

FILE

NATIONAL

file AmeriCorp

Corporation for National Service

Programs located in the state of

Alabama

AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is a national network of community-based programs that engage Americans of all ages in results-driven service. In exchange for a year or two of service, AmeriCorps Members earn education awards to finance college, graduate school, or vocational training or to help pay back student loans. By participating in AmeriCorps, Members learn new skills, take on challenging responsibilities, and join a national network of people committed to service.

All AmeriCorps programs have a common mission: getting things done to help communities address challenges in the areas of education, public safety, human needs, and the environment; strengthening communities by bringing together people from all backgrounds to solve problems at the local level; encouraging responsibility through service and civic education; and expanding opportunity by helping to make education more affordable.

Participants

ALABAMA COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS, INC.

Communities in Action

Auburn

20

AmeriCorps Members teach child development and parenting skills, and provide home safety counseling, to over 300 low income families with children ages 0-5 in order to reduce intergenerational poverty.

BIRMINGHAM AIDS OUTREACH (BAO)

*AmeriCorps*BAO*

Birmingham

29

AmeriCorps Members provide over 20,000 hours of high quality respite health care services to people living with AIDS, provide HIV/AIDS prevention education to college campus communities, and provide support to over 500 children in households affected by HIV/AIDS.

BIRMINGHAM AIDS OUTREACH (BAO) EXPANSION

*AmeriCorps*BAO*

Birmingham

13

AmeriCorps Members provide over 20,000 hours of high quality respite health care services to people living with AIDS, provide HIV/AIDS prevention education to college campus communities, and provide support to over 500 children in households affected by HIV/AIDS.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

AmeriCorps Health and Housing Fellows Program

Birmingham

14

AmeriCorps Members live and/or serve in public housing authorities. Members conduct community health needs assessments, and design and implement public health prevention programs in childhood health and nutrition, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted and infectious diseases, teen pregnancy, domestic violence, and substance abuse.

MONTGOMERY YMCA

Montgomery

24

AmeriCorps Members tutor Kindergarten and first grade students in reading, teach conflict resolution and mediation, develop leadership among junior high students, involve students in community service projects, and reduce juvenile crime.

NATIONAL AIDS FUND

AmeriCorps Program

Birmingham

9

AmeriCorps Members deliver meals, provide transportation to medical appointments, educate communities about HIV prevention, care for HIV-positive infants, and offer crisis support to families who have lost a member to AIDS. Members also recruit community volunteers and administer HIV anti-body tests with pre and post-test counseling sessions.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS INC*Community HealthCorps*

Eutaw

15

AmeriCorps Members establish medical centers for under-served communities through referral, education, and follow-up programs. Members also link primary care patients to other health and social service organizations.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY ASSOCIATION*AmeriCorps College Bound*

Huntsville

16

AmeriCorps Members train Upward Bound and college students as tutors and mentors for low income secondary school students. Members organize community service projects and coordinate education workshops for parents.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY*Project SafetyNet*

Tuscaloosa

14

AmeriCorps Members teach school-age youth to resolve disputes and prevent violence by training them to use successful peer mediation and conflict resolution techniques. Members also tutor youth during the school day and serve as mentors throughout the year.

STATE ASSOCIATION OF CASA*CASA/AmeriCorps Eldersafe Program*

Huntsville

30

AmeriCorps Members provide in-home support services to, and make home safety improvement services for, 1,200 elderly and homebound residents. Members also provide respite care services to 200 primary caregivers of persons who are elderly or homebound.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA*Student of Alabama for Independent Living*

Tuscaloosa

40

AmeriCorps Members integrate people with severe disabilities or major health disorders into their home communities by teaching independent living skills, adapting residences for accessibility, making home safety modifications, and providing other support services.

US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES/ADD*ADD Corps*

Birmingham

30

AmeriCorps Members, in collaboration with community partners, provide personal assistance services to people with developmental disabilities, enabling them to live independently. Members provide home visits, health education and outreach, and clinical services. They also perform community service projects which integrate people with disabilities into society.

WEST ALABAMA HEALTH SERVICES, INC.*Rural AmeriCorps Student Project*

Eutaw

20

AmeriCorps Members tutor, counsel, and mentor 1,000 disadvantaged students in rural West Alabama during after-school, weekend, and summer classes. Partners include local school boards, area colleges and universities and local government.

AAHA MONTGOMERY HABITAT

Montgomery 17

AmeriCorps*VISTA Members recruit and train volunteers for Habitat for Humanity Affiliates. They combine efforts with other non-profit organizations to maximize success on local projects. They develop promotional materials to generate public awareness.

AIDS TASK FORCE OF ALABAMA, INC.

Birmingham 2

AmeriCorps*VISTA Members work with local groups to establish needed services in low-income communities. Members mobilize resources, recruit and organize local volunteers, coordinate activities and develop community services.

AL ASSOC. OF HSING. AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Ozark 19

AmeriCorps*VISTA Members have established 21 tutoring programs, as well as recruited and trained over 150 community volunteers to serve as mentors. Members organized 37 workshops on job readiness skills and 22 workshops on resume writing.

ALABAMA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Montgomery 30

AmeriCorps*VISTA Members conduct educational and outreach programs in domestic abuse shelters throughout the state. The Members develop promotional and educational materials to aid in fundraising, public awareness and recruitment efforts.

ALABAMA DHR

Montgomery 12

AmeriCorps*VISTA Members work with local groups to establish needed services in low-income communities. Members mobilize resources, recruit and organize local volunteers, coordinate activities and develop community services.

ALCOHOLISM SUB ABUSE CNCL INC

Centre 4

AmeriCorps*VISTA Members recruit community volunteers to assist with parenting classes for mothers of small children and infants as part of the county's substance abuse prevention program. They help coordinate a peer program that appoints older students.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS OF WEST ALABAMA

Tuscaloosa 2

AmeriCorps*VISTA Members work with local groups to establish needed services in low-income communities. Members mobilize resources, recruit and organize local volunteers, coordinate activities and develop community services.

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS OF WEST ALABAMA

Tuscaloosa 3

AmeriCorps*VISTA Members are serving through the agency's Community Development Loan Fund which makes loans to small businesses to open and expand businesses that will provide jobs for low-income residents.

SHOALS AREA TRI-COUNTY ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Muscle Shoals 3

AmeriCorps*VISTA Members are developing literacy programs in Lauderdale, Franklin and Colbert Counties. Members recruit and train tutors. After training is complete, they match tutors with adult learners.

SO BALDWIN LIT CNCL

		Participants
	Foley	1
AmeriCorps*VISTA Members recruit and train tutors. After matching a learner with a mentor, the Members monitor progress to prevent problems. They develop promotional materials to provide public awareness.		
STUDIO BY THE TRACKS		
	Irondale	2
The AmeriCorps*VISTA Member recruits volunteers to assist in providing free art classes for at-risk youth. The Member also coordinates with other community organizations that work with low income, at-risk youth.		
TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY		
	Tuskegee	13
AmeriCorps*VISTA Members recruit and assist in the training of tutors. They attract learners, with whom they match the tutors. The Members also develop public awareness of the literacy programs, as well as mobilize resources for local projects.		
UAB'S CENTER FOR HEALTH PROMOTION/DISEASE PREV.		
	Birmingham	7
AmeriCorps*VISTA Members conduct surveys on various health issues. They establish community awareness programs on AIDS prevention, teen pregnancy and violence. The Members are also developing a resource directory on health services for the community.		
YMCA OF METRO BIRMINGHAM		
	Birmingham	7
AmeriCorps*VISTA Members recruit community volunteers to assist in coordinating programs for high-risk, low income youth who have been identified through various community agencies as functionally illiterate.		

National Senior Service Corps

The National Senior Service Corps is a network of programs that help older Americans find service opportunities in their communities. Together, these program involve more than 500,000 senior serving in thousands of local projects.

Foster Grandparents Program (FGP)

Foster Grandparents, low-income seniors, aged 60 or older, provide individualized attention and guidance to children with mental, physical or emotional disabilities. They receive a small stipend that enables them to serve -- but they will tell you that they serve because they love the opportunity to make a life better for children in need. Nationally, over 23,000 Foster Grandparents serve an annual total of over 21 million hours through 279 local projects. These volunteers serve over 80,000 children at over 7,700 community organizations.

CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE FGP

City Of Russellville

Russellville 82

FGP OF AUBURN

East Alabama Services For Elderly

Opelika 78

FGP OF MORGAN/LAWRENCE/CULLMAN CO

Community Action Agency

Decatur 95

Participants**FGP-BIRMINGHAM***Positive Maturity Inc.*

Birmingham	74
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FGP-MOBILE*Mobile County Commission*

Mobile	66
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FGP/HOUSTON-DALE COFFEE-GENEVA CO*Human Resource Development Corp.*

Dothan	98
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Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program offers seniors, aged 55 and older, the opportunity to contribute their talents and experience in the fulfillment of every conceivable service need within a community. The involvement of the RSVP volunteers, who serve without compensation, is bounded only by their personal interest and project need. Nationally, approximately 450,000 RSVP volunteers serve an annual total of over 84 million hours. They are assigned by 759 local projects to serve in over 60,000 community organizations.

ATHENS/LIMESTONE COUNTY RSVP*Athens State College*

Athens	519
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CALHOUN COUNTY RSVP*City Of Jacksonville*

Jacksonville	387
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DALE COUNTY RSVP*Dale County Commission*

Ozark	600
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DALLAS COUNTY RSVP*Dallas County Commission*

Selma	280
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DEKALB COUNTY RSVP*Dekalb County Commission*

Fort Payne	289
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ESCAMBIA COUNTY RSVP*Escambia County Commission*

Brewton	365
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ETOWAH COUNTY RSVP

		Participants
<i>Etowah County Commission</i>	Gadsden	404
HOUSTON-HENRY COUNTY RSVP <i>Zonta Club Of Dothan Area Inc</i>	Dothan	674
HUNTSVILLE-MADISON CO RSVP <i>Huntsville-Madison Co Senior Center</i>	Huntsville	623
JACKSON COUNTY RSVP <i>Marshall-Jackson Mental Hlth Inc</i>	Scottsboro	378
LAUDERDALE COUNTY RSVP <i>Lauderdale County Commission</i>	Florence	670
MACON COUNTY RSVP <i>Macon County Commission</i>	Tuskegee	325
POSITIVE MATURITY RSVP <i>Positive Maturity Inc</i>	Birmingham	2,665
RSVP OF BALDWIN COUNTY <i>Kiwanis Club Of Bay Minette</i>	Bay Minette	399
RSVP OF BARBOUR COUNTY <i>Rsvp Inc</i>	Eufaula	526
RSVP OF GREENE COUNTY <i>Greene County Commission</i>	Eutaw	380
RSVP OF MARSHALL COUNTY <i>Marshall County Commission</i>	Guntersville	598
RSVP OF PIKE COUNTY		

		Participants
<i>Troy State University</i>	Troy	493
RSVP OF TALLADEGA COUNTY <i>Talladega County Commission</i>	Talladega	876
RSVP OF TALLAPOOSA & COOSA CO'S <i>Central Al Community College</i>	Alexander City	448
RSVP OF TUSCALOOSA & HALE CO'S <i>Focus Of Senior Citizens</i>	Tuscaloosa	633
RSVP-CLARKE/MARENGO/WILCOX/CHOCTAW/WASHINGTON <i>Alabama Dept Of Mental Health</i>	Thomasville	792
RSVP-GENEVA <i>Southern Al Reg'l Council On Aging</i>	Geneva	354
RSVP-MOBILE <i>Mobile County Commission</i>	Mobile	354
RSVP-MONROE/CONECUH COUNTIES <i>Monroe County Commission</i>	Monroeville	352
RSVP/MACOA <i>Macoa</i>	Montgomery	998

Senior Companions Program (SCP)

Senior Companions are low-income seniors, aged 60 and older, who assist frail adults to achieve and maintain their highest level of independent living. They receive a small stipend that enables them to serve 20 hours of practical, compassionate volunteer service each week, making a very tangible difference in the lives of those they serve.

Nationally, approximately 13,000 Senior Companions give over 12 million hours of their time, patience and love to care for less fortunate individuals through 187 local projects. Volunteers usually serve two to four other seniors through almost 2,700 community organizations. Senior Companions serve a total of more than 36,000 persons annually.

Participants

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CORP-SCP
Human Resource Development Corp.

Dothan 50

SARCOA SCP
Southern Al Reg'l Council On Aging

Geneva 50

SCP - POSITIVE MATURITY, INC.
Positive Maturity

Birmingham 52

SCP OF MOBLIE COUNTY
Moblle County Commission

Mobile 91

SCP-MORGAN/LAWRENCE/CULLMAN CO'S
Community Action Agency

Decatur 79

Learn and Serve America

Learn and Serve America provides service-learning curricula to schools to involve students in service to communities as part of their academic experience. Through its two components -- school- and community- based programs for elementary and high school students and higher education programs for college-age students -- Learn and Serve America is building an ethic of service among more than 500,000 young people.

K-12

ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Montgomery 2,300

Learn and Serve K-12 students apply skills learned in school to the real world through community service. For example, as part of an English project, third-graders write about local history after gathering information from residents of nearby senior centers; middle school language students translate information brochures for their local chamber of commerce; and high school students tutor candidates for American citizenship to complement their studies in government.

Higher Education

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
USA College of Engineering: Learn and Serve

Mobile 35

Thirty-five engineering students design, produce and deliver ten educational packages to address the needs of incorporating more hands-on activities in mathematics and sciences instructions in middle-schools in Mobile County.

Copyright 1995 Globe Newspaper Company
The Boston Globe

December 5, 1995, Tuesday, City Edition

SECTION: NATIONAL/FOREIGN; Pg. 3

LENGTH: 560 words

HEADLINE: Buchanan is first to file N. H. papers;
Predicts a close state race with Dole

BYLINE: By Michael Rezendes, Globe Staff

DATELINE: CONCORD, N. H.

BODY:

Leading a small field of presidential contenders, commentator Patrick J. Buchanan yesterday became the first candidate to file for New Hampshire's primary election.

Buchanan used the ritual opening of the state's two-week filing period to predict that New Hampshire will become the "breakthrough state" in his bid for the Republican nomination by vaulting him into contention with front-runner Bob Dole.

At the same time, however, one tradition connected with the start of the filing period was broken: For the first time in the primary's 75-year history, candidates signed up to take part in an election without knowing when it will be held.

New Hampshire Secretary of State Bill Gardner has scheduled the primary for Feb. 20, but he said yesterday that he is prepared to move the election to a date "substantially" earlier to fend off an attempt by Delaware to hold its primary four days after New Hampshire's.

Gardner, noting that New Hampshire law requires him to hold the state's primary seven days before any "similar election," said he would consider holding the New Hampshire primary as early as January.

Such a move could force Iowa, traditionally the nation's first caucus state, to reschedule its Feb. 12 event, and would dramatically alter the advertising and campaign plans of major candidates.

The conflict over primary dates is nettlesome because it is based on conflicting state laws. Delaware law requires the state to hold its election on the Saturday after New Hampshire's, while Iowa law says its caucuses must be held 12 days before New Hampshire's contest.

Gardner has said he will maintain New Hampshire's Feb. 20 primary date if most of the major candidates abide by his request to boycott Delaware's

*Maggie - NH
FVL
Bridging
Gardner*

primary. In that case, he said, Delaware's contest would not be a "similar" election and would not require him to move the New Hampshire date.

Buchanan, who said he supports New Hampshire's attempt to maintain its first-in-the-nation status, yesterday also buttressed his local campaign on several fronts.

Buchanan also released the names of 185 county, town and ward coordinators, claiming command of a field organization with the "breadth and depth that is far beyond what we were able to attain last time in our 10-week campaign."

Buchanan won 37 percent of the 1992 New Hampshire primary vote in a challenge to former President George Bush. Opinion polls show he is not faring as well this time, in part because he is competing with several other conservatives, including Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas and magazine publisher Steve Forbes.

Also filing yesterday was manufacturer Morry Taylor, also a candidate for the Republican nomination. He said that he would cut the size of the federal work force by one-third without reducing services.

Six other candidates also paid a \$ 1,000 filing fee for the primary, including Democrat Caroline Killeen of Arizona, the self-described "Hemp Lady" who is campaigning for the legalization of marijuana.

In 1992, 62 presidential candidates - Republicans, Democrats and a Libertarian - were on the New Hampshire primary ballot.

Later in Manchester, Buchanan defended his opposition to legalized abortion, a centerpiece of his campaign, during a testy meeting. Several of the 10 participants in a voters' forum, including two men, argued with Buchanan about abortion.

Copyright 1995 Associated Press
AP Online

December 04, 1995; Monday 09:33 Eastern Time

SECTION: National political

LENGTH: 840 words

HEADLINE: Candidates To File For N.H.

DATELINE: CONCORD, N.H.

BODY:

The parade of would-be presidents began at Secretary of State William Gardner's door Monday, with Republican Patrick Buchanan predicting this could be one of the most dramatic New Hampshire presidential primaries ever, with him being the reason.

"New Hampshire is going to be the breakthrough state for the Buchanan campaign and is going to carry us through the Republican nomination in 1996 and, I think, to victory in November over Bill Clinton," he said after paying his \$1,000 and signing his official declaration of candidacy.

The official filing period for the February vote opened at 8 a.m., but candidates started lining up this morning at dawn.

Sean McCabe, a campaign staffer for Pat Buchanan, was the first on line, having camped in front of the Statehouse since 5 a.m.

Next was Billy Joe Clegg, a minister from Biloxi, Miss., who was first in line four years ago.

"If I'm second in the primary, I'll be happy," he said.

Third in line was Republican Michael Levinson, of Buffalo, N.Y., who arrived at 6:55 a.m., disappointed he was not first.

He had heard the Statehouse would open at 7 and thought he was in good shape, but it was open shortly after 6. When he made it to the second-floor office of Secretary of State William Gardner, he found McCabe and Clegg already waiting at the door.

"If I had known that, I would have slept here and saved some money," said Levinson. "Maybe we should flip to see whose first."

"You're third, my man," said Clegg, who carried his filing papers and a folder of campaign literature in one hand and his Bible in the other.

Buchanan finished second in New Hampshire four years ago, shocking President

Bush by grabbing 37 percent of the primary vote. This time he's hoping to put a dent in Bob Dole's frontrunner status.

"Bob Dole is beginning to fade and deservedly so," he said. "Someone is going to break out and all of the signs and indications are we're going to be the one to break out as the authentic conservative and challenge him for the nomination," Buchanan said.

Buchanan appeared a few minutes before the official open of the filing period at 8 a.m. to take the place saved for him in line.

Before he arrived, Clegg and Levinson had close to a dozen reporters to themselves, and they took advantage of it.

Clegg, whose slogan is "Clegg will not pull your leg," joked that a Buchanan-Clegg, or a Clegg-Buchanan, ticket wouldn't be so bad.

Clegg is running for a seventh time.

This is Levinson's third, and probably last, primary.

"If they don't vote for me this time, that's it," he said.

Fourth in line was Caroline Killeen of Flagstaff, Ariz., "The Hemp Lady," who wants to legalize marijuana.

Gardner expects this year's field to be larger than the 62 Republicans, Democrats and Libertarians who ran last time.

While they wait their turn, some might get cold feet looking at the impressive presidential photo display that documents the odd things candidates have been expected to do in New Hampshire.

There's Paul Tsongas, in a bathing suit, diving into a YMCA pool.

Walter Mondale is landing a fish he caught through the ice on a frozen lake.

Ernest Hollings is riding a ski area chair lift.

Bill Clinton is running a Bingo game.

"You've got every possible thing here," Gardner said. "It's New Hampshire. It's what they do."

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December 4, 1995, Monday, BC cycle

SECTION: Washington News

LENGTH: 250 words

HEADLINE: Hillary heading to New Hampshire

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Dec. 4

BODY:

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will head to New Hampshire Friday to officially register her husband as a candidate in February's first-in-the-nation presidential primary, aides said Monday. The first lady also planned to attend several events on behalf of President Clinton's re-election bid during the day-long visit to New Hampshire, White House and campaign officials said. Mrs. Clinton planned to discuss Medicare and related issues at a senior center and discuss education at a gathering of college students before filing the president's nomination papers and attending a Democratic party dinner. The filing period opened Monday in New Hampshire, and candidates have until Dec. 15 to sign up and pay the \$1,000 entrance fee to appear on the February ballot. More than 60 entrants from various political parties were expected. Hillary Clinton, while repeating the same New Hampshire filing chore she performed for her husband in the 1992 race, has not been given a detailed 1996 travel assignment, said Ann Lewis, Clinton's 1996 deputy campaign manager. "She will be out there speaking" and campaigning, Lewis said of the first lady, who played a top role in the administration's 1994 failed health care reform drive and then took a lower profile in 1995. "She is our most highly requested surrogate speaker." But asked to predict Mrs. Clinton's level of activity in the 1996 campaign, Lewis said, "I would not try to make that estimate today."

Copyright 1995 Globe Newspaper Company
The Boston Globe
December 2, 1995, Saturday, City Edition

SECTION: METRO/REGION; Pg. 3

LENGTH: 384 words

HEADLINE: In N.H., it's time for contenders in primary to make it official

BYLINE: By Michael Rezendes, Globe Staff

BODY:

The hour when all presidential contenders must formally sign up for the New Hampshire presidential primaries is quickly approaching.

On Monday at 8 a.m., New Hampshire Secretary of State Bill Gardner will open a two-week filing period for White House hopefuls entering the Republican and Democratic contests.

Barring last-minute changes in candidate schedules, political commentator Patrick Buchanan will be first in line when Gardner's doors open.

"This is the beginning of the final stretch," said Buchanan spokesman K. B. Forbes.

Several other candidates, or their surrogates, also are planning to file papers and a \$ 1,000 filing fee next week, including Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas. Another Republican, businessman Morry Taylor, plans to file Monday afternoon.

Hillary Rodham Clinton is expected to file papers on behalf of President Clinton on Friday, the same day Dole is scheduled to file.

Gardner, a veteran of past presidential primaries, noted that no signatures are required to appear on New Hampshire's primary ballot and said the state takes pride in having some one of the most relaxed filing requirements in the nation.

"Being the first primary in the nation we feel a responsibility to be as inclusive as we can be," Gardner said. "We don't try to determine who's a major candidate and who's not. We leave it to the voters to sort all that out."

At the moment, the date for the New Hampshire primary is Feb. 20, but that could change.

New Hampshire requires Gardner to hold the primary at least seven days before any "similar" election. But Delaware is currently planning to hold its primary on Feb. 24, impinging on New Hampshire's seven-day rule.

Gardner said that if the major candidates don't file papers for the Delaware contest, he will not consider it a "similar" election and will not change the Feb. 20 date of New Hampshire's primary.

To date, Dole has promised New Hampshire Gov. Stephen Merrill that his name will not appear on the Delaware ballot. Buchanan also has indicated he will not run in the Delaware contest but has made no official announcement.

Other candidates, however, have yet to say whether they will enter the Delaware primary, leaving Gardner keeping New Hampshire's Feb. 20 date tentative.

Copyright 1995 The Detroit News, Inc.
The Detroit News
November 21, 1995, Tuesday

SECTION: InsideNews;

LENGTH: 431 words

HEADLINE: New Hampshire loves talking politics

BYLINE: By Mark Hornbeck, Detroit News Lansing Bureau

DATELINE: NASHUA, N.H. -

BODY:

NASHUA, N.H. -- A year before Election Day '96, presidential politics reigns supreme in New Hampshire.

The rolling landscape is heavy with it. Yard signs, bumper stickers, political buttons, pep rallies, coffee shop talk, TV ads and local newspaper stories all focus on the White House race. That's because the first presidential primary is only 12 weeks away in this otherwise peaceful New England state.

To the uninitiated, it seems like New Hampshire is gaga over the Super Bowl while the rest of America still is yawning through the exhibition season.

"It builds up here a year or so before it happens everywhere else," Keith Enright, a 33-year-old Nashua cop, said with a chuckle.

In an era when most Americans say they're fed up to their glazed eyes with politics and campaigns, New Hampshire folks say they wouldn't have it any other way.

"Everybody talks about it," said Vic Goulet, 47, a muffler shop owner from Manchester. "The fishermen on the seacoast, the lumberjacks, the factory workers -- they all have an opinion. It happens every four years. The rest of the time, it's pretty quiet."

Natives say the intense attention from those who would be president offers long-term benefits to the tiny state, which has only four-tenths of 1 percent of America's people and a scant four electoral votes. Arguably, the primary gives New Hampshire undue influence over presidential politics.

"We get a lot of one-on-one time with candidates and we like that," said Lorraine Prestipino, a 70-year-old retired school secretary from Milford. "We get a good look at them and they get a good look at us."

New Hampshire homes are bombarded with TV ads for GOP candidates many Americans haven't heard of yet, such as Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, wealthy publisher Steve Forbes and Michigan businessman Morry Taylor.

"We've been spending \$ 7,000 to \$ 14,000 a week on TV and some of our opponents have been spending more than five times that," said Mike Murphy, media guru for former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander.

Candidates are supposed to be limited to spending \$ 600,000 on February's primary, but local newspapers say loopholes make the cap almost meaningless. Forbes, who sees New Hampshire as his chance to be a contender, is unencumbered by matching money restraints and shelled out \$ 156,000 for local TV ads in October alone.

Inez Parker, an 81-year-old U.S. Army retiree from Nashua, admits it can get tiresome.

"I certainly do get weary of it," she said. "But I'd rather have this than what we'd have if we didn't get into the politics."

November 18, 1995, Saturday, City Edition

SECTION: NATIONAL/FOREIGN; Pg. 3

LENGTH: 698 words

HEADLINE: Forbes buys time - on TV

BYLINE: By Martin F. Nolan, Globe Staff

DATELINE: CONCORD, N.H.

BODY:

In the land of legend, where voters eyeball a candidate thrice before deciding, can the New Hampshire presidential primary be bought? Can television advertising crack the cracker-barrel tradition of retail handshaking here?

No, say managers in the Feb. 20 primary as they watch New Jersey millionaire Malcolm S. Forbes Jr. spend his way toward top-tier status. Victory is not for sale, but second place may be. As other candidates ploddingly pursue the favorite, Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas, Forbes is soaring ahead in both money and message.

