've learned and it certainly should be part of the program going forward.

THE PRESIDENT: Let me make a suggestion. If you have a specific idea about how we can do that and how we should do that, if you would write it up and send it to Mr. Segal I'd really appreciate it. I think -- I hadn't thought of it before and it is self-evidently the right thing to do. So why don't you think about it a little bit and write him a proposal on it.

Q I'm from the Pennsylvania Service Corps, one of the full-year national demonstration models. And before I ask the question I wanted to present to you our uniform teeshirt, if that would be okay. So you can get that from us.

THE PRESIDENT: He'll bring it to me. Go ahead.
(Laughter.) Thanks, Kris.

Q And they're all across the state of Pennsylvania.
(Applause.)

My question for you is, I'm placed in a school district where I try to make placement plates for middle school age children, as well as bringing back community members to give service to the school itself. My question is, what is your view on making community service or national service mandatory and part of the school curriculum?

THE PRESIDENT: A different question -- those are two different questions. I don't believe that participation in this program, the National Service Program, which we are proposing is, by definition, voluntary, but you get something for it. You get credit for your -- toward college.

I believe that it is a very good thing for states or local school districts to mandate community service for kids at certain levels in the public schools. (Applause.) A few years ago I had the opportunity to serve on a commission on middle schools, and we recommended two things that didn't get done, but I thought should be. One is that there ought to be a set of basic civic values that are taught in the schools, and the second was that community service ought to be a part of the curriculum. So, yes, I think that every state should include community service as a part of the curriculum at some appropriate point where students, young people, as a part of their education, get the experience of doing what you've done.

The thrill of it and learn from it and see -- don't you find that you see the world in a different way once you do this? I mean, you know what the problems are but you also have a sense that

you can solve them and make a difference? Yes, that's what I think should be done.

Yes, over in the corner.

Q Hi. I'm from the General Service Corps. It's multitasking. So I just wanted to ask you, did you know how many kids nowadays are being jailed, and what can we do about it, from your perspective?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, there are a huge number of young people in jail. We have now the unfortunate distinction of having the highest percentage of our people in prison of any country in the world. Did you know that? America has the highest percentage of its population behind bars of any country in the world, and most of them are young. Most of them are under 25 years of age.

I think in a way all of you are doing something about it. I think that if you -- go to the prisons and talk to these people and get the story of their lives and figure out how they got there. And most of them never met anybody like you on a consistent basis, that is, had a chance to be part of what you are doing. And so, I think there are a lot of things we can do about it, but in the end, what we have to do about it is to continue to touch more of them at the earliest possible point in their lives so they don't wind up doing what they're doing later, and keep something in their mind about tomorrow. Let them always believe there is a tomorrow, that there is a future, that there is something they can do that makes them feel good, that makes them important, that makes their lives meaningful, that doesn't require them to do what they do to get in prison.

I also think that a lot of kids who wind up getting in trouble because they're in gangs do it because -- it goes back to what I said about studying -- everybody wants to be in a gang. You just hope it's a good gang and not a bad gang, right? You're in a gang. That's what all these teeshirts mean. Right? See what I mean? (Applause.)

So I think the whole point of what you do is to try to gather them up before it happens. Also, there's a whole lot of law enforcement strategies that work and antidrug strategies, and we could talk about that. But from your point of view, giving people something to say yes to, as well as something to say no to, and to be part of a group that matters, I think that would do more over the long run. If you gave every kid in America that chance, every one of them that chance, you would see the prison population go down dramatically over 10 or 15 years. Not overnight, but over a 10- or 15-year period.

Q To go along with what the young man was saying, what do you have in mind in terms of the initiatives for African American and Latino males, since, according to records, a large majority of the jail populations are African American and Latino? And what would be some of those initiatives to get to them before they get to the jails, in terms of self-esteem, education and pride in their culture?

THE PRESIDENT: What I think I can do -- again, I will say -- I gave this answer to another question, but one of the things that I like about this national service concept is that we can go out and recruit African American and Latino males, and then we can give priority to projects, community by community, that we know have a good chance of succeeding, and put people in there and help to pay for it. That's what we can do. And that will be a major -- that's what you did, I mean, without maybe thinking about it in that way. But that's what we can do.

But what you've also got to do is to make sure that those things which are in the control of the state, or those things which are in the control of the local government, or those things which the private sector ought to be doing in your community, that they're doing that, too. For example, I still think you could rescue a bunch of kids that are in trouble if you have the right kind of court programs, if you have alternatives to incarceration for first offenders.

We've got another program that is separate from this now. I'm really proud of it. I signed a bill in June -- another one of my passions where we're using empty military bases and National Guard volunteers to work with high school dropouts to give them a chance to do what they once might have done in the military but can't now because we've phased the military down so much, to recover their future and get a GED.

So we're going to continue to do programs like that that are highly targeted toward people that otherwise might get in trouble. But I will say what we want to do at the national level is to provide a vehicle for people like you to serve. But you still got to get people at the local level to say, hey, this is a problem in our community; will you give us the folks to do it? And then we can say, yes.

Q How you doing?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm doing better since I spent the last couple of hours with you. (Laughter.)

Q That's great. Basically, what I did was I went to a lot of schools, a lot of junior high schools in the inner cities and I spoke to a lot of the children about -- and educated them about gangs, gang awareness, gang recruitment, how to stay away from gangs, how to avoid it. Also about drugs and alcohol, and self-esteem and the values and importance of education. A lot of the children that live in my neighborhood, like myself, since I was a younger child I witnessed things like massive gang-related homicides. And this is something that's dangerous and L.A. right now, in my opinion, is at a state of emergency. And I feel that what we need to do is reach the children when they're young and show them an alternative way to go when they're faced with these, you know, these types of situations.

And what I do is I work with conflict resolution and I also influence the children to involve themselves in beautification of their own communities. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: If I might just respond to you. You know, I've spent a lot of time in your community over the last -- and I started going there before I ran for president and before the riots. I first went to South Central L.A. over three years ago now -- just to sit and talk with people. I went to a -- my wife and I went and talked with a bunch of 6th graders and we met with the people from Uno and SCOC, the community organizations out there and others. And one of the things I think Americans who don't live in these really troubled communities often forget is that most people who live in places like that do not break the law, get up and go to work every day, want their children to do well, are doing the best they can. And a lot of the kids who wind up in gangs do it almost out of self-defense because they don't think they have any alternatives.

I was out there the other day -- you probably don't remember this, but I visited that sporting goods store in South Central L.A. run by the two guys who used to be gangs. We played basketball in the backyard there -- the parking lot of the sporting goods store. But I think that is so important.

Now, again, we have a job to do. We, the government and the private sector, have got to put more opportunity into places like that.

One of the things that the Congress did in this economic program I really hope will work -- at least we've got a chance to see now -- is to pass a bill which will enable us to identify six really troubled big, urban areas and say to people in the private sector, look, we'll give you a whole lot of extra incentives if you'll put your money there, create jobs there, and put people to work. I mean, it is nuts if you go into some of these areas and you think about all these people just walking around without jobs. That's an enormous resource going to waste. If those people were working, they'd have money to buy things from other people. They would create jobs. We've allowed this economy to shrink.

But over and above that, we have to put in a lot of volunteers -- people like you who can do that. I mean, I'm convinced that the economy is one thing we have to address, but all these social problems have to be addressed one-on-one.

And let me just close with this sentence. I was talking to somebody I've known since I was six years old the other day. And we were talking about all the kids in trouble. And she said, "You know, a guy asked me the other day what are we going to do about all these kids? How are we going to save all these kids?" And she said, "We've got to save them the same way we lost them: one at a time." (Applause.) And so you can have an enormous impact on the future of your community. And it's up to me to try to make sure that we can keep programs like this going so that you and people like you will have a chance to do that.

It's also important that you be an advocate for all those people and not let us forget about them. I mean, it's crazy just to pay attention to a city when all the buildings burn down. Then it's often too late. We need to pay attention to them when the kids are growing up and they're trying to do the right thing. And I hope that in South Central L.A. and in a lot of the other places that are represented here today, we're going to be able to do that. Not that we'll solve the problems overnight, but if everybody knows we're trying, everybody knows we're working together, everybody knows we're going in the right direction, that is the feeling I think people want. That's what gets people going.

What breaks people is not the problems they face; what breaks people is that they think tomorrow is not going to be any better than today. And what this national service is about is making people believe that it will be different. And you have proved that. (Applause.) Thank you.

Q And finally, Mr. President, nowhere have we seen service so urgently needed --

Q Excuse me, Mr. President. I've got a really important question to ask and a really important observation. I'm from Ohio Wesleyan University and I'm under the direction of John Powers. And I'd like to take time to ask you to recognize the program directors and the community leaders who are here and who have come so far to -- (applause) --

THE PRESIDENT: Would they stand up? Will you have them stand up?

Q -- to make sure that your vision has gone through. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Stand up. Stand up. (Applause.) Good for you. Good for you. Thank you.

Q Also -- we just have one other thing. I'm also with Ohio Wesleyan University. On the point you just made about getting to the children and getting to the cities before they burn down is something that we're really concerned about in Delaware, Ohio. Most of the program, the National Service Program, had a strong emphasis and focus on the urban areas. And in Delaware, Ohio, we're having a lot of trouble with public safety, education, health care and environmental awareness.

I worked this summer at the Delaware County Juvenile Court where they were swamped with 90-percent increases in juvenile offenders. And what we see is those issues aren't being addressed on a rural level, they're being just slipped under the carpet on a rural level because we're assuming that our small rural towns aren't having the same problems as our large urban societies.

Our question is, what direction do you perceive that the movement of national service should take to be inclusive of rural problems of education, public safety, environment and health, given that the predominant focus has been exemplified this summer of being that of urban issues?

THE PRESIDENT: It is true that this summer, because we were basically doing a test program this summer and we wanted to plug into programs that were established and that had a real chance of working -- the program you mentioned in Philadelphia, the program -- the City Year Program that Greg's involved with -- that we knew were working. So we did that, and we did it deliberately, and I still think it was the right thing to do.

On the other hand, there were some non-urban projects: The Red Lake Project, the one in south Texas that was done. And as I said earlier, I come from rural background, a state full of small towns and rural areas, and I know that all the problems that are in the big cities are also there. So we are going to appoint this board to run the National Service Program that is fully representative of the rest of the country, and one of their missions will be to allocate the resources in a way that are fair to the whole country so that we don't forget about the small towns and the rural areas. They're not must different, except in size, in the scope of the problems that they face today. And I thank you for saying that. (Applause.) Give them a hand. (Applause.)

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT: First, let me just say a simple thank you to all of you.

I was in the Midwest during the floods on four occasions and I saw a lot of young people there working hard and really giving it all they had. But one of the things I think being a governor is a good preparation for President is dealing with natural disasters, because when you see them occur -- first of all, it's just breathtaking to see a flood take away a town or a tornado or a hurricane blow away a place. But the other thing, you know, is just what you got through saying, that everybody pours out their heart when it's happening and they come and help and then -- but a year from now there are still people who don't have their lives together. And the stresses on the families and the communities are staggering.

One interesting thing we have done is to -- as soon as I got in office, I named Henry Cisneros as the administration's coordinator for dealing with the long-term relief of Hurricane Andrew. Then I named Mike Espy, the Agriculture Secretary, the administration's coordinator dealing with the long-term relief in the Midwest. These are the kinds of things that we have to do. We've got to stay with it for the long run. And I hope that the National Service Project can provide volunteers next year in the Midwest if they are needed, and next year in South Florida if they are needed,

so that we don't forget about those people. It takes a long time to recover from a disaster of the magnitude of Andrew or a 500-year flood, which is what we just had in the Midwest. And I really thank you for it. (Applause.) Thank you.

Q Mr. President, we thank you very much for being with us today. We thank you for giving us this common ground to do this. (Applause.)

END

12:54 P.M. EDT

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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The Point of Service

PRESIDENT CLINTON was enthusiastic yesterday when he spoke at the University of Maryland to a group of young people who had just finished a summer of work on public service projects. The volunteers, Mr. Clinton said, were "pioneers" engaged in building "a new American community." If all Americans gave to their country as the young people before him had just done, "there are no problems we could not solve, there is no future we cannot have."

Mr. Clinton's attachment to the service idea could prove particularly useful if it fosters some reexamination of the purpose of volunteerism. During the 1980s, the idea of volunteerism was often part of a political commitment to smaller government. The argument went that government did too many things and did them badly, whereas committed volunteers, at no cost to the taxpayer, contributed mightily to improving the lot of the poor, the care of the sick and the young and the repair of dilapidated neighborhoods. So out with government, the argument went, and in with volunteerism.

But while it may be true that no government can ever substitute for many of the missions that only friends, family, neighbors or churches or volunteering individuals can fulfill, volunteerism in and of itself can never substitute for the large-scale relief that

social insurance programs provide. Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and unemployment compensation came into being precisely because voluntary efforts to deal with the problems of the needy were simply not up to the scale of the problem. To say that volunteerism provides an easy substitute for government action is to transform a noble impulse into an ideological weapon.

Where the critics of government were right was in saying that government is not enough and can never on its own solve social problems. This lesson has implications for both individuals and society. The existence of government programs is not a reason to avoid, say, tutoring a child or working in a soup kitchen. The theory that "the government's already doing it" does not hold up, because volunteers tend to do those things—especially on an individual level—that government simply won't get around to. And the character of a society is determined in large part not by government but by the things individuals and communities do voluntarily. As Mr. Clinton told the volunteers in Maryland, the point of service is "not just to point the finger at each other and tell each other what we ought to do but to offer a helping hand." Mr. Clinton's challenge is to figure out how to embody that spirit in his national service plan.

The Washington Post

September 1, 1993

Clinton Predicts Great Future for National Service

President Tells U-Md. Forum He Expects Program to Become 'Fixture of Our National Life'

By Charles Babington
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Clinton told students at a University of Maryland forum yesterday that his national service program will become wildly successful, with thousands of young Americans tackling community ills and receiving money for college in return.

Clinton praised about 70 students who worked this summer in pilot programs across the country that could be models for the nationwide endeavor. He called them the first volunteers in a new army that will fight inner-city decay and crime, help youngsters prepare for school, deliver health care to the needy and clean up the nation's streams and parks.

"Ten years from now, I believe this will be a major fixture of our national life," the president said of the national service program, which was a mainstay of his 1992 campaign. "I think that the program will become so popular and will so capture the imagination of the country that, in effect, anybody who wants to be a part of it—to help defray their college costs or just because they want to serve—will be able to do it."

The U.S. House and Senate approved scaled-back versions of Clinton's proposal this summer after



BY JAMES M. THRESHER—THE WASHINGTON POST

At forum, President Clinton talks to students who worked in pilot programs.

Republicans attacked it as too costly. Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), who introduced Clinton yesterday, said lawmakers will give final approval to the plan this month by appropriating an initial \$300 million for about 20,000 participants next year.

The students will be paid the minimum wage for their work, then

receive college stipends of up to \$4,725 a year.

At the forum in College Park, Clinton also called for community service requirements for younger people. "I believe it is a very good thing for states or local school districts to mandate community service for kids at certain levels," he said.

Maryland is the first state to require community service, beginning with this fall's class of ninth-graders. Most Maryland school districts opposed the plan, but it was strongly backed by Gov. William Donald Schaefer (D).

Schaefer attended yesterday's forum, but did not join Clinton and Mikulski on the stage. Although relations between Clinton and Schaefer have been chilly since the governor endorsed President Bush in the closing days of the 1992 campaign, Clinton introduced Schaefer yesterday as "the distinguished governor," and he praised Maryland's efforts to reform welfare programs.

The students at the forum were among hundreds who had worked in 16 pilot programs this summer, fi-

nanced by federal and private funds. Clinton, who shrugged his suit jacket and rolled up his shirt sleeves, often beamed and applauded as they told of tutoring preschoolers in Atlanta and New York; urging Asian American and African American children to play together in Los Angeles; bringing meals to AIDS patients in Boston; and helping launch a 911 emergency telephone system in rural Arkansas.

The University of Maryland helped sponsor one of the pilot programs, in which 75 students cleaned up streams, tutored middle-school students in Baltimore and performed other duties.

Clinton quoted John F. Kennedy and embraced the late president's enthusiasm for volunteerism, which launched the Peace Corps in the 1960s.

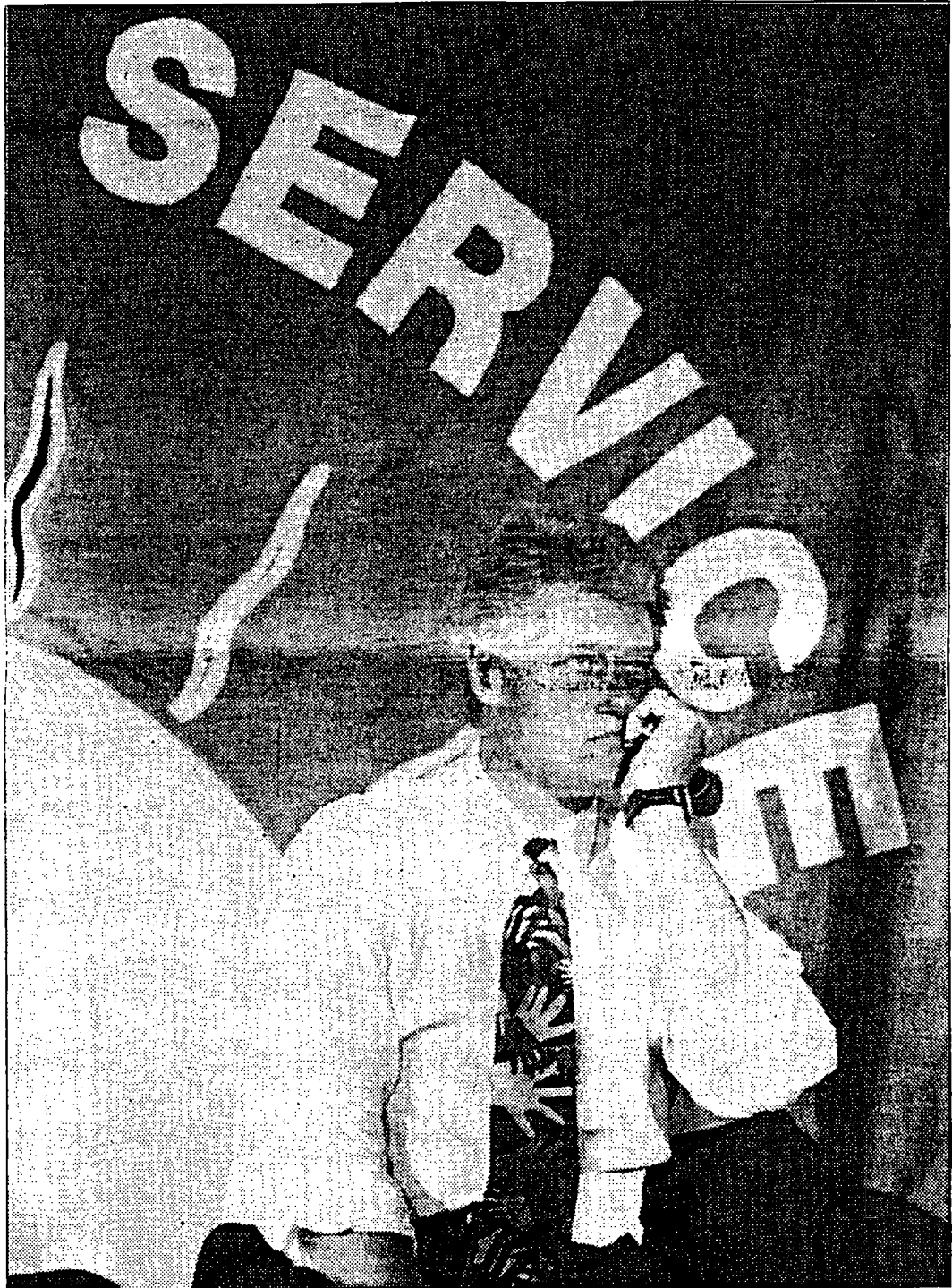
"We've got all these young people full of energy and passion and belief and without any cynicism and all this talent out there, dying to serve," Clinton said. "And secondly, we've just got an unbelievable number of problems out there that have to be solved in a personal, highly labor-intensive way that neither the government nor the private sector could otherwise afford. . . . If every American did what you did for the last two months—if we all could do that for several years—we could revolutionize our country."

Clearly, there are bugs to be worked out. Greg Williamson, a student from Baxley, Ga., said he enjoyed screening preschoolers for the Head Start program in Georgia this summer, but was disappointed that his promised salary dropped from \$246 a week to half that amount. He also said he and fellow workers lost their shot at college stipends when organizers hired far more student workers than originally planned.

Nonetheless, Williamson, 19, endorsed the idea of national service. "A lot of people say what they would do," he said. "But you get to actually go out and do it."

L.A. Times 9/1/93

Listening to Trailblazers' Tales



Associated Press

President Clinton listens to young people who took part in a two-month Summer of Service Project during a meeting with them at the University of Maryland. He told them that they were "pioneers" of a national service program. The 79 youths told of their work in projects including immunization, cleaning up rivers and teaching youngsters to avoid gangs and stay in school.

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Associated Press

Marcus Pinkney of Hands on Atlanta (left) tells President Clinton (right) Tuesday of his experiences teaching schoolchildren. Regina Hall and Greg Ricks look on.

Young people tell Clinton of services as volunteers

By Ernie Freda

STAFF WRITER

President Clinton spent four hours Tuesday at a Summer of Service forum at the University of Maryland, hearing from 79 young people talking about their volunteer experiences. And he talked with them about his vision: "Don't you find that you see the world in a different way once you do this? [Don't you] have a sense you can solve [problems] and make a difference?"

His trip to College Park, inside the Beltway, was intended to focus attention on his national service program, of which Summer of Service is seen as a precursor. The proposal is expected to get final approval from the Senate next week. The bill would allow young people to earn money for college — \$4,725 a year and living allowances of at least \$7,400 a year, plus health care and child day care benefits — in return for two years of community service work.

The Summer of Service volunteers worked in a wide variety of areas, including projects to immunize inner-city children, clean up polluted rivers, deliver meals to AIDS patients, and coach youngsters to avoid gangs and stay in school. **Marcus Pinkney**, who helped teach elementary school children in Atlanta, told the president he learned that giving time and attention to youngsters was "the most basic tool of all."

Others present from Georgia included **Christa Roth**, executive director of Hands on Atlanta's Summer of Service program; **Marla Bath Goldwasser**, a Hands-on youth worker; and **Jean**

George, vice principal of College Park Elementary School, where the youth workers tutored.



HIGH PRAISE FOR STUDENT

At UM, Clinton promotes service

By Thomas W. Waldron
Staff Writer

COLLEGE PARK — President Clinton came to Maryland yesterday to honor high school and college students who offered the country a Summer of Service, praising them for their efforts to "build a new American community."

The young people spent the summer immunizing children in South Texas, rebuilding playgrounds in Newark and cleaning streams in Baltimore, among other projects. In return, they earned money to help pay for college.

"I hope that we'll see it repeated hundreds of thousands of times . . . and I hope it will become a permanent part of American life," Mr. Clinton told some 80 participants from around the country who gathered at the University of Maryland.

"If it does, the whole country will be stronger," he said.

The president's visit highlighted his proposal for a more ambitious national public service program, which is expected to win final congressional approval next week. The program, which will cost \$1.5 billion over three years, will allow 100,000 students to defray some of their college costs through two-year stints of community service.

As a candidate, Mr. Clinton proposed a federal program that would have allowed all students to work off their college tuition bills through public service. Congress significantly reduced his original proposal for \$9.5 billion over five years, but Mr. Clinton is nonetheless poised to deliver on one of his campaign promises.

Participants will earn \$4,725 a year to be applied to their college bills. They also will also earn a stipend and receive health insurance and child care benefits.

White House officials say the program will rely for the most part on community service programs that exist nationally.

In Philadelphia, for example, an immunization program was planned and established, but nobody came. Volunteers went out into the community to spread the word about the project, and parents swarmed in for shots for their children.

In New York, a tutoring program nearly collapsed because of the fees that local school officials said they would charge for meals. Organizers found volunteers at a nearby senior citizens center to prepare the food instead.

"If every American did what you did for the last two months," Mr. Clinton said, "if we all could do that for several years, we could revolutionize our country."

The president, looking tanned and relaxed from his recent vacation, took off his jacket, rolled up his sleeves and talked with the service participants for nearly two hours.

"If every American did what you did for the last two months, if we all could do that for several years, we could revolutionize our country."

PRESIDENT CLINTON

The president said the College Park visit brought back 30-year-old memories of his participation in a national program highlighted by his well-documented introduction to President John F. Kennedy.

Among the participants yesterday was Mary John, who has been working in a service project in Baltimore recruiting volunteer mentors to work with troubled youths through the

state's Department of Juvenile Services. Ms. John, a 24-year-old Coppin State College graduate, said she has matched more than 20 mentors with teen-agers.

The experience has been rewarding, she said, introducing her to a new world. It has also been frustrating, she added, in getting potential mentors through the complicated approval process.

Ms. John said she may apply her tuition credits to law school.

Several state officials, including Gov. William Donald Schaefer, were in the audience for the discussion. Mr. Clinton politely recognized Mr. Schaefer, a fellow Democrat who made headlines last fall with his 11th-hour endorsement of Republican George Bush in the presidential race.

By contrast, Mr. Clinton enthusiastically referred to Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. as "my good friend."

The Washington Post

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1993

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The Challenge of Service

IN CLEARING the way for President Clinton's national service program, the Senate handed the president a deserved victory and a large challenge. Mr. Clinton is right to believe that the federal government can help spark a new civic spirit in the country. But now that he has won congressional approval for \$1.5 billion over three years, he has to prove that his program can engage the nation's young people in work that is genuinely useful to their communities and helpful to the needy in whose name most service programs operate.

That is not as easy as it sounds. Of course there is much to do in the country that is not getting done, especially in the nation's poorest neighborhoods. The police are overwhelmed by crime, many among the elderly feel isolated and alone, public health agencies need help in getting out information on preventive medicine, hundreds of thousands of inner-city children would welcome some extra help in navigating troubled school systems and mean streets.

But too often, service projects can resemble foreign aid programs, imposing the unrealistic view of an outsider on communities already well aware of what problems they need to solve. Service projects need to be more than just opportunities for the better-off to feel good. And they can't be allowed to become patronage dumping grounds, programs affording some extra (albeit modest) budget lines for local political organizations always eager to dole out a few more jobs.

These potential dangers offer Mr. Clinton a large opening. Precisely because there is so much public skepticism about government's capacity to do much of anything well, the Clinton national service program is an occasion to prove that government is still capable of appealing to people's best instincts and providing opportunities for citizens to put their good intentions to work. The Clinton plan marries older notions about the federal government's capacity to stir national action with the president's emphasis on local control and decentralization. Eli Segal, the program's director, says he wants communities to invent their own programs, not have Washington's notions imposed upon them. At the same time, he promises tough federal scrutiny to make sure that when communities do get service grants, they'll spend the money productively.

These goals are not in contradiction, but achieving them will require some skilled balancing. And getting it right is important. Mr. Clinton came to office committed to a much more expansive service proposal. He cut back his plans because he needed the votes of moderate Republicans who were sympathetic to national service but worried about the federal government's capacity to build a large program fast. This is the president's chance to prove that practical idealism is something other than an oxymoron. It's an opportunity that should not be squandered.

The New York Times

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1993

A Start on National Service

Congress handed President Clinton his first major policy victory this week when it passed his national service initiative. True, the three-year, \$1.5 billion plan is small compared with the \$11 billion program he originally proposed. But it's a worthy start for a good idea.

National service, along with welfare reform, lay at the center of Mr. Clinton's claim to be a "New Democrat" who would tie government help to reciprocal obligations. Originally he promised to offer all Americans enough money to attend college if they performed public service for a few years in return.

When the President got down to proposing a budget plan that would whack \$500 billion off the

deficit, his grandiose promise quickly shriveled. But the Administration preserved a skeletal plan.

The bill Congress passed Wednesday will help about 100,000 students over three years with tuition grants of about \$9,500 and subsistence wages. In exchange they will serve for two years in schools, hospitals, playgrounds and anywhere else that participating local governments and nonprofit institutions can put them to good use.

The fact that budget restraints have forced the program to start small may be a disguised blessing. The Administration can tightly supervise the program, make it work well and then prove to Congress that it warrants a bigger boost three years hence.

Clinton's peace corps also help themselves

ALTRUISM might be back in fashion with America's youth, but the generation President Bill Clinton is calling upon to serve is very different from the one that volunteered for President John Kennedy's Peace corps 30 years ago.

Mr Kennedy stirred thousands to give up affluent lifestyles to teach in Africa, farm in Asia and build trenches in Latin America. In trying to capture the same idealism, Mr Clinton, who often harks back to the idealism of "Camelot", must appeal to good-hearted but hard-headed young people who want to help others - and themselves.

Mr Clinton's National Service Act, which had already passed the House, was last night approved by the Senate and is expected to be signed by the president next week. It would put young people to work on repairing the environment, teaching, refurbishing houses and performing other community service in return for a small wage and an education allowance.

"Young people today are very different than they were when I was in my young 30s," says 50-year-old Mr Eli Segal, who as director of the White House's Office of National Service has given substance to the plan. "I think they're far more practical, far more sophisticated about how things work, far less confrontational." It is also a generation that faces what Mr Segal termed an "educational crisis" as the cost of tuition has soared beyond the reach of most.

Mr Clinton's plan is aimed at helping young people to serve and cover their tertiary tuition costs. Participants would provide a year of community service in exchange for the minimum wage of \$4.25 an hour and an education allowance.

Congress scaled back the plan, cutting allowances from \$10,000 for two years of service to \$9,450 and limiting spending on the whole scheme to \$1.5bn for the first three years. The White House estimates that about 20,000 students will participate in the first year.

It is a small start for a president who attracted support on

the campaign trail from students and their parents saying that anyone who wanted a college education ought to be able to afford one. Proponents say the plan will fulfill another, more important, goal: bringing groups of people from diverse backgrounds to work together.

Framers of national service hope to attract a more diverse group of Americans than participated in previous service programmes. Peace Corps officials concede that, until the 1980s, volunteers were mostly white and middle- to upper-middle class. In 1982 only about 5 per cent of volunteers were minorities.

Lisa Bransten on national service that pays back in education

Ms Erin Moran, a 17-year-old from a middle-class area of Baltimore was stunned by what she was learning while helping refurbish a recreation centre in a rundown part of her home town.

"I was really naive about what went on in the inner city," she said. "Yesterday we met with other teenagers and we were talking about teenage pregnancy and they saw nothing wrong with it because there was always welfare and they saw nothing wrong with AIDS because they figured they wouldn't survive in the city very long anyway."

Mr Phillip Harris, aged 18, who grew up in one of Baltimore's toughest neighbourhoods, said it was important for people like Ms Moran to understand that improvements come gradually.

"We have a person in our group who felt like, 'I'm coming in to help people and in eight weeks we've got to make them change'. We sat her down and said, 'You can't change people so quickly'. Now she's dealing in reality," he said.

After a youth spent selling drugs and carrying weapons - and a month-long stay at a juvenile detention centre - Mr Harris is realistic about how much can be done,

but he also wants to show youngsters in his neighbourhood that change is possible.

"By selling drugs and committing a lot of crimes I took a lot away from the community," he says. "A lot of the young people who are selling drugs now used to look up to me. Now I am trying to reverse things - make them look up to me in a positive light."

While Mr Harris wants to help his community, he is also studying for a business degree at a local community college and the \$1,000 he receives for his work will help. After finding government programmes did little to help his family or their neighbours, Mr Harris puts his faith with the business community because, he says, they seem to understand their customers better than any bureaucracy.

The loudest critics of national service believe it would cost too much. Senator Nancy Kassebaum, a Kansas Republican, tried to reduce the cost for the first three years from \$1.5bn to \$800m and voted against the measure when the White House rejected her plan. Others in Congress proposed giving educational benefits only to those in need and making the money contingent on other scholarship programmes being fully funded.

Leading proponents of the measure such as Representative Dave McCurdy say the bill is not about education, but about service. "If you are only concerned about a college education then this is not the concept," the Oklahoma Democrat said. "The concept is changing the ethic in America from grants and loans to service."

Mr Jason Scott, a 24-year-old who started Youth for National Service to lobby for the plan, said it was up to his generation to heal the nation's ills.

"The country is getting more diverse, not less diverse and we know that we are the ones who are going to have to deal with that," he said. "We believe (national service) has the potential to engage a new generation of young people in service, young people who might not otherwise have the chance or the opportunity to serve their country."

Sept. 9,
1993

The Washington Post

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1993

Senate Clears Way To National Service

Scaled-Down Clinton Plan Is Passed

By Helen Dewar
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Senate yesterday gave final approval to groundbreaking legislation creating a national service program, enabling President Clinton to claim fulfillment of one of his most popular campaign promises.

Although it falls short of a more ambitious initiative outlined by Clinton in his campaign, supporters said the \$1.5 billion authorization for college aid in exchange for community service is sufficient to get the program off to a healthy start over the next three years.

Clinton hailed the Senate's action, calling the bill a "landmark piece of legislation" that provides "yet another opportunity for change for the American people."

The bill would enable an estimated 100,000 students to receive educational grants of up to \$9,450 through 1996 for performing two years of community service in tasks ranging from assisting teachers to working on environmental cleanup. The government would pay subsistence-level living costs while the students worked.

The White House anticipates that community service jobs authorized

by the legislation will start being filled by next summer. The Clinton administration expects about 20,000 participants in the first year.

The Senate approved the final version of the bill by a vote of 57 to 40, with six Republicans, mostly moderates, joining all but four Democrats in support of the legislation. Among Washington area senators, only John W. Warner (R-Va.) voted against the measure.