Forbes, who refuses federal matching funds, is omnipresent on WMUR-TV, the only statewide station, which has lengthened its reach since the 1992 election, affecting political advertising patterns.

"He most certainly is outspending everyone else at this point by far. This week was a milestone for him," says Julie Campasano, systems manager for WMUR. "This was a heavy week. Forbes came on in September and has been on consistently since."

While candidates fled to Florida for a weekend straw poll and a northeaster flooded the state's rivers and streams, Forbes has been flooding New Hampshire television screens. "I'm Steve Forbes," he says in ads throughout the day and night, denouncing "Washington politics as usual" and promising "a low flat tax, term limits on our politicians" and to "restore control of our schools to parents."

John DiStaso of the Manchester Union-Leader reported that Forbes bought \$ 49,000 of time for this week on WMUR, about "10 to 15 spots a day. And maybe a record for more than three months out. Don't count him out of that prime challenger spot."

If Forbes maintains his present pace, he would exceed the \$ 600,000 spending cap other candidates face, but since his fortune exceeds that of several campaign treasuries, no one knows how much he'll spend. "We definitely will stay on the air because the message is resonating," says the Forbes campaign press

secretary, Gretchen Morgenson. "Our internal polls show us second to Dole in New Hampshire."

Tom Rath, the Concord lawyer helping Lamar Alexander, admits his candidate has been hurt by Forbes. Ross "Perot changed the rules, so if you ask me if I take seriously anyone with \$ 100 million to spend, the answer is yes," Rath says. "I've never seen anything like the Forbes buy. It's overwhelming. He's bought tons of cable on ESPN and CNN."

Charles Arlinghaus, executive director of the Republican State Committee, says, "Forbes is different. Here's a guy with no political experience who's spending more money than God. Can you imagine having \$ 25 million to run for president? Unlike Perot, Forbes sounds like a rational, very intelligent person. Perot occasionally sounded a little loopy."

The Forbes presence on WMUR also reflects the new economic strength of a Manchester-based station that is now statewide. "You don't have to advertise in Vermont and Maine anymore to reach the whole state," says Campasano. "Our 6 p.m. newscast also outdelivers all three Boston stations."

Rath of Alexander's campaign says, "WMUR is the electronic billboard. If you're not on 9, you're not in the race. Forbes is the darling of Channel 9."

Forbes also is hurting the campaign of Texas Sen. Phil Gramm, whose early financial strength led him to expect to be second to Dole by now. Gramm has spent 60 days in New Hampshire; Forbes has spent five. "He's the Procter and Gamble of political advertising. He's on the news, he's on sports, he's on 'America's Funniest Home Videos,' and he has an unlimited budget," says Jim Courtovich, Gramm's New Hampshire manager.

One popular Forbes proposal would abolish the Internal Revenue Service. Since his own IRS return might say "heir," the Forbes fortune is likely to become an issue. Courtovich says of Forbes, "The average New Hampshire voter doesn't have a 150-foot yacht with a helicopter."

Rath insists that "whether it's a candidate or the Psychic Network with Dionne Warwick, you can only go on TV so much. We don't waste our vote in New Hampshire and we don't sell it, either. But I'll say this about Forbes so far: Looking at the polls, he's getting value for his money."

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AP Online

October 12, 1995; Thursday 00:56 Eastern Time

SECTION: National political

LENGTH: 1000 words

HEADLINE: GOP TV Forum Was Predictable An AP News Analysis

BYLINE: WALTER R. MEARS

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

It used to be said that people didn't really turn full attention to presidential election campaigns until after the World Series meaning the one played in the election year, not the season before.

That was before expansion, in baseball and in campaigning.

When the leadoff forum for the 1996 New Hampshire presidential primary campaign was broadcast Wednesday night, the playoffs for this year's major league pennants were on another channel.

One of the candidates thanked viewers who passed up the game long enough to watch the 90-minute forum at WMUR-TV in Manchester, N.H., for Republicans campaigning for the primary next Feb. 20. CNN broadcast it nationally.

It wasn't a debate; it was a polite procession, 10 Republican candidates taking turns, with eight minutes apiece for statements, 4 1/2 minutes of questions from the moderator, and closings. Not quite sound bites, but not much more. Sound mouthfuls, perhaps.

The outcome was predictable no clear winner, and no evident losers.

A standoff works to the advantage of the candidate in the lead, Sen. Bob Dole, the majority leader, far ahead in a poll just conducted for the same TV station.

That made him a target for the rest, but Dole quipped on the way in that surely none of the others would shoot at him. They only sniped. Dole spent most of his own time assailing President Clinton, with hardly a word about his GOP rivals. And their slaps at him were indirect.

"If you want a president who won't cut deals with Democrats in Washington ... then I'm your man," said Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, without adding, as he has elsewhere, the accusation that Dole does it.

Casting himself as a Washington outsider, former Gov. Lamar Alexander of

Tennessee admitted he'd spent five years in the Capital, "long enough to get vaccinated but not infected," while some of the others have been there since 1960. That meant Dole, elected to the House that year, but no names.

"I'm not a professional politician," said Pat Buchanan, who has made his career in Washington in and out of government. He said somebody who is part of the system can't change it.

Hardly hardballs for Dole. For his part, the Kansas senator said he knows how to make change and get things done in Washington, the flip side of the outsider arguments.

Dole, 72, dismissed age as an issue, saying he's in fine shape and the others look healthy enough to run too, trying Ronald Reagan-style humor on the question the former president also faced.

In tax sensitive territory, Dole made a point of restating support for a \$245 billion, seven-year tax cut promised by congressional Republicans; he once had hinted at possible compromise, an issue Gramm grabbed before Dole backtracked.

"Those who say I'm moving to the right fail to see that I've been a mainstream conservative all my life, and I'm proud of it," Dole said.

While New Hampshire tunes in early on for presidential campaigns, pre-season candidate forums are not a big TV draw. This one wouldn't have been even if the O.J. Simpson TV interview on NBC-TV hadn't been canceled.

The name and the trial did get into the discussion. "Make this a vision contest and not the political equivalent of the O.J. trial," Alexander said.

No chance of that, with Republicans in dark suits taking turns at capsule versions of the speeches they deliver every campaign day. Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania even brought a chart.

Debates command massive audiences in the finals, in the fall campaign next year, with the networks and major cable channels all broadcasting them. In settings like this one, the impact is the highlights, the dramatic moments that are rebroadcast later.

In this forum, none were evident. Alexander went first, in alphabetical order, and called the broadcast a defining moment. It couldn't be called that at the end.

Maybe next time. They're already invited back to the same studio for a campaign debate closer to primary day, and there will be other faceoffs in the next four months.

EDITOR'S NOTE Walter R. Mears, vice president and columnist for The Associated Press, has reported on Washington and national politics for more than 30 years.

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October 11, 1995, Wednesday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 14; Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 1038 words

HEADLINE: Candidates Make History With Early Ads in New Hampshire

BYLINE: By ELIZABETH KOLBERT

DATELINE: MANCHESTER, N.H., Oct. 10

BODY:

Former Gov. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee has been advertising on television here since late June. Yet in most recent polls, the level of support for him in New Hampshire barely exceeds the surveys' statistical margin of error.

Gov. Pete Wilson of California began broadcasting his first television commercials here in late August. By last week, he had dropped out of the Presidential race altogether.

Senator Phil Gramm of Texas started his advertising campaign 10 days ago and supplemented it with a direct mailing to all of New Hampshire's 140,000 Republican households. A poll made public on Monday by WMUR-TV in Manchester put him half a percentage point behind Mr. Alexander.

Four months before the first vote is cast in the 1996 Presidential primaries, the Republican candidates' advertising campaign here in the kickoff state is already well under way. It is the earliest television campaign in primary history, and with two multimillionaires -- Malcolm S. Forbes Jr. and Morry Taylor -- financing their own runs, it also promises to be the most expensive.

Whether the early advertising will prove effective remains very much in doubt. But the advanced and expensive start to the race in New Hampshire, whose primary is not until Feb. 20, clearly demonstrates just how frustrated many of the contenders are becoming, and how impatient they are to alter the dynamics of the contest.

Since Senator Bob Dole of Kansas was pronounced the front-runner for the Republican nomination last winter, none of the other candidates -- at last count there were 10 -- has come anywhere close to challenging his status. The same WMUR poll that puts support for Mr. Dole at 35 percent has his closest rivals in the single digits, with 21 percent of the electorate undecided.

"They're just desperate for movement," Don Sipple, a Republican media consultant who worked on Governor Wilson's abortive campaign, said of Mr. Dole's opponents. "You can say this race hasn't changed in eight months."

There is still plenty of time for surprises, especially since Mr. Dole showed unexpected weakness in a recent straw poll in Iowa, and since Gen. Colin L. Powell -- everyone's favorite wild card -- has yet to announce his intentions. But it is the cash-intensive nature of Presidential campaigns these days that candidates who do not fare well now, during the "invisible primary" before New Hampshire's balloting, are unlikely to have enough money to go very far once the voting starts. Hence the pressure to do something -- paradoxically even something costly, like advertising -- to influence public opinion as reflected in the polls.

"They're desperate to find some news on which they can raise some money," Mr. Sipple said.

On Wednesday night, the Republican candidates will gather here for their first televised debate, which will be shown nationally on CNN. The trailing candidates are clearly hoping for some development that will jostle the pack, but those hopes have been tempered because NBC's special report on O. J. Simpson, including the first extensive interview with him since his acquittal, is scheduled for broadcast at the same time.

"This is a race waiting for a defining moment," said New Hampshire's Governor, Stephen Merrill, a Republican who has not yet endorsed a candidate.

By most accounts, including Governor Merrill's, even voters in primary-obsessed New Hampshire are not paying much attention to the campaign this early. More than a dozen Republican voters interviewed at random all said it was too soon to be thinking about the election, or to have a clear impression of the candidates.

"They're just clones right now," said Mark D. Taylor, an optician from Manchester.

The early-season attention deficit is one reason candidates have historically held off before beginning television advertising. Another reason is that candidates who accept Federal matching funds must abide by a spending ceiling in each state -- in New Hampshire, the limit is just over \$600,000, although there are several ways to exceed that -- and they do not want to hit it too early.

Mr. Forbes, who is using his inherited fortune to finance his campaign, is therefore not obliged to heed the spending limits, and his advertising purchases reflect this. While Mr. Gramm and Mr. Alexander are both buying relatively limited amounts of time -- each is spending roughly \$10,000 a week here -- Mr. Forbes is positively inundating the airwaves. Officials of his campaign did not return telephone calls requesting figures, but rival camps estimated that he had spent \$500,000 over the last three weeks.

For this sum, Mr. Forbes has managed within a few weeks to achieve the same standing in the polls as some opponents who have spent months, even years,

campaigning in New Hampshire. But his rivals insist that this burst of enthusiasm for Mr. Forbes and his pet cause, enactment of a flat tax, will soon fade. "He's buying a little temporary blip," said Mike Murphy, Mr. Alexander's media adviser.

Even though most of the candidates who are advertising do not yet have much to show for their efforts, political strategists say the investment could pay off later on. Now the candidates are trying to put out positive images of themselves; Mr. Gramm's ad, for example, talks about his overcoming a poor background, while Mr. Alexander's latest commercial shows him walking across New Hampshire. When the campaign enters what most analysts say is an inevitable negative phase -- several of the campaigns are already testing attacks on Mr. Dole -- these images may attract voters who initially supported someone else.

"All they're doing is setting the table right now," said Tad Devine, a Democratic consultant. "If they do it properly, they can be in play later on."

Several voters who were interviewed maintained that the commercials they had seen had had no influence on their views of the candidates. But they could recall some crucial images from them, like Mr. Alexander's trademark red-and-black checked shirt.

"It didn't turn me off," Thomas Greenhalgh, a retired businessman from Dublin, N.H., said of Mr. Alexander's ad. "And I guess that's what ads are supposed to do -- not turn people off."

GRAPHIC: Photo: In Manchester, N.H., yesterday, television technicians prepared for tonight's debate among the Republican Presidential contenders, an event that trailing candidates hope will jostle the field. (Keith Meyers/The New York Times)

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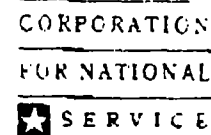
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Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

September 14, 1995

MEMORANDUM



TO: Maggie Williams
Melanne Verveer

FROM: Susan Stroud
Bob Hussey

CC: Eli J. Segal
Shirley Sagawa
Harris Wofford

SUBJECT: Update on National Service

Highlights

- The conference of new AmeriCorps program directors held August 16-18 in Washington, D.C. was a success. The conference sessions were focused on providing all the essential information new directors need in order to operate a successful AmeriCorps program.
- The G.A.O. recently concluded its review of the econometric study of AmeriCorps, The Benefits and Costs of National Service, commissioned by the IBM Foundation, the Dana Foundation and the Irvine Foundation. The G.A.O. agreed with the study that AmeriCorps is a worthwhile investment.
- On September 6, our partnership with the Miss America Organization when 15 Miss America contestants worked alongside 20 AmeriCorps Members from Atlantic City's Urban School Service Corps and Project SafetyNet in community service projects -- including a conflict resolution session, a reading project and a geography class. In addition, the Miss American Organization presented the *Woman of Achievement Award* to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. Mrs. Clinton has designated the \$25,000 grant which comes with the award for AmeriCorps national service programs.

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- On September 11, the Corporation and the U.S. Olympics Committee announced a partnership between the Olympics and AmeriCorps. Beginning in January, 1996, AmeriCorps Members will assist in preparing the city of Atlanta for the Olympic and Paralympic games. Some of their service projects will include physical renovation and construction of public housing, community outreach and education and serving as highly-skilled health and emergency-response assistants. At the height of the Olympics, up to 1,000 AmeriCorps Members will work in the city of Atlanta.

- On September 12, we held a press conference to highlight AmeriCorp's first year accomplishments and to present a vision for year two. A group of college presidents from Rhode Island were present at the press conference and pledged to match the \$4725 educational award for AmeriCorps members that attend their institutions. Following the press conference was a briefing for the President on the accomplishments of the first year class of AmeriCorps Members. AmeriCorps Members themselves told him first-hand of their experiences and accomplishments during the past year.

- On September 13, the Corporation announced a partnership between AmeriCorps, FEMA and The Red Cross. The new initiative will feature 42 highly-trained AmeriCorps Members who will comprise a disaster relief rapid-response team. This team, based in Los Angeles, will be deployable to fight disasters around the country.

Administration Initiatives

- The Corporation was represented at the Interagency Veterans Policy Group subgroup meeting on Homelessness, which was chaired by the DPC.

- We forwarded comments to the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention on the final draft of the National Juvenile Justice Action Plan.

- We met with a representative of the COPS office at the Department of Justice to discuss our proposal to incorporate an AmeriCorps component into the COPS program.

- We held internal discussions at the Corporation about a possible collaboration between the Corporation and the Department of Justice at the 1996 Olympics.

- We prepared board reports regarding successful Supportive Housing Program proposals, as part of our continuing partnership with HUD.

- Our staff coordinated events for Eli Segal and Harris Wofford during the Department of Education's *America Goes Back to School Week*. Various AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve programs will also participate in *Back to School Week* activities.

- Eight new Senior RSVP programs have been selected to participate in an Environmental Protection Agency's ground water protection pilot effort. The programs will also participate in the Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement (EASI) conference scheduled for September 20-21, 1995. The EASI conference will spotlight successful senior volunteer efforts in ground water protection efforts and other environmental areas.

Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Update

Our Legislative Affairs staff continues to monitor the appropriations process and is beginning to gear up for reauthorization. On September 11, the Senate VA/HUD Appropriations subcommittee followed the lead of its House counterpart and voted to eliminate AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America. A full committee vote is expected next week.

On September 7, the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee held a hearing to consider the nomination of Harris Wofford to be the next CEO of the Corporation. The hearing went well and a committee vote on the nomination is expected next week.

Public Affairs Update

Our public affairs staff continues to generate good press coverage nationwide. Selected clips are attached.



AmeriCorps National Service

CORPORATION
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**STATEMENT BY ELIJ. SEGAL
CEO OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
ON THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
TO END NATIONAL SERVICE
September 11, 1995**

We deeply regret today's action by the Senate VA/HUD Appropriations Subcommittee. Eliminating AmeriCorps and Learn & Serve America would repudiate core American values of responsibility and citizenship; walk out on a proven partnership with states, school districts, police departments, businesses, foundations and others; and ignore the exceptional contributions of the 20,000 members of AmeriCorps' first year, who officially conclude their service to more than 1,000 U.S. communities today.

We can only regard this action as a triumph of politics over principle, and we hope and expect that it will be reversed later in the appropriations process. This pattern of draconian first steps and ultimate reasonableness marked the rescission actions of two months ago -- I only regret we have to go through this same pattern again now.

To all the friends of service who have never faltered, now is the time to redouble our efforts. We are committed to keeping national service where it belongs -- on the common ground and not the battleground. Those most harmed by today's action are the communities who will wonder if they will get the help they need, and the young Americans who are trying to decide whether to continue their schooling, head to the work force -- or commit a year in full time service to their communities through AmeriCorps.

This uncertainty also falls heavily on the teachers and nearly 750,000 American students who simply won't learn as much -- about basic subjects and about effective citizenship -- without Learn & Serve America's combination of schooling and service.

National service will not be eliminated. Simply put, local programs are too good, and local communities know -- and appreciate -- it. Service is, as Ronald Reagan put it, "a mighty river". With continuing excellence and constant effort, we will nourish every source and clear every obstacle, so that it will roll on.

It will not be easy -- if anyone had any doubt of that, today's subcommittee decision sent a clear call to action. But remember the lesson of service: that frequently, the very best things are those that require the greatest effort. We won't shrink from that effort. National service will roll on.

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release



AmeriCorps National Service

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE

Release: 9/7/95
Contact: J. TOSCANO
202-606-5000 ext 277

SECOND G.A.O. REVIEW CONFIRMS BENEFITS OF AMERICORPS

- * **FEDERAL DOLLAR INVESTED RETURNS \$1.60 TO \$2.60 IN BENEFITS**
- * **G.A.O. DEEMS AMERICORPS PROGRAMS STUDIED "WORTHWHILE INVESTMENTS"**

The U.S. General Accounting Office (G.A.O.), watchdog of the federal till, today released its analysis of a first-of-its-kind econometric study done recently by four noted economists that predicted that AmeriCorps national service programs studied will provide an impressive return on investment for federal taxpayers. The G.A.O. report agreed, stating that "as the authors concluded, the three programs analyzed would appear to be worthwhile investments."

In the initial report, *The Benefits and Costs of National Service*, the "Chicago school" economists predicted that, in the three representative programs analyzed, the return on every federal dollar the Corporation for National Service invests will range from \$1.60 to \$2.60 in direct, measurable benefits, noting that "these *measurable* benefits underestimate the *total* benefits." G.A.O. concurred, stating that "during site visits we conducted as part of an earlier study, we observed benefits that may also apply to the three programs the study analyzed, including strengthening communities and fostering civic responsibility. Inclusion of an estimate for the value of these benefits would raise reported benefit-cost ratios."

The new G.A.O. analysis follows an August G.A.O. report that confirms that the program is meeting or beating its budget targets, and catalogues significant accomplishments of AmeriCorps Members.

The initial *Benefits* study was commissioned by the IBM Foundation, the Dana Foundation, and the Irvine Foundation -- three AmeriCorps partners, and Youth Service California.

Eli J. Segal, CEO of the Corporation for National Service, said, "I am gratified that yet another independent look at AmeriCorps yields the same conclusion: AmeriCorps is a great investment. The two G.A.O. reviews, the *Benefits* study, and the survey of programs' results by the firm of President Ford's Commissioner of Education (Aguirre International) help us cut through the fog of rhetoric generated by a few beltway critics. In over a thousand communities across America, AmeriCorps Members are getting things done in a cost-effective way."

"IBM expects a return on an investment, and bases its funding decisions on demonstrable results," said IBM executive Stan Litow. "We (with two other AmeriCorps partners and YSC) commissioned a team of leading economists to provide a conservative assessment of rock-hard, tangible benefits of the programs we invest in (*AmeriCorps*Project First*). The returns are in and the 'return' is considerable. This program works."

The Benefits and Costs of National Service is available from Kormendi/Gardner at 202-822-0900.

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Release: 9/13/95 rev.
Contact: J. TOSCANO
202-606-5000 ext 277

NATIONAL SERVICE, AMERICAN RED CROSS, FEMA JOIN HANDS TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS

- * **RED CROSS and AMERICORPS ANNOUNCE DISASTER RELIEF TEAM**
- * **FEMA TO CALL UP NATIONAL SERVICE MEMBERS TO PROVIDE DISASTER RELIEF**

On Wednesday, September 13th, a day after the first anniversary of the launch of AmeriCorps and the afternoon the Senate Appropriations committee is expected to follow the House's lead in proposing to end the national service initiative, Corporation for National Service CEO Eli J. Segal, Red Cross Board of Governors chairman Norm Augustine, and FEMA Associate Director Richard Kritzm joined key senators and AmeriCorps Members to announce a new partnership to improve the nation's ability to respond to disasters and emergencies. The news conference was preceded by a n Emergency Response demonstration for hill staff.

In both plans national service members will provide services that range from fighting fires to organizing shelter for flood victims to rebuilding hurricane-torn housing.

"One of our seven challenges for AmeriCorps second year is to create more partnerships. We're honored to work in partnership with the Red Cross and FEMA - it is what reinventing government is all about," says Segal. "It's about bringing organizations together in a partnership that recognizes the best aspects of each and combines them in a way to better serve the nation's citizens."

This partnership consists of two initiatives:

1) AmeriCorps and the Red Cross will create a disaster Rapid Response Corps based in Los Angeles. Made up of 42 highly trained AmeriCorps members, the team will be ready to mobilize in response to floods, forest fires, earthquakes, etc. In addition, they will stay on the ground after the initial impact, helping victims recover their property and reclaim their lives. When not responding to national emergencies, AmeriCorps* Rapid Response Corps Members will help underserved Los Angeles-area communities develop their own systems for preparing for and responding to personal disasters (such as single home fires) and those considered national, an earthquake for example. The Rapid Response Corps members will train thousands of residents in skills including first aid, fire prevention, and how to organize neighborhood emergency relief efforts on their own.

"The American Red Cross strives to involve young volunteers in new ways," said Elizabeth Dole, president of the American Red Cross. "This grant to the Red Cross will provide rewarding and hands-on disaster relief experience to this team of young adults and improve the Red Cross' ability to respond to disasters."

"The American Red Cross is extremely pleased to be part of this important venture," said Augustine. "Red Cross disaster relief and preparedness is an opportunity for the young men and women of AmeriCorps to help people in communities when 'Help Can't Wait'. We hope this project will be a model for communities across the nation."

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- more -

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NATIONAL SERVICE, RED CROSS, FEMA**page 2.**

2) The Corporation for National Service and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have signed a Memorandum of Understanding cementing an already strong relationship in which FEMA calls up members of the three service programs - AmeriCorps, National Senior Service Corps, and Learn and Service America - in response to disasters across America. For example, national service members have fought forest fires in the midwest, floods in the heartland and out west, they've worked hand-in-hand with rescuers after the bombing in Oklahoma City, and are at this moment assisting victims of floods in Wisconsin. With this new partnership, FEMA can request the Corporation for National Service to order any of its corps suited for emergency response to a declared disaster scene within 48 hours.

"Over the past year, national service members have proven critical in FEMA's response to disaster operations," said Krimm. The Northridge earthquake, the midwest floods, the Oklahoma City bombing are but a few of the emergencies in which national service members have helped FEMA reach into impacted communities and lend a helping hand. But despite this tremendous contribution, up until now, this help has been ad hoc. Now, with tighter budgets and increasing focus on serving our customers in disasters, this agreement will strengthen our partnership, so that the AmeriCorps members have invaluable training, and FEMA has access to a cadre of highly trained and equipped citizens. The American people win, by having a government that can respond to emergencies with less cost and with greater attention to the needs of the disaster victims."

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Spirited Bayh announces AmeriCorps expansion

GARY, Ind. (AP) —

AmeriCorps will expand in Indiana next month, adding nine new programs and 80 workers a year after the birth of the national service program.

Gov. Evan Bayh announced the moves Thursday while celebrating the program's first year with AmeriCorps participants outside Horace Mann High School.

"What's AmeriCorps about? Getting things done!" they cheered, as groups touted their accomplishments: aiding 1,700 victims of domestic abuse in central Indiana, clearing more than 120 tons of trash in Elkhart County, and renovating six low-income housing units in Gary.

"I wish we could bottle this enthusiasm and spread it around a little," Bayh told the crowd.

In the face of alienation, drugs and violence, Bayh said, "We have forgotten what it means to be family, part of a larger family, all of us coming together."

"That's one thing that the AmeriCorps can help us turn around



Gov. Evan Bayh

by bringing people together, by creating opportunities in this community and across our state."

In its first year, more than 200 Indiana AmeriCorps members worked for nine programs in 14 communities that targeted education, public safety, social services and the environment.

They delivered 43,000 pounds of food to the homeless and homebound in Evansville, assisted 5,000 people with disabilities, and

provided tutoring and support to more than 1,000 youths in the 21st Century Scholars Program, which puts teens on the road to college.

Nine new AmeriCorps programs will be added in September in Indiana, putting 80 more people to work. Federal funding for the state efforts, which are overseen by the Indiana Commission on Community Service, will increase from \$1.1 million to \$1.9 million.

AmeriCorps is a national network of service programs run by nonprofit organizations. About 20,000 AmeriCorps members earn grants for college or job training by serving in more than 350 programs nationwide.

People who commit to a year of full-time service in AmeriCorps receive an \$8,000 living allowance, health insurance, child care and a \$4,725 award that can be used to further their education or repay student loans. Members can also serve part-time.

Participants say AmeriCorps pays other dividends as well. "I love working with this program. This year has done more for me than anything

"We have forgotten what it means to be family, part of a larger family, all of us coming together. That's one thing that the AmeriCorps can help us turn around by bringing people together, by creating opportunities in this community and across our state."