The bill cleared the House on a vote of 275 to 152 before Congress adjourned for its August recess, but the Senate vote was delayed when Republicans, who had earlier filibustered against the measure, balked at Democratic efforts to rush the bill through before the recess.

Although passage of the bill was a foregone conclusion after the filibuster was broken, Republican critics continued to criticize it as an unnecessary expansion of government that flies in the face of the administration's just-unveiled plan for cutting, consolidating and reorganizing the federal bureaucracy.

"One day after we talked about reinventing government . . . we

See SERVICE, A4, Col. 1

National Service Bill Encourages Variety of Volunteer Initiatives

SERVICE, From A1

have a whole new program on the Senate floor. No wonder the American people are confused," Minority Leader Robert J. Dole (R-Kan.) said. "How many bureaucrats will be required to run this so-called volunteer program?" asked Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.).

Democrats responded that national service is precisely the kind of federal program that a "reinvented" government envisions. "National service is our first test case of changing how government operates," said Sen. Harris Wofford (D-Pa.), who, with Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), steered the bill through the Senate.

Clinton struck a similar theme in his statement, saying that the program—with its emphasis on local initiative and "entrepreneurial" quest for quality of operations—is designed "in the best sense of reinventing government."

The legislation authorizes \$300 million next year, \$500 million in fiscal 1995 and \$700 million in fiscal 1996. Actual funding will depend on appropriations bills to be passed later this year but is likely to approximate the authorization level.

The program would provide tuition assistance of \$4,725 for each of two years of community service

and a living allowance of \$7,400 a year while participants are on the job.

The bill creates a corporation to make grants to states, nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher learning to carry out the program and reauthorizes existing volunteer programs, including VISTA and programs involving older Americans.

Other volunteer initiatives would be encouraged in a variety of ways, including a doubling of funds for existing school-based volunteer service programs.

Clinton originally proposed a larger national service program, longer authorization and more generous educational stipends. He talked in his campaign of a program that would put a college education within reach of every American and in his budget earlier this year called for a five-year allocation of \$10.8 billion.

But the president lowered his sights because of budgetary constraints in submitting the legislation. He had to agree to further cuts to win enough Republican support in the Senate to break the GOP-led filibuster.

The White House has said funding levels in the bill are sufficient to demonstrate that national service works.

KEY PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

- A federal Corporation for National Service would provide grants to states, public and nonprofit organizations, and colleges and universities, which would run service programs themselves or award grants to others to do so. The corporation also would provide the money for program participants to use for paying college tuition.
- Participants would receive \$4,725 a year for up to two years to apply toward college tuition. They would have to complete 1,700 hours of service work in a year.
- Educational awards would have to be used within five years after service was completed.
- Participants would receive living allowances during their national service of at least \$7,400 a year. Stipends could be as much as \$14,800. The government would provide 85 percent of \$7,400 and the service program the remainder.
- Participants would have to be at least 17 years old, be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and have a high school diploma or agree to earn one. Graduate students could participate.
- Spending would be limited to \$300 million in the first year of the program, \$500 million in the second and \$700 million in the third.
- An estimated 20,000 people could participate in the first year, 33,000 in the second year and 47,000 in the third year, assuming an average annual cost of \$15,000 per participant.
- The program would be authorized for three years and could be renewed after that.

—Associated Press

Los Angeles Times

Thursday
September 9
1993

College Aid for Students Who Serve U.S. OKd

By ELIZABETH SHOGREN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—Adopting a measure that carries out one of President Clinton's most popular campaign pledges, the Senate gave final approval Wednesday to a domestic Peace Corps that will provide Americans with educational stipends in exchange for community service.

The Senate voted, 57 to 40, for the National and Community Service Trust Act, which now goes to the White House for Clinton's signature.

"National service will bring together Americans from a wide variety of backgrounds, expand their educational opportunity and empower a new generation to take on our nation's most pressing domestic needs," Clinton said Wednesday in a statement praising the Senate vote.

"Thousands will spend a year or two serving their country and their communities—working as teachers, as health care workers or on environmental projects—while helping to pay for school."

National service has been a popular idea because it is thought to help not only the poor, but also middle-class Americans struggling to meet the skyrocketing costs of

Please see SERVICE, A9

SERVICE: Aid for College OKd

Continued from A1

college educations for their children.

The bill authorizes spending \$300 million for fiscal year 1994 for 15,000 to 20,000 full- and part-time participants, which would make it as big or bigger than the Peace Corps was at its largest. Spending would grow to \$500 million the second year and \$700 million in fiscal 1996, with participation growing accordingly, although it will fall well short of Clinton's original target of 150,000 participants by the third year.

In exchange for a year of full-time work, participants will receive educational stipends of up to \$4,725 a year for use for college, job training or vocational education. They also would receive modest salaries and other employee benefits.

Senate Republicans, led by Bob Dole of Kansas, fought the proposal, arguing that it is too expensive for such lean economic times.

"On the one hand, President Clinton says national service will be the centerpiece of his Administration and on the other hand that he wants to reinvent government," Dole said. "Well, we think when we talk about reinventing government we're talking about less government, less new programs."

Sen. Nancy Landon Kassebaum (R-Kan.) said it

showed the Administration's failure to simplify government bureaucracy, despite the plan announced Tuesday by Vice President Al Gore to simplify the federal government and cut \$108 billion over five years. "This bill is fraught with duplicative administrative structures, bureaucratic structures," she said.

But Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), who led the debate on the bill, said the legislation will help encourage Americans to think in new ways to solve the chronic problems in society.

"Too many citizens, preoccupied with their own lives, assume that the challenges facing America are someone else's problem," Kennedy said. "This measure harnesses the creativity, drive and talents of our greatest national resource: Americans themselves."

The Administration hopes that the program also will serve as a laboratory for strategies for reinventing government. The program will be administered by a nonpartisan board of citizen directors called the Corporation for National and Community Service. Members will be paid but will not be part of the civil service system.

The corporation or committees set up by each state will choose programs in which national service participants will work.

THE NATION'S NEWSPAPER

USA TODAY

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WASHINGTON

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

The Senate approved the Clinton administration's first all-new program: national service in exchange for money for education. Program highlights:

- ▶ Open to any citizen or permanent resident at least 17 years old. Up to 20,000 could participate the first year, 33,000 the second and 47,000 the third.
- ▶ Signup will begin by middle of 1994.
- ▶ Participants work 1,700 hours a year for two years.
- ▶ They would earn credit of \$4,725 a year for tuition.
- ▶ They would receive living allowance of at least \$7,400 a year, plus health and child-care benefits.
- ▶ Spending is set at \$300 million the first year, \$500 million the second and \$700 million the third.
- ▶ The Corporation for National Service would make grants to states, public and non-profit organizations and colleges and universities to operate the program.

National service education bill is OK'd

By Leslie Phillips
USA TODAY

The Senate Wednesday gave final approval to a centerpiece of President Clinton's campaign platform: a \$1.5 billion national service program designed to revitalize the concept of service and help students pay for education.

The initiative, passed 57-40 despite objections from both parties that the country can ill afford a new spending program, was the product of a joint conference committee.

The legislation was endorsed by the House last month and is expected to be signed by the

president immediately.

Although it is far more modest than the \$10.8 billion program Clinton initially envisioned, the president hailed it as a first step toward "reinventing government."

And, after a difficult first eight months, in which Clinton watched Congress kill his economic stimulus package, then pass his deficit reduction plan without a vote to spare, passage of the National Community and Service Trust Act marks a much-needed victory.

"In the best sense of reinventing government, the new (plan) will emphasize decentralization in favor of empow-

ering local initiatives that devise local solutions to local problems," the president said in a statement after the vote. "Its business plan will be an unwavering mandate to get things done in our communities and our country."

The administration expects applications for the first year's 20,000 slots to be taken by next June, according to Eli Segal, assistant to the president for national service.

Clinton initially envisioned a five-year, \$10.8 billion program with up to 150,000 participants. Republican complaints about the size and cost of a new government bureaucracy led to its

reduction in scope, as did objections the grants would exceed those available through the G.I. Bill and other federal educational loan programs.

"This bill is fraught with duplicative administrative structures, overlapping programs and cumbersome bureaucratic structures," said Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., who noted the irony of passing the plan one day after the president spoke of streamlining government. "It is too costly, too bureaucratic . . . and misdirects scarce educational funds."

Six Republicans voted for the measure. Voting against were four Democrats: Robert

Byrd of West Virginia, Bob Kerrey and James Exon of Nebraska and Ernest Hollings of South Carolina.

"This country is not in a position, with increasing taxes and a federal budget deficit, to afford an almost open-ended new spending program," said Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash.

But advocates touted the program as a first test of changing how the federal government operates.

Said Sen. Harris Wofford, D-Pa., "This is part of the process of reinventing government, not by creating more government but by igniting citizen action and citizen responsibility."

The New York Times

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NEW YORK, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1993

National Service Bill Is Sent To Clinton for His Signature

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8 — The Senate today passed and sent to the White House the national service bill, the first new program proposed by President Clinton to be ready for his signature.

The 57-to-40 vote found 6 Republicans and 51 Democrats supporting the \$1.5 billion, three-year program and 4 Democrats and 36 Republicans in opposition.

The most-discussed element of the bill is the creation of federally financed service programs in which volunteers meet local needs, in schools or by helping the elderly or cleaning up neighborhoods. Volunteers would get a minimum wage allowance and health insurance and would be eligible for up to \$9,450 in educational grants when they complete their work.

Several Republicans criticized the program, complaining that it would insert a Federal bureaucracy into the good voluntary habits of the American people, discourage military enlistments and invite politicization of service programs. The legislation, which would take effect immediately, would pay for 20,000 volunteers in its first year.

But no one challenged the other major element of the bill, under which 15 percent of the money would go to encourage schools to bolster their curriculums with projects related to community service. That aspect of the bill might reach 750,000 children in the program's first year.

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^National Service Plan Wins Final Congressional Approval

^Eds: Combines pvs; minor editing

^By ROBERT NAYLOR JR.= ^Associated Press Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) The Senate gave final approval Wednesday to a \$1.5 billion compromise version of President Clinton's plan for students to earn college money in exchange for national service.

The 57-40 vote, mostly along party lines, gave Clinton the first all-new program of his administration. The bill now goes to the White House for his signature.

The legislation fulfilled his campaign promise to create a domestic version of the Peace Corps, in which young people could serve their communities while earning money to help pay for college.

Senate Republicans, who had successfully stalled the measure earlier this summer, fought it to the end.

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., the Senate Republican leader, accused the White House of sending conflicting signals by creating a new program at the same time it is proposing government reorganization with an emphasis on saving money.

"On the one hand, President Clinton says national service will be the centerpiece of his administration and on the other hand that he wants to reinvent government," Dole said in a floor speech. "Well, we think when we talk about reinventing government we're talking about less government, less new programs."

But Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass, who helped guide the bill to passage, accused Republicans of painting an inaccurate picture of the legislation.

"The fact that our colleagues misstate fact time and time again ... may be persuasive to some people but it does not represent accuracy, veracity or truth," he said.

He said if the program did not work, Congress could scrap it.

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., who led opposition to the legislation, argued that the bill is "fraught with ... overlapping programs, unnecessary legislative requirements and cumbersome bureaucratic structures."

She called it ironic that the Senate was considering the legislation a day after Clinton presented his "reinventing government" plan to streamline the federal bureaucracy and cut costs by \$108 billion over five years.

"We have lost a tremendous opportunity ... to lead the way in reinventing government," she said. "We chose to take the old tried and true way."

But Sen. Harris Wofford, D-Pa., countered that the National Service program was an "innovative public-private partnership" that is "part of a process of reinventing government, not by more government but by igniting citizen action and citizen responsibility."

Congressional Democrats had hoped to hand Clinton a new program before they began a month-long recess in August, and the national service bill had been their best hope. The House adopted the compromise, but the bill got bogged down in the Senate.

Supporters have argued that the program would benefit communities across the nation while helping some middle class students afford college educations. Opponents have said it is too costly and the money would be better spent on existing college aid programs.

Under terms of the compromise, students who complete two years of community service work can earn \$4,725 a year to apply toward college tuition. Clinton initially proposed \$5,000 a year.

Participants also would receive living allowances of at least \$7,400 a year and health-care and child day-care benefits.

The plan allows 20,000 participants in the first year, 33,000 in the second year and 47,000 in the third year, assuming an average annual cost per participant of \$15,000. Spending would be limited to \$300 million in the first year of the program, \$500 million in the second year and \$700 million in the third year.

Clinton, who made national service a cornerstone of his campaign last year, originally wanted a far more ambitious \$9.5 billion, five-year program. His plan would have allowed 25,000 participants in the first year and 150,000 by the third year.

Senate Republicans held out for a two-year pilot project costing about \$800 million, but were unable to maintain solid support for that position.

complete writethru details, quotes)
Senate approves national service

By STEVEN HEILBRONNER=

WASHINGTON (UPI) The Senate handed President Clinton a modest victory Wednesday, passing a scaled down version of his national service plan.

The \$1.5 billion program in which students would receive college grants in exchange for community service, was approved on a 57-40 vote, picking up six Republican moderates and losing four Democrats.

An identical measure cleared the House last month by a wide margin. Clinton is likely to sign the legislation next week.

Passage of the measure made good on Clinton's campaign pledge to expand educational opportunities and improved services in depressed areas.

The measure is expected to finance education awards of up to \$4,725 a year to 100,000 people on a first-come, first-served basis, in return for one or two years of work in community jobs in schools, parks, hospitals and police departments, among other service sectors.

However, the three-year authorization, which must receive separate annual congressional financing, is far less ambitious than the \$12 billion program Clinton envisaged.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., who shepherded the bill through the Senate, was forced to give more than he got to deliver a majority.

Nonetheless, Kennedy hailed the final deal, saying, "this measure harnesses the creativity, drive and talents of our greatest national resource: Americans themselves."

Sen. Harris Wofford, D-Pa., former director of the Peace Corps, on which the program was modeled, said the expansion in community service was part of the administration's fabric of reinvigorating federal programs.

"It's part of the process of reinventing government, not by more government, but by igniting citizen action and citizen responsibility," he said. "It's results oriented."

But a number of Republicans, while encouraged by the lower financing, were unhappy with the program's design, which requires that 50 percent of all funds and grants are targeted to poor areas and only one-third of the money is awarded directly to the states.

Moreover, many of them called the plan wasteful, as it not only offers recipients jobs, many of whom come from well heeled families, but it also provides day care and health care to participants.

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., who led Republican efforts to decentralize the program, said, "I'm keenly disappointed in this," as it "continues the pattern of congressional control" over national service.

She added, "We have lost a great opportunity to lead the way in reinventing government."

New York Trend: Young Urban Volunteers

By FELICIA R. LEE

This is Glamour Girl Day on the fifth floor of the Frances Schervier Home and Hospital in the Bronx. That means that Nikia Bispham, 18, wheels in a cart full of nail polishes and emery boards, tunes her big radio to a rhythm and blues station and settles down for two hours of chitchat and makeovers with an eager queue of white-haired ladies.

Ann Finning, who wants her nails painted Cameo Pink, is fretting because she needs a good shampoo and set. The woman next to her is nodding off, but Mrs. Finning keeps up a stream of words: what happened at happy hour yesterday, a recent fall she had, what a lovely job Ms. Bispham is doing.

Ms. Bispham, a quiet high school dropout from Crown Heights who wants to be a social worker, is one face of New York's City Volunteer Corps. With 750 volunteers annually, it is the largest city youth-service organization in the nation. At the end of a

Continued From Page B1

limited to young people, but the education financing in the act is expected to be especially attractive to them. In New York, corps members are 16 to 20 years old.

The national bill will enable volunteers to receive \$4,725 — for college tuition or job training or to pay off existing educational loans — in return for every 12 months or 1,700 hours of service. They may work up to two years, for up to \$9,450. Public service advocates across the nation say the corps encourages a work ethic and fills a shrinking pool of volunteers. In New York, most volunteers in the City Volunteer Corps work full time for one year and receive a stipend of \$101.50 a week.

30 Corps Around U.S.

From San Francisco to Boston, there are more than 80 organizations similar to the corps in New York, with a total of 30,000 young volunteers. Most receive little or no Federal assistance.

Because the New York City corps is considered a model program, said Catherine Milton, the executive director of the Commission on National and Community Service, it will be one of 15 programs to receive a \$1.6 million Federal grant to begin an outreach project. Volunteers will go into communities to explore needs and then start programs. Usually, volunteers are sent in response to requests for help.

The City Volunteer Corps will be a decade old next year and has 7,000 alumni. With its 300 different service projects, it was one of the first corps to focus on human services.

Michael Bosnick, the deputy executive director, said that one-third of the volunteers, who are mostly high-school dropouts, had completed their year of service.

Most Take the Cash

About 75 percent of those opt for cash at the end of their jobs and 25 percent take the scholarships, he said, noting that many volunteers are not ready for college. Part-time volunteers, who attend school, receive pro-rated stipends and scholarships.

Volunteers without high school degrees attend General Equivalency Diploma classes and those who do not speak English attend language classes. Civility, punctuality, teamwork and attendance are stressed by the supervisors who lead the volunteers from project to project. These vary from teaching reading to turning vacant lots into gardens. The projects can be as long as three months or as short as a week.

Privately, some city leaders say they would like to see the program reorganized so that volunteers spend more time on each project and become more a part of the communities they serve. That way, they would theoretically be of more help to the agencies and get more information about future jobs. Some city leaders also want better tracking of the volunteers after they complete their service, information that is not currently available.

"I want to go to college for psychology," Ms. Bispham said. But she dropped out of high school in the 11th grade because, she said, she was afraid of violence. She now works four days a week at the hospital and attends classes for the G.E.D. test once a week. "I've had a lot of problems with my life," Ms. Bispham said. "I'd like to be a social worker and help people with their problems."

Some critics of national service charge that the efforts are more welfare programs than service programs. They have also said the programs are unnecessary in a country in which 80 million Americans each volunteer several hours a week.

"I am very skeptical of the desirability of a Federal service bill," said Doug Bandow, a senior fellow with the Cato Institute, a conservative research organization based in Washington. "On a philosophical basis I don't like the idea of baptizing something as public and saying that it is necessarily better than private. What is more noble about shelving books in a public library than shelving books in a bookstore?"

Mr. Bandow said he also foresaw practical problems in monitoring which groups get volunteers, controlling fraud and making sure the volunteers do adequate jobs.

But Kathleen Selz, the executive director of the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps, in

Tutors, orderlies and models for Clinton's new service plan.

year that has included work at a Staten Island plant nursery and a Queens furniture warehouse for nonprofit groups, Ms. Bispham has the option of \$2,500 cash or a \$5,000 college scholarship financed through the \$5.3 million the city gives the corps.

If President Clinton's estimates hold true, the \$1.5 billion National and Community Service Act he will sign tomorrow will pave the way for about 100,000 people like Ms. Bispham to serve their communities and pay for college over the next three years. The legislation, the fulfillment of a campaign promise by Mr. Clinton to create

a kind of domestic Peace Corps, will provide money for terms of service — whether tutoring children or cleaning up parks.

The New York corps was one of a number around the country that Federal officials studied before making their national service plan.

New York Corps Is a Model

"If other programs can be as good as C.V.C., this act will be a success," said Roger Landrum, executive director of Youth Service America, a Washington group that advises service corps.

Those familiar with the corps praise the variety of services the volunteers perform and the fact that the volunteers acquire skills, discipline and exposure to the world of work during their service.

The President's call for Americans to participate in a "season of service" is not

Continued on Page B4

7,000 youths have traded nonprofit work for cash or scholarships.

Washington, argues, "If the work they did was not valuable they would not be funded year after year by tight-fisted state legislatures."

Toni Schmiegelow, the executive director of the New York corps, said that she received many more requests for service than she could fill. She hopes that the money and attention provided by the new community service act will attract a more diverse group to the corps.

The corps' latest advertising efforts, Ms. Schmiegelow said, have been aimed at young people who are doing well in school.

"It's important for the future of this city that people come together," she said. "It's not happening in the neighborhoods. And what we do is not just good experience for the young people. They're getting your benches painted and your parks cleaned."

One growing group within the corps has been immigrants from the former Soviet Union. There are also more black and Hispanic college-bound volunteers. Lizette Nieves, the first student from the city college system to become a Rhodes Scholar, is a graduate of the corps. So is Petal Haynes, a Yale University student and a Westinghouse Scholar.

Building a Church in Russia

The corps is also quite literally venturing into new territory, through a grant from the United States Information Agency. Last month, a group of 10 volunteers returned from a month abroad in Russia. There, they painted numbers on houses, prepared an aquarium for a school and helped bricklayers with the first church built in Russia in 70 years.

Budget constraints mean that the Corps turns away one applicant for every one it accepts, Ms. Schmiegelow said. The last few years have been "a constant struggle" for the corps to keep its city financing, she said, and called that a shame.

"We could and should have at least 5,000 young people in a city this size," said Ms. Schmiegelow.

PM National Service, 4th Ld-Writethru, a0568,750

Echoes of New Deal, New Frontier for Young People

With National Service-Glance

EDs: SUBS 7th graf, bgng, "It is... with full quote as delivered; picks up 8th graf, "This national..."

By RON FOURNIER= Associated Press Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) Surrounded by a sea of young faces in a campaign-style rally, President Clinton today signed his plan to energize a generation of youths, enabling college students to earn tuition money with public service.

"I have harbored this dream for years," Clinton said. Paying homage to the public service programs under Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy, he dubbed the new program "AmeriCorps."

The president brandished two historic pens: one used by Kennedy to establish the Peace Corps and another used by Roosevelt to create the Civilian Conservation Corps. Kennedy inspired a young Clinton; Roosevelt, a young Kennedy.

The plan, a watered down version of Clinton's initial proposal, gives up to 100,000 youths college money, modest stipends and health insurance in exchange for community service. With the signing, Clinton fulfills a popular campaign promise to create a domestic version of the Peace Corps.

With a rock band blaring his campaign anthem, "Don't Stop (Thinking About Tomorrow)," Clinton was introduced to loud hoots and cheers. "Our national service plan is bold and new, but it is also built on the bedrock of history," said Eli Segal, White House director of the plan. Clinton named Segal to head the public corporation that will oversee the program.

On a dreary, overcast day, the crowd was jammed beneath a huge white tent on the South Lawn of the White House. The stage was overcrowded with youths involved in the myriad community service programs that will be tied together by the sweeping law.

"I hope, believe and dream that national service will remain throughout the life of America, not as a series of promises, but a series of challenges across all the generations and all walks of life to help us to rebuild our troubled but wonderful land," he said.

This national service corps should send a loud and clear message across this country that the young people of America will preserve the freedom of America for themselves and for all those of their generations by assuming the responsibility to rebuild the American family," he said.

Clinton said he hoped the plan would help ease the nation's worst wounds.

"There are streets in neighborhoods and communities today where people are not free," he said. "There are millions of Americans who are not really free today because they cannot reach down inside them and bring out what was put there by the Almighty."

The memory of Kennedy, who inspired a generation of public service, was raised again and again.

"National and community service is one of the best investments we can make for the generations to come," said the slain president's brother, Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass. "In a sense, the passage of this legislation marks the end of the 'me' era in our national life."

Sargent Shriver, the first Peace Corps director and Kennedy's brother-in-law, was recognized in the crowd by Vice President Al Gore.

The law would allow students who complete two years of community service work to earn \$4,725 a year to apply toward college tuition or student loans. Participants also would earn living allowances of at least \$7,400 a year and health-care and child day-care benefits.

The first programs could be up and running by the middle of next year.

The plan allows 20,000 participants in 1994, which is a higher total than ever achieved by the Peace Corps. Another 33,000 could be involved the second year and 47,000 in the third year.

Spending would be limited to \$300 million in the first year of the program, \$500 million in the second year and \$700 million in the final year.

A public corporation with a board of directors will run the program, with the help of new state commissions.

The measure also establishes a new bureaucracy, pulling together the government's efforts in existing community service programs involving children, college students and adults.

Clinton originally asked Congress to adopt a far more ambitious \$9.5 billion, five-year program. His plan would have allowed 25,000 participants in the first year and 150,000 by the third year, but Republicans balked at the cost.

"I think it is substantial enough to demonstrate an impact," Segal said. "We have to deal with the financial constraints and still show this is not just rhetoric, that this can lead to changes."

PM National Service, Bjt,0825

Eds: This version is contains more Massachusetts angle than story moving on national wire.

Clinton Signs Service Bill to 'Strengthen Cords that Bind' America

With PM-National Service-Glance

By ROBERT NAYLOR JR.= Associated Press Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) Up to 20,000 young people can trade public service work for college tuition money in 1994 under legislation signed by President Clinton.

The law, signed Tuesday, gives as many as 100,000 youths over the next three years tuition money, modest stipends, health insurance and child care in exchange for community service.

The president, who promised during last year's campaign to press for such a program, said he had "harbored this dream for years." He dubbed the first new program of his administration "AmeriCorps" and appointed Eli Segal, his chief lobbyist for the legislation, as the program's new head.

Clinton used two historic pens to sign the legislation during a carefully choreographed campaign-style rally on the South Lawn of the White House. One was used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to create the Civilian Conservation Corps and the other by President John F. Kennedy to set up the Peace Corps.

Clinton was backed by members of youth conservation groups from Massachusetts, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

Among the participants was 10-year-old Pricilla Aponte, a fifth-grade student at Blackstone Elementary School in Boston who received a rousing ovation. She described the help she received from City Year, a Boston youth corps program that did work at the school last year.

City Year was a model for Clinton's youth service program.

"We have cleaned up parks and planted a vegetable garden," Aponte said. "We learned about recycling and how to keep the environment clean, and we also went to a homeless shelter and learned why people are homeless."

"Service has taught me a lot and I have been able to help many people," she added. "When I am older I would like to continue doing service. I would like to go to college and be a doctor."

More than 1,000 people involved in various community service programs crowded under a massive white tent to watch the bill signing. Overhead, gray skies threatened more of the showers that had soaked the nation's capital overnight.

The president received a raucous welcome when he arrived for the rally with a rock band blaring his campaign anthem, "Don't Stop" (Thinking About Tomorrow)."

Saying he saw the "wreckage, the insanity, the lost human potential" in the nation's communities while campaigning last year, Clinton expressed hope that AmeriCorps will represent "a series of challenges, to help us rebuild our troubled but wonderful land."

He also said he hoped that it "will help us to strengthen the cords that bind us together as a people" and "help us to remember ... that what each of us can become is to some extent determined by whether all of us can become what God meant us to be."

The new law, which is a watered-down version of his original plan, will allow students who complete two years of community service work to earn \$4,725 a year to apply toward college tuition or student loans. Participants also would earn living allowances of at least \$7,400 a year and health-care and child day-care benefits.

The first programs could be up and running by the middle of next year.

The plan allows 20,000 participants in 1994, which is a higher total than ever achieved by the Peace Corps. In the second year, 33,000 could be involved and by the third year 47,000 would be in the program.

Spending would be limited to \$300 million in the first year of the program, \$500 million in the second year and \$700 million in the final year.

A public corporation with a board of directors will run the program, with the help of new state commissions.

The measure also establishes a new bureaucracy, pulling together the government's efforts in existing community service programs involving children, college students and adults.

Clinton originally asked Congress to adopt a far more ambitious \$9.5 billion, five-year program. His plan would have allowed 25,000 participants in the first year and 150,000 by the third year, but Republicans balked at the cost.

The memory of Kennedy, who inspired a generation of public service, was raised again and again.

"National and community service is one of the best investments we can make for the generations to come," said the slain president's brother, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass. "In a sense, the passage of this legislation marks the end of the 'me' era in our national life."

Sargent Shriver, the first Peace Corps director and Kennedy's brother-in-law, was recognized in the crowd by Vice President Al Gore.

AM-CLINTON SERVICE (SCHEDULED)

CLINTON SIGNS NATIONAL SERVICE CORPS LEGISLATION

By Gene Gibbons

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - President Clinton Tuesday signed into law a bill that would let students get money for college by performing community service, but the new program falls short of what he promised in last year's campaign.

"I have harbored this dream for years," Clinton said at a White House ceremony where he signed a bipartisan compromise authorizing a national service program known as "Americorps."

It builds on a tradition of getting individuals involved in nation-building pioneered by Franklin Roosevelt with the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps, and followed by John Kennedy on an international scale with the Peace Corps.

Clinton, who used the same pens at Tuesday's ceremony that Roosevelt and Kennedy used to launch their programs, spoke of tapping youthful idealism to address national problems in the same way his Democratic predecessors did.

About 1,000 people attended the outdoor ceremony on the White House south lawn, which was held in a tent because of threatening weather. Many young people were among the guests, and entertainment was provided by the rock band Soul Asylum.

"This national service corps should send a loud and clear message across this country that the young people of America will preserve the freedom of America for themselves and all those of their generations by assuming the responsibility for rebuilding the American family," Clinton said.

"That is the dream which drove this idea."

The program would give education awards of up to \$4,725 a year to individuals 17 or older who perform community service before, during or after high school.

Young people could work in positions such as nurse's aides in hospitals, act as helpers in police departments or perform environmental jobs in national parks.

Non-profit organizations including colleges, local governments, school districts and state or federal agencies would run the individual programs.

But the bill caps spending at \$300 million in fiscal 1994, \$500 million in fiscal 1995 and \$700 million in fiscal 1996, which will limit the number of participants to about 100,000.

Since this is a but tiny fraction of those who aspire to attend college, the program fails to fully fulfill Clinton's 1992 campaign promise to make higher education accessible to all Americans.

Administration officials argue however that it is a major step toward the president's goal. They also note that the new service organization will be three times larger at the outset than the Peace Corps Kennedy established 32 years ago.

Clinton said he would nominate Eli Segal, now director of the White House Office of National Service, to head the new program.

^AM National Service-Glance,230

^With AM-National Service

^By The Associated Press=

Key provisions of the legislation creating AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program:

A federal Corporation for National Service will make grants to states, public and non-profit organizations and colleges and universities, which then would either run service programs themselves or make grants to others to do that.

Participants will receive \$4,725 a year for up to two years to apply toward college tuition or to repay loans. Payment will be made directly to the school or lender.

Educational awards will have to be used within seven years after service was completed.

Participants will receive living allowances during their national service of at least \$7,400 a year. The government would provide 85 percent of \$7,400 and the service program the remainder.

Participants must be at least 17 years old, a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and have a high school diploma or agree to earn one. Graduate students could participate.

Spending would be limited to \$300 million in the first year of the program, \$500 million in the second year and \$700 million in the third year.

An estimated 20,000 people could participate in the first year, 33,000 in the second year and 47,000 in the third year.

The program is authorized for three years and would have to be renewed after that.

^bc service - a1751

^(bal) (ATTN: National editors)

^Clinton Signs National Service Bill (Washn)

^By Nelson Schwartz= ^ (c) 1993, The Baltimore Sun=

WASHINGTON President Clinton signed his national service bill into law Tuesday, fulfilling one of his most popular campaign pledges with a rare bipartisan victory.

Holding pens used by Presidents Kennedy and Franklin D. Roosevelt to create the Peace Corps and the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps, Clinton declared that national service "will help us strengthen the cords that bind us together as a people" and also help Americans remember "that what each of us can become is to some extent determined by whether all of us can become what God meant us to be."

Clinton appointed Eli Segal, the aide who pushed the legislation through a sometimes balky Congress, to head the new program that will allow students to trade public service work for college tuition money.

Among those witnessing the signing was a crowd of dignitaries that included Sargent Shriver, the first director of the Peace Corps, congressional Republicans and Democrats, and the youthful founders of several recent public service start-ups.

The event had a twenty-something air as the rock band Soul Asylum played under a big tent on the White House's South Lawn. The president posed with scruffily dressed band members after his speech.

Although Clinton had to settle for a far more modest program than he wanted in order to gain Republican support, the government will spend \$300 million on national service next year. Over the next five years, up to 100,000 students will receive funds for college, small stipends and health insurance coverage in exchange for taking part in community service.

On the campaign trail, Clinton's Kennedy-like appeals for a new age of national service were invariably among his most popular promises.

As many as 20,000 people are expected to participate nationally next year, receiving as much as \$12,125 a year in tuition reimbursement and living allowances.

^Distributed by the Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service. .

jrnnalb

W.Va. Wesleyan President Witnesses National Service Bill Signing

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) Legislation signed by President Clinton that will allow college students to trade public service for college tuition will greatly benefit West Virginia residents, an official said.

The national service program gives up to 100,000 people tuition money, modest stipends, health insurance and child care in exchange for community service.

"There's no reason that we always need to think of major urban areas as the only place in need of major service effort," said Tom Courtice, president of West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon.

"We have plenty of places in West Virginia where the impact of human resources could go a long way," he said.

Courtice attended the signing Tuesday in Washington, D.C. The program is expected to begin in a year, officials said.

"Colleges and college students will spearhead the movements," Courtice said.

"We've got our own students involved in tutoring young people, the Habitat for Humanity program, volunteering in the schools, in areas where we have food bank programs, helping with cleaning up the highways and streams in West Virginia," he said.

"Those are just coming off the top of my head. It is a list that is really long when you think of the needs of the young in West Virginia as well as the elderly," he said. "You could turn to any social service organization in this state and the need is vital."

The new law will allow students who complete two years of community service work to earn \$4,725 a year to apply toward college tuition or student loans. Participants also would earn living allowances of at least \$7,400 a year and health-care and child-care benefits.

The plan allows 20,000 participants in 1994, which is a higher number than ever achieved by the Peace Corps. In the second year, 33,000 could be involved and by the third year 47,000 would be in the program.

Spending would be limited to \$300 million in the first year of the program, \$500 million in the second year and \$700 million in the final year.

A public corporation with a board of directors will run the program, with the help of new state commissions.