— Gov. Evan Bayh

else in my life," said Debra Bowman, a 28-year-old divorced mother of four who works with the 21st Century Scholar Program in Jennings County.

Bowman, a high school dropout who was on welfare for a time, said she tells teens, "You can learn from my bad decisions. You don't have to make your own."

Today she has a high school equivalency diploma and plans to spend another year with AmeriCorps before attending the Indiana-Purdue University campus in Columbus to prepare for a career in counseling.

SATURDAY
JUL 15 1995

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02



FRONT PAGE

6257 WT-24
Richard Chadwick is a member of AmeriCorps, the Clinton administration's "domestic Peace Corps." Here he helps load bread at the St. Vincent de Paul Assistance Office in Bremerton. One of 54 volunteers county-wide, he earns a monthly stipend and college tuition credits. The volunteers help their communities in numerous ways, but Congress may cut off the program's funding.

Story, photo
on Page A5

Staff photo by Brad Camp

AmeriCorps volunteers sweat it out in Kitsap

By Mark Walker
Staff writer

As she wipes spilled paint from her brow, Kathy Bartel says the self-satisfaction that comes from helping others is incalculable.

But what can be counted is the money for college and the monthly stipend she's earning while performing her altruistic duties.

The 24-year-old Port Orchard resident is one of 54 Kitsap County residents now serving in AmeriCorps, the Clinton administration's program that allows participants to help neighbors in need and earn money for school.

"The thing that caught my eye was the tuition money," said Bartel, who plans to use the \$4,725 tuition voucher participants receive at the end of their 11-month, 1,700-hour stint to complete her education in human services. "I really like the satisfaction you get from helping other people, and the fact I can pay for college on my own rather than borrowing from my parents."

Last week, Bartel was part of a crew refurbishing and painting a Bremerton woman's home.

"I wanted a change from what I was doing and this is something I think this country really needs," said Bartel, who said she was working in a series of low-paying and unfulfilling jobs before joining AmeriCorps.

Beside the paint job, Bartel has since April helped forge a new trail at Clear Creek in Central Kitsap, and planted 52 maple trees at Penderyast Park



The AmeriCorps logo.

in Bremerton.

On Bainbridge Island, AmeriCorps workers help gather, stock and distribute food at Helpline House as well as at eight other foodbanks in the county. In South Kitsap, volunteers maintain and upgrade emergency housing for families in transition.

Also in Central Kitsap, workers are helping restore the Navy-donated, 50-foot vessel Beluga for use by county high schools as a science lab. Others are working with at-risk youth, in domestic violence and crime prevention programs.

"The work is there - this isn't government make-work," said Larry A. Jones, one of five AmeriCorps team supervisors. "A lot of government programs aren't very cost-effective because they take 25 percent of the top for administrative expenses. With AmeriCorps, it's only 5 percent."

AmeriCorps is administered by the county's Community Action Program, with state and federal oversight. Participants must be at least 17 and willing to

work for a \$650 monthly stipend until the end of their stint, which can be 11 or 22 months.

In 1994, nearly all participants used their scholarship money, including two former shipyard workers now training to become recreational vehicle mechanics.

Demand for the program, which runs September through August, is high - about 1,000 applicants this year for 53 slots and 200 on a waiting list, said Russ Donahue, Kitsap AmeriCorps operations manager.

Statewide, more than 800 people are working in AmeriCorps programs, making Washington the third highest in the nation in the number of participants. Some 20,000 Americans, with an average age of mid-30s, are serving nationwide. The two men now taking mechanic courses, however, are both well over age 50.

Donahue has 40 slots available for the third full year of Kitsap's program. That means three of the five community-action teams will be disbanded.

Ending the program would be wrong, said Andre Smith, who at 36 earned a high school diploma with the help of AmeriCorps.

"I want to use the money for trade school and getting my high school diploma makes me feel good," he said. "I need the diploma for the trade school I want and I wouldn't have pursued it without AmeriCorps."

"This is the most inspected and audited program I've ever been involved with and there's no question it's working the way it was intended."

Congressmen differ on program's value

Democratic Congressman Norm Dicks is a wholehearted supporter of AmeriCorps, but freshman Republican Rick White probably will oppose continued funding for the "domestic Peace Corps."

The two Kitsap County representatives will vote this year on whether to continue funding AmeriCorps beyond 1996.

"... Rick's primary purpose is to balance the federal budget and he realizes difficult and unpopular choices will have to be made," said White's press secretary, Connie Correll.

White is not firmly committed to voting against continued funding, but Correll indicated her boss will look closely at a General Accounting Office report that says the program costs more than the administration claims. Republicans contend the costs far outweigh its benefits.

Not so, said Dicks' spokes-

man George Behan.

"AmeriCorps is now an issue for the Appropriations Committee, and if we can find a way to keep it alive we'll do that," Behan said.

"Quite a bit of Norm's support stems from his involvement with the Youth Conservation Corps, which mainly exists today because of his efforts in the past. Norm helped keep that alive when it was under assault and he plans to do the same with AmeriCorps."

The GAO report suggests the program costs almost \$27,000 per participant, far above the \$17,000-\$20,000 estimated by the administration.

On Monday, a House appropriations subcommittee voted to eliminate funding as of October 1996. That recommendation must go before the full committee and, eventually, the entire House and Senate.

TEXARKANA GAZETTE

TEXARKANA, TX
DAILY JUL 11, 1995

TUESDAY

JUL 11 1995

391 BURBELL'S FA

Medical students take pay cut to help communities

By STEFANIE W. BRAZIE
Of the Gazette Staff

Four future doctors are working in Southwest Arkansas this summer for experience rather than money.

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences students are a part of the AmeriCorps program President Clinton initiated in 1994. AmeriCorps is the new domestic Peace Corps that helps finance students' higher education in exchange for service. UAMS is the only medical school in the country chosen to participate.

"I feel that physicians sometimes become too busy and now is as good a time as any to start helping," said Alyson Denson, who is a native of Texarkana.

Two students are presenting hands-on programs at day-care centers in Texarkana, New Boston, Nash and Wake Village. The youngsters are taught safety, first aid, nutrition and hygiene.

Two other medical students are going through charts at county health centers in Miller, Hempstead, Lafayette and Little River counties notifying parents of their youngsters' immunization needs.

"I've learned from the Health

Department about their needs and lack of funding," said Khim Lam, who also speaks Chinese. She is contacting parents about shots through phone calls and postcards.

Beginning this summer, more than 18 pre-freshman and pre-sophomore medical students were placed in eight-week projects in Southern Arkansas.

The students have three years to complete 900 hours of community service. They will then receive \$2,400 that can be applied to tuition or student loans. Additional support for each medical student includes \$172 a week for 45 hours' work and \$100 a week for housing and meals.

Considering the costs of medical school, the financial reward for participating in AmeriCorps is nominal. But the medical students say experience will be their greatest asset.

"I could make more working elsewhere, but I knew I would be able to help the community and I chose this program because I want to teach children," said Thuy Hoang, who also speaks Vietnamese.

Can-do attitude fuels AmeriCorps grad

■ Yamhill County is home to the national program's first six graduates.

By Rene DeCair
The Statesman Journal

McMINNVILLE — When Shannon Smith discovers a hole in the wall, she plants it. If she notices a room is getting a little drafty, she'll weatherize it.

She acquired the skills by volunteering six months with AmeriCorps, the nation's community service program. As for the can-do attitude, she was born with that.

It is that attitude that has led 31-year-old Smith and five other Yamhill County women to become the first AmeriCorps grad-

AmeriCorps facts

What is it: Sometimes referred to as the domestic Peace Corps, in return for community service, volunteers receive education scholarships.

How much they get: \$4,725 for full-time service, 1,700 hours, and \$2,362 for part-time service, or 900 service hours.

How many in Oregon: About 400 volunteers who work with 14 separate programs.

Programs they help: Friends of the Children, the Community Partnership to Stop Violence Against Women, I Have a Dream Foundation and Salmon Corps.

uates in the country.

The women, all mothers who volunteered while receiving welfare benefits, learned last month during President Clinton's Or-

egon visit that they were the first to complete the program.

Clinton used part of his time in the state to promote AmeriCorps, which began during his administration with the passage of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

Being the first batch of graduates is "like winning a prize," said Marilyn Bergema, AmeriCorps coordinator in Yamhill County.

"We were successful under some very difficult circumstances," Bergema said. "We were the guinea pigs."

In exchange for 900 hours of work, volunteers receive a \$2,362 stipend for college. The women, who finished their service in April, also continued to receive their welfare benefits.

The women say the six months

they spent weatherizing homes for the elderly and low-income residents didn't just aid others — it also helped them.

In addition to the skills they learned — all received training as home energy auditors — the women say they gained self-esteem and confidence.

"It was awesome," said Smith, who is unemployed, but plans to start a home weatherization business someday. "I learned I could do a lot more than I ever thought I could."

The women worked 40 hours a week crawling in muddy basements and attics, plugging air holes, caulking windows and sealing doors.

When people saw the all-women crew show up for a job "they thought we were going in to do the paperwork," said 41-

year-old Jennifer Banner, another volunteer. "They were wondering when the guys were coming in to do it."

Banner, who now works for a dental equipment manufacturer in Newberg, signed up for the program to gain new job skills.

"I wanted to learn a new field so I could get completely off of welfare," she said. She hopes to use her education stipend to take classes related to energy conservation and home weatherization.

Beth Banner and Smith agreed working in the winter, outside in the cold and rain was the most difficult part of the job.

"It was definitely hard work," Smith said.

Still, she said she would recommend AmeriCorps to anyone considering it.

"It was a learning experience," she said.



Gary Lewis/Statesman
EARLY SUCCESS:
Smith is one of Oregon graduates of President Clinton's AmeriCorps program.

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Isabelle Rich's volunteer efforts have profound effect

By SHELLEY DOAK *6291AT*
GOLDEN Triangle News Service

MT. PLEASANT—Through her giving ways, Isabelle Rich has had a profound effect on volunteer programs in Mt. Pleasant.

Moving to Mt. Pleasant from Lockridge in 1991, Isabelle began her volunteer efforts after retirement as a machine operator at Metromail for 17 years.

"When I moved to Mt. Pleasant, I lived in Mapleleaf Apartments and used to help some of the residents who would prepare materials for teachers at Harlan School," commented Rich. "That's how I got my start in volunteering."

"After joining the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P.), I became even more involved."

She learned of many volunteer opportunities through R.S.V.P. and Cindy Jones, its director. Rich knew one of the functions of the program was to help others in Henry County, so she joined the group realizing she would be volunteering her time and efforts frequently.

"Cindy called on me to provide medical transportation for senior citizens in Henry County, and once I joined R.S.V.P., I knew I would become more involved in volunteering," said Isabelle.

Her volunteer efforts are numerous with her time divided among various activities.

Isabelle is chair of the Henry County Mapleleaves Low Vision Support Group, Project Coordinator for R.S.V.P. Willing Workers, trained counselor for S.H.I.P., trained tutor for the Adult Literacy Program, provides medical transportation for low income and elderly patients in Henry County, and visits Harlan Elementary School at least once a week as a "Rock 'n' Reader."

"It may seem like I have a lot of volunteer duties, but I find time to be in all of these activities and enjoy being involved in each one," said Isabelle.

Rich has many different functions in each of these areas as she works with several different age categories. As chair of the Low Vision Support Group, Isabelle is involved with organizing meetings and speakers dealing with eye problems. Being trained as a counselor for S.H.I.P., Seniors Health Insurance Information Program, Isabelle helps those with questions concerning Medicare bills.

Director of R.S.V.P. Cindy Jones has worked with volunteers of this program for many years and has tremendous respect for the work Isabelle does.

"Isabelle is one of the most versatile volunteers we have in the program. I know I can always call on Isabelle and count on her to be ready, willing and able," stated Jones.

The "Rock 'n' Reader" is part of the Chapter One program in the Mt. Pleasant School District.

"I go to Harlan Elementary School one day each week to read with a child who has trouble with his or her reading skills. I've been volunteering in this capacity for two years and really enjoy it because I have several grandchildren of my own and it all kind of fits in my life," said Isabelle.

She's also ready to tutor for the Adult Literacy Program. Even though she's been trained in this position for a year, Isabelle has yet to help anyone. She feels many of these people may be too timid to come forward, and hopes people who can't read or have difficulty reading will ask for help if they need it.

The R.S.V.P. Willing Workers also take up many volunteer hours. This is a project group that prepares materials for schools weekly at Mapleleaf Apartments. The volunteers aid teachers in some of their extra projects by helping with some of the "busy work" that teachers may not always have time to do.

Chapter One reading teacher Marilyn Yoder, one of Isabelle's contact people for the school, said she is appreciative of Rich.

"Isabelle is wonderful. She helps children with their reading and she coordinates activities between Harlan and Mapleleaf residents to help teachers with activities like cutting out letters, helping with book orders, etc.," Yoder explained.

"She is always reliable, cheerful and she never complains. My hat goes off to her and I salute all of Isabelle's efforts."

Isabelle volunteers for one simple reason—she enjoys it.

"I volunteer to have something to do. I enjoy people," remarked Rich.

"Trying to help others who need somebody, and volunteering, can be really interesting because I meet all kinds of people. I enjoy people and trying to keep them happy."

Volunteering has almost been a way of life for Rich and her family.

When she was young, Isabelle used to stay with her grandparents and take care of them. Later in life, she also took care of her mother.

"I get a personal fulfillment from volunteering because it feels good to help others. I think this is what my parents would have wanted me to do," remarked Rich.

"I always think that it is good to offer help because there is some day when I won't be able to do some things for myself and I will need help, too."

SEATTLE TIMES

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AmeriCorps at work

E EDITORIAL 6277AT

AS congressional budget-cutters slash their way through the federal budget, some are intent on cutting down President Clinton's national service initiative, AmeriCorps.

Work across the country this summer by 20,000 AmeriCorps participants ought to give them pause.

The fledgling program rewards participants' public service with financial assistance for education or job training. The benefits, however, are far greater than creating opportunity for individuals. Communities gain in ways too numerous to count.

A King County youth volunteer program is just one example. The availability of seven college-age team leaders from AmeriCorps enabled the Youth Volunteer Corps of King County to double its efforts this summer. The result is twofold: Teenagers are occupied in useful chores and necessary tasks are getting accomplished.

The 300 youth volunteers in King County are involved in 33 separate projects, including clearing trails, painting out graffiti, mending library books and tutoring homeless children.

Critics need reminding that the federal government role is minimal and, at \$370 million, a tiny sliver of the national budget. The money pays monthly stipends and education and training grants for participants. What service AmeriCorps members perform is decided at the local level, often by nonprofit organizations.

AmeriCorps fosters old fashioned ideals of responsibility, opportunity, community service. It's a wise investment for taxpayers, and a bargain, to boot. (For information about Youth Volunteer Corps of King County, call 325-7922.)

Seattle Times editorial writers are Ross Anderson, Joni Balier, Mindy Cameron, Lance Dickie, Don Hannula, Terry Tang and James Vesely. Other members of the editorial board are Frank A. Blethen, William K. Blethen and Robert C. Blethen.

Reader response line, 464-8479.

KANSAS CITY KANSAS

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Guest column

AmeriCorps not another bureaucratic albatross

6297AT
"AmeriCorps: Does It Work or is it a Waste of Money" was the topic of recent "City Watch" a public affairs program hosted by Deborah Holmes on KCPT-TCV, Channel 19. It was also the topic of discussion during a recent visit I made to the Russ Johnson radio show.

While both these programs depicted the AmeriCorps program in a most favorable light, the debate promises to get even more heated in the coming months. Congress will decide whether to continue funding for the program in 1996 and whether to preserve the concept of a national service corps.

It is difficult to determine the ultimate outcome of such a debate. Political winds are blowing in unpredictable and unprecedented ways.

"Insider" predictions range from the position that all of the Corporation for National Service programs will be cut, including Retired Seniors Volunteer Program, Vista, the Conservation Corps and AmeriCorps, to the idea that there will be modest funding increases. What does seem to hold steady are the generic criticisms of a National Service.

Having just completed the first six months of the inaugural year of the United Way Neighborhood Corps of Kansas City, Kan., it seems like an appropriate juncture to address some of these criticisms:

■ AmeriCorps is "coerced volunteerism."

AmeriCorps does capture the volunteer spirit — the satisfaction that arises from "making a difference" serves as a central motivator. But AmeriCorps members are neither volunteers nor typical employees.

With the phenomena of upward mobility, the staggering increase in single-parent families, and the high number of working mothers, traditional volunteerism is suffering. AmeriCorps captures an idealistic spirit, but is realistic.

The fact remains that it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to mobilize full-time crews to commit a year

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of service without pay, especially since much of their work is in areas considered dangerous and tough.

■ This program is open to those who are not necessarily economically disadvantaged.

True, AmeriCorps does not discriminate based on a family's income level. Yet nationally about 30 percent are from families with incomes under \$15,000 a year.

It's amazing that those who protest against entitlement programs, work programs such as Job Corps and affirmative action, would protest against a program that promises to enroll members based on merit, talent and potential. That AmeriCorps is open to any American over the age of 18 who is willing and able to work within its policies and guidelines, which is not a reason to cut the program.

The problems facing America are just that — America's problem. It would be wrong to deny any eligible American the opportunity to help tackle these problems through National Service. (By the way, interest applicants can call the United Way office for an application.)

■ AmeriCorps is a "porkish" program.

A recent study by the conservative-minded University of Chicago Business School found that the program benefits for every taxpayer's dollar spent were \$1.60 to \$2.60. The bulk of any AmeriCorps budget is for the corps members' living allowances, benefits and education awards. The living allowance equals minimum wage. Benefits for full-time members include health insurance and, if needed, child care.

If they successfully complete their year of service (1,700 hours), they qualify to

receive an education award of \$4,725. This incentive promises to be a smart way to offer a college education to those who cannot afford it otherwise.

Having prospect students serve a year or two in the Corps to obtain money for college is more cost-effective than Pell Grants or, because of the alarming default rate, student loans. Some colleges will even provide scholarships to match the education award.

■ AmeriCorps is just another government program.

Already, by saying that AmeriCorps is not an entitlement program, I have told you it is not a typical government program. But the difference does not stop there.

Because programs are run through lead agencies (e.g. United Way) on the local level, AmeriCorps avoids the top-heavy symptoms plaguing other government programs. In reality, AmeriCorps is structured very similar to the block grant approach advocated by conservatives. Because local organizations design and run the program, no two programs are alike.

No cookie-cutter approach here: AmeriCorps' structure places available resources closer to the problems and affords a flexibility that respects the needs of individual communities. However, there are standardized quality controls.

In addition, AmeriCorps doesn't rely solely on government money. All programs must raise a minimum of 15 percent of the corps members' costs privately. About 30 percent of our program's budget is raised privately, coming from foundations and businesses. In addition, programs are reviewed on a yearly basis and must reapply annually. This mitigates against the possibility of creating bureaucratic albatrosses.

AmeriCorps is a new name, but if its ideals are uncomfortably new to us, then perhaps we should not be surprised that our nation is in the throes of civil disrepair. It will take the public and private sectors, government and business, private citizens and professionals, rich and poor, as well as charities and the needy all working together to solve our country's problems. AmeriCorps is a step in the right direction.

(Ann Jurcyk is director of United Way AmeriCorps in Wyandotte County.)

San Diego Union Tribune

SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE

8/27/95

Page

of

Peter Rowe

Corps values
leave no place
for politics

Thumbing through the Aug. 11 edition of this newspaper, El Cajon police Capt. Jim Davis was jolted by this headline:

"Anger rise in Clinton corps."

That would be AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program, now completing its first year.

For room, board and an educational stipend of up to \$5,000, corps members devote a year to community projects across the country.

The idea is to instill leadership and patriotism among young Americans. Judging by the news story, the program's most spectacular success was in instilling thin skins.

Some corps members quoted had serious complaints — racial bias, say — but most of the gripes would seem frivolous to anyone out of diapers.

One corps member was mortified when a supervisor asked her to wear a bra. This, the reporter noted, the member found "inappropriate and sexist." Yup, a real outrage.

Capt. Davis read all this with some surprise.

"Well, goch," he told himself. "Must have been a different program."

True, Davis — and I and thousands of other San Diego County residents — know a different program. The real AmeriCorps.

Good news? Hate it

Readers always claim they want more good news. I doubt it.

One person's good news often is someone else's bad publicity. If AmeriCorps succeeds, that's good for the country — and bad for folks who view Clinton as Sata's hillbilly cousin.

If AmeriCorps fails, that's good news to everyone who prizes partisanship over patriotism.

This shouldn't be a left-right issue, unless William F. Buckley is your idea of a flaming leftist. In his 1990 book, "Gratitude," Buckley argued that a system of national service would increase young Americans' love of their country.

"Far from thinking themselves entirely discharged from showing interest in other people, and in other concerns," Buckley predicted, "they would find their appetite stimulated."

That, in fact, is my experience with AmeriCorps. I've seen corps members clean up the Encanto recreation center and tutor severely handicapped students in Coronado.

AmeriCorps' investment in San Diego County is heavy. From Point Loma, the corps' Western headquarters, more than 170 projects have been supervised. While these included painting seniors' homes in Phoenix and restoring trails in Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah, one-third of the projects took place here.

Real work, real benefits

Veteran observers of government boondoggies are probably wondering: So what?

So this. Corps members served 4,600 hours as counselors in San Diego County YMCA camps, supervised 11 environmental camps for six San Diego public schools, updated 585 offender files for the Chula Vista Police Department, pulled 52 tons of garbage from the Otay River, planted 200 sycamore trees along Canon Street.

"Like anything else," Davis said, "some projects go well, some projects don't go well."

The El Cajon project — surveying 6,703 residents about crime in their neighborhoods — went well.

"This was substantial work that needed to be done," said Davis, who supervised the project. "And it wouldn't have been done if they were not there."

Terese Murenaka, an archaeologist for the state Parks and Recreation Department, agreed.

"My group was really focused and mature," said Murenaka, who supervised AmeriCorps workers excavating Old Town's McCoy house. "State parks really owe them a lot. They did really good archaeology."

So did the team digging around San Diego's Presidio. Recently, this AmeriCorps project won the 1995 Historic Preservation Award, given by one of Clinton's GOP rivals, Gov. Pete Wilson.

Wilson was right to resist the impulse to turn a Democratic initiative into a Republican football. Sometimes, the real winners are not Democrats or Republicans, just Americans.

PETER ROWE'S column appears Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. He can be reached by phone (293-1227) fax (235-8916) or e-mail (PeterR210@aol.com).



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AmeriCorps*USA at Five Months

A Summary of Accomplishments from 52 Randomly Selected Sites¹

March 22, 1995

The following report aggregates and summarizes the bulk of the accomplishments of 1,654 AmeriCorps*USA Members serving at 52 sites that were selected randomly from across the nation. Listed accomplishments represent the efforts of approximately 8% of AmeriCorps*USA's operating sites during the first five months of operation--from September, 1994 through January, 1995.

The accomplishments are grouped within AmeriCorps*USA's four issue areas: education, public safety, health and human needs, and environmental and neighborhood restoration. The list, while both long and diverse, is not exhaustive; not every accomplishment has been captured. Nevertheless, the list summarizes the major accomplishments of the selected sites.

¹ Accomplishments listed are from reviews conducted with each operating site by Aguirre International evaluators between February 7 and March 9, 1995.

Education

The AmeriCorps Members helped children and youth from impoverished urban and rural communities to succeed in school. They taught in classrooms, established new learning programs in and out of school, and prepared preschoolers for the demands of school. Specific accomplishments include the following:

- Taught 1,430 and tutored 7,638 pre-school, elementary, and junior high school students in basic educational skills.
- Conducted enriched learning programs and initiated new ones — such as computer-based reading instruction, peer tutoring, scientific experimentation, and programs for children with special needs — for 6,414 children.
- Established after-school and vacation programs to reinforce the academic involvement of 4,656 children.

The AmeriCorps Members helped at-risk children succeed in school by assisting them and their families to develop their sense of civic and community responsibility and to become more stable, more self-sufficient, and more involved in the community. Specific accomplishments include the following:

- Organized and supervised community service projects for 4,469 at-risk children and youth. Projects included neighborhood cleanups and providing food for elderly people.
- Counseled, taught parenting skills, and/or provided problem solving assistance to 390 families, 183 teen parents, and the low-income families of 440 children at risk of failing in school.
- Provided literacy or employment-related training for 694 adults.
- Provided intensive educational support — including regular counseling — to 30 troubled teenagers living in group homes and 33 low-income children, including 22 homeless preschoolers.

Public Safety

The AmeriCorps Members started neighborhood safety programs, mobilized neighbors, and improved community/police relations, resulting in safer communities. Specific accomplishments include the following:

- Escorted 8,500 children to school through safe corridors.
- Started 258 neighborhood safety programs and patrolled 250 vacant buildings to prevent violence, drug-dealing and other illegal activities.
- Initiated 2 programs to improve community/police relations, including assisting a police mobile unit.

The AmeriCorps Members worked to prevent violence in school by teaching mediation techniques, resulting in decreased incidence of violence and negative behavior. Specific accomplishments include the following:

- Resolved 414 school conflicts that might otherwise have ended in violence or with students dropping out of school because of fear of violence.
- Taught conflict resolution techniques to 8,119 school children.
- Counseled and taught alternatives to violence to 1,350 potential or actual gang members and 54 parents of children at risk of becoming involved in gangs.
- Initiated 3 programs to train school and community members to implement violence prevention activities.
- Secured donated materials and created a memorial garden and mural in memory of 3 children slain in the streets.

The AmeriCorps Members worked to prevent violence and drug abuse in families and communities and provided direct assistance to victims of crime as well as referring them to needed services. Specific accomplishments include the following:

- Conducted workshops for 220 at-risk individuals about family violence prevention.
- Answered crisis hotline calls and made referrals for 878 victims of sexual and domestic violence.
- Provided each of 470 victims of sexual and domestic violence with 30 days of counseling and assistance.
- Counseled 35 elementary or high-school students in crisis as a result of rape, violence, or home difficulties.
- Counseled 1,180 teenagers about alcohol and drug abuse.
- Conducted home visits about drug or alcohol abuse prevention with 120 community residents.