Courtice represented a coalition of state colleges promoting public service work on college campuses. Other schools involved in the group are West Virginia University, Concord College in Athens, West Liberty, and Davis & Elkins in Elkins.

RELEASE: 09/22/93

(FOR TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES SUBSCRIBERS ONLY)

AN ACTIVIST GOVERNMENT

By Jack W. Germond and Jules Witcover

WASHINGTON -- The day before President Clinton's speech on health care the White House was teeming with people. In the Rose Garden several hundred crowded under a tent for a ceremony marking the signing of the legislation creating the new national service program. As they left about 150 radio and television talk show hosts replaced them for briefings -- first from Hillary Clinton, then from the president himself -- on health care.

In the driveway Speaker of the House Tom Foley was leaving after a meeting in which he discussed how he would try to help minimize the damage from the defection of House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt on the North American Free Trade Agreement. Along the drive there were a dozen or more cameras and microphones set up by the visiting television crews.

In the West Lobby there were several groups of visitors -- a clutch of columnists in one corner waiting to have lunch with Clinton, a half-dozen Hispanic-Americans visiting the staff on the NAFTA question, four military experts who had arrived to offer their advice on everything from the collapse of the Russian government to Bosnia to the Polish elections.

The White House is often a busy place, but even veterans of 30 or more years of working there were impressed by the sheer numbers of people and variety of issues on the administration's agenda.

The lesson, of course, is that this is a Democratic administration and, as such, one committed to activist government and trying to find governmental solutions to national problems. Indeed, if there can be a single criterion for separating Republicans from Democrats, it is this Democratic reliance on government activism.

The operative question now is whether the American people are prepared to accept such activism or, alternatively, so jaded by 12 years of hearing that government is the problem rather than the solution that they are not even open for discussion.

On the face of it, the election returns of 1992 would suggest a willingness among voters to try again. Although no one could fairly define Bill Clinton's 43 percent of the vote as a mandate for specific proposals, the 62 percent of the voters who cast their ballots against the incumbent president, George Bush, clearly could be considered a demand for change.

So far the president has had a tough time converting what he took to be the message of 1992 into an agenda for governing in 1993. He discovered, for example, that there clearly was no majority for revoking the prohibition against homosexuals in the armed forces. His economic package managed to slip through by a whisker in both the House and Senate. His national service plan had to be altered and cut back to make it through Congress.

But Clinton is nothing if not committed to the notion government can work in the end. So now he is out on the line with his plan for "reinventing government," with the campaign to win approval for NAFTA and, most importantly, the health care initiative. The president's reading is that voters wanted change and it is now mostly a question of defining which changes they will accept and which changes Congress will swallow.

The president faces two fundamental problems in seeking change. The first, obviously is institutional inertia -- simply the resistance to doing things differently from the way they have been done because that involves changes in who holds power and influence. Thus, for example, on his plans to reform the government, the most serious problem may be the committee and subcommittee chairmen in Congress who are jealous of their prerogatives to decide what happens to, for example, the Agriculture Department. Similarly, on NAFTA, the critical resistance comes from organized labor, union leaders not willing to take a chance on the long run that can cost their members jobs in the

short run.

The second and perhaps most serious obstacle to Clinton's approach is the cynicism and querulousness among voters who have long since given up on the idea government can do anything efficiently or effectively.

But this is a Democratic administration run by a self-confessed policy wonk. And, as such, it is an administration that has no choice but to press ahead with its ambitious plans. And if that means the White House becomes a zoo once in a while, so be it.

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The New York Times

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1993



Paul Hasebras/The New York Times

"Place is buzzing like a beehive," said President Clinton about the high level of activity yesterday at the White House. For one event, he was joined by hundreds of guests who arrived for the signing of the bill creating a national service program.

The Washington Times

WASHINGTON, D.C., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1993 **

National service initiative now law

By Ronald A. Taylor
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Clinton yesterday signed into law the apparatus that will guarantee college tuition to young people in exchange for national service, one of his most cherished initiatives and popular campaign promises.

"I have harbored this dream for years," Mr. Clinton said at a campaign-style ceremony on the White House South Lawn. The new law will provide tuition and living allowances for up to 100,000 students over the next three years.

In establishing the National Service Corps, to be called AmeriCorps, the president said he hopes to "strengthen the cords that bind us together" and to revive the notion of national service.

Characterizing the United States as "the longest experiment in free society in human history," he said the program could help America leave a lasting contribution to history.

"Today we are taking a stand in this country for the proposition that if we challenge people to serve and we give them a chance to fulfill their abilities, more and more and more we will all understand that we must go forward together," he said.

The new venture will "send a loud and clear message across this country that the young people of America will preserve the freedom of America for themselves and for all those of their generation by assuming the responsibility to rebuild the American family," he said.

The rock band Soul Asylum ushered in Mr. Clinton, who strolled up the South Lawn surrounded by two dozen young Service and Conservation Corps workers.

Instead of "Hail to the Chief," the band played "Don't Stop (Thinking



Photo by Ross D. Franklin/The Washington Times

President Clinton is joined by Pricilla Aponte, who participates in a volunteer program in Boston, as he signs the national service measure yesterday.

about Tomorrow)," a Fleetwood Mac song that became famous as a closing song at campaign events.

The president compared the new quasi-government corporation to the Civilian Conservation Corps, a New Deal project that helped put people to work during the 1930s.

He singled out among the audience of 1,000 persons, gathered under a tent on the South Lawn, two former CCC members, William Bailey and former D.C. Deputy Police Chief Owen Davis.

The president also compared the program to President Kennedy's Peace Corps.

Mr. Clinton signed the legislation with a pen used by President Roosevelt to create the Civilian Conservation Corps and one President Kennedy used to sign the Peace Corps into law.

Vice President Al Gore emphasized that the program is "a businesslike approach to government."

"It's going to be held accountable. There's a clear boss — the corporation's chief executive officer — who will be personally accountable on a continuing basis for making national service more than a dream, and that accountability will run down right through the system to the individual program managers. And if he said they don't measure up, they'll lose their volunteers and funding," he said.

"National and community service is one of the best investments we can make for the generations to come," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Massachusetts Democrat. "In a sense, the passage of this legislation marks the end of the 'me' era in our national life."

The Boston Globe

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1993

The hub of national service

When President Clinton signs the National Service Trust Act today, it will be a victory for his administration and a coalition of Massachusetts groups and individuals concerned about tapping the idealism and energy of young Americans.

■ Eli Siegel of Boston, the president's adviser on youth service, kept the concept at the forefront of the Clinton campaign. He will be in charge of the National Service Trust Fund, which will combine federal tuition aid and private funding to encourage young people to take time off from school to get an education in helping others.

■ Sen. Edward Kennedy, for years a vigorous proponent of national service, thwarted a filibuster in the Senate and steered through the compromise bill that will be signed today. He laid the foundation by sponsoring and almost singlehandedly pushing through Congress a more modest bill signed by President Bush in 1990.

■ Boston's City Year proved that a small program could gain recruits among young people and attract support from local leaders. YouthBuild,

a New York initiative that has expanded to 14 cities, including Boston, showed that young people could construct affordable housing. Groups like these are models for programs in other cities.

■ The Massachusetts Youth Service Alliance, a coalition of private groups, and the Massachusetts Community Service Commission provide the institutional superstructure that will allow organizations to seek funds under the law. The state is poised to encourage its young people to take part.

The bill passed this year is a scaled-down version of the \$11 billion proposal advanced by Clinton during the campaign. At a cost of \$1.5 billion spread over three years, it is an experiment to determine whether federal dollars can generate grass-roots initiatives.

There is much work to be done, from turning vacant lots into community gardens to establishing after-school programs and violence prevention workshops. The national service law comes not a moment too soon.

The Washington Post

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1993



Soul Asylum turned to Clinton's campaign anthem, "Don't Stop (Thinking About Tomorrow)," at yesterday's bill signing.

Punk and Circumstance

Soul Asylum Kicks Off Clinton's Youth Service Corps

By Eric Brace

PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD

At 10:45 they hit the stage. They rocked. Soul Asylum, currently riding its MTV hit "Runaway Train" to stardom, wowed the cheering crowd. The band's lead singer, Dave Pirner, swung his mop of hair and smiled into the audience, and his girlfriend, Winona Ryder, smiled back.

A typical Soul Asylum show. Except that it was 10:45 *a.m.* and the band was playing on the South Lawn of the White House. Very strange, for this Minneapolis band began in basements as a punk rock outfit of the highest order. Soul Asylum was in town yesterday to provide the musical accompaniment to President Clinton's signing of the National and Community Service Trust Act (which will create a volunteer youth corps) in front of a thousand people in really nice

clothes, under a big tent. More than a few had their fingers in their ears.

Punk. Remember that? A violent, sometimes anarchistic musical reaction to the mid-'70s post-Watergate complacency and malaise, it had no patience for government in general—and the Republican and Democratic parties in particular. Yet here Soul Asylum was, on a riser, with a big banner behind it proclaiming in red letters "AMERICORPS," as if that were the name of the band or something. (It's not. It's just the name of Clinton's program, where young people will do volunteer work in exchange for college tuition money.)

Was this the final victory of the MTV generation? "Oh, who knows?" said MTV news correspondent Tabitha Soren, who as much as anyone brought the kids to the political party—and the parties to the kids—last year with her election reporting. "It's a little surreal," she admitted.

See BAND, C1, C6, 1

Soul Asylum's Big Gig

BAND, From C1

before scooting off in her sharp black bell-bottom pantsuit to interview the president.

The band played two songs from its newest record, "Grave Dancers Union," before Clinton, Vice President Gore, Sen. Edward Kennedy and others arrived to speechify about FDR and JFK and VISTA and the Peace Corps and all the glorious antecedents to AmeriCorps. As they filed up onto their own riser, a strange thing happened: The band started playing a straight version of "Don't Stop (Thinking About Tomorrow)," the Fleetwood Mac song that Clinton used as his campaign theme last year.

Granted, music is music, and songs are songs, but *that* song, with its simplistic optimism and catchy hook, was one of the reasons punk came to be as it reacted against the bloated pop that groups like Fleetwood Mac were churning out back

"The thing about this place is that the people running everything are all so young. Man, they're younger than me."

—Soul Asylum's Dan Murphy

then. (The band's members did exchange sheepish looks as they ground the song to a halt for the start of the speeches.)

Did Soul Asylum think it a little odd to be performing at the White House? "It's definitely the weirdest gig we ever played," lead guitarist Dan Murphy admitted with a bemused look on his unshaven face. His flannel shirt hung loosely as he described meeting the president in the Oval Office the day before: "He was pretty nice. He seemed kinda tired and down to earth. The thing about this place is that the people running everything are all so young. Man, they're younger than me."

It was some (presumably young) folks on the president's youth service bill task force who thought a Soul Asylum appearance would be a nice way to celebrate the day, and it was Heather Beckel, George Stephanopoulos's executive assistant, who contacted the band about the gig. "They were very glad to do it," she said. "They have a very positive message and they gave the event a lot of energy, and with the program emphasizing youth and vitality I think it worked well. I guess we did push the envelope, but it worked."

White House News Photo Report



"Place is buzzing like a beehive," said President Clinton about the high level of activity yesterday at the White House. For on joined by hundreds of guests who arrived for the signing of the bill creating a national service program.

Wednesday, September 22, 1993
Room 167, OEOb (Ext. 7098)

Baltimore Sun



ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Clinton walks with a group of youths on the South Lawn of the White House prior to signing the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

Page 4A

Also seen in:
Atlanta Journal/Constitution, Page A9
Boston Globe, Page 12
Chicago Tribune, Page 3
Plain Dealer, Page 4A

Washington Times



Photo by Ross D. Franklin/The Washington Times

President Clinton is joined by Pricilla Aponte, who participates in a volunteer program in Boston, as he signs the national service measure yesterday.

Page A4

Today's Papers
Wednesday, September 22, 1993

New York Times
Baltimore Sun
Dallas Morning News
Boston Globe
Washington Times
Los Angeles Times
Washington Post
Atlanta Journal/Constitution
Chicago Tribune
Plain Dealer
Philadelphia Inquirer

No New Photos:
USA Today
Richmond Times-Dispatch
Chicago Sun-Times

Cover:
New York Times, Page A24



Associated Press

Clinton signs service bill

President Clinton signs the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 on Tuesday. Looking on are (from left) Roshard Riggins, Summer of Service; Eli Segal, director of White House Office of National Service; Priscilla Aponte, Service Learning; Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.; Rep. William Ford, D-Mich.; and Vice President Al Gore.

Page 6A



AFP PHOTO

President Clinton talks by telephone with Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin from the White House study last night.

Page 9

Washington Times



President Clinton listens to a question yesterday after a speech to radio talk-show hosts on the health care reform plan he will unveil tonight.

Page A12

Also seen in:
Philadelphia Inquirer, Page A8
Baltimore Sun, Page 12A
Plain Dealer, Page 8A

Los Angeles Times



Reuters

Clinton takes question during meeting of talk show hosts.

Page A6

Washington Post



PRESIDENT CLINTON

spoke with Yents...

Page 1, above

New York Trend: Young Urban Volunteers

By FELICIA R. LEE

This is Glamour Girl Day on the fifth floor of the Frances Schervier Home and Hospital in the Bronx. That means that Nikia Bispham, 18, wheels in a cart full of nail polishes and emery boards, tunes her big radio to a rhythm and blues station and settles down for two hours of chitchat and makeovers with an eager queue of white-haired ladies.

Ann Finning, who wants her nails painted Cameo Pink, is fretting because she needs a good shampoo and set. The woman next to her is nodding off, but Mrs. Finning keeps up a stream of words: what happened at happy hour yesterday, a recent fall she had, what a lovely job Ms. Bispham is doing.

Ms. Bispham, a quiet high school dropout from Crown Heights who wants to be a social worker, is one face of New York's City Volunteer Corps. With 750 volunteers annually, it is the largest city youth-service organization in the nation. At the end of a

Continued From Page B1

limited to young people, but the education financing in the act is expected to be especially attractive to them. In New York, corps members are 16 to 20 years old.

The national bill will enable volunteers to receive \$4,725 — for college tuition or job training or to pay off existing educational loans — in return for every 12 months or 1,700 hours of service. They may work up to two years, for up to \$9,450. Public service advocates across the nation say the corps encourages a work ethic and fills a shrinking pool of volunteers. In New York, most volunteers in the City Volunteer Corps work full time for one year and receive a stipend of \$101.50 a week.

80 Corps Around U.S.

From San Francisco to Boston, there are more than 80 organizations similar to the corps in New York, with a total of 30,000 young volunteers. Most receive little or no Federal assistance.

Because the New York City corps is considered a model program, said Catherine Milton, the executive director of the Commission on National and Community Service, it will be one of 15 programs to receive a \$1.6 million Federal grant to begin an outreach project. Volunteers will go into communities to explore needs and then start programs. Usually, volunteers are sent in response to requests for help.

The City Volunteer Corps will be a decade old next year and has 7,000 alumni. With its 300 different service projects, it was one of the first corps to focus on human services.

Michael Bosnick, the deputy executive director, said that one-third of the volunteers, who are mostly high-school dropouts, had completed their year of service.

Most Take the Cash

About 75 percent of those opt for cash at the end of their jobs and 25 percent take the scholarships, he said, noting that many volunteers are not ready for college. Part-time volunteers, who attend school, receive pro-rated stipends and scholarships.

Volunteers without high school degrees attend General Equivalency Diploma classes and those who do not speak English attend language classes. Civility, punctuality, teamwork and attendance are stressed by the supervisors who lead the volunteers from project to project. These vary from teaching reading to turning vacant lots into gardens. The projects can be as long as three months or as short as a week.

Privately, some city leaders say they would like to see the program reorganized so that volunteers spend more time on each project and become more a part of the communities they serve. That way, they would theoretically be of more help to the agencies and get more information about future jobs. Some city leaders also want better tracking of the volunteers after they complete their service, information that is not currently available.

"I want to go to college for psychology," Ms. Bispham said. But she dropped out of high school in the 11th grade because, she said, she was afraid of violence. She now works four days a week at the hospital and attends classes for the G.E.D. test once a week. "I've had a lot of problems with my life," Ms. Bispham said. "I'd like to be a social worker and help people with their problems."

Some critics of national service charge that the efforts are more welfare programs than service programs. They have also said the programs are unnecessary in a country in which 80 million Americans each volunteer several hours a week.

"I am very skeptical of the desirability of a Federal service bill," said Doug Bandow, a senior fellow with the Cato Institute, a conservative research organization based in Washington. "On a philosophical basis I don't like the idea of baptizing something as public and saying that it is necessarily better than private. What is more noble about shelving books in a public library than shelving books in a bookstore?"

Mr. Bandow said he also foresaw practical problems in monitoring which groups get volunteers, controlling fraud and making sure the volunteers do adequate jobs.

But Kathleen Selz, the executive director of the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps, in

Tutors, orderlies and models for Clinton's new service plan.

year that has included work at a Staten Island plant nursery and a Queens furniture warehouse for nonprofit groups, Ms. Bispham has the option of \$2,500 cash or a \$5,000 college scholarship financed through the \$5.3 million the city gives the corps.

If President Clinton's estimates hold true, the \$1.5 billion National and Community Service Act he will sign tomorrow will pave the way for about 100,000 people like Ms. Bispham to serve their communities and pay for college over the next three years. The legislation, the fulfillment of a campaign promise by Mr. Clinton to create

a kind of domestic Peace Corps, will provide money for terms of service — whether tutoring children or cleaning up parks.

The New York corps was one of a number around the country that Federal officials studied before making their national service plan.

New York Corps Is a Model

"If other programs can be as good as C.V.C., this act will be a success," said Roger Landrum, executive director of Youth Service America, a Washington group that advises service corps.

Those familiar with the corps praise the variety of services the volunteers perform and the fact that the volunteers acquire skills, discipline and exposure to the world of work during their service.

The President's call for Americans to participate in a "season of service" is not

Continued on Page B4

7,000 youths have traded nonprofit work for cash or scholarships.

Washington, argues, "If the work they did was not valuable they would not be funded year after year by tight-fisted state legislatures."

Toni Schmiegelow, the executive director of the New York corps, said that she received many more requests for service than she could fill. She hopes that the money and attention provided by the new community service act will attract a more diverse group to the corps.

The corps' latest advertising efforts, Ms. Schmiegelow said, have been aimed at young people who are doing well in school.

"It's important for the future of this city that people come together," she said. "It's not happening in the neighborhoods. And what we do is not just good experience for the young people. They're getting your benches painted and your parks cleaned."

One growing group within the corps has been immigrants from the former Soviet Union. There are also more black and Hispanic college-bound volunteers. Lizette Nieves, the first student from the city college system to become a Rhodes Scholar, is a graduate of the corps. So is Petal Haynes, a Yale University student and a Westinghouse Scholar.

Building a Church in Russia

The corps is also quite literally venturing into new territory, through a grant from the United States Information Agency. Last month, a group of 10 volunteers returned from a month abroad in Russia. There, they painted numbers on houses, prepared an aquarium for a school and helped bricklayers with the first church built in Russia in 70 years.

Budget constraints mean that the Corps turns away one applicant for every one it accepts, Ms. Schmiegelow said. The last few years have been "a constant struggle" for the corps to keep its city financing, she said, and called that a shame.

"We could and should have at least 5,000 young people in a city this size," said Ms. Schmiegelow.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 21, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE BILL

The South Lawn

11:15 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President. I always wanted to be introduced by the host of the David Letterman Show. (Laughter.)

I was thinking about what my Top 10 List would be -- the best things about having Al Gore as Vice President. (Laughter and applause.) He educates me on things great and trivial. (Laughter.) And that's 10, and numbers nine through one are: He has a vote in the United States Senate. (Laughter and applause.) He said, and I'm always on the winning side when I vote. (Laughter.)

I want to welcome you all to America's backyard, a fitting place to come to celebrate the opportunity to serve our neighbors and the opportunity to rebuild the American community. I have harbored this dream for years. It was stoked in me by so many thousands of experiences I cannot even recall them all.

When the Vice President and I went across this country last year, I was deeply moved by forces that were both good and bad that kept pushing me to believe that this was more important than so many other things that all of us do in public life. I saw the wreckage, the insanity, the lost human potential that you can find now not only in our biggest cities, but in every community. And yet, I saw even in the most difficult circumstances the light in the eyes of so many young people; the courage, the hunger for life; the desire to do something to reach beyond themselves and to reach out to others and to make

things better.

I listened and learned from so many people. I saw the examples of the service programs that you have represented here on this stage. I watched people's dreams come to life. I watched the old and the young relate in ways they hadn't. I watched mean streets turn into safer and better and more humane places. I saw all these things happening, and I realized that there was no way any government program could solve these problems even if we had the money to spend on them, which we don't, but that the American people, if organized and directed and challenged and asked, would find a way.

I am in debt to so many people, all of whom have been at least referred to. But I would like to say a particular word of thanks to those who sponsored previous legislation for a limited basis. I want to say a special word of thanks to the Republicans and the Democrats who joined together in the Congress to make sure that this would know no party and that we would somehow reach beyond the normal debate and dialogue to unify this country, starting with the Congress.

I thank the people who helped me before I became President to understand more about national service -- the people who wrote books and articles, the people who worked with me in the DLC and other organizations. I thank all of you because all of you played a role in this day.

But most of all, I want to thank the young people of this country who were so wonderfully represented by these three young people -- Richard and Derrick and Pricilla. Weren't they terrific? Let's give them another hand. (Applause.)

I don't believe there was a stop on our bus tour across the country when the Vice President and I didn't mention our commitment to national service as a part of our drive to make college education affordable to all, but also as a part of our deeper desire to bring the American community back together. (Applause.)

I have to say a special word of appreciation to Eli Segal. (Applause.) I have known him for about half my lifetime. I can still remember when we were young with the dreams and the enthusiasms that these young people on this stage have today. I could not have known when we first met in our attempt to do the best we could by our country so long ago that someday we would be standing here on this stage to do this. But I know this: This national service bill and this project would not be in the form it is and we would not be here celebrating today in the way

we are if it had not been for his brilliant, dedicated leadership. And I thank him for that. (Applause.)

Relying on the ancient adage that if it ain't broke, don't fix it, I am today forwarding to Senator Kennedy and the United States Senate the nomination of Eli Segal to be the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service. (Applause.)

I also want to acknowledge, as has already been referred to, the roots of our history in all this day and people who have contributed to this day because of what they did in their time. Twice before in this century Americans have been called to great adventures in civilian service. Sixty years ago, in the depths of the Depression, Franklin Roosevelt created the CCC and gave Americans the chance not only to do meaningful work so that they could feed themselves and their families, but so that they could build America for the future. And down to this day there is not a state in this country that is untouched by the continuing impact of the good work done by the people who labored in the CCC. (Applause.)

Today we have two veterans of President Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps -- William Bailey and Owen Davis. Would they please stand wherever they are? (Applause.) There they are. Thank you. (Applause.)

It is with special pride that I will use President Franklin Roosevelt's pen set, with which he signed nearly every piece of legislation as President, to sign our bill here today.

We also point with pride, as the Vice President said, to the enduring legacy and the continued vitality of John Kennedy's Peace Corps, created by legislation which President Kennedy signed 32 years ago tomorrow. I want to acknowledge, as the Vice President did, the wonderful work of Sergeant Shriver not only as the first director and guiding spirit of the Peace Corps, but for what he did with the VISTA program. And I want to acknowledge -- (Applause) -- thank you -- and to say with some pride that it was my privilege, influenced by people like the Vice President whose sister served with such distinction in the Peace Corps, to appoint the first Peace Corps volunteer to actually direct the Peace Corps, Carol Bellamy. And I thank her for her leadership. (Applause.)

Thanks to the generosity of Sergeant Shriver, I will also use the pen President Kennedy used 30 years ago -- 32 years ago -- to sign the Peace Corps legislation to create a new national service corp for America. We will call it Americorp.

(Applause.)

When I asked our country's young people to give something back to our country through grass-roots service, they responded by the thousands. You heard a couple of them here today. Eli's office was literally swamped with letters asking to serve. These two young people today represent 20,000 young people next year, and 100,000 young people three years from now,. And I hope, believe and dream that national service will remain throughout the life of America not a series of promises, but a series of challenges, across all the generations and all walks of life to help us to rebuild our troubled but wonderful land. I hope that some day the success of this program will make it possible for every young American who wishes to serve and earn credit against a college education, or other kinds of education and training, to do that. And I believe it will happen.

This morning our Cabinet and the heads of our federal agencies were directed to redouble their efforts to use service -- community grass-roots service -- to accomplish their fundamental missions. We want them to help reinvent our government to do more and cost less by creating new ways for citizens to fulfill the mission of the public. We believe we can do that. Already departments have enlisted young people and not-so-young people to do everything from flood cleanup to housing rehabilitation; from being tour guides in our national parks to being teachers' aides in our schools.

In the coming months we will also challenge states and nonprofit organizations to compete for Americorp volunteers. We'll ask our friends in higher education and the foundation world and in business to continue their leadership in the growing movement of national service.

But beyond the concrete achievements of Americorp, beyond the expanded educational opportunities those achievements will earn, national service, I hope and pray, will help us to strengthen the cords that bind us together as a people; will help us to remember in the quiet of every night that what each of us can become is to some extent determined by whether all of us can become what God meant us to be. (Applause.)

And I hope it will remind every American that there can be no opportunity without responsibility. The great English historian, Edward Given, warned that when the Athenians finally wanted not to give to society, but for society to give to them, when the freedom they wished for most was freedom from responsibility, then Athens ceased to be free.

My fellow Americans, there are streets and neighborhoods and communities today where people are not free. There are millions of Americans who are not really free today, because they cannot reach down inside them and bring out what was put there by the Almighty. This National Service Corps should send a loud and clear message across this country that the young people of America will preserve the freedom of America for themselves and for all those of their generations by assuming the responsibility to rebuild the American family. That is the dream which drove this idea to the reality we find today.

I am so proud of all of you who are a part of this. I am profoundly grateful to you. I ask you only now to remember that as we move toward the 21st century, the success of our great voyage, of this, the longest experiment in free society in human history --to remember that it is at the grass roots, in the heart of every citizen that we will succeed or fail. Today we are taking a stand in this country for the proposition that if we challenge people to serve and we give them a chance to fulfill their abilities, more and more and more we will all understand that we must go forward together. This is the profoundest lesson of this whole endeavor. And it will be the great legacy of the wonderful people who make it come alive.

Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END11:34 A.M. EDT



ever, for Clarson to write De-Decker later to apologize.

Despite his disappointment, Dedecker says he's made an uneasy peace over the *faux pas* — as long as Crittenton sells the car rather than keeps it for "some big shot" to drive. (The center has not yet chosen to take delivery on the Caddy . . .)

Sit with Nick

He walks. He talks. He kicks. Now see Chiefs star Nick Lowery as a human chair. Check out Page 33 of the June 24 issue of *Rolling Stone*.

Garnishing a story about the White House Office of National Service — which promotes volunteerism by young people — is a fairly straightlaced photo of the group's director, Eli Segal, and his staff. In the midst of this otherwise dull snap is Lowery — with a woman on his lap. Lowery, the Chiefs' kicker, volunteers to help get corporate and celebrity support for the program.

"It was just a spontaneous, friendly gesture to give me space in the picture," says Kate Frucher, the until-now mystery woman. "It was (my) first and only trip to Nick's lap. No future ones are planned. Work is work at the White House."

Frucher, a liaison for the office, and Lowery are just desk mates, she says. "We just established a very friendly working relation-



Nick Lowery (front row, right) . . . volunteer lap

ship." Have they dated? "Never," she says.

Lowery says of the photo: "I was worried it might come off a little too informal, but you don't think so? I'm sure I'll hear about it."

Frucher did. "They keep asking me whether I'm Nick's secretary — which I find quite offensive. We're pretty much on the same level."

The bottom line: "(He's) a nice-looking guy. I could certainly have ended up on a worse person's lap."

We've heard

■ **Young country alert:** Looks like Mary-Chapin Carpenter, the Academy of Country Music's female vocalist of the year, may play Kansas City this summer, sources say. A July 20 date is being held open at the Midland Theatre pending confirmation.

Some you win, some you lose, but you still have to play the game. Play it on my tip line, 234-4441. Or try StarTouch: Call 889-STAR (7827) and enter 1951.

Nation & World

National service bill now law

Up to 100,000 youths will get tuition, benefits for helping community.

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton signed legislation Tuesday allowing students to trade public service work for college tuition money, promising it will help the nation "strengthen the cords that bind us together."

The law, a watered-down version of Clinton's initial plan, will give as many as 100,000 youths tuition money, modest stipends, health insurance and child care in exchange for community service.

The president, who promised during last year's campaign to press for such a program, said he had "harbored this dream for years." He dubbed the first new program of his administration "AmeriCorps" and appointed Eli Segal, his chief lobbyist for the legislation, as head of the program.

Clinton used two historic pens to sign the legislation during a carefully choreographed, campaign-style rally on the South Lawn of the White House. One was used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to create the Civilian Conservation Corps and the other by President John F. Kennedy to set up the Peace Corps. Kennedy inspired a young Clinton; Roosevelt a young Kennedy.

He was backed by members of youth conservation groups from



The Associated Press

Surrounded by young people, President Clinton walks onto the South Lawn of the White House to sign the bill creating AmeriCorps, which will give tuition money in exchange for community service.

Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

More than 1,000 people involved in various community service programs crowded under a large white tent to watch the bill signing. Overhead, a gray sky threatened to produce more of the showers that had soaked the nation's capital overnight.

The president received a rau-

cous welcome when he arrived for the rally with a rock band blaring his campaign anthem, "Don't Stop (Thinking About Tomorrow)."

Saying he saw the "wreckage, the insanity, the lost human potential" in the nation's communities while campaigning last year, Clinton expressed hope that AmeriCorps would represent "a

series of challenges, to help us rebuild our troubled but wonderful land."

He also said he hoped that it "will help us to strengthen the cords that bind us together as a people" and "help us to remember ... that what each of us can become is to some extent determined by whether all of us can become what God meant us to be."

The Charlotte Observer

Wednesday
September 22, 1993

College tuition-for-service plan becomes law

By ROBERT NAYLOR Jr.
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Promising it will help the nation "strengthen the cords that bind us together," President Clinton signed legislation Tuesday allowing students to trade public service work for college tuition money.

The law, a cut-down version of Clinton's initial plan, gives as many as 100,000 youths tuition money, living allowances, health insurance and child care in exchange for community service.

The president, who promised during his campaign to press for such a program, said he had "harbored this dream for years." He dubbed the program "AmeriCorps" and appointed Eli Segal, his chief lobbyist for the legislation, as its head.

Clinton used two historic pens to sign the legislation — one used by President Franklin Roosevelt to create the Civilian Conservation Corps and the other used by President John Kennedy to set up the Peace Corps.

Saying he saw the "wreckage, the insanity, the lost human potential" in the nation's communities while campaigning last year, Clinton expressed hope that AmeriCorps will represent "a series of challenges, to help us rebuild our troubled but wonderful land."

The new law will allow students who complete two years of community service work to earn \$4,725 a year to apply toward college tuition or student loans. Participants also would earn living allowances of at least \$7,400 a year and health-care and child day-care



Associated Press

Plan for youths: President Clinton is joined by young adults Tuesday before he signs a bill

benefits.

The first programs could begin by the middle of next year.

The plan allows for 20,000 participants in 1994, increasing to 47,000 by the third year. Spending would be limited to \$300 million in the first year of the program, \$500 million in the second and \$700 million in the third.

Clinton originally asked Congress to adopt a far more ambitious \$9.5 billion, five-year program that

allowing students to trade public service work for college tuition money.

would grow to 150,000 participants by the third year, but Republicans balked at the cost.

The memory of Kennedy, who inspired a generation of public service, was raised again and again at the signing ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House.

"In a sense, the passage of this legislation marks the end of the 'me' era in our national life," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., the slain president's brother.

AmeriCorps details

Key provisions of the legislation creating AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program:

- Federal Corporation for National Service will make grants to states, public and non-profit organizations and colleges and universities, which would run service programs themselves or make grants to others to do that.

- Participants will receive \$4,725 a year for up to two years to apply toward college tuition or to repay loans with payments made directly to the school or lender.

- Educational awards must be used within seven years after service is completed.

- Participants will receive living allowances during national service of at least \$7,400 a year. Government provides 85% of allowance and the service program the remainder.

- Participants must be at least 17, a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and have high school diploma or agree to earn one. Graduate students can participate.

- Spending would be limited to \$300 million in first year of the program, \$500 million in second year and \$700 million in third year.

- An estimated 20,000 people could participate in first year, 33,000 in second and 47,000 in third.

- Program authorized for three years and would have to be renewed after that.

Eli / Diana



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20 September 1993

FAX to: Susan Stroud

From: Harold Ward

Unfortunately, this appears to have been syndicated.
Perhaps other papers will have better taste.

Providence Journal Bulletin

Commentary

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1993 A 1



National Perspective

DAVID SHRIBMAN

White House: a job description

WASHINGTON - Congratulations. You have just been named the new senior counselor to the president, starting immediately.

You've been told that Mack McLarty, the second-most-famous graduate of Miss Mary's kindergarten in Hope, Ark., will remain chief of staff. The president can't humiliate someone who ate paste with him as a kid, someone who remembers that on the court Clinton was a good rebounder but slightly on the clumsy side.

But you will be the true chief of staff. You know it, Mack knows it, everyone knows it.

You will run the White House. You'll keep the president focused. You'll make sure he handles only what Ed Sullivan used to call the really big shows. Timber conferences in Oregon, seminars on managed competition, telephone chats with members of the schmoozing class - that's what we have Al Gore for. As the gatekeeper, you'll put through the call from Boris Yeltsin and divert the one from Barbra Streisand.