Health and Human Needs

The AmeriCorps Members made independent living easier for disabled, elderly, or hospitalized individuals by providing direct support service and by recruiting and organizing community volunteers. Specific accomplishments include the following:

- Helped 123 elderly persons, 50 visually impaired adults, and 9 visually impaired children live independently.
- Provided job-related training, independent living assistance and/or medical referrals for 135 mentally ill or developmentally disabled persons.
- Organized weekly social activities for 400 elderly nursing home residents.
- Constructed wheel-chair accessible trails, ramps, or sidewalks at 3 parks, 5 low-income homes, and 4 public buildings.
- Obtained donated materials, trained 58 volunteers, and repaired the homes of 296 elderly persons.

The AmeriCorps Members provided emergency medical services, as well as health training and education. Specific accomplishments include the following:

- Trained 1,144 inner-city residents in CPR.
- Provided emergency medical services to over 1,500 people.
- Screened 1,100 low-income children for lead toxicity and other health risks.
- Provided health counseling, education, or referrals and transportation to 220 low-income families and over 5,000 individuals.
- Disseminated health care information to 4,567 individuals.
- Distributed 150 children's car seats to low-income families.
- Conducted immunization screenings — immunizing 158 individuals and notifying 500 others of their families' need to be immunized.
- Administered 301 HIV tests and counseled patients regarding results.
- Conducted workshops and distributed information on AIDS and tuberculosis to over 7,000 people.

The AmeriCorps Members helped meet the basic needs of low-income and homeless people for food and shelter. They improved low-income housing, fed the hungry, and improved the methods of service referral and delivery. Specific accomplishments include the following:

- Renovated 238 inner-city housing units and 99 rural homes; began renovation of 121 more.
- Refurbished 2 homeless shelters and began to renovate 3 buildings — one for seniors, one for battered women, and one for the formerly homeless.
- Distributed food to more than 16,625 low-income people and packed 7,000 dinners and 32,000 breakfasts for the hungry.
- Found shelter for 400 homeless families, and sorted and distributed clothes to 350 homeless individuals.
- Secured hospice housing for 27 people with AIDS and helped feed (on a weekly basis) 1,250 people who have AIDS or who are HIV positive.
- Provided housing information or counseling to over 500 low-income and homeless families.
- Secured donated furniture, repaired it, and delivered it to 300 newly-housed families.

Environmental and Neighborhood Restoration

The AmeriCorps Members responded to emergencies, including post-disaster environmental restorations, and worked to improve emergency response capacity in parks and public lands. Specific accomplishments include the following:

- Inspected and repaired 87 small dams, protecting 200 farms.
- Provided disaster recovery assistance to 350 land owners recovering from a flood; activities included sand and soil deposit mapping, advice on pasture and hayland management, watershed mapping, and computer simulations to plan floodplain management.
- Fought 2 major forest fires and saved 1 national park road from washing out.
- Joined at least 5 search and rescue efforts.

The AmeriCorps Members restored and stabilized the natural environment and wildlife habitats. Specific accomplishments include the following:

- Planted 212,500 trees.
- Restored 320 acres of wild land areas by repairing fire and flood damage, re-planting to prevent erosion, and fencing off wetlands to prevent illegal dumping.
- Restored or stabilized 27 miles of riverbed and stream banks to improve the habitat of salmon; fenced another 7 miles to keep cattle from destroying spawning grounds; repaired three aquaculture tanks with a capacity to rear 1,000,000 salmon fry per year.
- Removed 2,000 lbs. of trash from an urban river.
- Monitored water quality in 2 parkland areas.
- Surveyed 5,700 acres of National Forest land as part of reforestation programs to monitor reforestation efforts; conducted biological inventories on 12,000 acres of wetland.
- Built, restored, or maintained 311 campsites, 88 miles of parkland trails, 17 bridges, and 1 mile of forest service road.
- Cleaned up storm debris and trash on 3 beaches, protected sand dunes on one beach, and built one wildlife observation platform and 3 duck blinds.

The AmeriCorps Members improved neighborhoods, parks, and recreation facilities by converting vacant lots, renovating buildings, repairing public facilities, and conducting recycling and conservation programs, resulting in a heightened sense of community ownership. Specific accomplishments include the following:

- Renovated 11 community buildings, including an inner-city medical clinic, community centers, and public schools.
- Converted 29 overgrown lots into green space; built 7 community gardens; planted trees along 30 city blocks.
- Cleaned 27 miles of road, restored 1 community reservoir, removed illegally dumped garbage from one community; and unclogged more than 14,000 storm drains.
- Created 4 playgrounds, designed 1 picnic area, and improved safety at 1 scenic overlook.
- Restored, repaired, or maintained 19 historical landmarks and a traditional tribal longhouse.
- Completed 61 inner-city neighborhood clean-ups — including a city-wide graffiti removal.
- Distributed 1,375 low flush toilets and 1,700 water conserving showerheads in low-income neighborhoods — along with over 1,400 water conservation guides.
- Recycled 920 inefficient toilets and 1,420 inefficient showerheads.

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Reneging on AmeriCorps

The House will decide as early as today whether to take back two-thirds of the money it previously voted to spend this year on AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program. The slashing attack on a worthy program can only be interpreted as an effort to humiliate the President.

In its first year, AmeriCorps has placed 20,000 participants — more than the Peace Corps at its peak — with nonprofit organizations to do valuable community work. With minimal bureaucracy and overhead, participants have cleared crack houses, taught ghetto children and built low-cost housing.

The \$400 million cut looms small in the context of this week's vote on a \$17 billion package of midyear spending cuts, known as rescissions. The decision to rescind \$17 billion is the G.O.P.'s; the budget law required almost none of the cuts.

Why, then, the budget ax? The obvious explanation

is that the G.O.P. is out to slay political symbols, not government waste. President Clinton proudly points to AmeriCorps as a high point of his Administration — a program that reflects his deepest values about public service. The G.O.P. wants to chop Mr. Clinton's pride to bits. But in the service of President-bashing, the Republicans would renege on promises made to thousands of participants. The rescission would send many home in the middle of their service. Never mind that they put off college or other commitments to work for minimum wages and a voucher, worth about \$5,000 a year for up to two years, for college or vocational training.

The Republicans have a right to challenge the value of AmeriCorps. But the proper time is when Congress deliberates next year's budget. The haste to gut the program immediately reflects political animus carried to an extreme.

The Miami Herald

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1995

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Why harm AmeriCorps?

Republican efforts to kill President Clinton's AmeriCorps program may make sense in the brutal vocabulary of Washington politics. But in any other terms, they're plain irrational.

The Senate will vote today on a package of GOP spending cuts that would cripple AmeriCorps. A few weeks ago the House voted to slash three-fourths of the agency's budget for the 1995 fiscal year, now half over. The Senate would pare only half that much. It's the difference between amputating both legs, or just one.

AmeriCorps ought to be a conservative's dream: It helps people pay for college education, but only in exchange for honest labor in the public's service. You might call it a kind of "supply-side social policy." It encourages people to invest now in activities (education and public service) that will pay off — for them, for society, and for the Treasury — both now and later. The GOP's death warrant thus smacks of raw partisanship.

AmeriCorps makes this deal with students who need money for college: Work at minimum wage in an area of national need — assisting police, say, or tutoring children, or rebuilding after disasters — and the government will give you a \$4,725 voucher for each year that you work. The voucher can be spent only on postsecondary tuition or to retire a student loan.

Meanwhile, the country gets a 1990s

SENATE VOTES TODAY
The program lets people
earn college aid via public
service. Why then do
conservatives hate it so?

version of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the popular Depression-era program that helped build national park facilities and parks in many states. AmeriCorps members in Broward are running after-school pro-

grams and helping elderly people secure their homes. In Dade, they're improving parks and helping Habitat for Humanity build affordable housing.

Besides decimating a worthwhile program, the GOP attack on AmeriCorps would invalidate a signed contract between the government and tens of thousands of recruits *who already are signed up and at work.*

To achieve the mandated savings, many of those participants would have to lay down their tools immediately and return to unemployment. No job, no college, no nothing.

AmeriCorps' budget is small potatoes in the search for a balanced budget. Besides, by helping young people get into higher education, it enhances their earning power — and taxpaying — in the future. Given enough time, it will more than pay for itself.

Senate Republicans today should undo the cynical folly started by their counterparts in the House.

AmeriCorps deserves time to prove itself, and its goals — public service and earning your way into college — deserve more than the back of the hand from Congress.

Don't abolish AmeriCorps

Public service program deserves a chance

This week, Sen. Mark Hatfield, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, gets another chance to stand against an aggressive and unwise House onslaught. The House-passed rescission package, now arriving in Hatfield's committee, decimates the new AmeriCorps public service program — after just a single year of operation.

That's not fair to the program, the concept, the people it serves — or the 20,000 young Americans who have put their lives on hold to serve in AmeriCorps. In exchange for their work, they receive a small living allowance, limited health care coverage and had been promised up to \$9,450 in college tuition credits.

In Portland, AmeriCorps volunteers have tutored inner-city students, weatherized older homes and worked at restoring wetlands and a North Portland park. In a letter to the editor earlier this month, Christopher B.

Johnson, coordinator of the Oregon Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, praised the work of 12 AmeriCorps volunteers in lead-paint poisoning abatement.

The House's motive in aborting this program is less than edifying. The Wall Street Journal quoted Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., as explaining, "What we're doing today is a 'get even.'"

At a time when Americans are questioning how much responsibility can be left to full-time government workers, Americorps is a model of an expanded volunteerism that can offer a new approach. Early signs are hopeful; in one year, the program is already larger than the Peace Corps.

AmeriCorps is a promising program of public service. The House has done it a disservice.

The Senate — and Hatfield — can do better.

Unsigned editorials in this column present the views of The Oregonian. Signed columns, letters and editorial cartoons elsewhere on this page and in the opinion section express the views of their authors and cartoonists.

The Oregonian 3/23/95

OUR PERSPECTIVE**AmeriCorps****Don't suddenly put it to death**

By most accounts, President Clinton's national service program — AmeriCorps — has been a great success in its first year. That hasn't saved it, however, from a starring role on the House Republican hit list. House-approved revisions for the current year would require shutting down many corps projects and sending home the young participants. That's not reasonable. At the least, Congress should follow the Senate lead and allow AmeriCorps to fulfill current commitments.

Rather than building a large federal bureaucracy, AmeriCorps was designed to be as decentralized and efficient as possible, relying on partnerships with state and local agencies and organizations. The concept seems to work well.

AmeriCorps also has struck a strong chord with young people. Thousands have committed to a year or more of good work in their communities, and tens of thousands of others are eager to participate. In addition, the education stipend should help prepare participants for effective participation in this competitive global economy.

AmeriCorps is expensive, however. Most estimates put the cost at around \$20,000 per year per participant. If the U.S. budget were in better shape, that amount might win bipartisan support as a worthy investment in national service. But the federal budget is in terrible shape, and Republicans are determined to either kill AmeriCorps or restrict its growth. The House favored a swift death, voting to take back \$416 million from AmeriCorps' 1995 budget

of \$575 million. That would require canceling contracts with hundreds of local partners, sending 1,000 AmeriCorps recruits home immediately and dismissing the rest within a few months. The more moderate Senate proposal would trim AmeriCorps' 1995 funding to the 1994 level. That still would take back \$210 million, but it would allow AmeriCorps to meet its commitments to the young people it has enticed into service and to the communities they serve.

It's clear that in the current political and budgetary climate, AmeriCorps won't be growing into a major national service initiative. One option is to continue the effort as a pilot program; another is to kill it outright. Proponents of either course can marshal strong arguments, but this is not the time for them to do so. That discussion should be held in the context of deciding on funding for 1996, when those in charge of AmeriCorps will have a chance to make their case and will be able to implement Congress' decision in an orderly way.

AmeriCorps has been attacked by many on the right as warmed-over liberalism the nation can't afford. The affordability issue is legitimate: the liberalism charge is hypocritical, coming as it does from folks unwilling to subject veterans programs, farm subsidies and the like to similar scrutiny. The people working in AmeriCorps, in Washington and in the field, have served this nation in a first-class way. Their program deserves better than summary execution.

Cuts will destroy the core of American values

By Theodore M. Hesburgh

The House of Representatives is proposing retroactive cuts that would shut down AmeriCorps, the new national service program. The House would reduce current funding for AmeriCorps by more than two-thirds—funding that was approved last year by a bipartisan coalition in Congress. Believing as I do in the importance of national service and the great potential of AmeriCorps, I urge, on this issue, that we put politics aside and not back away from a program that invests in American values, promotes citizenship and enables people to work together and solve their communities' problems.

Perhaps no concept so permeates the history of our nation nor captures the essence of our religious and ethical tradition as does service. I have seen many types of national service, from the Civilian Conservation Corps, which I served as chaplain from 1940 to '41; to the Peace Corps; to the bipartisan commission I co-chaired in 1979, which recommended a new national service initiative; and to AmeriCorps, the latest and best conceived movement for national service. In the recent debate about AmeriCorps facts sometimes seem to get lost, and that's a shame—not just for the 20,000 Americans interested in joining it, but for the hundreds of communities around the country that AmeriCorps has reached and the thousands that need its touch.

That is where the real AmeriCorps begins: in local communities. It works in our biggest cities, like New York, where the New York's police department reports that recreation areas policed by AmeriCorps members in a 1994 pilot program were free of assaults for the first time in years. Or in Kansas City, Mo., where AmeriCorps members shut down crack houses and build programs that give youth alternatives to drugs and gangs.

AmeriCorps works in smaller cities and tiny rural hamlets, too. Notre Dame has seen AmeriCorps' value. That's why I joined, fielding 40 extraordinary college graduates who teach in South Bend, Ind., schools in the summers and in 30 severely strapped schools in four Southern states during the school year. The principals say AmeriCorps members' spirit and commitment have enriched their students' lives and re-energized their teachers. Those students wouldn't make it without AmeriCorps members—and the 40 members couldn't live out their commitment without AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps is guided by a corporation (the Corporation for National Service), but it has also moved most of the decision-making closest to problems by giving authority and responsibility to the states and by having programs operated by local non-profits. AmeriCorps is funded by Congress, but it requires local companies and foundations to foot a substantial part of the bill. And AmeriCorps is headed by business people, monitored by a private-sector board, and wedded to competition, not politics, as the method by which grants go out and participants join up.

Some have wondered whether the \$600 a month living allowance AmeriCorps members, and the \$4,725 scholarship or student loan repayment they can earn through a full year's service, destroy the spirit of service. It hasn't done so in the Peace Corps. It hasn't in AmeriCorps. Those of us in the clergy take a vow of poverty. Citizens need only take a vow of responsibility. AmeriCorps does demand sacrifice from its members. And for those who answer the challenge, it provides not only the opportunity to pay for college, but the higher gift of making a difference, and the lifelong satisfaction of building community.

Our church has always called parishioners to aid those in need, and Americans of all faiths have been the most generous people on earth. But more is needed. Weekend volunteers return to their jobs Monday mornings, as do parents to their children and the clergy to their congregations. AmeriCorps is designed to make the most out of what each American can give in time and talent—that's why those organizations that have always made service their mission, from the Red Cross to Habitat for Humanity to the YMCA to the Multiple Sclerosis Society—350 in all—have been proud to join the AmeriCorps network.

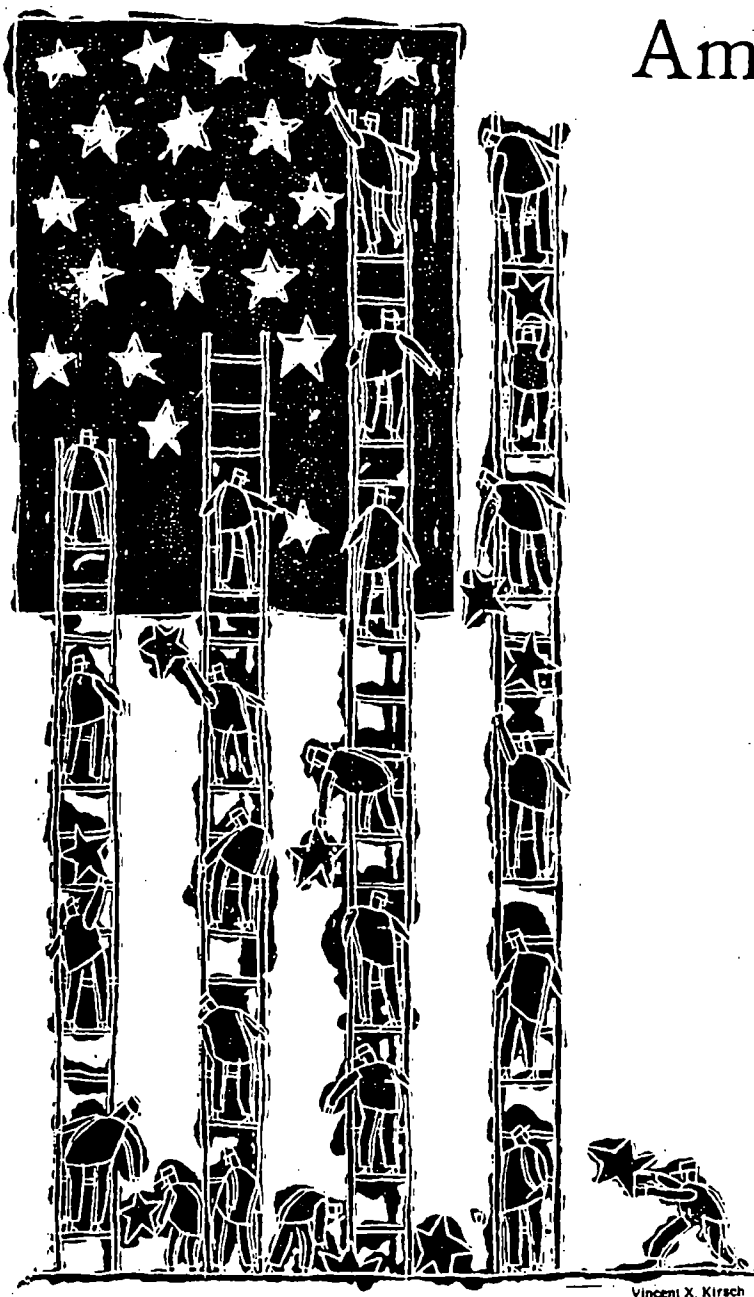
Sixteen years ago our commission concluded that service was critical to the education and development of young Americans for adult lives of productive work and good citizenship. National Service was a non-partisan idea then, as it was when President Bush signed a national service law in 1990. It was a non-partisan idea when Congress created AmeriCorps less than a year and a half ago, as it was when the first AmeriCorps members began serving last fall.

It should be free from political gamesmanship now and given a chance to succeed. Values matter, now more than ever. Let AmeriCorps help nourish the roots of citizenship, so that all our American dreams can flower.

The Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh is a former president of the University of Notre Dame.

AmeriCorpse?

By Robert D. Putnam



Vincent X. Kirsch

JAFFREY, N.H.

It used to be that only liberal knees jerked, but the affliction is spreading to the new majority in Washington. Congressional conservatives, blinded by partisan spite, are on the verge of destroying a model for the sort of leaner, decentralized Government that the Contract for America promises: President Clinton's AmeriCorps national service program.

Last week, the House voted to eliminate almost all of its \$500 million budget, and its fate rests in the hands of the Senate's moderate Republicans, who will vote next week.

Before they vote, the senators should consider Katie Truesdale and Brian Jerose, with whom I shared a recent breakfast at the base of snowy Mount Monadnock here. The breathtaking views from its summit make Monadnock the most-climbed mountain in the country. But the rigorous winters and the steps of a million boots have eroded the trails first cut by Civilian Conservation Corps workers in the 1930's.

The state doesn't have the money for repairs, so Ms. Truesdale, Mr. Jerose and 18 other AmeriCorps volunteers are rebuilding the trails and winterizing cabins. When not on the moun-



**We need
national service.**

tain, they teach classes on the environment at local schools and serve hot meals at a senior center. For their year of service, the volunteers receive a small living allowance and a \$4,725 voucher for higher education.

Ms. Truesdale had hoped to enter college last September but didn't have enough money; she plans to begin the pre-medical program at Dennison College this fall with the help of her national service voucher. Mr. Jerose, who graduated from the State University of New York at Geneseo last May, is planning on graduate school in soil sciences. "I simply cannot imagine leaving this project and not staying involved with community service," he said.

Like the 350 other AmeriCorps projects across the country — from anticrime efforts in Chicago to tutoring underprivileged children in Dallas — the Monadnock project began as a local initiative and is supported by a partnership of nonprofit groups, state and local governments and local businesses. It even has the support of the state's conservative Republican Governor, Stephen Merrill. The community support is vital: since the Monadnock volunteers' cabins lack running water, they depend on the local American Legion and a nearby Christian conference center for warm showers.

Mike Walsh, the manager of Monadnock State Park, said that the trail renovation hasn't been the project's only success. "These kids are inspiring youngsters in the high school and local officials to get more engaged in community affairs," he said. "It's like a year-round barn-raising."

The energy around the Monadnock breakfast table contrasts with the decline of civic engagement in America.

Voting in national elections is down by 25 percent over the last 30 years. Participation in most traditional forms of public involvement — churches, the P.T.A., the Red Cross, unions and even mundane groups like bowling leagues — have all plummeted.

Against this backdrop, only the ideologically blinkered would abort a promising project in community service that reinforces civic virtue. Before the new Congressional majority does away with AmeriCorps, its members should visit this rock-ribbed corner of conservative New Hampshire to see grassroots revitalization at work. □

Robert D. Putnam is author of the forthcoming "Bowling Alone: Civic Disengagement in America."

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1995

I Looked: AmeriCorps Works

By Amy Wu

LIKE House Speaker Newt Gingrich and fellow Republicans, I once bashed the AmeriCorps program shamelessly. I saw it as a jobs program and chastised the young people involved as money grubbers who dared to call themselves "volunteers."

But I have been transformed from cynic to convert. After months of talking with people in the program and watching them plant trees in empty lots, settle disputes in run-down urban schools, immunize children, combat water pollution, and clean graffiti-plagued streets, I am enlightened. These young people, who are labeled "slackers" and "MTV-addicted couch potatoes," are diligent, enthusiastic, hard working, and maintain a balance of idealism and realism.

On a chilly, bright November morning I followed a group of college-aged AmeriCorps workers into New York's Lower East Side where they were transforming a parking lot into a bright and cheerful place. I fired hardball questions at people who were coating parking meters with paint and scouring away at graffiti. "So why did you *really* want to join this program?" I asked each person, one eyebrow lifted in suspicion.

I wanted to believe that they joined because they didn't know what else to do, that they needed the money, that this was an easy alternative to taking out a loan, that it would be a highlight on their resumes, that they would admit with frankness that the dollars were a lure, that they cared more about changing their lives than other peoples'.

I did receive frank answers, but there was a freshness to them. One young woman said she was tired of having her generation labeled so negatively and wanted to show the world the other side of the story.

"I don't sit around and whine all day," she said angrily. "I keep busy. I like helping people. Is there something weird about that?"

In an age when high-profile politicians, high-powered executives, and even religious

leaders perform "random acts of kindness" for money, book advances, and appearances on talk shows, there is something rare about people doing something just because they want to help, to make a difference, to give something back for all they have been given.

A few of them grew up in upper-middle-class suburbia, went to Ivy League schools, and now want to give back to society. Others grew up in poor neighborhoods, battled the hardships of the streets, triumphed, and want to help and inspire those still living in the war zone.

And the money? If you take the grants given to the students and divide by the hours, they are making minimum wage or less. One young man laughed at the notion that he was in it for the money. "If I wanted to make real money, I'd go find me a part-time job," he said. As for recognition? There's hardly any. "The media love to write about those slackers, hackers, and young people that just goof off," he said. "I guess that stuff sells."

After weeks of talking with these young people, watching them toil in the dangerous neighborhoods, rundown schools, and understaffed medical clinics, it was obvious that the communities were benefiting. AmeriCorps has made a difference.

AmeriCorps shouldn't be abolished. It should be endorsed, encouraged, and expanded. Thousands of young people were turned away last year because the 20,000 slots were filled. Many are waiting for more slots to open. AmeriCorps isn't a political issue like abortion, but, tragically, it is treated as one. Republicans believe it's a waste of money. Mr. Gingrich believes it's coercive and forced volunteerism. In truth, the fact that AmeriCorps was President Clinton's idea is the real reason Republicans want to kill it.

If AmeriCorps is axed, it won't be because it didn't work, but because of Washington politics.

■ Amy Wu is a student at New York University majoring in history.

OPINION/ESSAYS

An effective program for young people shouldn't be a victim of partisan politics.

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AmeriCorps helps build character, gets work done

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By David C. Jones

As a supporter of the AmeriCorps national service program and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I was pleased to see President Clinton recognize four AmeriCorps members for their service to our country during his State of the Union address. I was especially gratified that one of those dedicated and determined young people, Philip Wu, is a U.S. Army veteran who is complementing his military service with a hitch in AmeriCorps.

Phillip served as a telecommunications specialist in the Army, then used his G.I. Bill benefits to complete two years of college. As an AmeriCorps member, he builds homes with the Miami Habitat for Humanity program. He draws on skills learned in the military to recruit, train and supervise volunteer builders. From AmeriCorps/Habitat, he has learned skills in all aspects of home construction. And he'll use his education award from AmeriCorps (\$4,725 for each year he serves) to finish college and get his degree. (Veterans earn AmeriCorps benefits without diminishing those they earned in the military.)

Common spirit

Phillip Wu's example shows a common chord of spirit — a spirit that gets things done — in the work of those who serve our volunteer Army and those who serve full time in AmeriCorps. Of course, our men and women in uniform give all that a nation can ask of its citizens, protecting freedom at home and abroad. Their's is a far greater sacrifice.