You'll also keep the wonks at bay - and keep the president from being one. You've told him he doesn't have to prove he's the smartest guy in town. Your job is to convince him that, for the next four years anyway, the devil isn't in the details, it's in the master plan. And right now, there's no master plan.

You'll keep the president disciplined. You'll remind him he can't shake hands with every person in front of a restaurant in Chicago. You'll tell him he can't talk about Bosnia on a day in which he's supposed to be assaulting the economy.

You're the new Hillary. The real Hillary is busy, off fixing the health care system. In the old days - in Little Rock, in the campaign - she was the one who kept Clinton from veering off the program. Bill needs a new Hillary, and you're it.

You'll pare the priorities. You'll tell the president he needs a few big goals, not a lot of them. The economy, surely. Health care, probably. But almost nothing else. Gore can take care of national service. He actually cares about

Bearing the bad news

You've told the president the budget victory in the House was nice, but it was a warning shot. Three vote changes and he'd have been dead. You've told him that the message from the Hill isn't the triumph, it's the danger. You've told him the House victory buys him time to win over the Senate, but it's no pass to glory.

You've told him that the loyalists around him are afraid to tell him the truth. You've told him that he's as isolated as Lyndon Johnson visiting Saigon: Everyone tells him the war's almost won. You've told him he can be a big-time political strategist once he's left the White House, but that his job for the next three years - and no more, unless he's careful - is to be president.

You are thinking about this the way you would think about a corporate turnaround. You are looking at how Cummins Engine, Tenneco and Xerox did it: Go to the investors and analysts and admit you need to change, distribute a road map and make the tough decisions the old crowd didn't make. You might even sell the division that was the favorite of the chairman's spouse.

You're going to reorganize the White House. The administration needs more heft, more people who, as Sam Rayburn put it, once ran for sheriff. And one ideological interloper like Dave Gergen is enough.

Avoiding Washington shark bites

You understand Washington. You know it is a tough town, that only here could someone like McLarty actually be ridiculed for having earned the nickname "Mack the Nice." You know that the city is full of sharks and cynics. Lord knows you're one yourself. You know the very things that set this fickle town aflutter - and here a cardigan sweater comes to mind - can very soon be symbols of a president's demise.

You've told the president that the job he just gave you can't be yours alone. You've told him that he has to change.

You've told him that he can no longer run minutes or hours late. You've told him that the White House is going to project efficiency because it will be efficient. You've told him that you will not be available to chew the fat after 10 p.m., that he cannot expect his staff to hold 11 p.m. conferences and then expect them to function seven hours later. You've told him it's OK if he wants to stay up all night, but that the rest of you are going to go home and go to bed.

You've told him to stop looking at the poll figures. You've told him to figure out what he wants to do and then do it. You know the commentators are having a field day, but the president has to rise above it, move on.

You've told Clinton that he has an enormous job, a thankless job. But he asked for it. You've reminded him of one of the best lines from his campaign: It takes courage to change.

Now, you've said, let's do it. Let's change. Let's run the country.

THE NATION

National service — now

Need for program
too great for Clinton
to allow gradualism

By Scott Shuger

If Saddam Hussein had somehow managed to put 100,000 guns in our schools every day, to induce 400,000 high school dropouts a year, to produce nearly 1 million teen-age parents every year, to afflict many of their babies with cocaine aftereffects that annually cost \$500 million to treat, and to murder more than 20,000 Americans every year, the president and the Congress would not appoint a commission to produce a report. They would not announce that the problem deserves further study. They would declare war. Yet while all this havoc is happening here now without Saddam Hussein, in policy circles and in the press there has been much talk about the need to start small and go slow on a powerful response to it, national service.

With Bill Clinton's inaugural call for a "season of service," the issue of national service is now officially on the agenda. And yet — as the country was reminded once again by official Washington's adamant resistance to decisive action on the Pentagon's gay ban — in the nation's capital, being on the agenda and getting things done are two very different matters. Washington splits the difference whenever possible with its knee-jerk gradualism, its belief that almost any policy must be studied further, subjected to compromise and then enacted incrementally, if at all.

I hope with all my heart that Clinton will stand up to gradualism on national service and instead lead the country powerfully on a swift, bold course. My fundamental premise is that national service does have the power to reseed our eroding social landscape. National service needn't be picking up gum wrappers by the side of the highway; it could be a commitment to put the vast unused talents and energies of its citizens, especially those between 15 and 30, systematically to work in the schools, the day-care centers, the environmental projects, the hospitals, the drug clinics and the nursing homes, against the country's most pressing social needs. And if one accepts this premise about national service, it is folly not to go big and

SERVICE, Page 70

Scott Shuger, a Washington Monthly contributing editor, has served as a consultant to the federal government on national service.

Boston Globe
2/7/93

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Service

Continued from Page 67
go fast.

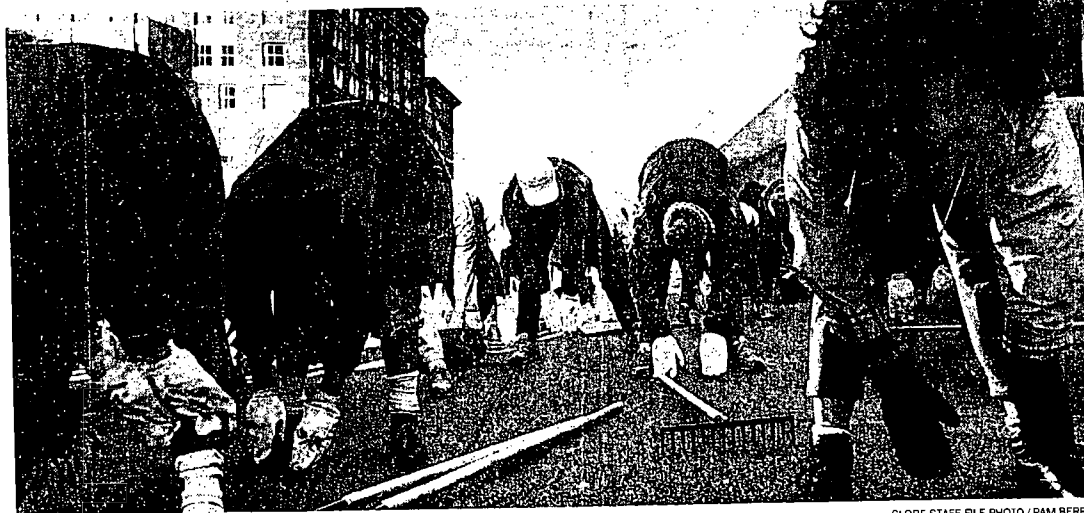
The proponents of gradualism build their case by focusing on the issues of cost, quality and worker displacement raised by large-scale implementation. While their concerns are right-minded in each of these areas, their case ignores important facts and possibilities.

Cost

The gradualist argument goes like this: The administrative costs required for a well-run service program will be great, as will the stipends and post-service benefits (such as college loan forgiveness). The annual per participant cost of corps programs such as Boston's City Year or the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, is \$20,000. Therefore, a national service program of 500,000 participants would cost around \$10 billion annually, too much for a deficit-ridden federal budget.

This argument oversimplifies on several counts. First, although corps are a form of service that would be important in any national program, there are many other kinds of service that also would be included, all of them cheaper and some much cheaper. For instance, a national service program should include a vigorous school component in which college students and working professionals periodically tutor elementary and middle school children; experience suggests that as little as 1 hour a week of such tutoring can keep kids in school and substantially improve academic performance. This program would be virtually free. And making whole school curricula service-oriented so that millions of schoolchildren would be doing service as a regular part of their academic load (doing tax returns for senior citizens as part of a math class, say, or putting out the newsletter for a community mental health center as part of a writing class) has been done superbly at some schools, such as the Washington Elementary School in Mount Vernon, Wash., for under \$10,000 per year per school. National service is not inherently unaffordable, because so much of making a large national service program work is taking what we are already doing and giving it a service twist.

Second, the real issue isn't how much money ambitious national service would cost; it's how much *new* money. Although youth corps would not be the only sort of service available in a national service plan (because of the full range of tasks national service needs to accomplish, I would say they should be no more than 50 percent), consider that aforementioned estimated corps cost of \$20,000 per participant per year. Many of the at-risk youth that corps are designed to accommodate are now ending up in the criminal justice system where the current annual costs per participant are at least that



Volunteers in City Year, Boston's own service program for young adults, warm up before a serve-a-thon in October 1990.

GLOBE STAFF FILE PHOTO / PAM BERRY

high. Not to mention the other measurable costs of criminality: the lost income and added welfare costs for the families of victims and incarcerated perpetrators, the extra dollars spent by businesses, schools and other institutions in loss- and violence-prevention. Does anybody seriously think that getting an ambitious large-scale youth service program going in Los Angeles would cost anything like the \$1 billion that went up in flames in the April rioting there? What's more, if corps were given the chance to turn most of these at-risk youngsters into citizens and members of the mainstream economy, they would become revenue-producing taxpayers and consumers. In other words, the incremental cost of even expensive programs such as youth corps is nowhere near \$20,000 per person.

A similar point can be made about many other dimensions of a truly full-scale national service program: money that would be spent under this heading is now being spent but with less effect. Some of the money now spent on basic military training and bases and equipment for a Cold War-strength Army could be spent instead on training, housing and equipping youth service corps members. The \$28 million now spent annually by the Selective Service system to not have a draft could be applied easily to locating 18-year-olds and matching them with national service slots. Money now spent by community colleges teaching remedial reading and math and by industry teaching basic work skills could be spent instead by service programs achieving more focused and longer-lasting results in the same areas, because doing so would be their primary purpose. The federal government is currently spending around \$300 million per year on such programs as VISTA and the Peace Corps without realizing the economies of scale that

would come from any larger-scale national effort.

Which leads to another point: It's not clear that all the incremental money has to come from the federal government. If businesses and local governments enjoy the benefits of effective large-scale national service, they should pay their fair share for it, and for the most part they would be willing to, because administrative and program costs are more projectable and controllable than remedial costs.

Quality

The go-slow-and-small argument contends that more ambitious attempts will give us schlocky service inherently. The specter is quickly raised of programs such as the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, a federal jobs program of the 1970s in which millions were spent with no truly measurable long-lasting effect. The preceding discussion provides part of the answer here: Money that we are spending anyway in remedial efforts can be rechanneled toward boosting national service program quality.

Also, for the most part, CETA programs were placements of individuals in free-standing organizations. Often, those individual placements were not monitored by anyone outside the organization, but even if they were, the fact remained that little of the CETA employee's time was directed toward reflection on what he or she was doing, or was spent among others who were service-oriented. This meant that, at its best, CETA placements did not develop a sense of the importance of service or teamwork. But this is hardly an inherent defect; simply require as a condition of financing that the preponderance of slots in national service have a structured reflection component (such as workshops and reading and writing assign-

ments) and be team-based.

Another part of the answer is to focus on something else that CETA lacked: systematic quality control. It's true that we don't know as much as we need to about what works and what doesn't about national service. It was also true that in 1961 we didn't know much about what worked and what didn't work about going to the moon — yet this was hardly seen as an argument against mounting a big national effort to go there. The answer then and now is to be sure that training, information-sharing and independent evaluation, all combined with a sincere determination to kill off nonperforming programs, are part of the effort.

And if the critics of big-time national service are serious about quality and are not using it just as an excuse to wriggle out of the commitment, there is another quality enhancement they should adopt: Make national service mandatory. Government and business will be seriously engaged in winning the battle for our schools and our streets if and only if the sons and daughters of the elite are fully involved. Senators and CEOs would not stand for having their children doing one- or two-year stints at programs that were shoddily run, exploitative or corrupt. If they didn't have the option of pulling their kids out of service altogether, they would be much more dedicated to weeding out sham service programs and improving deficient ones.

Displacement

Union officials and politicians fronting for them have supported gradualism because they are fearful of their members losing jobs to national service participants. While it's true that some workers will be displaced by the growth of national service, there is no a

priori reason why this should happen to anyone besides nonperformers. The service organization Teach For America has had no trouble putting 1,300 new teachers into public schools without displacing anyone; TFA only makes assignments to chronically unfilled slots. The Los Angeles police chief, Willie B. Williams, says his city could use 1,000 more officers. The electorate turned him down, but a national service program that expanded enough to include a police corps could have produced those new officers without costing anyone a job. And, quite generally, a Ford Foundation study estimates that there are enough unfilled needs in the country — in such sectors as education, law enforcement, health care, child care and environmental work — to busy more than 3 million national service participants without worker displacement.

At bottom, there are two reasons why national service gradualism has gotten a hearing in Washington well beyond what it deserves, and they both have to do with the inordinate influence exercised there by committees and policy analysts. For one thing, further study is a growth industry of this crowd in a way that bold action could never be. Yes, there is much we don't know about how best to pull off national service, but the knowledge needed is not at the level of footnotes and regression analyses; it is at the level of finding out how a company can best use its van pool to take volunteers to hospitals and schools, or figuring out which sort of uniform an urban youth corps needs to meet the demands of climate and adolescent taste. It's time to learn by *doing*.

Second, the policy analysts are used to viewing national service as just one among many "problems" that they study. You know, there is the drug problem, education, AIDS ... and national service. This is a fundamental misunderstanding of the power and function of national service, sort of like making a shopping list that says "Bread, meat, eggs and shopping." National service is not just another potential national priority. It is the most promising way of achieving our national priorities. The grave difficulties of drugs, AIDS, education, and business competitiveness will be solved only by thoroughly adopting the service perspective. And this justifies a bold and large-scale national program.

In Washington, extended study and seriousness of intent are inversely proportional. When President Kennedy wanted the country to get back in the space race, he didn't say we would send a rocket somewhere sometime. There was no Desert Storm summit; there was no Somalia summit. Instead, in all these cases, there was large-scale decisive action. President Clinton, if you are serious about national service, you will tell the wonks to step aside. Within your first hundred days, I hope that you will present this nation with an ambitious goal — something like 1 million people in national service by the end of three years — and then strive mightily to meet it.

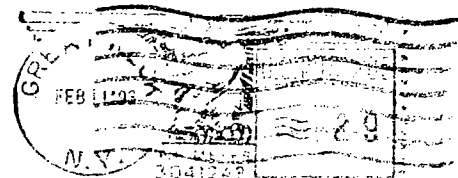
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For Some Youths, Summer of Service Starts as a Summer of Discontent

It was billed as a "first step" toward President Clinton's ambitious vision for national service: 1,500 idealistic young people spending a summer helping poor children in 16 communities.

But the \$2.4-billion Summer of Service program, which began with a week-long training program at San Francisco's Treasure Island Naval Base last month, got off to a rocky start, prompting the President's top national-service aide to predict that the road ahead will be far rougher than expected.

Youth leaders who attended the training session say that the week exposed many youths' deep-seated distrust toward government and skepticism about whether direct service can do much to solve the problems facing the country. The program was also marred by logistical problems that raised tensions.

The person who bore the brunt of the young people's frustration was Eli Segal, director of the White House Office on National Service, who arrived to address the participants near the end of the week and later expressed open disappointment at much of what he had heard.

Said one youth-service leader who attended but asked not to be named: "Summer of Service was not youthful idealism. It was angry young people."

Officials at the Commission on National and Community Service, the government body that organized the summer program, concede that there were problems with the training program. Those problems ranged from a curriculum that some minors complained did not adequately prepare participants for their specific service projects, to a packed 10-hour-a-day schedule that provided no time for participants to meet and discuss their experiences, to smelly like cold-water showers and no vegetarian meals.

Commission officials attribute the problems largely to the small amount of time in which they had to organize the Summer of Service, and the fact that such a program had never been tried before.

Youth Leaders' Complaints

On Treasure Island, youth leaders' complaints centered on a broader theme: The government was handing them huge responsibilities, but was not respectful of their sophistication or determination to make real change.

"We have them believing they're going to tackle some of the most serious and lasting and persistent problems that they've seen, heard, and read about every day, and we're going to treat them like kids," said Trahan Shorters, who led a group of 30 young people. He and others cited several factors that fed the tension: an 11 p.m. curfew, constant military-police surveillance, and repeated use of the term "kids" to describe people who were 17 to 25 years old.

"One of the discussions in my group was, Are we being played to make the Administration look



African youths help build a house for Habitat for Humanity in Oakland, Calif., as part of the week-long training session for participants in President Clinton's Summer of Service program.

good?" said Mr. Shorters. "A lot of people felt like even if that was the case, it was a good trade-off to do something good in their communities."

Some young people felt that organizers of the summer program and Clinton Administration officials were not prepared to hear what the participants had to say, but merely wanted their gratitude for the government largesse.

Pyenga Bokamba, a trainer who introduced Vice-President Gore when he arrived to kick off the week, said she was told that she could not make a speech about young people's concerns about national service because Mr. Gore did not have time to hear them.

By the time Mr. Segal arrived later in the week, young people had met repeatedly in "caucuses," sometimes lasting all night, and prepared statements detailing their concerns—including whether the overall national-service plan would have an anti-discrimination clause protecting homosexuals. (It currently does not.)