But just as our armed forces provide for the national defense, AmeriCorps is mounting a national offensive here at home against problems that threaten our society. This offensive involves 20,000 AmeriCorps members serving in locally-run programs, tutoring high-risk children, cleaning up our rivers and streams, working with police to reduce crime, helping disaster victims rebuild. AmeriCorps provides 350 community programs with the best resource

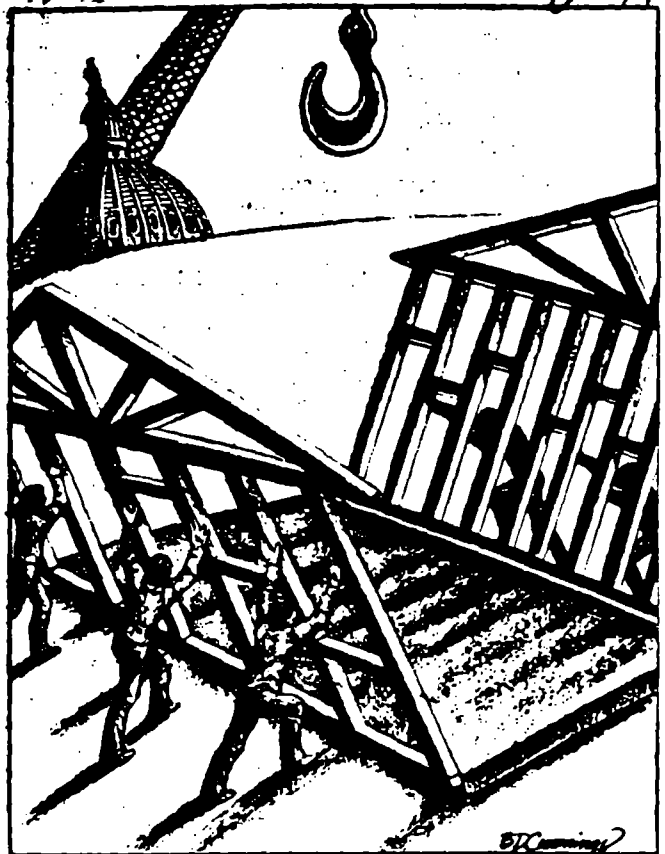
of all — Americans who want to shoulder responsibility and serve our country.

Like our Armed forces, AmeriCorps is mission based. AmeriCorps programs either deliver results or lose their funding. Service builds character while it rebuilds communities, and AmeriCorps members get a chance to give others a hand and get a hand with education costs. But while AmeriCorps invests in the individuals who serve, it makes a far broader investment in renewing our society and enriching our economy. Our communities are leveraging every tax dollar that supports AmeriCorps.

For example, a 10-member team of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps worked with a Baltimore community to build an after-school education and recreation program for high-risk youths. The AmeriCorps team restored a local park, refurbished a nearby recreation center, organized and trained local residents to conduct activities and tutoring programs that give youths an alternative to the streets and build their academic skills.

With its job done, the AmeriCorps team moved onto a new challenge, but left behind a center that serves 75-85 youngsters. The team also helped set up a homeownership and renovation program that trains people to become first-time homeowners.

Other cases in point. An AmeriCorps member in rural Kentucky works every day with children in a public school, teaching them to read so they can compete and won't drop out. In Texas, more than 100,000 children have been immunized and will never need public health services for treatment of a host of diseases — saving



more than five dollars for every dollar invested.

In Kansas City, Mo., an AmeriCorps program closes crack houses and gives youths alternatives to drugs and gangs. And in Miami, with help from Philip Wu, families that once depended on subsidized housing will be paying mortgages on their first homes.

Major investments

These are major, long term investments, both human and financial.

AmeriCorps programs work. They show what we can accomplish when government operates as a true partner of communities. And most important, they build citizenship by enacting an old truth that the men and women in our armed forces learn so well: To earn opportunity you must take responsibility for yourself and others.

Retired U.S. Air Force Gen. David C. Jones chairs the advisory board of AmeriCorps. He served as Air Force chief of staff from 1974 to 1978 and as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1978 to 1982.

Missoulian
Missoula, MT

MISSOULIAN
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1995
MAY 2 1995
BURRELLE'S

TAKE IT BACK

Returning federal money is misguided move

Eight of my fellow Republicans want to send \$2 million back to the federal government to help pay off the national debt.

Bill Rehbein of Lambert, Gay Ann Masolo of Townsend, Susan Smith of Kalispell, Harriet Hayne of Dupuyer, Matt Brainard of Florence, Jay Stovall and Bonnie Martinez of Billings and Dick Green of Victor. In a letter the eight signed and sent to U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns, they said, "We as representatives of Montana do not want this federal money — take it back! Do not give it to another state. Use it to help pay off the debt."

The \$2 million would come from the federal Corporation of National Service which helps fund the Montana Conservation Corps, the Volunteer Montana Program and the Farmworker Training and Service program along with other community service programs throughout Montana. Gov. Marc Racicot's budget request for this program to continue calls for \$73,000 from the state General Fund (and not \$200,000 as Rep. Brainard of Florence indicated) for two years to qualify for the \$2 million federal money. That's a



JEANETTE
MCKEE

federally assisted programs merit our protection and support as not only Republicans but, more important, as Montanans, the AmeriCorps program is it.

Montana is fortunate to have six AmeriCorps programs funded within its boundaries, with over 200 kids working hard, learning and taking responsibility, and gaining confidence. We Montanans are more concerned with crime than ever — particularly juvenile crime. In fact, I am sponsoring another bill — House Bill 380 — which would give judges increased sentencing powers and transfer youths who

pretty good return on the state's investment, I would say.

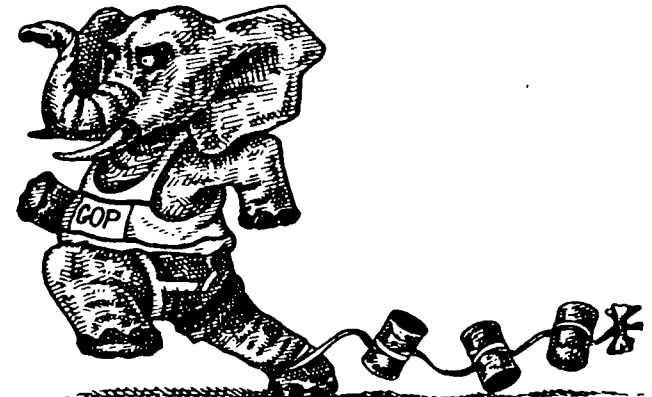
I sponsored House Bill 523 for the Office of Community Service. I believe in this program. I don't want to give the money back. If any

haven't satisfactorily completed their youth sentences into district court at age 18, so I too am concerned about crime. We in Montana are spending millions of state dollars to punish and house criminals and delinquent young people. We're wondering what to do about the increased violence and breakup of families. And now some of my Republican colleagues seem proud to send back federal money that supports our young people in serving their communities in very needed, constructive ways.

These same legislators asked why the young people, some with college degrees, don't go out and get "real jobs." In fact, many college graduates prefer to serve their communities through AmeriCorps, gaining valuable experience, than to work part-time in the local McDonald's, in the local movie house and in local taverns to earn money to pay back student loans. For one year's service in AmeriCorps and \$4,725 for school, Montana Conservation Corps kids are making playgrounds in Billings, collecting and distributing blankets and

coats to the needy and cutting and delivering firewood to seniors in Kalispell. They are upgrading Makoshika Park and Pompey's Pillar for public use. They are building hiking trails around Billings, Bozeman, Missoula, Libby, Stevensville, Glendive and Glacier National Park. They're building picnic tables in Lincoln and built the Rosebud Park in Billings. They're not competing with private or public employees, either — as one of the committee members suggested. State and federal statutes are quite clear about AmeriCorps members not displacing or replacing employees; in fact, the Montana Conservation Corps requires a union sign-off prior to accepting a project.

I pay taxes to the federal government, just like you. I want my money coming back to Montana to use for our own benefit — to use for worthwhile projects like this one. If these eight state representatives really want to do something about the national debt, I believe they need to work on where most of our federal dollars go — to national defense and to entitlements like Social Security and Medicare.



This \$2 million is not an unfunded mandate. This is not control from within the "Beltway." This is an opportunity for Montanans to provide our ethic of service to our young people, to provide a way for them to earn college educations, for communities to benefit from the energy of their young people. I believe service is our ethic. We are not being "tricked" into supporting service to one another — we believe in this value.

Let's get our priorities straight: Do we support punishment and

holding of people with millions of state dollars and indignantly refuse a much smaller portion of federal dollars to support the best parts of our young people who are contributing in a very positive way to their community, to our community, and to both our futures?

I submit these eight representatives know not what they do.

Jeanette McKee of Hamilton is the state representative for House District 60.

THE SUN

SUNDAY,
MARCH 26, 1995

Pay-Back Time

By SARA ENGRAM

It's pay-back time in the House of Representatives. Trouble is, increasing numbers of Americans are beginning to suspect the pay-back is aimed at them.

First, House Republicans over-reached by attacking school lunches — which had never struck ordinary Americans as a glaring example of misplaced priorities.

Then they turned on another popular, bipartisan program — national service — and managed to rescind some \$416 million of its current appropriations. That amounts to 72 percent of the 1995 budget for the Corporation for National Service, enough to eviscerate its fledgling initiatives.

At risk is a program that has enjoyed bipartisan support, that is based on ideals Americans hold dear — and that is winning fans all across the country.

In Baltimore, AmeriCorps workers helped families move their belongings out of houses destroyed by last fall's tornado. Now these workers are providing critical energy and momentum in the construction of a community park at Barclay and 26th Streets. They are tutoring school children, escorting frail and frightened senior citizens on errands and performing dozens of other jobs that make life better and easier in thousands of communities around the country.

In designing these programs, the Corporation for National Service took to heart all the criticisms of past government programs. The projects it funds must evolve at the local level, meeting needs defined by people in the communities. They must attract private-sector support. And they must stand up to

stiff competition in the application process.

Marilyn Smith, who directs Maryland's service efforts, teaches a course about service projects at the University of Maryland College Park and has directed a national summer service project in Baltimore. Nothing's perfect, she says, but the service programs now in place are well designed. They build on individual initiative, they reward social responsibility, they meet local needs. Most important — they get things done with a minimum of red tape.

In Montgomery County, Jeanne Bernard describes herself as a convert. In 1988, in an unpaid capacity, she organized a program for the police department that last year produced 35,000 hours of service from 175 volunteers.

She initially watched the development of the national service programs with some skepticism. Now, with 30 full-time AmeriCorps workers, she is seeing how full-time national-service workers can vastly expand the opportunities for community volunteers. By providing crucial coordination between the department and volunteers, the Ameri-

Corps members are opening doors that didn't exist before.

The legislation establishing national service was passed in 1990 with bipartisan support and signed by President Bush. President Clinton expanded the program in 1993, and praised it in this year's State of the Union address as one of his proudest accomplishments. That's all Newt & Co. needed to make national service a prime target.

This past week brought a glimmer of hope when the Senate agreed to rescind only about one-third of the current budget. That should give supporters of these programs some room to maneuver in conference.

Wish them luck. The \$416 million they would "save" puts at risk millions of dollars already invested in these partnerships by the private sector. It also does damage to the whole notion of public-private cooperation.

It may take an even greater toll in the cynicism it would instill, not just among Americans clamoring for slots in the AmeriCorps program or participating in school-based Learn and Serve programs, but also among the volunteers who are finding useful ways to contribute in less formal ways.

National service is a shining example of solutions to problems we face. It's being pilloried for purely political reasons. Partisan pay-back games may be fun for the inside players. For the rest of us, they're beginning to look like another diversion from the real problems they ought to address.

Sara Engram is editorial-page director of The Evening Sun.

MARY McGRORY

Crib Death for National Service

The House Republicans' strangling of national service in its crib has to be seen not as a criticism of the agency's performance but simply as another expression of the party leadership's notion that no government program is worth a damn.

If they were going by performance, the Republicans might have to applaud AmeriCorps as a model enterprise. It is modestly funded, locally directed and dramatic evidence that American youth is not cynical or self-serving. AmeriCorps has had rave reviews from coast to coast for its 20,000 volunteers, who are doing things nobody else tackles, everything from helping to build housing for the poor and tutoring inner-city school pupils to cleaning polluted streams in Baltimore's watershed.

A case in point is Howard Hogin, a 1994 graduate of Georgetown University. He is living in a cramped barracks at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. He spent September fighting forest fires in Idaho and much of the fall in helping build a riding ring for disabled children. Now he's trying to clean up Maryland's polluted streams. He hopes to pay off his college loans. AmeriCorps pays its workers a minimum wage and an annual \$4,725 toward college expenses.

Service is in Hogin's genes, and by his family's standards, he is a big success. His parents are both social workers and his ancestors experienced big trouble, like the Irish famine and the Holocaust. He says lots of his Georgetown classmates have the same impulse to leave the country a better place but "just can't afford to do it."

Hogin is tactful about the mugging AmeriCorps suffered when the House cut \$416 million, or 72 percent, from its \$575 million budget. He was voted outstanding teenage Republican in his high school class. "I understand that we have tremendous deficits and the taxpayers are heavily burdened, but if we give up what is best about America, what kind of a legacy do we leave?"

No such considerations figured in the thinking of House Republicans. The rap on AmeriCorps was not just that it was a government program, it is Bill Clinton's favorite program. Said Rules Committee Chairman Gerald B.H. Solomon, "It's get-even time."

It is also get-nervous time for the rampaging Republicans. They are winning victory after victory on the floor, but they are losing in public opinion. They have long since maintained that they know exactly what

Nov. 8 was about, that the country wanted government to be shrunk and ordinary people, especially the poor, to pull up their socks. But a recent Washington Post-ABC poll shows that the public thinks Republicans have gone too far. And in his effort to save programs for the poor, Clinton has picked up some unexpected allies, the Roman Catholic bishops. They were reserved about him during the campaign because of his abortion rights stand. But they think now that pitiless Republicans pose a worse threat of increased abortions.

The Republicans' greatest tactical mistake was to meddle with the school lunch program, a popular and scandal-free operation that has helped many a hungry child get through the school day. In vain, the Republicans protested that they had not cut the funds but merely slowed the increase in the growth rate. Nonetheless, the ranks have begun to wince in the iron corset of the contract, and this week, 102 members rebelled against tax breaks for the rich.

The Democrats, who have been having their best week since the calamity of Nov. 8, were sporting "Save the Children" neckties on the House floor.

Eli Segal, the chief executive officer of the National Service Corps, has been summoned before the House Appropriations subcommittee on housing and urban development and veterans affairs for a discussion of the 1996 budget, which since the House action stands at \$159 million, a sum that prohibits serious action.

He has been traveling the country inspecting the workers, deriving solace from moderate Republican governors who are keen about the corps' activities in conflict resolution, environmental cleanup, tutoring and other contributions to urban peace. They agree with him that pulling the plug after less than a year is bad practice. Segal's hope is that they will transmit their enthusiasm to their brother moderates in the Senate, which has become the haven for storm-tossed programs.

Republican Christopher Shays of Connecticut was the only member of his party to vote against the amendment that mortally wounded national service. He is a Peace Corps alumnus and believes passionately in the importance of youthful involvement.

"A colossal mistake," he calls his party's action. "I hope the president has the fortitude to veto the bill. I would support his veto."



**GINNY
KOPAS**

Thursday, March 16, 1995

He hopes Americorps will survive

For Newt Gingrich, it's "coerced volunteerism." But for Matt Moore, it's "a chance."

Thus, the ideological battle over Americorps could be waged in our own Westmoreland County back yard — by the powerful Speaker of the House and a shy stock boy from Greensburg.

Gingrich, R-Ga., maintaining that Americorps defeats the concept of volunteerism, has vowed to end the program that President Clinton calls the proudest achievement of his presidency, a program that Moore, like millions of other young Americans ages 18 to 24, looks to for the future.

Americorps is a national service project that gives student volunteers up to \$4,725 per year to help pay for college tuition or vocational training in exchange for full-time, minimum-wage work.

In its first year Americorps has put 20,000 young people, 400 in Western Pennsylvania, to work in 300 communities across the nation in areas from flood clean-up in California to caring for the elderly in Memphis.

Clinton says Americorps is a bureaucracy-free program (workers are hired locally) that is at the heart of his "New Covenant" — the theme on which he ushered in his presidency. That covenant calls for government to create incentives to help Americans take more responsibility for their lives.

Gingrich, however, calls the corps just one more bloated bureaucratic program that should be axed.

But it's this promise from the man from Hope (Ark.) that gives Moore hope.

"From the moment I heard his campaign promise I've held on to the hope this could help me," he says.

Moore, 20, graduated from Hempfield High School in June. Learning disabled, he was mainstreamed and made the dean's list his senior year. He was named the high school ice hockey team's "Most Improved Player," as well as its "Unsung Hero."

Readily admitting that he has "to work harder than other people" to prove himself, Moore insists that has given him a sturdy foundation to help others.

If accepted into Americorps (and assuming the GOP doesn't dismantle it as part of its plan to balance the budget), Moore would like to work in the field of public safety. And even here the slight young man with the big smile comes prepared: he spent two years as a junior volunteer firefighter with Greensburg No. 7 fire company.

Moore appears to be exactly the kind of young person for which Americorps was designed: he wants to do something worthwhile with his life and feels a "deep sense of responsibility to work hard." Moore's been acting on that commitment since age 14, delivering newspapers and stocking at grocery stores while studying overtime to graduate.

But this youngest child of divorced parents now needs a structured way to earn his own money to pay for desperately needed but expensive, post-high school training.

He also needs Americorps' limited health insurance and the monthly \$400 stipend, even while living in the dorm-like settings of Americorps residences at downsized military bases like Aberdeen, Md., or the closed Lowry Air Force Base near Denver.

Moore would use his Americorps tuition to continue studies at Westmoreland County Community College — where he earned a B in his first class — and eventually get a degree in the field of public safety or environmental studies.

But Moore's hopes notwithstanding, Americorps faces an uphill battle on Capitol Hill.

Jim Russell of Americorps' Washington, D.C. office, puts it in perspective. He says it is unfortunate that the corps has become so politicized.

"What this is really all about is helping people help people."

How well Matt Moore knows:

THE WASHINGTON POST

Sunday, March 5, 1995

Eli J. Segal

AmeriCorps: Making a Difference

The House Appropriations Committee proposed last week to renege on a bipartisan commitment to thousands of Americans, by retroactively slashing funds already authorized and appropriated for AmeriCorps members by more than one-third in the current fiscal year. Working families with college-age members willing to serve their communities full-time for a full year—and who are counting on the new AmeriCorps program to help them afford college educations—will be especially hard hit if the congressional commitment is not kept.

A year and a half ago, a bipartisan Congress mandated a three-year phase-in of AmeriCorps. Six months into its first operational year—with 20,000 citizens working in communities across America, without the benefit of any congressional hearings to consider the benefits of the work they are doing—House appropriators would now turn the phase-in into a phase-out.

AmeriCorps is a funded non-man-date—a decentralized approach that moves most of the decision making and responsibility to the states that elect to compete for AmeriCorps members,

along with the funds to carry out the mission. Fewer than 200 people in Washington oversee 20,000 members on 1,100 projects in communities across America. That's why rescission would have such a devastating effect—any cuts made on Capitol Hill would directly cut the number of members who are working in the field. One thousand members would be sent home immediately, and 15,000 fewer young people would have the opportunity to begin service in September.

The public-private partnership of AmeriCorps would be undermined if the "public" reneged on its commitment. Programs are required to raise 25 percent of operating costs and 15 percent of the living allowances from private sources. Private investment in AmeriCorps has been remarkable; in its first year of operation, the corporation has received hundreds of commitments from companies such as General Electric, American Express, IBM and a myriad foundations. Our business partners make investments based on stable growth, fulfilled commitments and real results. They might understandably be

wary of a partner tossed by political currents.

AmeriCorps should not be penalized for rewarding results. The Corporation for National Service makes its grants after a tough evaluation process—that's why AmeriCorps awards funded in FY 1995 are not made until late in the fiscal year. AmeriCorps funds programs that work well and get things done and eliminates those that don't. AmeriCorps members and communities should not be made the victims of this "smart government" approach.

AmeriCorps may be new, but members are already meeting challenges in public safety, education, environment and human needs:

- The New York Police Department reports that recreation areas policed by its AmeriCorps members in the 1994 pilot were free of assaults for the first time in memory.

- AmeriCorps members in Kansas City have shut down 12 crack houses and reclaimed a neighborhood's only park from gangs.

- In rural Simpson County, Ky., AmeriCorps members tutoring half of the

county's second-graders are raising reading scores from two grades behind grade level to one grade above in one year of service.

- AmeriCorps members have also been on the front lines in natural disasters, from the floods in California, Houston and the Mississippi River Valley to the Idaho forest fires and the California earthquake. FEMA official Richard Krimm wrote: "They have helped literally thousands of victims pick up the pieces of their lives."

Moreover, AmeriCorps members are still there, long after the waves of initial volunteers have had to return to their jobs. That's why many of our nation's premier charities compete for AmeriCorps members. From the YMCA to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, from the Red Cross to the Children's Health Fund, from Notre Dame to the National Council of Churches, they know that the focused efforts of full-time, trained and committed AmeriCorps members help them accomplish more—and deploy part-time, sporadic volunteers more effectively.

A perfect case in point: In Miami, 26

AmeriCorps members working with Habitat for Humanity have learned all facets of home construction and have trained, supervised and worked beside 2,700 temporary (and uncompensated) volunteers they've attracted since October. As a consequence, the AmeriCorps team is nearly halfway to its goal of building 90 homes in Miami this year, and members are teaching working families how to make the transition from renting to homeownership. Habitat's Jerry Bass says, "We could not do this job without them."

We do not maintain that AmeriCorps will end crime or illiteracy, pollution or hunger, but AmeriCorps members are making a real difference every day in communities across America. We should strive to match their commitment to making our country even better instead of letting them twist in the political winds. They have earned a chance to be America's next generation of heroes.

The writer is assistant to the president for national service and chief executive officer of Corporation for National Service.

A few questions for AmeriCorps

Editor's note: The following is a memorandum circulating today from John P. Walters, president of the New Citizenship Project.

Today, the Board of Directors of AmeriCorps' governing body, the Corporation for National and Community Service, meets here in Washington. And, boy, do they have a full plate! After all, it's no secret that House Republican leaders have announced they oppose funding for the program. And House appropriators have already reduced AmeriCorps' fiscal year 1995 budget by approximately \$210 million.

After months of treating the public to the camera-ready smiles of young "volunteers," the media's honeymoon with AmeriCorps shows signs of ending. AmeriCorps lost considerable credibility as a result of last week's report on NBC Nightly News by Lisa Myers. Myers uncovered numerous shoddy practices, including an environmental project in Alaska that costs taxpayers \$42,000 annually per volunteer and a \$140,000 seed grant which, rather than funding community service, went to pay educators at

Northeastern University to develop "a plan to compete for more AmeriCorps money next year." Confronted with these facts, AmeriCorps' Washington bureaucrats sought to regain the moral high ground by boasting about a Lubbock, Tex. immunization program. So Myers investigated—and found even more trouble. The director of that program, Marge Tripp, admitted that she markets AmeriCorps not as a service program that pays college tuition, but as a jobs program. Not surprisingly, most of Tripp's "volunteers" are not getting "educational awards," but are receiving \$1,200 in cash.

If AmeriCorps' board still doubts that this program is fast becoming another big-government boondoggle, we'd like them to explain the following:

1. What pressing need led to a \$100,000 planning grant for a "volunteer corps" in the Virgin Islands? And will any Washington bureaucrats be doing site visits this winter?

2. Why was the Council of Great City Schools (CGGS) awarded a \$200,000 planning grant? This money isn't headed to the class-

room; like Northeastern U., CGGS doesn't have a single volunteer. AmeriCorps itself admits that the CGGS is devoted to the "advancement of education in inner-city public schools through public and legislative advocacy."

3. In the face of AmeriCorps claims to be apolitical, why was the

The media's honeymoon with AmeriCorps shows signs of ending.

radical group ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) awarded 42 volunteers at a cost to taxpayers of \$1,143,411?

4. If AmeriCorps aims to promote grassroots community activism, why was the federally funded Legal Services Corporation (LSC)—long regarded as the litigation arm and defender of the welfare state—awarded 44 volunteers

worth \$959,900? (By the way, lucky taxpayers may also foot some of the bill for an additional \$1,242,784 in "LSC matching funds" for the help from AmeriCorps.)

5. Why, if AmeriCorps seeks to strengthen America's voluntary, local institutions, are well over one-fourth of its 20,000 "volunteers" working in federal or state bureaucracies or in government-funded programs? If AmeriCorps isn't just the latest extension of big-government liberalism, why have approximately 2,800 "volunteers" been assigned to federal departments and agencies, most notably, Agriculture (1,200 "volunteers"), Interior (525 "volunteers"), Justice (210 "volunteers"), the Environmental Protection Agency (135 "volunteers") and the National Endowment for the Arts (60 "volunteers")? And how much more in matching funds is the federal government shelling out?

These stories are just the tip of the iceberg. As Senator Charles Grassley has commented, "The more I look into AmeriCorps, the less accountability I find to the taxpayers."

Continued scrutiny will confirm that AmeriCorps is a wasteful, sugar-coated jobs program heavy on payoffs to traditional liberal constituencies and short on genuine volunteerism.

An ill-informed attack on service

By C. Richard Allen

Having apparently decided it hadn't seen a John Walters memo it could avoid publishing, The Washington Times added another chapter to the hogwash about AmeriCorps.

Mr. Walters' latest drive-by shooting of the truth is the assertion that "there is evidence in that AmeriCorps may be harming military recruiting." The "evidence" is as non-existent on this point as it has been in Mr. Walters' previous diatribes. And once again, in his haste to get to print, Mr. Walters didn't make even minimal research efforts.

He didn't mention that the secretary of defense, in his annual report to the president and Congress issued just last month, found definitively that "National Service programs will not jeopardize [military] recruiting programs." That's not "evidence" in the Walters world.

Common sense is equally AWOL. The armed forces recruiters concentrate on high school-graduate, able-bodied males, between 18 and 24. There are 900,000 males in this age category. Total recruiting in the armed services (male and female) is fewer than 200,000 per year. And each year, more than 40,000 individuals wish to join the armed forces but fail the physical. That's twice the size of AmeriCorps. And look at AmeriCorps members' demographics: 64 percent are women; 38 percent are over 24 years old; 11 percent don't have high school degrees (making them ineligible for the military); more than 4 percent are disabled, and we estimate that at least that number have already served in the military. While these categories overlap, it doesn't appear that

AmeriCorps has more than 5,000 members who meet the prime military profile — and there's no particular reason to believe that they would have considered a military career.

So what's Mr. Walters' evidence? There's no Department of Defense study. Marine Sgt. Major Overstreet, at a recent congressional hearing, did mention in passing that 47 percent of young men in a Marine Corps survey said they'd consider joining AmeriCorps, and concluded that "prospects with some interest in the Military are open to other alternatives." Hardly explosive.

But while Mr. Walters chose to make much of this statement, military experts quickly indicated that the "survey" shouldn't be read to indicate any negative impact of AmeriCorps on recruiting. The Marine Corps surveyed 800 young men; only 11 percent (i.e., 88 men) could even identify AmeriCorps. Then, after having been given the

The secretary of defense found definitively that "National Service programs will not jeopardize military recruiting programs."

statement that "the new National Service Plan and other programs offer better ways to get money for college," 47 percent surveyed said they'd consider joining (by the way, this is down from 52 percent in the past two surveys). No kidding.

Mr. Walters missed all of this. He also missed the testimony of the service personnel chiefs, each of whom stated unequivocally that national service has had no negative impact on military recruiting. The chiefs also noted that last year was the third best for recruiting in the history of the All-Volunteer Force. All of this was reiterated in a March 15 letter from Assistant Secretary of Defense Fred Pang to House National Security Committee Chair Bob Stump — which Mr. Walters also "overlooked".

It's springtime, John — and if you can't stop to smell the flowers, at least slow up enough to check the facts.

C. Richard Allen is the chief external affairs officer of the Corporation for National Service, which oversees AmeriCorps.

Press Conference
Erie Chapman, CEO U.S. Health
March 23, 1995

I am Erie Chapman, the President and CEO of U.S. Health, a large, non-profit, health care system with 11,000 employees and \$800 million in net revenues. More important, today I am here as the volunteer Chairman of the Board of City Year Columbus.

City Year Columbus--like the City Year programs in American cities from Boston to Chicago, to San Jose, receives significant support from AmeriCorps. City Year is a spectacularly successful example of **Public-Private Partnerships**. Private corporations like U.S. Health, Bank One, The Limited and Timberland have put hundreds of thousands of dollars behind the City Year effort. But that's not enough--AmeriCorps support has made the difference. It was their funds which helped leverage contributions, support and stability--the kind of stability which gets the private sector, like my organization, to commit and young people to sign up. With AmeriCorps we reached many more people.

Now that the private sector has made its commitment, and young people have made their commitment, it is astounding and outrageous to me, as a business leader, community leader, private citizen and, incidentally, a registered Republican, that the House of Representatives would actually withdraw its commitment.

To me, the House is acting like a **bomber pilot gone off course**. They're not only bombing innocent citizens, they are stealing a chance for solving some of the toughest problems inner cities face. If their actions stand, it will take away jobs and take away hope from people I have come to know in the City Year Corps--like 19 year old Don Gladden. Don is a former gang member who has pulled away from his gang to join the Corps. I asked him what he would be doing if it weren't for the Corps--He said, *"I'd be standing on street corners attacking people, robbing people, beating them up, fighting with other gangs, you know, stuff like that. I'd probably be dead or lying in a hospital some where if it weren't for the Corps"*.

Hospitals are where I work. For twenty years, I've seen people like Don come into our emergency rooms because they've been shot or stabbed. Or I've seen the victims of people like Don--who come in having been shot or stabbed. It's expensive.

Before I ran hospitals, I was a federal prosecuting attorney under a previous Republican administration. I saw people like Don there too. Arrested for armed robbery or kidnapping. And I saw the victims of people like Don as well. It's expensive.

Press Conference - March 23, 1995
Statement: Erie Chapman, CEO U.S. Health
Page Two

I know what hospitals do--it's expensive. I know what courtrooms and prisons do--it's expensive and it often doesn't work. Now I know what City Year and AmeriCorps do--they save people like Don and help make them into productive citizens. If Congress wants to save money, save AmeriCorps and City Year. They're not as expensive--they save dollars and lives and careers. If they think AmeriCorps is expensive--wait until they see the cost of killing it.

A few months back, I was enthusiastic about much of what I saw in the plans proposed by my fellow Republicans, including our Congressman and good friend John Kasich. I thought the idea was a Contract for America, not a Contract on America. I didn't realize they planned to put out a contract to kill/cut programs like City Year and destroy AmeriCorps. America's strategic plan needs to be to build healthy communities and simultaneously reduce violence. Everybody says they agree with that. Well, these are the programs that have the best chance to save our young people and save our cities. These programs are like preventive medicine--always better and less expensive than the alternative. Now these great programs may be killed or fatally wounded--cut off in mid sentence--before the point has been made.

I would challenge Congress and the press to visit programs, hold hearings, get facts and they will discover that a balanced budget is important--yet without balanced human beings, NO budget can work. AmeriCorps works, City Year succeeds. They must be saved. Don Gladden and thousands of others are counting on us. And they're counting on Congress.

GOP targets Clinton's pet program

Pledge of veto draws backlash

By David R. Sands
 THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A1

There was little enthusiasm in Rep. Jerry Lewis's voice as the California Republican proclaimed what could be the death sentence on one of President Clinton's proudest accomplishments.

With the president readying a veto of a \$16.4 billion spending-cuts package for 1995, Mr. Lewis, a nine-term representative, all but promised that the upshot would be no funding in the fiscal 1996 budget for Mr. Clinton's AmeriCorps national volunteer service program.

Never a big favorite with Republicans, AmeriCorps "will be a larger target than even before," Mr. Lewis observed during floor debate on the spending cuts bill last week.

"That program will be a victim of this debate and this veto," he said. "The writing is on the wall."

Even Republicans conceded Mr. Clinton will likely win the veto battle. The House passed the cuts bill on a 235-189 vote, far short of the two-thirds margin needed to override the veto.

But GOP congressional leaders said the Clinton administration stands to lose the budget war, with bigger cuts in Mr. Clinton's pet programs on tap in the coming round of appropriations hearings for the fiscal 1996 budget.

Mr. Lewis's opinion matters: He is one of 13 members of the "College of Cardinals" — the powerful subcommittee chairmen of the House Appropriations Committee. They exert immense influence on where many of the cuts will come in hundreds of government programs GOP leaders have targeted in the race to balance the budget by 2002.

By way of illustration, nearly

AmeriCorps "will be a victim of this . . . veto. The writing is on the wall."

— Rep. Jerry Lewis

half of the proposed cuts in current-year spending — for public housing, for AmeriCorps, for the Environmental Protection Agency — went through Mr. Lewis's Veterans Administration, Housing and Urban Development subcommittee.

Longtime incumbents on a committee that traditionally values bipartisanship, the cardinals tend to shun the fire-breathing fervor of the newer GOP members. But several offered unusually harsh critiques of Mr. Clinton's role in the

see VETO, page A14

From page A1

spending-cuts debate, promising that the administration's tactics will cost them.

"The president's unwillingness to be at the table in these negotiations is irresponsible in the extreme," said the usually low-key Rep. John Edward Porter, Illinois Republican and chairman of the Appropriations panel that recommended heavy cuts in education and labor programs supported by the White House.

"His veto threat is incomprehensible," he said.

Rep. Jim Ross Lightfoot, Iowa Republican and the cardinal who is chairman of the Treasury, Postal Service and general government subcommittee, charged that the administration refused to share information on federal building projects that could be shelved, a charge denied by Budget Director Alice Rivlin.

Whether the White House had warned congressional budget-writers of its objections to the spending-cuts bill remained a matter of sharp partisan dispute.

Rep. Robert L. Livingston, Louisiana Republican and chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said that "after four months of silence" Mr. Clinton waited until a Senate-House conference finished work on the massive package before issuing his veto threat.

But White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said Mr. Clinton had consistently made clear his objections to cuts in education, social and welfare programs in the bill.

"The president's position on these issues has been stated time and again," Mr. Panetta maintained in a letter to Mr. Livingston. "I am mystified as to how you could have mistaken it."

Republicans reacted angrily to Mr. Clinton's suggestion that they had killed his social and education reforms while keeping money in for "pork." The GOP members noted the spending cuts bill tar-

geted only programs and projects that had been passed by a Democratic-controlled Congress and signed into law by Mr. Clinton himself. The "pork" GOP legislators failed to target, in other words, had been put there by the Democrats.

Issuing the most explicit warning was Rep. Bud Shuster, Pennsylvania Republican and chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The White House singled out for criticism 10 highway construction projects worth more than \$200 million in Mr. Shuster's district left untouched by the spending cuts bill.

But Mr. Shuster challenged the White House's calculations and

"The president's unwillingness to be at the table in these negotiations is irresponsible in the extreme. His veto threat is incomprehensible."

— Rep. John Edward Porter

pledged to remember the charges when new highway funding projects come before his panel.

"If this is the way they want to treat transportation, to politicize it," he said on the House floor Thursday evening, "we will have to respond in kind."

The Senate is expected to pass the spending-cuts bill this week, but already heavy lifting has begun on spending levels for the fiscal year 1996 budget. Mr. Livingston said a veto would kill any chances to get a head start on deficit reduction this year.

"If we postpone these choices until 1996, it just means all these causes are going to be that much harder hit," he said.

File
Americorps

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: Maggie Williams

LOCATION: White House

PHONE # 456-62⁶⁶~~47~~

FAX # 456-6244

FROM: Anne Ostberg AO

PHONE #: 202-606-5000, ext. 292

FAX #: 202-565-2789

OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 6

MESSAGE: Here's the information you requested for the President's speech before the delegates of the White House Conference on Aging. Please let me know if you need anything more.

1201 New York Avenue, NW
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Telephone 202 606 5000

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Sector Service Corps

(Senior Corp overview, continued)

Senior Corps: America's smart investment

The Senior Corps involves one half million older Americans in service to thousands of communities across the country. Like all good investments, the

Senior Corps demands results. Examples of how the Senior Corps directly affects our communities follow:

- Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteers in Camp Springs, Maryland, review over 5,000 state and federal income tax returns for seniors each year through a local tax counseling program.
- ➔ In Lebanon, New Hampshire, RSVP volunteers teach decision-making and life skills to prisoners. With RSVP's help, recidivism has decreased by 40% and the county has saved \$375,000.
- During the 1993 Midwestern floods, RSVP volunteers in Missouri drove more than 54,000 miles to take people who were stranded to and from medical appointments.
- ➔ Every year in Clarksville, Tennessee, five Foster Grandparents at the Blanchfield Army Hospital outpatient clinic save an estimated 800 appointments and 200 hours of doctors' time.
- Last summer, Senior Corps members helped stop crime across the country by starting over 900 block watch, citizen patrol and victim assistance programs as well as new police mini-stations.
- This year, RSVP volunteers in Snohomish County, Washington, tutored 800 immigrants from Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe.
- Birmingham, Alabama's Senior Companions are part of a health care network that enables more than 100 of its frail elderly citizens to live independently.
- RSVP volunteers provide Bakersfield, California, with more than 92,000 hours of community service each year. They work with veterans, homebound adults, abused children and the homeless and are involved in drug prevention, literacy and environmental protection projects.
- ➔ In Provo, Utah, last year 156 RSVP volunteers worked with 1,500 at-risk children. Next year, they will double that number and, ultimately, help 10,000 children by the year 2000.
- RSVP volunteers of Wake County/City of Raleigh, North Carolina, have donated 1.8 million hours of service since 1973. The cost per service hour has consistently remained below \$1.25 and nonfederal funding has totaled more than \$500,000.
- In Bloomington, Indiana, RSVP volunteers work with local sheriff and police departments to start crime watches, produce educational materials regarding safety and train seniors to do home security surveys.
- In Las Vegas, Nevada, more than 400 frail elderly people are able to remain living in their own homes because of the assistance of Senior Companions.
- ✓ RSVP service in Austin, Texas, is valued at almost \$3 million dollars each year. Since RSVP volunteers have been helping feed and protect the baby swans that live in the area, the waterfowl population has increased by 40 percent.
- By helping seniors maintain independent living, Senior Companions in Maricito, Ohio, provide nearly \$1 million worth of caretaking services each year.
- In Little Rock, Arkansas, Foster Grandparents last year provided over \$300,000 worth of service to local organizations responding to needs of children.
- In Lafayette, Louisiana, Foster Grandparents are working with 700 families to help in the development of good communication skills, nonviolent discipline methods and proper nutrition practices.

**Excerpts from Testimony of Eli J. Segal
Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National Service
House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee
April 4, 1995**

....For example, working with other Corporation programs, The RSVP, Foster Grandparents, and Senior Companion programs all participated in an effort this past summer which demonstrated the incredible capacity of seniors to start more than 850 new block watch programs, 16 new citizen patrol programs, six new victim assistance programs, and to open four new police mini-stations. In addition, the Foster Grandparent Program was able to expand services to Head Start parent-child centers, helping very young children from disadvantaged backgrounds, as a result of the availability of Corporation demonstration funds.

And the RSVP program was able to develop twelve inter-generational demonstration projects which have resulted in partnerships with local youth organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs and have become an effective model to be replicated through the RSVP network of 765 projects across the country. A similar partnership pairs RSVP with Youth Volunteer Corps of America (YVCA) projects through YVCA's AmeriCorps project.

Behind the numbers and data are the people of the Senior Corps:

Jim Boal of Eureka, California was a systems engineer who was forced to retire early after he suffered several heart attacks. He says he was feeling depressed about his sudden change in lifestyle. Then he discussed with his retirement coordinator a wheelchair ramp he had built for his father. The conversation led to Jim's RSVP assignment with the Humboldt & Del Norte County RSVP Access project, where he has now volunteered for 15 years. Jim designs and installs ramps and shallow steps for seniors using wheelchairs and walkers. He says he enjoys being able to "give disabled seniors access to their own homes and the outside world." His project director says the seniors could never afford to have special equipment installed in their homes, and without the equipment, some would have to be institutionalized.

Mel Nowland, a volunteer in the RSVP of Oklahoma County, Inc. program has rebuilt, set up, and programmed nearly 250 computers for area non-profit agencies and community organizations. Together with friends, he formed UPGRADE, which takes company and individual donations of computers, which he repairs and upgrades....

...Ann Crevey, 69, with the Union-Snyder FGP of Laurelton, Pennsylvania since 1988, serves troubled children and teenagers. She teaches them to express their feelings in non-violent ways and tutors them in remedial math and reading. Crevey also serves as a surrogate parent to one boy with no family. One of "Grandma Ann's" clients, five year-old Ryan, who she met in a class for developmentally disabled children, had a short attention span and couldn't communicate. Grandma Ann discovered that these deficiencies were caused, not by a handicap, as was previously thought, but by a hearing loss. In addition, her discovery of cigarette burns on Ryan's arm revealed that he also was abused.

Crevey became a foster parent to Ryan, and under her care, the boy blossomed. Within a month his lethargy subsided and in less than six months, his behavior and academic progress improved so much that he was removed from his special education class and placed into a class with his typical peers. Today, Ryan has new adoptive parents and is a happy, active, well adjusted ten-year-old who gets good grades, plays soccer -- and still telephones his Grandma Ann...

...Rheba Smith, 84, has been a Senior Companion in Michigan for five years, giving respite care to the families of stroke victims. She helps one client, whose speech is slurred from the stroke, with restoration of language skills and motion exercises. She provides respite care to the schoolteacher wife of another client, who is a double-amputee and paralyzed on one side. She helps a third client with motion exercises. Smith worked as a supervisor of a local YMCA residential program before her retirement. Her Senior Companion service to disabled seniors saves potentially \$38,000 a year for each person she keeps out of nursing homes....

NATIONAL SENIOR SERVICE CORPS

- Senior service is a sound investment that builds community, fosters personal growth, provides experience and unites an increasingly divided America.
- Senior service:
 - allows seniors, many of whom have financial security to serve with little or not benefits
 - allows seniors to return portion of what they have received through various government programs (Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid)
 - needs to be expanded to make it available to growing senior population
 - provides seniors with useful role
 - a new sources of social capital to sustain American life.
- Demographic Revolution:
 - twice as many older adults today as there were 30 years ago
 - this number will double again over the next 30 years
 - only 5 percent of the current 65 and older population resides in nursing homes
 - fewer than 20 percent report any disability
 - America now possesses not only the largest--and fastest-growing-population of elders in its history, but the healthiest, best-educated, and most vigorous
 - Americans are retiring earlier than ever
 - Americans spend a significant proportion of their lives in post retirement--up to a third of their lives
- U.S. Administration on Aging study found that:
 - 14 million Americans over the age of 65 (37.4 percent of the senior population) would like to become involved in volunteer service
 - 4 million current volunteers indicate they would like to contribute more time
 - 40 percent say the government should be doing more to promote service opportunities.
- There are currently over 526,000 members over the age of 55: 23,000 in Foster Grandparents, 12,000 in Senior Companions, and over 481,000 in RSVP). At least fifty thousand of these serve 20 hours per week or more.
- Senior Corp members contribute 117.7 million hours of community service each year. The value estimated for each program calculated at the average hourly rate determined by the philanthropic community of \$11.56 per hour of service is:
 - RSVP provides 79 million hours valued at \$914 million, 26 fold return on investment,
 - FGP provides 25.7 million hours valued at \$298 million, a 4 fold return,
 - SCP provides 13 million hours valued at \$151 million, a 5 fold return.

- The programs are supported directly by 36,000 local leaders who serve on 1,200 boards of directors of community based organizations which are recipients of program grants. They also serve on local advisory councils committed to furthering the cause of senior service in their communities.
- The federal contribution of \$135.495 million leverages another \$84.5 million in non-federal (local and state) contributions. Every federal dollar invested in NSSC programs is matched by \$0.60 in local or state contributions.
- Senior Corp members extend the staff resources and expand or enhance the services of 72,500 public and private non-profit organizations and help them meet critical needs and get things done.
- Approximately 4,000 trained and experienced service professionals develop placements; recruit, assign, and manage senior service projects and provide technical assistance to community agencies and service members.
- Service professionals are supported through three independent professional service associations organized at state, multi-state, and national levels which network with other national service and aging associations with similar missions and goals.
- Forty-seven corporation state offices are the backbone of current senior program operations through a decentralized management system which places resources, authority, and decision making responsibility at the community level where the work gets done. Corporation state offices assume responsibility for project development/re-development, oversight and quality control, training and technical assistance, partnership and resource development. This decentralized management system is maintained through an integrated program management system established through national program councils.

--excerpted from "New Frontiers of Senior Service" by Tom Endres
senior.tp



*File
National
Service*

March 30, 1995

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

On Friday, March 10 more than 1400 people in Philadelphia were captivated by the video you made on service-learning. Thank you very much for taking the time to bring a message to the annual conference. Your remarks were a highlight to our largest ever service-learning conference that included 120 workshops, visits to local schools, and organizational meetings of Learn and Serve America program members.

Service-learning is an active teaching and learning practice that includes an element of service such as tutoring, environmental projects or caregiving for older people. Over 350,000 young people are involved in service-learning through the Learn and Serve Program alone. Not only is service-learning a key element in National Service, it is a widely accepted tool of school reformers who find that motivation to learn is heightened significantly as students find meaning and purpose in their school experience through service.

Understanding of service-learning is enhanced by observing operating programs, which can be found literally coast to coast. I hope you will consider visiting service-learning sites in communities where your future travel might take you.

Sincerely,


James C. Kielsmeier
President, NYLC

cc Eli Segal

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE:
FRONTIERS OF NATIONAL SERVICE

Tom Endres, Deputy Director

National Senior Service Corps

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This paper summarizes learning and recent discussions concerning senior service as part of the broader service movement for which the Corporation is responsible. Its aims are:

- o to show that we can build a senior service movement that applies the President's vision of national service and complements -- not threatens youth service initiatives. AmeriCorps opens a new frontier for younger citizens to take responsibility and receive assistance paying for college. The senior movement is a new frontier of service for an aging America that wants to give back to the nation that gave them success, the nation that invested in the infrastructure that now supports them, the nation that allows them the freedom and security to serve.
- o to describe the revolutionary opportunities presented by current and emerging demographics,
- o to take us beyond current status of senior service by recommending an important, timely, and crucial shift in aging public policy,
- o to describe the relationship of current programs and their development to opportunities inherent to the coming demographic changes, and,
- o to identify key actions which, if taken now, will have powerful impacts.

This paper is the result of many meetings and discussions with a wide variety of people. It reflects on-going discussions with Jim Scheibel. It also results from enlightening collaborations with Marc Freedman from Public-Private Ventures, Inc. as we have worked to develop senior demonstration approaches and with Bill Barrett from Public Affairs as we have worked to frame issues and key messages.

At the heart of the matter is a future of as yet unimagined change as America continues, along with the rest of the developed world, to become an aged society. The points made in this paper represent the challenges and opportunities which face our Corporation and this President. They demand nothing less than sparking within communities an "age of renewal" by tapping the spirit of America and the souls of the citizenry. **The simple notion of National Service is a powerful one which allows us to invest in our future by preparing young citizens for what lies ahead and to benefit from the present by what we have already achieved - the healthiest, best educated, and most giving older population in the world.**

YOUTH SERVICE AND SENIOR SERVICE: APPLES AND ORANGES, NOT TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN!

Youth service and senior service are complementary. Both are sound investments that build community, foster personal growth, provide experience and unite an increasingly divided America. Youth service and senior service also vary in important ways, notably in cost and the station in life of participants.

Apples

Youth service is a major investment in the generations that hold America's future in their hands--an overdue investment made at a time when the traditional infrastructure and institutional supports for youth have eroded. Families, schools, churches and service organizations are overburdened--those most affected are young people thrust into a crisis of values and coping with drugs, crime, violence, sexual freedom, under-employment and unemployment. Youth service enables participants to initiate a lifelong commitment to responsible action, to exercise traditional values and to visibly renew and strengthen society. It helps them earn an education. AmeriCorps, our domestic Peace Corps, provides full-time service experience to members and provides local programs with committed people who have broad, stabilizing impact because they serve 40 or more hours every week. Their station in life would prevent young citizens from serving full-time without financial benefit. Their modest allowance and stipend are wise investments, needed to provide the supportive structure that allows and encourages young people to serve. The higher participant cost of youth service reflects its critical role in renewing America, and the President's vision of a service program that allows young people to earn help paying for college.

Oranges

While our institutions fail to meet the needs of our young, we have had extraordinary success preparing for the needs of our seniors. Millions of seniors have realized the American dream--they are secure and most can serve with little or no benefits or compensation. In short, our government and institutions have worked for seniors--Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and aging service programs constitute a base level of support which makes community service an affordable option to a significant portion of the senior population. Because of this base of support, higher levels of public investments for participant benefits to support service by seniors are unnecessary. Furthermore, stipended service by even low-income seniors also is cheaper than youth service because of this supportive structure already in place for older people. Thus, it costs more to support a part-time AmeriCorps member serving 20 hours per week than to support a Foster Grandparent serving similar hours.

We need to invest in making senior service available to all, basing that investment on our 30 years of experience building cost-effective approaches. For our youth, we must fill minimal material needs to provide half-time and full-time service experience. But for most seniors service is rooted solely in the need for usefulness. Meaningful, valued service contributes to a vital later life where giving back is renewal. **Seniors are ready to give us their wisdom, abilities and experience at a time when we need new sources of social capital to sustain American life.**

THE NEW FRONTIER OF SENIOR SERVICE:

America is in the midst of a demographic revolution. There are twice as many older adults today as there were 30 years ago, and this number will double again over the next 30 years. For the most part this transformation is considered in terms of the challenges it presents: issues caring for the so-called "old-old," the 80 and over group; strains on entitlement such as Social Security and Medicare; potential tensions between the old and young around social services in a time of declining public dollars.

Amid concerns about the problems that will accompany our aging society, there is little appreciation of the enormous opportunity for renewal also present in this age revolution. Little attention is paid to the fact that only 5 percent of the current 65 and older population reside in nursing homes; fewer than 20 percent report any disability whatsoever. As these numbers convey, America now possesses not only the largest--and fastest-growing-population of elders in its history, but the healthiest, best-educated, and most vigorous. These seniors may well constitute our only increasing natural resource.

One of the most important public policy challenges over the coming half-century will be to tap the vast productive and humanitarian potential germinating within retired or semi-retired citizens. This is not a compassionate gesture toward the elderly, but one of considerable urgency for our society. **We are in no position to squander the time, talent, experience, and resources of the older population at a juncture when so many social, educational, environmental and others needs remain urgent and unmet.**

Furthermore, there is evidence that older adults may increasingly be available to engage in solving social problems and strengthening communities.

Americans are retiring earlier than ever. In 1948, for example, 90 percent of men between 55 and 64 were working; 40 years later, only 67 percent of the population worked. This trend frees up a substantial amount of time on the average, 25 hours a week for men and 18 for women. (Furthermore, there are many economists who believe that the future holds even more dramatic reduction in the size of the labor market. See, for example, The End of Work:

The Decline in the Global Labor Force and the Dawn of the Post-Market Era, by Jeremy Rifkin.) This implies that seniors may potentially have even a greater number of hours available to them to fill.

At the same time Americans are living longer--dramatically longer. Life expectancy has increased 50% since the turn of the century, from 48 to 75, a jump bigger than all the accumulated increases since we began measuring these things. Predictions of expectancy past 80 by 2050 are assumed by even the most conservative demographers.

The net result is that Americans are now--and will be even more in the future--spending a significant proportion of their lives in post retirement, for many a full third of their lives in a period characterized by both the completion of child rearing duties and labor market activity.

Some of these individuals would prefer to spend their retirement in leisure activities - traveling, shopping, playing golf or cards, relocating to Florida or Arizona, continuing their lives in age-segregated retirement communities. Yet many others, either by inclination or because of economic necessity, are seeking other options, particularly those that allow them to be useful and to remain productive and engaged in their communities.

A recent study for the U.S. Administration on Aging finds that 14 million Americans over the age of 65 (37.4 percent of the senior population) would like to become involved in volunteer service, while 4 million current volunteers indicate they would like to contribute more time. Forty percent of those surveyed say the government should be doing more to promote service opportunities. Other studies show similar preferences.