After the young people complained that they had not had time to relay most of those concerns to Mr. Segal at the first of his two speeches, he shortened the second one and opened the floor to questions. He also amended his schedule to hold several hours of smaller-group meetings later.

At the end of the week, Mr. Segal and program organizers appeared taken aback by the frustration of many young people.

At a meeting of the commission, held at the end of the week, Catherine Milton, its executive director, told Mr. Segal: "I was shocked that the views of the participants were to be very anti-the

White House, anti-you personally, anti-establishment, and said there is no place for them in our movement," according to a tape of the meeting. "That" referred to the government, Ms. Milton said.

Mr. Segal also vented his frustration during the commission meeting. He relayed how a Hispanic participant—"brilliant and extremely ignorant at the same time"—had told Mr. Segal that he "was the government."

"I don't enjoy being the representative of 350 years of white colonialism," Mr. Segal told the commission board, according to a transcript obtained by *The Chronicle*. He added: "We have got to figure out a way that the young people who we bear know that they have friends."

'Chip on Their Shoulder'

"I was profoundly disappointed by how anti-political, in the best sense of the term 'political,' this group was. Both how (a) there was a chip on their shoulder and about how ignorant they were about it," Mr. Segal said, according to the transcript.

He said that "we have got to ask the young people" to be "more civil and less self-indulgent."

The remarks were "highly inappropriate and demeaning," said Ms. Bokamba, who noted that the quotations were spreading along the youth-service grapevine. She said Mr. Segal's words wrongly implied that young people had concerns about national service because they were "uneducated and not involved in the political process." She also charged that use of the word "ignorant" was racist.

In an interview, Mr. Segal said that his remarks carried no racial connotations. He said he had been "frustrated" that most of his time with the young people was spent talking about the "shortcomings of the training program," rather than about service itself.

He said he hoped that young people would take a "broader view of how incredibly diverse opinions are in America about national service" and understand that "we come off three decades of cynicism about our ability to get on top of our problems."

In concluding remarks at the commission meeting, Mr. Segal said he had "a fresh sense of both excitement and deep concern about how hard service is in a way that I never appreciated it when we've been sitting writing our legislation in Washington." He conceded: "I don't think we should walk away hollish that this is going to be easy."

Last week, Mr. Segal said he was "feeling a lot better about the program" since visiting two service sites, in Harlem and Baltimore. "They were out doing important work in their communities," he said.

Meanwhile, some youth leaders said many young people had a "profound distrust of the White House." "There was a feeling that the federal government was coming in and taking credit for national service," said Brian Treistad, a group leader.

Responded Mr. Segal: "Bill Clinton has always said that this is a movement that is in fact in place, and that what we're doing is some legislative harnessing of the movement, making resources available that might not other-

wise have been there. We in a way, shape, or form think we are the national service movement."

'One of the Best Experiences'

Many young people said that despite their criticisms, they felt the week of training had been worthwhile. "It was one of the best experiences I've had in my life," said Alicia Phillips, 24, group leader from St. Paul. Summer of Service "had its faults," she added, but the time in which "young people got to inter with each other were extremely powerful and effective."

Participants praised the summer program for the diversity of the young people selected, though many said they wished that more minority-group members had been involved in design and teaching of the curriculum. About 76 percent of the participants were non-white compared to 54 percent of group leaders.

Ms. Milton said the week "an incredible learning experience" for organizers, as well.

Youth leaders said they had that problems at the training session would not cast a pall over larger program. "My fear is might be learned is that young people are not grateful," said youth-service leader who is not to be named. "But young people are so disempowered when they get a chance to hear their anger, they will."

While the problems went beyond "just disgruntled people dumping on the ground," Mr. Treistad said majority of people left feeling each other and feeling they had experienced an incredible week.

—JENNIFER

^AM National Service,430

^Bargainers Settle on \$1.5 Billion National Service Bill

^By ROBERT NAYLOR JR.= ^Associated Press Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) Congressional negotiators settled Wednesday on the Senate's three-year, \$1.5 billion version of President Clinton's national service plan, setting up a final vote on the administration's first new program.

Aides said final consideration of the legislation will likely come Friday in both the House and Senate and it could go to Clinton for his signature before Congress begins a scheduled month-long recess this weekend.

The program would provide up to 47,000 students who complete two years of community service work \$4,725 for each year to apply toward college tuition. Clinton initially proposed \$5,000 a year.

Participants also would be provided living allowances of at least \$7,400 a year and health-care and child day-care benefits.

``It's a victory for the president,'' Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., the Senate's chief negotiator, said in an interview with The Associated Press. ``This is essentially the president's program scaled back, but it is the president's program.''

It was quick action on a program Clinton unveiled in March and officially presented to Congress in May. The Senate had approved its version of the program Tuesday. The House adopted its \$2.1 billion version a week earlier.

Rep. William Ford, D-Mich., the lead House negotiator, said conferees agreed so quickly because ``there weren't any real inconsistencies'' between the House and Senate bills.

``Realistically, it spends about what we're going to get from the appropriations committees anyhow,'' he said.

The cost of the program, which would determine the number of participants, was the most visible difference in Senate and House versions of the legislation. Most remaining differences were structural.

The White House had said it could accept either version.

``The size of the program we've got is certainly consistent with being able to show the American people that national service works,'' said Eli Segal, director of Clinton's Office of National Service.

Clinton originally wanted a far more ambitious \$9.5 billion, five-year program. He wanted to allow 25,000 students in the first year and 150,000 by the third year.

The compromise plan allows 20,000 participants in the first year, 33,000 in the second year and 47,000 in the third year, assuming an average annual cost per participant of \$15,000. Spending would be limited to \$300 million in the first year of the program, \$500 million in the second year and \$700 million in the third year.

AM-Just Vote No, Bjt, 750

GOP Strategy: Block, Tackle, Sit on the Bench

By JILL LAWRENCE= AP Political Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) More than a handful of Republicans support President Clinton's national service plan, and one, from a flooded state, is even lobbying for a jump-start so volunteers can help devastated communities recover.

But some Senate Republicans nevertheless are trying to talk the national service bill to death, or at least into limbo for awhile.

It's the latest episode in a legislative tug-of-war that's gone beyond the usual partisan competition, forcing Democrats to advance Clinton's major proposals completely on their own.

GOP lawmakers provided not one vote for Clinton's economic blueprint or his budget. They killed his jobs-creation bill and they are playing little or no role as negotiators finalize the massive budget bill's spending cuts, tax increases and program priorities.

Their intention is honorable, they say: To save taxpayers from the policies of the man they elected president.

"It's a tough job being the president of the United States and we're not trying to embarrass him or be obstructionist," Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole said on CNN Thursday night.

The comment came only hours after he told Senate Democrats that they'd best seek a vote to halt a rash of Republican amendments to the national service bill because otherwise the debate might never stop. The vote is expected Tuesday, unless negotiators strike a deal before then.

Republicans maintain they're just trying to improve a bill that's too expensive. But the impression among Democrats is that Republicans have realized that pieces of Clinton's agenda, from national service to his economic plan, are on the verge of passage

and they're determined to gum up the works.

"Clearly, the Republicans have decided that obstructionism is the course they intend to take to block our mission of change," Democratic Party Chairman David Wilhelm told potential contributors in a recent fund-raising letter.

To some Republicans, the just-vote-no approach makes political sense.

"Many Republicans have decided that if they keep their heads down, if they lay low, Clinton and the Democrats are going to self-destruct or do enough damage to help them," said political newsletter publisher Stuart Rothenberg, a Republican himself.

The essence of the GOP argument is that Clinton's plans cost too much and require new taxes. But as Democrats like to point out, Senate Republicans offered more than a dozen amendments to the budget bill in committee and none would have cut any spending.

Further, some Republican consultants were advising their House clients to vote no on the Clinton economic plan weeks before anyone knew what Clinton would propose. The point was solely to stockpile ammunition for their 1994 campaigns.

"The other side has had the audacity to stand back, refuse to be a part of the governance of this country, refuse to stand for anything, and just take pot shots at any responsible decision that is made. It is just unbelievable," Vice President Gore said last week in a pep talk to Democratic budget negotiators.

Not all Republicans are opposed to all new taxes and all new spending.

Republican governors of flooded states, like their Democratic counterparts, were hardly concerned about fiscal austerity during Clinton's summit with them last weekend. They wanted the billions of dollars Clinton is prepared to offer and more.

National service, Clinton's plan to let college students partially pay off tuition loans with volunteer work, is another example of money some

Republicans believe would be well spent.

Six of them supported the \$400 million-a-year program that emerged from the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee. One of them, Sen. David Durenberger, R-Minn., has asked Clinton to start the program even before it's formally enacted by recruiting students to help with flood cleanup in the Midwest. He called it ``a perfect opportunity'' to showcase the concept.

Holding together their moderates and conservatives, Senate Republicans earlier this year forced Clinton to withdraw a \$16.3 billion jobs bill that had been a centerpiece of his campaign. Democrats are counting on GOP moderates to help them save national service, another signature Clinton idea, from a similar fate.

``National service has always been a bipartisan cause,'' labor committee chairman Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said as aides prepared for a weekend of negotiations. ``We're willing to work for a compromise to maintain that bipartisan spirit.''

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^ GOP seeks to stall Clinton national service program

^ By STEVEN HEILBRONNER=

WASHINGTON (UPI) Seeking to slow the pace of presidential victories, Republicans appeared to have enough support Monday to delay passage of President Clinton's national service program.

The prospect of a contentious floor fight was in sharp contrast to the constructive talks between Republicans who generally support the proposal but for its size, and the White House.

But Republican leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., had other concerns. Mindful that Congress is likely to pass a deficit budget deal by the end of next week and some form of national service plan, GOP aides say Dole does not want Clinton to amass too many victories too rapidly.

Dole is confident he can defeat a motion on Tuesday that would end the Republican filibuster and set up a vote on the bill. Democrats need 60 votes to end the delay.

On Monday, lawmakers and students who support national service condemned the delay at a rally. The group ``Rock the Vote'' delivered 20,000 postcards to lawmakers urging passage of the measure.

``This bill has Republican support,'' said Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn. ``It also has a great deal of Republican fingerprints.''

Attending a jobs conference in Chicago, Clinton complained about Republican tactics.

``We have worked our hearts out with the Republicans and the Democrats,'' he said. ``We have lots of Republican co-sponsors in the House and a few in the Senate. They just want to delay it.''

A Republican official said that GOP lawmakers would continue negotiating with Democrats to cut a deal on the plan, and said an agreement could be reached this week.

Republicans object to the size of the program, and some members contend it would have limited success in reaching the working poor that it is intended to help.

Clinton's proposal would offer \$5,000 college grants to students in exchange for one year of community service. The program would cover no more than 25,000 students in the first year, and potentially reach 150, 000 young people in the fourth year.

Dole said he hoped that if he prevails on Tuesday that ``we can sit down and work out some effective program that might really mean something when it comes to national service for America's young people.''

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., sponsor of the national service bill, dismissed the complaints as political gamesmanship. ``Up until this point, the debate on the national service bill has been open and constructive,'' he said. ``I am hopeful that Republicans will not seek to obstruct an initiative with such broad public support.''

^AM-National Service,340

^College-Aged Crowd Tries to Break Senate Filibuster on College Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) About 500 college-aged voters rallied in a Senate hearing room Monday on behalf of President Clinton's national service program, the target of a Republican filibuster.

The young activists delivered to senators 20,000 signed postcards supporting the legislation, which would allow college students to swap community service for living and tuition costs.

Some Republicans in the Senate have been trying block the bill via a filibuster; a vote is expected Tuesday on whether to cut off the debate.

Noting that many Republicans support the national service bill, those at the rally urged GOP senators to drop their partisan loyalties. Republicans have tried to stay united in filibuster fights and vote to have the bill considered.

The rally was put on by the College Democrats, MTV's ``Rock the Vote'' organization and other groups.

Sen. John Chafee, R-R.I., and Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., are on the list of GOP targets for possible switches on the filibuster vote, said one White House aide.

Democrats, who hold a 56-44 edge in the chamber, would need to pick up four Republicans to bust a filibuster, if all the Democrats held together.

Rep. Chris Shays, R-Conn., urging members of his own party to stop the filibuster, said change-minded voters sent a message last November that was relevant to this issue.

``The American people want us to act like Americans first and Democrats and Republicans second,'' Shays said.

The national service plan would let students work off up to \$10,000 in college tuition with two years of service work as health professionals, law agents or counselors.

They would receive stipends of at least \$7,400 a year and health-care and child day-care benefits.

The program would begin with 25,000 students qualifying the first year, eventually growing to 150,000.

It is expected to cost \$9.5 billion over five years. Republicans have called it just another big government program.

^ GOP seeks to stall Clinton national service program

WASHINGTON (UPI) Seeking to slow the pace of presidential victories, Republicans appeared to have enough support Monday to delay passage of President Clinton's national service program.

Many Republicans support Clinton's proposal, though they would like to trim the \$400 million price tag. But party leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., mindful that Congress is likely to pass a deficit budget deal and some form of national service plan, does not want Clinton to amass too many victories too rapidly.

Dole is confident he can defeat a motion on Tuesday that would end the Republican filibuster and set up a vote on the bill. Democrats need 60 votes to end the delay.

On Monday, lawmakers and students who support national service condemned the delay at a rally. The group ``Rock the Vote'' delivered 20,000 postcards to lawmakers urging passage of the measure.

^AM-Down to Business,790

^When Gridlock Equals Democracy at Work

^Eds: Also moved for PMS

^An AP News Analysis

^By STEVEN KOMAROW= ^Associated Press Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) For a few hours last week, the nation's legislature seemed to grind to a halt. Bickering over the deficit sidetracked a flood relief package in the House and a contretemps over the Confederate flag ensnarled President Clinton's national service bill in the Senate.

It was ugly. It was confusing. And it probably didn't make Congress look too good to the outside world.

But it wasn't gridlock. It was war: healthy, legislative war.

Six months into the Clinton administration, Congress is now fully adjusted to having a Democrat in the White House. The Democrats are pushing legislation through the process, bill after bill. And the Republicans are grabbing at every Democratic misstep.

``The shadow boxing is over,'' said Sen. Pete V. Domenici, R-N.M., who talked about ``the sizing up of us by the Democrats, and of us by the president, and even between the president and his own people.''

``Their role now is to be legislative terrorists,'' said Rep. Mike Synar, D-Okla.

``I think it's a very fine tuned, well-organized operation,'' Rep. Bill Richardson of New Mexico, said of his Democratic leadership.

``It's crumbling. You could see it,'' said Rep. Bill Paxon, R-N.Y., new head of the GOP's House campaign team, after Republicans forced the Democrats' hand on a couple of issues last week. ``We've hit our stride. We've gone from playing defensive ball for the (Republican) president to playing offense.''

In the House, Republican votes were the key in forcing the Democrats to withdraw, until this week, the flood relief package proposed by President Clinton.

Republicans said the money should be delayed until a way was found to offset the cost with spending cuts in other programs. Democratic leaders said Congress should respond to the emergency immediately without offsetting cuts just as it had, for example, in providing aid to the Kurds in Iraq.

The GOP also scored political points with ferocious attack against the majority party for keeping records secret in the investigation of embezzlement at the House post office.

Democrats held their ranks, but only after Speaker Thomas S. Foley took the floor to explain why the prosecutors' case would be jeopardized if the records were released.

``I think the intensity of the Republican attack sort of surprised us,'' Richardson said after the bitterly partisan debate.

In the Senate, Republicans are confident they can force a scaling back of the national service program under which young people could take community service jobs and earn college grants.

The whole bill nearly came unglued last week when Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., tried to add a provision extending the federal patent for an insignia belonging to the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

The symbol, which contains a confederate flag, was at first narrowly endorsed but then, in a reversal, the Senate killed the amendment. It didn't change the bill, but it added some embarrassment to members' voting records.

Not every bill or every nomination is drawing Republican fire. Bills on matters ranging from the nation's space program to a rewrite of the rules on government workers' political activities are moving through the system more or less intact.

The Republican attacks are focused mainly on the budget, with the GOP opposing any tax increases, and on select issues where the Democrats or their president's political standing on so-called moral or values issues can be vulnerable. They include things like the House scandals, remnants of the

largely-defunct patronage system, and the issue of gays in the military.

``Obviously, it has a political dimension,'' said Paxon.

The biggest target is the president's economic plan and the tax increases Democrats will try to put on his desk in the next two weeks. But Republicans are sure to stake out some turf in the upcoming battles over health care and a crime bill.

The GOP may continue to get ground into that turf by the Democratic majority, as often happens; or force some changes, as occasionally happens.

But there's an understanding on both sides that most bills the Democrats really want to pass will pass and that the American people will have a pretty clear understanding of who wanted what to pass and who didn't.

It's a memory they will take to the polls next year when they elect all 435 House members and a third of the Senate. And that, after all, is the way Democracy is supposed to work.

So the squabbling that so frequently causes delays, and can appear so unseemly at times, serves in the end to clarify differences of political philosophy. That's not gridlock. That's healthy.

EDITOR'S NOTE Steven Komarow is the AP's chief congressional correspondent.