While altruism is clearly at play here, there is also evidence of enlightened self-interest. For many retirement means a jarring transition from engagement to disengagement, from productivity to idleness. Fifty-five percent of elder respondents to a Louis Harris Poll lament the loss of usefulness after retirement. Isolation and loss of purpose have been shown to cause premature dependency and increased risk of deterioration, illness, and untimely death. Conversely, productive engagement and strong social networks contribute to prolonged mental and physical health.

Senior service opportunities offer the promise of unleashing an extraordinary untapped resource to benefit communities, while providing significant rewards for participating elders. And the potential extends further. These efforts may well save us billions in elder care costs by keeping people healthy and independent, delaying or shortening the percentage of time spent depending on others or society. Further, these efforts may well help restore our flagging sense of community--particularly across the generations. As Margaret Mead once remarked, engaging

elders in this way is compelling "as a way to restore a sense of community, a knowledge of the past, and a sense of the future."

AGING POLICY - PREPARING FOR THE BOOMERS

One of the principal questions we face, on the frontier of our demographic revolution, is whether the untapped resources of seniors and the unmet needs of communities can in fact be matched, and matched in a way that provides significant and cost-effective benefits for all parties. The good news is that we already possess a set of affirmative--if incomplete--answers in the Corporation's National Senior Corps programs.

Consider the achievements of these programs, the oldest of which, the Foster Grandparent Program, celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. The numbers alone are formidable. More significant is what lies behind the numbers - an infra-structure, program effectiveness, and an unparalleled cost benefit ratio. For example:

- o There are currently over 526,000 members over the age of 55: 23,000 in Foster Grandparents, 12,000 in Senior Companions, and over 481,000 in RSVP). At least fifty thousand of these serve 20 hours per week or more.
- o Senior Corp members contribute 117.7 million hours of community service each year. The value estimated for each program calculated at the average hourly rate determined by Independent Sector of \$11.56 per hour of service is:
 - :
 - RSVP provides 79 million hours valued at \$914 million, 26 fold return on investment,
 - FGP provides 25.7 million hours valued at \$298 million, a 4 fold return, and
 - SCP provides 13 million hours valued at \$151 million, a 5 fold return,
- o The programs are supported directly by 36,000 local leaders who serve on 1,200 boards of directors of community based organizations which are recipients of program grants. They also serve on local advisory councils committed to furthering the cause of senior service in their communities.
- o The federal contribution of \$135.495 million leverages another \$84.5 million in non-federal (local and state) contributions. Every federal dollar invested in NSSC programs is matched by \$0.60 in local or state contributions.
- o Senior Corp members extend the staff resources and expand or enhance the services of 72,500 public and private non-profit organizations and help them meet critical needs and get things done.

- o Approximately 4,000 trained and experienced service professionals develop placements; recruit, assign, and manage senior service projects and provide technical assistance to community agencies and service members.
- o Service professionals are supported through three independent professional service associations organized at state, multi-state, and national levels which network with other national service and aging associations with similar missions and goals.
- o Forty-seven corporation state offices are the backbone of current senior program operations through a decentralized management system which places resources, authority, and decision making responsibility at the community level where the work gets done, Corporation state offices assume responsibility for project development/re-development, oversight and quality control, training and technical assistance, partnership and resource development. This decentralized management system is maintained through an integrated program management system established through national program councils.

But these numbers are just part of the story. The program record is also one of achievement and stability:

- * evidence of the important contribution of seniors and the benefits they derive from service in federally funded service programs is chronicled in nearly 100 studies spanning three decades;
- * in particular, Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions demonstrate the enormous contribution low-income elders-- the segment of the senior population most likely to be overlooked and undervalued--can make;
- * these programs show government in an important enabling role with respect to service, through stimulating, supporting and sustaining service efforts, through providing ongoing infrastructure-- and doing so without suffocating civic spirit or compromising local control;
- * they have managed to thrive under seven administrations, Democratic and Republican alike with bipartisan support all along the way (Foster Grandparents, A War on Poverty program, is simultaneously the subject of an adoring book by Nancy Reagan, To Love a Child).

SENIOR SERVICE REFORM - THE NEW FRONTIER OF SENIOR SERVICE

All these accomplishments noted, it would be incorrect to portray the three National Senior Service Programs-- in current form--as

approximating a full-fledged system of national service for older Americans. The gap between promise and practice in this area persists. Despite so many achievements and so much durability, the NSSC programs remain limited in profound ways.

- * While the absolute numbers involved in the programs is impressive, as is their national scope, at the ground level these programs remain small, scarce and scattered. Only about one-quarter of 1 percent of seniors are involved nationally in senior service. At the local level, there is little sense of critical mass (in Philadelphia, for example, a city of 2 million people, there are 90 Foster Grandparents). With little advertising, the programs all have waiting lists of interested participants.
- * Alongside these limitations of quantity, are ones of quality. In Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions, for example, very few men participate (only 11 percent in FGP, 15 percent in SCP). By law, these efforts are essentially restricted to low-income individuals, screening out many working and middle-class seniors--including large numbers on fixed incomes that still put them slightly above the eligibility line. Available assignments are narrowly circumscribed to caregiving functions. RSVP, on the other hand, has greater income flexibility and can respond more easily to a range of local needs. Its shortcoming remains an orientation toward less intensive service and focus on the senior, not service.
- * Despite consistently encouraging evaluations over the years, in reality, there is far more we don't know about these programs and their effectiveness, than we do know. We lack knowledge particularly around issues related to implementation.

To close the gap between promise and practice in senior service, we need to build on the experience and infrastructure represented by the National Senior Service Corps programs, yet not be bound by the existing configurations. The present challenge is to begin evolving these efforts into an integrated and encompassing national service effort truly capable of harnessing the vast offerings of the senior population--and to do so in time to take advantage of the aging boom just around the corner.

CROSSING THE NEW FRONTIER OF SENIOR SERVICE:

The time to move this field to the next level of development is now. This year not only marks the 30th anniversary of the government's role in the Senior Service area, but also the particular opportunity of a White House Conference on Aging that will pay attention to the productive potential of Seniors. In pushing senior service to the next level, the Corporation has the

opportunity not only to better address urgent, current needs emanating from communities, but to begin constructing what the British historian Peter Laslett calls the "institutional inheritance" for coming waves of older Americans.

How might we proceed toward this goal from the base of existing efforts? Four pillars undergird the framework for launching a new era of senior service:

1. A highly developed constituent base involving powerful people, powerful organizations, and powerful media.
2. A re-engineered policy base which shifts the focus from server to service, which simplifies and streamlines operations, and which broadens existing program purposes and participation.
3. An expanded, innovative program framework which offers a full menu of service options from full-time to part-time supported by a flexible array of benefit incentives with the flexibility to shift among them as personal, project, and community needs change.
4. Development of an institutional framework for senior service which establishes governmental and private roles and partnerships.

The National Senior Service Corp agenda has been focused on erecting the pillars upon which the Corporation can build a senior service movement. With the base that has been laid to date and the launching of the national media strategy, it is critical and timely to establish Corporation priorities and an agenda for deciding how much of senior service's new frontier is explored and how fast. It is a fact that the demographics will overtake us. We need to choose to seize the day or leave the course of an aging America to be set by those who follow. The choice is ours.

CONCLUSION:

We stand on the threshold of a new era for senior service. It would seem that our nation can ill afford to squander the social capital represented by the growing aging population - one that votes on cross-cutting issues and one whose power and influence will increase. We need an infusion of new social capital to replace and replenish that lost to stresses of modern society where due to mobility, disintegration of the family, need for two wage earners, and the "sandwich generation" we are experiencing tears in the social fabric evidenced by declining PTA memberships, fewer Boy and Girl Scout leaders, and the like.

We must address the "crisis of uselessness" being experienced by over 85 % of seniors who are healthy and active. They have

increasing time and willingness to serve in large part created by the later life safety net comprised of social security, medicare/medicaid, and aging services. A significant portion of this group want to give something back. Most seniors want to be useful, valued, and as productive as possible. The new "third age" of later life, created by early retirement and long life span, represents a period for renewal and adventure. It is at this stage of life when giving (service) and getting (aging safety net) merge. **It is a time of opportunity to fully express oneself through commitment to something larger and outside of self.** It is a time when service should be an opportunity (not an obligation) for those who choose it. A significant portion will.

Moving senior service to a new level of significance can only enhance youth service and the whole of national service. Youth service and senior service are apples and oranges due to the different circumstances and position of each group. But a comprehensive, inclusive national service agenda moves the Corporation forward and unites us when national service is at risk of becoming fragmented by special and political interests.

ACTION STEPS:

If you concur with the rationale that youth service and senior service are, in fact, apples and oranges; that the justification for each can stand on its own; that they are complementary and together enhance the whole of national service; and that the time to move senior service to a new level of significance is now, by this administration; I suggest we meet to discuss and plan practical next steps necessary to cross the new frontier of senior service.

File National Service

Waiting for Bill

How telling that some of the most substantive portions of Bill Clinton's big foreign-affairs speech last week were found in reminiscences of past presidents' foreign-policy achievements. We heard about Abe Lincoln, Harry Truman, Richard Nixon—since the speech came at the new Nixon Center for Peace and Freedom.

While it was comforting to hear this domestic President recite the importance of traditional American leadership in world affairs, one can't help thinking that the purpose was to deflect attention from the Clinton presidency's own dismal foreign-policy record. The truth is, some 25 months into his presidency, many people at home and abroad are still casting about for clues to what Mr. Clinton's foreign-policy achievements are. More importantly, they are wondering where U.S. leadership in world affairs has gone.

This is especially true in Europe. It seems that the Europeans have long since stopped asking whether the U.S. has lost interest in playing a role in Europe and have accepted America's inattention as a simple fact. Many are fed up with the way the Clinton Administration has frayed relations out of sheer neglect, clumsiness and indecision. Failure to consult is a big complaint. Veteran Atlanticists in Europe gasp that they have never seen Washington's foreign policy so badly mis-handled.

Mr. Clinton's speech at the Nixon Center makes astounding reading. He paints a picture of a Congress bent on isolationism and intent on pulling

back the funding of what longs to be an active foreign policy. The truth is a different matter. Far from pushing isolationism, opponents of Mr. Clinton's foreign policy in Congress are trying to get the Administration to do more.

They want the Administration to lift the Bosnian arms embargo, for example, and end the U.N. mission there. They want a more responsible approach in halting double payments for U.N. peacekeeping, and restrictions so that U.S. troops won't fall victim to another unfortunate debacle of U.N. command in peacekeeping. And they are tired of seeing U.S. interests sacrificed at the altar of multilateralism, especially when this is pursued as an end in itself. None of this is new or isolationist; it is realism. And of course, the GOP opposition helped with Mr. Clinton's real foreign-policy achievements, ratification of NAFTA, APEC and GATT.

The Administration tried to do a big sell on this foreign-policy speech, hoping to show that the President is doing diplomacy and would have done more if it weren't for that Republican Congress. But it's disingenuous to pretend that the Republican opposition has stalled his foreign policy. Pontificating about a foreign policy that never was sounds a little like power politics and a lot like denial. This is no substitute for actually coming up with a real foreign-affairs agenda and producing the kind of leadership that will get public support behind it. Europe, a lot of people in Congress, and the American public are all waiting.

Asides

Protest Washington Style

Newt Gingrich and other speakers were prevented from addressing the National Association of Counties in Washington on Monday after 500 shouting protesters invaded the hotel ballroom and used megaphones to call for higher school lunch funding. Many of the protesters had been bused in from out of town, prompting Mr. Gingrich to ask some pointed questions: "Why weren't they at work? Who are they? Who paid them?" It turns out that the protest was organized by the

left-wing activist group ACORN, a frequent recipient of federal and state grants. The Washington Times reports that 42 participants in President Clinton's new national service program are working for ACORN at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$1.1 million. Several operate out of ACORN's Washington, D.C., offices. We may never know if federally funded "volunteers" helped ruin meetings for 2,000 county officials, but we hope Congress plans some oversight hearings on the groups involved in Mr. Clinton's service program.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 6, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICK ALLEN *RA*

SUBJECT: NATIONAL SERVICE UPDATE

You have followed the increased press attention focused on AmeriCorps, beginning with Joe Klein's piece, continuing with your strong defense of the initiative on the western trip and following through the State of the Union. This memorandum will touch on various aspects of the press coverage and outline our current status on the Hill and with one key constituency.

1. State of the Union Coverage of AmeriCorps: Your championing of AmeriCorps and mention of Cindy Perry in the address played well in subsequent media coverage. AmeriCorps found broad editorial support (I have included examples from the *Chicago Sun Times*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Boston Globe*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Milwaukee Journal*, *Kansas City Star*, Medford, Oregon's *Mail Tribune*, and *New York Newsday*). We were able to drive stories (and their own op-eds) in their hometown media about and from the four AmeriCorps members who attended the address (garnering coverage in Miami, Kansas City, Portland, and Kentucky -- I've attached a few from Kansas City and Miami as examples).

The whiff of political battle roused out many papers heretofore silent. I enclose two news stories, one from the *Wall Street Journal* and the other from the *Chicago Tribune*. A number of columnists also sprang to AmeriCorps' defense. E.J. Dionne's piece, which extolled AmeriCorps as a method to build citizenship, is the best enunciation yet of this principle (we've got a similar one, from Robert Putnam, pending with the *New York Times*); Marianne Means', which made it clear that the opposition is motivated by mean-spirited partisanship, may be the clearest statement of the political reality. I include both and four other good ones from around the country.

The electronic media was also more engaged in these cycles. McNeil-Lehrer ran the most substantial piece on the day of the State of the Union (positive, and marred only by a debate between Senator Breaux and Congresswoman Molinari, in which the Senator had limited effectiveness on the "volunteerism" argument described below).

The period from King Day through the State of the Union generally marked a shift in the press' angle, as well as their degree of interest. The preoccupation with "balance" has resulted in recent stories repeating critics' assertions as fact. We have moved quickly to counter what is a small number of repeated (and demonstrably false) anecdotes. I enclose Eli's Letter to the Editor of the *Wall Street Journal* as an example of our response on one of them (Grassley's assertion that AmeriCorps' costs run as high as \$70,000 per Member).

2. Cabinet Support: In the roll-out which followed the address, the Cabinet included AmeriCorps Members in many of their appearances and featured AmeriCorps in their remarks. Particularly helpful were Secretaries Cisneros, Pena and Lee Brown, Administrator Browner, Director Witt and Deputy Secretary Kunin. This coordinated Administration response helped to re-emphasize the collaborative nature of AmeriCorps, and its importance.

3. Kristol and the Conservatives Attack: Gingrich's attack wasn't coincidental. Bill Kristol is leading an effort to destroy AmeriCorps (the strategy memo of his think tank is attached). Their arguments (many patently false) were regurgitated by George Will last weekend (also attached). We are responding in many ways, including through a piece we did with Father Theodore Hesburgh, which is now with the *Post*. A particularly cogent defense came from the *Baltimore Sun's* editorial page editor, Sara Engram (that paper ran her piece opposite Will's), which you will enjoy. After Eli wrote him, demolishing his arguments and urging him to visit AmeriCorps in the field, Will had his office call, indicating that he wants to speak with us about the program -- we don't expect a conversion on the road to Damascus and will be pursuing a *Taking Exception* piece in the *Post*, as well as more receptive conservative commentators such as Bill Safire, who has favorably mentioned AmeriCorps twice already (Gary Hart, who is close to Safire, is helping us on this).

Post-State of the Union coverage has been generally favorable. *CBS Sunday Morning* ran a very supportive long piece on the 5th; a tape is enclosed. Scheduled upcoming television coverage includes *NBC Nightly News* (scheduled for next week) and *CBS Sunday Night News* (this Sunday). The *New York Times* is also expected to run a major national story imminently.

4. Status in Congress: Our Democratic base remains strong (only three current House Democrats and four Senate Democrats voted against the 1993 Bill). Senator Nunn made a particularly effective floor speech recently (copy attached). Eli has been meeting individually with our 1993 Republican votes, as well as with the Appropriations Chairs (Bond/Jerry Lewis replacing Mikulski/Stokes for the new programs and Specter/John Porter replacing Harkin/Neal Smith for VISTA and the Senior Corps). To date, our supporters have remained pleased, although the Appropriations barons remain noncommittal. Lewis has taken the public position that his difficulty is with the increase in funding, rather than the program itself.

Chris Shays continues to be our most consistent champion among House Republicans, but others have joined him. As an example, after an attack by Congressman Petri, Republican Jim Walsh joined Shays and three Democrats in a tough responsive Dear Colleague. That group of five, all former Peace Corps volunteers, also held a Hill press conference welcoming your State of the Union AmeriCorps Members and supporting the program, based on the impact their service has had on them.

Pat is inviting our 23 remaining 1993 House Republican supporters to the White House for a briefing. We will let you know when it is scheduled (a drop-by would be very helpful). In a Monday meeting with George Stephanopoulos, Mike McCurry, Pat Griffin, and Mark Gearan to coordinate tactics, all were of the opinion that we should continue to pursue AmeriCorps funding as a battle of principle that we can win, which places an emphasis on 35 or so House Republicans and 12 or so Republicans in the Senate.

5. Rescission and Appropriations: There appears to be no formal list of intended rescission items from the Republican leadership. Rescission, perhaps attached to the Administration's supplemental request, would be particularly devastating to AmeriCorps if "unobligated funds" were rescinded -- as our grants are made at the end of the Fiscal Year (tracking the school year), the bulk of our funding for this (1995) Fiscal Year could thus be targeted.

After rescission, appropriations for FY 1996 will be the next Hill struggle. Your budget calls for slightly over \$1 billion in total Corporation funding, including \$828 million for AmeriCorps. That funds 47,000 AmeriCorps Members (fulfilling your three year target of 100,000). In our Monday meeting with Pat, George, Mike and Mark, we discussed what level of ultimate funding could be defined as a success. While recognizing the likelihood of Republican-driven reductions, the group recommends pursuing the budget's funding level aggressively.

6. Military Veterans: Eli and Herschel Gober are chairing a Veterans National Service Advisory Council; all of the major Veterans Service Organizations were represented at the initial meeting in December. In contrast to their open hostility in 1993, our work with the veterans community seems to be bearing fruit. Allies like former Joint Chiefs Chair David Jones (whose op-eds are attached) have also made a significant difference.

7. Your Involvement: Moderate Republicans have repeatedly emphasized how important they regard your unequivocal sponsorship of AmeriCorps. At our White House meeting Monday, four areas of your potential involvement were discussed: (a) convening key supporters of AmeriCorps who have clout with the Republicans at the White House (particularly business leaders -- an indication of the breadth of our early corporate support is shown by an attachment) to launch "Americans for National Service"; (b) spotlighting AmeriCorps success stories as you travel; (c) granting print press and radio interviews in Congressionally-targeted markets and (d) ultimately, directly contacting swing Hill votes at the appropriate time.

As the debate has intensified, it has been clear to us how the Republicans have decided to frame their argument:

- *They argue that paid service is not "volunteering" and in fact threatens the charitable sector.* In this respect, we have been scrupulous in the use of "**Members**" to describe AmeriCorps participants; we do not call them 'volunteers' despite the applicability of the definition. We would ask you to drive home this word choice. We also have found that citing the participation of major national non-profits in AmeriCorps (from Habitat for Humanity to the YMCA, from United Ways around the country to the Red Cross, from the National Council of Churches to the National Community AIDS Partnership) is persuasive regarding the value of AmeriCorps to the independent sector.
- *They argue that AmeriCorps is traditionally liberal and bureaucratic.* We point to our decentralized delivery system, which vests most of the power with the states; the traditionally American ethic of citizen involvement; the enthusiasm of charities; and our small Washington operation.
- *They argue AmeriCorps isn't cost-effective.* We point to the four-fold benefits: (i) the direct service (the Texas immunization program saved over \$5 for every dollar invested); (ii) the community-building caused by coming together to solve common problems; (iii) the life-long habits of service and community involvement; and (iv) the enhanced productivity that results from a college education, made more affordable with AmeriCorps

Given the volatility of the appropriations situation alone, this is likely to be a war with battles strung out over the course of the entire year (and, given our need to win reauthorization in 1996, into next). We are ready for the challenge; even more importantly, the extraordinary caliber of the AmeriCorps Members and the commitment of their communities will continue to complement your support.

National Service Update

Index

1. State of the Union Coverage of AmeriCorps
2. Cabinet Support
3. Kristol and the Conservatives Attack
4. Status in Congress
5. Rescission and Appropriations
6. Military Veterans
7. Your Involvement

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Divider Title: 1

EDITORIALS

Commentary

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1995

EDITORIALS

Let National Service Survive Budget Cuts

House Speaker Newt Gingrich says he wants to eliminate a national sense of entitlement, to transform American culture into one in which citizens value work.

Given that, it's hard to understand why Americorps national service is high on Gingrich's list of programs to cut.

The national service program is President Clinton's pet project. He campaigned for it, worked with Congress to deliver it, and now has vowed to fight for its continuance.

But this debate shouldn't be about partisan politics. It ought to focus on the program and its potential benefits not only to the participants, but to all of us.

Americorps includes 20,000 young people who work full or part time at 300 different community service programs across the country. The youths are paid minimum wage and get help repaying student loans. In Illinois, 270 Americorps workers perform tasks as varied as running after-school programs, helping the homeless and planting gardens.

The program serves two worthy goals: It encourages young people to perform unglamorous work in their communities, and it makes a college education more accessible.

The program is expensive: \$500 million this year and \$700 million in fiscal 1996. Cutting it would produce savings.

But at what price ultimately?

Even Gingrich says he believes that budget cutters ought to focus on redefining the role of the federal government. That means looking at each program and asking one question: Does this program have a national benefit, or does it merely benefit the region where the money is spent or the interests on whom it is spent?

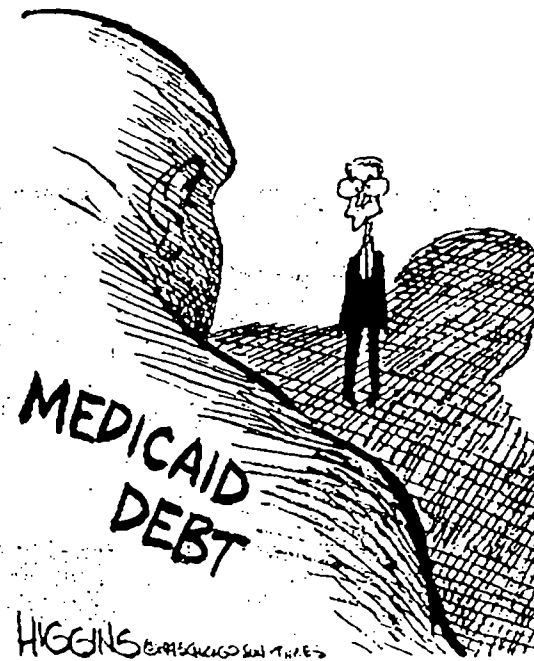
Answering that question honestly could lead to elimination of many programs already on the cutting block. But the national service program shouldn't be among them. Far from being the "coerced volunteerism" that Gingrich charges, national service is a compact of mutual interest between citizens and society that is based on shared responsibility, not on entitlement.

On this issue, President Clinton is absolutely right and Gingrich is wrong. Let national service work.

Make Election Laws Consistent

The Chicago Election Commission made the right decision.

YESTERDAY UP ON THE STAIR
I SAW A MAN WHO WASN'T THERE



HE WASN'T TH
AGAIN?
I WISH THAT
WOULD G

GOP Dilemma: to Cut or Not to

In an interview Monday, former state Sen. Thomas McCracken Jr., chairman of the Regional Transportation Authority, was asked what effect changes in Washington would have on local transit issues. With a Chicago-based public relations adviser at his side, the suburban Republican took a deep breath and answered: "major challenges."

Welcome to the tricky new world of GOP politics. With a congressional majority promising steep tax cuts and a balanced budget by 2002, Republicans have

number of unfunded mandates passed. But that legislation is prospective. It was the estimated \$8.9 billion to \$12.7 billion mandates passed by Congress in the last 1

"Washington is not focused on what is the plan," McCracken says. "All the eliminating unfunded mandates is pros should not lose operating sol we have authentic mandate re McCracken plans to abas

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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A22

Friday, January 20, 1995

EDITORIALS

National disservice

How can a program to restore civic values in young people be on the Gingrich hit list?

The President drew his line in the sand this week. He is willing to deal in the brave new world of the Republican Contract, speed the pace of re-inventing government, attempt to make welfare work. But try to take away the national service corps, and that's it — no more Mr. Nice Guy.

Take it away? It's a good bet that most Americans don't know the six-month-old program — called, AmeriCorps — exists. (Which is a problem from the get-go.)

AmeriCorps is a type of domestic Peace Corps, enlisting college-age youths to help tutor and immunize, to rebuild tumbled-down housing and assist local police.

The kids are supposed to get a taste of public service, and how the other half lives. And in return, they get living expenses (up to \$7,400 a year) and tuition money for college (\$4,725 a year).

There was a big debate over the program, the first new one of the Clinton administration. This was to be the New Democratic Way — provide opportunity, but attach obligation. There were complaints: Veterans' groups said the stipend was too high. (It was reduced.) Some Republicans cited "bureaucracy." Some college presidents feared the program was so small as to be misleading. Initial funding supports only about two of every 100 college students.

But in the end, the legislation passed, with a generous sprinkling of Republican votes. (Twenty-six in the

House.) One partisan who was never won over — though he granted the program's "idealism" — was Newt Gingrich, now House Speaker.

With all that's on his mind, with all that's on the country's mind, he found time this week to vow to "totally, unequivocally" alic, dice and destroy national service, which he says is fraught with "gimmickry" and reliant on "coerced voluntarism."

Hello? There is much to get in a lather about in this republic. But if national service isn't the end-all to our problems, it hardly seems a villain that needs be stamped out.

Indeed, if Mr. Gingrich is the advocate he claims to be of restoring civic values, of burnishing citizenship, of reviving community, why not give national service a chance?

If it fails, as Mr. Gingrich is fond of saying about his own boundless experiments, we should have the courage to say, "Well, that one didn't work," and try something else.

He need not embrace Mr. Clinton's every program to concede the President's good intent and share his vision of opportunity linked to work. Those are not gimmicks. They don't deserve to be casually assaulted.

As for the President, he needs to show Americans how AmeriCorps fits into his theme of renewing public spiritedness, of investing in human capital and changing an ethos of something for nothing.

The Gingrich sound bites will keep scoring until he does.

The Boston Globe

• THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1994

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Clinton's mid-course correction

It was couched in the rhetoric of reconciliation. The talk of smaller government and less regulation could have come out of the Republican "Contract with America." But underneath the cooperative tone of President Clinton's State of the Union address is an agenda that differs markedly in substance and philosophy from that of the new Republican majority in Congress.

It is an activist, progressive agenda that shows Clinton now seeking to move forward, and not on his heels as he was in November. He hopes that his "New Covenant" can be a viable alternative to Newt Gingrich's Contract.

There are aspects of Clinton's approach that are unrealistic. His embrace of further reductions in the budget deficit is welcome, but excluding consideration of even minor changes in Social Security, Medicare and veterans benefits undermines his credibility as a long-term deficit-cutter.

In confessing that he had bitten off more than he could chew on health care last year, he acknowledged the obvious, and a measured approach now, starting with insurance reforms, makes sense. But Clinton and Congress should not forget that the number of uninsured Americans is a disgrace.

On some other issues Clinton is tardy. Lobbyist and campaign finance reforms, for instance, should have been a first-year focus. We hope he finally does turn the heat up this year.

Several other Clinton initiatives are ones we support, including a reasonable increase in the minimum wage, welfare reform that focuses on moving recipients to work rather than punishing poor children, and modest middle-class tax reductions that are fully funded by well-advertised budget cuts. Clinton was also on the right track promising to crack down on illegal immigration. For a nation of immigrants, the only way to keep the front door open is to lock the back doors and windows against illegals.

Clinton's passionate defense of the assault weapons ban passed last year was the dramatic high point of the speech - "I will not let that be repealed" he repeated, and we applauded. He was right to defend the proven crime prevention programs as well.

Clinton captured several worthy themes in his emotional championing of Americorps, the program that has put 20,000 persons into service in their communities. Americans have to "give something back to their communities and their country," he said.

Americorps, he said, is "the essence of the New Covenant, and we shouldn't stop it." This contrasted sharply with Speaker Newt Gingrich's recent attack on the program as "gimmickry" to which he is "totally, unequivocally opposed."

As these opposing views indicate, the debate over national service is likely to be one of several that define fundamentally the current political philosophy of this Congress and the nation. Government minimalists argue that community service should be voluntary and that taxpayers shouldn't be forced to subsidize needless bureaucracies.

But even as confirmed a minimalist as Gov. Weld is a longtime supporter of the Boston-based CityYear, which has been copied by many of the 300 programs that are part of Americorps.

Clinton's embrace of Americorps makes sense because it is not a huge central bureaucracy doling out cash but a small government agency distributing funds to community-based groups, most of which have strong private support as well. In addition to minimum-wage jobs in the community, the program gives participants the promise of help in paying off college loans - a powerful incentive. It generates some of the idealism of the Peace Corps.

Government's job - and we believe this is what most voters want - is to conduct its business effectively, not go out of business.

AMERICORPS

Helping communities is still a good idea

Republican lawmakers should, and will, take the Clinton administration to task over initiatives that cost too much and are not needed. But Mr. Clinton's national service program shouldn't be one of them.

The program, Americorps, allows young people to work for minimum wage in communities across the country in exchange for government help in repaying college loans or vocational training loans. A kind of domestic Peace Corps, the year-old program provides an excellent vehicle for restoring a much-needed sense of citizenship and community right here at home.

Yet, the new Republican leadership, especially House Speaker Newt Gingrich, has targeted Americorps for the budget ax. He told *Newsweek*, "I am totally, unequivocally opposed to national service. It is coerced voluntarism. . . . It's gimmickry."

Hardly. It was a good idea when Mr. Clinton made it a major campaign theme. And it was a good bill when approved by Congress. Sixteen House Republican co-sponsors sent letters to their colleagues encouraging them to support the national service bill. "We believe national service is a basic Republican idea and that the president's proposal is structured as a Republican would have structured it and that it deserves Republican support," the letter said.

Especially Republican about the bill is its decentralization, both in terms of funding and administration. A third of the federal trust fund for the program goes to national nonprofit organizations like the Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity and Teach for

America. The bulk of the money goes to bipartisan, independent state commissions that distribute the funds according to state guidelines. The application process is local, and local jurisdictions actually employ the youngsters. That means the people who know the greatest needs in their community can direct volunteers to that concern.

Texas, which has 14 program partners, has the largest number of participants per capita than any other state. The Greater Dallas Community of Churches is the local partner and is using its 49 participants to: tutor in elementary and middle schools, teach alternatives to violence, expand access to health care and improve nutrition and reduce hunger. And the volunteers are in the neighborhoods where their efforts can do the most good.

Republican critics say the program costs too much. Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa says the cost per participant is more than \$30,000. Eli Segal, head of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the program, told *The Dallas Morning News* that the cost is under \$20,000. He said that Mr. Grassley includes such things as the donations of equipment and retired personnel by corporations being good corporate citizens.

Costs do matter. But the potential benefits of this program — meeting unmet community needs, bringing youngsters of all ethnic and economic backgrounds together, helping youngsters defray college costs, and instilling a true sense of civic responsibility — make it a worthwhile investment.

EDITORIAL PAGE

Tuesday, January 24, 1995

Page A6

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

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Can service corps survive politics?

SOME government programs are hard to defend. The fledgling AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service plan, is not one of them. It's a splendid way to revitalize communities, encourage social responsibility and expand educational opportunities — causes that conservatives and liberals alike can embrace.

So why are congressional Republicans trying to kill off AmeriCorps? House Speaker Newt Gingrich calls it "coerced voluntarism." Huh? Last time we checked, no one was forced to join. The service corps' 20,000 members aren't even volunteers. They get the minimum wage, health benefits, child care and an annual grant of \$4,725 to pay for college or vocational training.

An expensive bureaucracy? Come on. The program costs just \$500 million a year, a pinprick in the \$1.5 trillion federal budget.

Even so, critics complain that the cost per participant — about \$20,000 a year — is too high. That's in the eye of the beholder, of course. But the federal dollars leverage much more in private contributions — exactly the sort of public-private alliances that Republicans say they want to encourage.

Gimmickry? So says Gingrich. The facts argue

otherwise. AmeriCorps' 300 projects around the country plug into existing programs in public safety, health care, the environment and human services. In Austin, Texas, for example, participants clean up graffiti, immunize needy children and work to improve relations between police and the community. Nitty-gritty stuff that might not otherwise get done.

There's another aspect to this modest program that conservatives ought to like: It revitalizes the social contract between citizens and government. In contrast to entitlements, which demand nothing in return, national service marries benefit to sacrifice, individualism to community. Participants gain support for their schooling. But society, too, comes out ahead when the urban fabric is strengthened and the work force is better educated.

So really now, what's not to like? It's hard to avoid the conclusion that the GOP objections to national service are not about voluntarism or big government but rather about embarrassing Clinton: Get rid of a probable domestic success story and deny him something to brag about in 1996. If that's the aim here, it's a victory for political spite, not enlightened government.

SECTION



Wednesday,
February 1,
1995



The Kansas City Star.

Metropolitan

The AmeriCorps debate

President Clinton, in his recent State of the Union address, called AmeriCorps "citizenship at its best." Earlier, he'd called it "one achievement I could say I was most proud of."

But House Speaker Newt Gingrich says this national service plan, sort of a domestic Peace Corps, is "the perfect, classic example of why people are furious about government and enraged at politicians."

Both men, to put it kindly, overstate their cases. Gingrich, however, is considerably more off the mark than the president. Bill Clinton should win this argument. The new Republican Congress should find other fish to fry.

This is not to say there can't be economies in such programs. For instance, AmeriCorps' administrative costs include a \$1.7 million contract with a public relations firm. Surely that could be cut. And there simply must be strict accountability and close financial oversight of the program, budgeted at \$1.5 billion over three years. But such measures should make the program more efficient, not kill it. One Republican, Christopher Shays of Connecticut, calls AmeriCorps "the most important program that has been adopted in the last 10 years."

AmeriCorps now has about 20,000 members in more than 300 projects around the country, and thus is larger than was the Peace Corps at

its height. The program allows for people to earn a minimum wage (plus health insurance and child care) and earn a credit of up to \$4,725 a year for their college costs.

Evidence suggests that AmeriCorps members are doing important work and helping many communities, including Kansas City, where Kansas City Consensus leads 22 agencies using AmeriCorps workers. In fact, one Kansas City AmeriCorps worker, LeRon Fields, was chosen to attend the State of the Union speech to honor his work here with the Blue Hills Together anti-crime program. Kansas City police praise that program for helping to shut down a dozen crack houses and reclaim a neighborhood park from gangs and drug dealers.

AmeriCorps needs close financial oversight and constant evaluation to make sure it's doing what it should. But if managed wisely, it will make a relatively inexpensive investment in the country's future by helping people save for a college education and, at the same time, letting them do valuable community service.

In its publicly pronounced zeal for savings, Congress certainly should keep its eye on AmeriCorps. But until AmeriCorps proves itself unworthy, Congress should let it live.

c-6

Opinion

MEDFORD, OREGON DAILY NEWSPAPER
Wednesday, January 18, 1995

OPINION

Mail Tribune

The Mail Tribune offers its opinion pages to stimulate discussion and understanding of issues important to our community. Editorials in this column reflect the opinions of the Mail Tribune.

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Editorials

National service

Newt doesn't like federal
bureaucrats or volunteers

News item: "I am totally, unequivocally opposed to national service," Gingrich says. "It is coerced volunteerism — it's gimmickery."

— Newsweek, Jan. 23 edition

News item: "Heavy rains in western Jackson County this week have triggered some erosion problems. — A crew from the newly created AmeriCorps national service program has been building erosion control structures in the burned area near Ramsey Road, north of Gold Hill — trying to slow runoff on barren hillsides."

— Mail Tribune, Jan. 11

It's hard to know whether House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., is opposed to national service programs in general, or because AmeriCorps is the one of the few unambiguous successes President Clinton can point to in his first two years.

There are some criticisms to level at a program of national service — one being that it's hard to find enough money to make volunteers available everywhere they're needed. But the notion of creating an analog to military service has been around for many years, supported by politicians of all stripes.

CLINTON SHOULD welcome this Gingrich assault as an opportunity to contrast what the president rightly sees as a legitimate, creative use of government with the kind of automatic, anti-government slashing that Gingrich represents.

There are many things the federal government does wrong. But creating opportunities for young people to help their country while putting a small amount of money aside, usually to pay for college, is not one of them.

The program does not coerce: States may participate at their option, and young men and women choose to apply. The list of applicants is miles longer than the list of available slots.

THERE ARE 38 young men and women at a work camp in the Applegate Ranger District this winter, working in the woods as well as renovating structures and parks in Butte Falls and Prospect.

So far, AmeriCorps is a success in America's forests and urban areas. Newsweek found volunteers highly praised and working in such places as homes for troubled children — the kinds of charity homes that Gingrich envisions as substitutes for America's welfare mothers.

Newsday

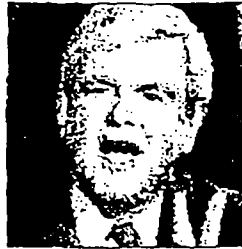
EDITORIALS

1/20/95

Back Off, Newt

Bill's AmeriCorps is a good idea

The national service program seems an unlikely place for a beleaguered Democratic president to make a stand against budget-chopping congressional Republicans. It's too new and too inexpensive to have developed much of a constituency. A country that got along without it before President Bill Clinton came along could survive without it now.



Gingrich

But this particular program, now called AmeriCorps, has Clinton's fingerprints on it. He says he'll fight to keep it alive. We hope he means it. A voluntary corps makes a powerful statement to young Americans that their contributions in community service are needed and valued. Since it doesn't require a huge bureaucracy, even Republicans should like it.

AmeriCorps has about 20,000 members working in more than 300 locally run programs nationwide. It pays the \$4.25-an-hour minimum wage for up to 1,700 hours a year, plus medical insurance. Members can get as much as \$4,725 for past or future college costs.

But House Speaker Newt Gingrich, scenting an opportunity to trash a Clinton achievement, says he's "totally, unequivocally opposed to national service." With his usual gift for the colorful but inaccurate sound bite, he calls it "coerced voluntarism." But this man's coercion looks more like opportunity — an educational one that otherwise might not exist, as well as an opportunity for patriotic folks to serve their country and still subsist.

Congress has already approved funding for as many as 33,000 AmeriCorps slots by early fall. Clinton may not be able to expand the

program as he'd like. He may even have to shrink it to keep the Republicans at bay. An experiment with means-testing — by tying tuition subsidies to parental income for kids who choose to go to college before doing their AmeriCorps stint — might also be worth a trial. But this is a program worth fighting for. For once, Clinton must follow through.

NATIONAL NEWS STORIES

Despite GOP Criticism, National Service Corps Wins Praise Among Participants, Communities

By Joe Davidson

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
AUSTIN, Texas — Sharon Brown, a single mother of three, credits joining President Clinton's national service corps with giving her life a new zeal. "I love it," says Ms. Brown, who works with residents in a low-income Austin neighborhood. "I live to come here every day."

But House Speaker Newt Gingrich and many other Republicans in Congress don't love it. Though a tiny speck in the budget, the national service program, known as AmeriCorps, has become a big symbol of the clash between Mr. Clinton and the new GOP Congress over the role of government in Americans' lives.

To the president, the program to involve younger people in a kind of "domestic Peace Corps" is an example of limited, nonbureaucratic government to help deal with community problems; on Monday, the president described it as the "one achievement I could say I was most proud of." To Republicans, AmeriCorps, with an annual cost of \$20,000 to \$30,000 per participant, is an expendable government program the GOP-controlled Congress may decide America doesn't need. "We just don't have to fund it," says Sen. Don Nickles of Oklahoma.

AmeriCorps's parent body, the Corporation for National and Community Service, in what may have been an omen, was formally inaugurated in September, the same day a suicidal pilot crashed his small plane into the south lawn of the White House. The national service launching ceremony was moved to the north side. With a budget of \$1.5 billion over three years, it is promoted as a "New Democrat" idea. "AmeriCorps isn't big government," argues Eli Segal, who heads the program. "It's a smart government that helps people help themselves."

With about 20,000 members in more than 300 projects across the country, AmeriCorps already has more participants than the Peace Corps did at its height. The members, as they are called, aren't volunteers. They receive the minimum wage, plus health benefits, child care and a scholarship grant of \$4,725 for each year of full-time service to pay for college or vocational training. Most serve a maximum of two years. They work with sponsoring organizations in the areas of education, public safety, the environment and human needs such as health care. Mr. Clinton calls the program "the embodiment of what we want to do."

Graffiti Battle

In places such as Austin's low-income east side, the political bickering in Washington takes a back seat to the work of the day by AmeriCorps members and local residents. One task is painting over gang graffiti that scars walls around the Booker T. Washington public-housing development. After spreading brown paint over gang markings on retaining walls in the housing development yard, Ms. Brown recalls how gang members would successively put their wall writings higher and higher to escape AmeriCorps redecorative efforts. "We were going to get the best of these people sooner or later," she says. "In the end, we won." The gang members gave up on the graffiti.

Ms. Brown is one of 20 AmeriCorps members in a year-round "Summer of Safety" program sponsored by the city's housing authority, police department and the University of Texas at Austin. The members' motto of whom are eligible for

public assistance, serve in victim-service programs, attend citizen police academy courses, parenting sessions and, for those who need it, classes leading to a high-school equivalency diploma.

Though she received her high-school diploma 14 years ago, the 32-year-old Ms. Brown credits AmeriCorps with getting "the wheels turning in my head." Now she wants to use her scholarship grant to study psychology and become a counselor.

Building Cooperation

Because the participants are from high-crime areas, their presence as public safety workers is particularly helpful in building police-community cooperation, police Sgt. Michael McDonald maintains. "The contact, that's something we could not have accomplished without the program," he says.

At Allison Elementary School, AmeriCorps members generally are university students eager to put their idealism to work. "I see these kids growing. I see these kids learning. I know I'm making a difference," says Andrew Martin, a 19-year-old biochemistry major from a middle-income family in the "seriously backwards" community of New Boston, Texas.

His adult body positioned on a chair made for a five-year-old, Mr. Martin, who is considering becoming a patent attorney or physician, marvels at how working with the eager children around him reduces stress. "You walk into a classroom and you have 14 voices calling your name. It brightens your day no matter how bad a day you've had," he says. "It's hard to get stressed when kids are learning what two plus two is and they're excited about it."

One program AmeriCorps officials particularly are excited about is the immunization effort in Texas. In one demonstration program, 80 AmeriCorps members helped inoculate more than 100,000 children who lacked immunizations even though they were free. That program continues with members such as Tina Hernandez and Barbara Williams, who work at a clinic in Zavala Elementary School. Both neighborhood residents, Ms. Hernandez and Ms. Williams organize health fairs, go door-to-door publicizing health services and even provide transportation to doctors' offices.

To Elaine Sandoval, whose four children have been immunized and given physicals through the outreach efforts of AmeriCorps members, the program means her children get the care they need. "If I have to take my little boy to the doctor, I don't have a car and it's raining, they will take me," Ms. Sandoval says.

'Grass-Roots Effort'

The AmeriCorps members "do a lot of the basic pavement pounding, telling people that I'm here, that the services are free," says Karen Miller, the school-based registered nurse. "If they weren't here with the grass-roots effort, I would not get the population that I do."

Though AmeriCorps is designed to invigorate community service, GOP opponents contend it does just the opposite. The Clinton administration, Sen. Charles Grassley complained in a speech, "seeks to federally bureaucratize voluntarism."

thereby standing the concept on its head." In a series of letters between Sen. Grassley of Iowa and Mr. Segal, the senator said "it seems the laudable goals of community service and reinventing government... are being undermined by the establishment and funding of a large and costly bureaucracy."

Sen. Grassley contends the average per-participant cost, including nonfederal funding, is more than \$30,000. That is "enough money to cover four years of tuition and fees for three full-time students at the University of Iowa," he told a Heritage Foundation audience. That doesn't include administrative overhead. He adds, such as a \$1.7 million contract to a public-relations firm.

Documents supplied to Sen. Grassley's office by Mr. Segal indicate total per-participant costs ranging from \$25,000 to \$70,000. Mr. Segal says in an interview that the average per-participant cost, including the educational grant but excluding the co-sponsor match, actually is closer to \$20,000. AmeriCorps acts as an investment banker, he argues, leveraging other monies in a public-private partnership for community betterment. The General Accounting Office is studying the cost issue.

Strong Opposition

Even a \$20,000 cost for each participant is too high for many Republicans, particularly when some co-sponsors provide matching funds from other federal sources. And what Republicans think is important. Only six GOP senators and 26 House members voted to create the program in 1993. In the new GOP Congress, the opposition—led by Speaker Gingrich—is even stronger.

But in Austin, principal Fred Estrella maintains that the AmeriCorps members who work with his youngest students at Allison Elementary are a blessing. "It's made a real difference," he declares. "I wish I could have one in each class for each grade level."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1995



Eli Segal

Letters to the Editor

Getting Things Done The AmeriCorps Way

In an otherwise thorough Politics & Policy article on AmeriCorps Jan. 18, there is an assertion that AmeriCorps national service programs have per-participant costs ranging as high as \$70,000. No AmeriCorps program costs anything approaching that amount; in fact, AmeriCorps' average cost is less than \$20,000 per member, including the nearly \$5,000 educational scholarship (or student-loan repayment) earned through a full year of service.

The article's reference to a \$70,000 cost was with respect to an AmeriCorps program that in fact costs the federal government 7% of that amount. Through the program, AmeriCorps members—lawyers from among the city's best law firms—will provide full-time, free legal assistance to those without the capacity to afford counsel. The AmeriCorps members will work for half of their normal salaries, which their law firms will pay, while letting the lawyers work for the public good, rather than for private clients. The federal government pays only \$4,911 per AmeriCorps member (the educational award and minimal program support) and no portion of even the reduced salaries.

The AmeriCorps Philadelphia Bar Foundation program is an outstanding example of leveraging each tax dollar. To confuse contributions with "costs" not only misstates the facts about AmeriCorps, but misses the entire principle behind this effort—communities getting things done in a highly cost-effective way.

More than 20,000 AmeriCorps members are benefiting communities across the U.S. They are not federal employees, but critical resources for local nonprofits, and organizations such as the YMCA, the National Council of Churches, Habitat for Humanity and the Red Cross. They also are in the forefront of disaster-relief, whether it is Houston's floods, Los Angeles' earthquake or Idaho's fires.

ELI J. SEGAL
Chief Executive Officer
AmeriCorps National Service
Washington

Chicago Tribune/Ken Marshall and Paul Kunkin

Zeal to cut the budget may bury AmeriCorps

By Carol Jouzaltis
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

After graduating from law school several years ago, Jennifer Weiss was recruited by a prestigious Chicago-based law firm to work on corporate bankruptcies.

"I was making a lot of money. But I dreaded waking up in the morning," Weiss recalled. "I was stuck in a library researching detailed legal issues, making money for corporations. I never saw a client. I felt like I wasn't contributing to anything worthwhile."

Looking to help ordinary people with their legal problems, Weiss signed up in October with AmeriCorps, President Clinton's "domestic Peace Corps" now hotly disputed by Republicans.

It pays her \$15,000 a year, one-fifth the salary she made at the law firm, to provide free legal aid to low-income, battered women in Chicago, while also giving her a

tuition voucher worth \$4,725 to work on a master's degree.

On her way to a Cook County courtroom to meet a client whose husband tried to choke her, the 28-year-old Weiss personified the youthful energy and idealism Clinton wanted to tap when he made a campaign pledge to start a national service program.

While hurrying to get the woman an order of protection, Weiss said her AmeriCorps paycheck "doesn't even pay my mortgage. I get by on my savings and with help from my family. But I enjoy this work. I'm happy now."

With the same pen President Kennedy used in creating the Peace Corps 30 years earlier, Clinton signed the AmeriCorps legislation in September 1993. Congress authorized \$1.5 billion to fund the program in 1994-97.

However, House Speaker Newt

SEE AMERICORPS, PAGE 6

AmeriCorps

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gingrich and other Republicans, scouring the budget for places to cut, want to eliminate AmeriCorps, which received \$580 million in federal funds this year. They've criticized it as a feel-good gimmick that expands the bureaucracy and undermines the American tradition of voluntarism.

Clinton sprang to the program's defense last week in his State of the Union message, insisting that AmeriCorps is "citizenship at its best." Signaling her support during the televised speech, Hillary Rodham Clinton made sure four AmeriCorps members got highly visible seats behind her in the House gallery.

AmeriCorps' mere existence received little notice until Gingrich began attacking it. Yet through aggressive recruiting at schools and community centers, it has signed up 20,000 members, more than the Peace Corps had at its zenith.

While the Peace Corps sends volunteers overseas, AmeriCorps participants enlist to work on domestic projects for one or two years, receiving a modest living stipend—usually the minimum wage—health benefits and educational awards worth \$4,725 each.

They are "helping people person-to-person in local grass-roots volunteer groups, solving problems and earning some money for their education," Clinton said in the State of the Union address.

AmeriCorps supporters say that by doing work on public safety, health, education and environmental projects, participants are addressing national problems, learning the value of community service and acquiring leadership skills that will last them a lifetime.

Their tasks, tailored to local needs, run a wide gamut, from immunizing poor children in Texas to stocking Pacific Northwest rivers with salmon to planting medicinal trees in Hawaii and working as reading tutors in Massachusetts.

Of 350 corps units located around the country, two-thirds are run by various local organizations—police departments or community groups, for example.

The others are sponsored by national non-profit groups such as Habitat for Humanity, which builds low-income housing, and Teach for America, which recruits recent college graduates to teach in poor neighborhoods.

For example, Weiss works for

Project Safe, a partnership between the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago and the Washington-based National Service Legal Corps.

With the project's help, the woman whose husband tried to strangle her obtained an order from Cook County Circuit Court forbidding him from coming near her for two years. Afterward, the woman, named Theresa, moved back into her West Side home and Weiss filed divorce papers on her behalf.

Weiss "has been very helpful," she said, speaking in a low, raspy voice. Her vocal chords may have been damaged in the attack, Weiss said.

"This is very important work because victims of domestic violence are some of the most powerless individuals of our society," said Patricia Connell, Project Safe's supervising attorney. "They take more attention than the [legal] system can ever hope to give them."

The project got a \$37,500 AmeriCorps grant last fall to help support two lawyers, a paralegal and a social worker. In addition to serving 20 clients, they regularly visit hospitals to advise medical staffs about detecting victims of domestic violence. They also go to shelters to educate battered women about their rights.

AmeriCorps will provide another \$23,600 in educational awards to the Project Safe corps members, which can be used for paying school tuition or loans.

While corps members sometimes are referred to as "volunteers," conservatives have been quick to point out that they aren't volunteering because they are compensated for their efforts.

It "pays 20,000 young people to do what 2.9 million others their age already do free of charge and without reward, save the gratification inherent in voluntarism," said Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), one of AmeriCorps' biggest critics.

Grassley said the program is too expensive, costing more than \$30,000 per member a year. Five college students could receive federal tuition grants for the annual cost of a single participant per year, he said.

But AmeriCorps' officials insist that the federal, per-member cost is less than \$19,000, including the tuition award. Eli Segal, a top White House aide and the program's chief executive, argued that the program leverages the federal investment with local contributions, which corps units are required to raise.

Project Safe, for example, has received \$120,000 from the Legal Assistance Foundation and the Chicago Bar Foundation. It also got a lawyers' trust fund to donate computers.

With AmeriCorps funding, the Boston-based service program City Year has expanded to Chicago. Five City Year teams have been involved in various projects, including rehabilitation of a former drug house on the West Side for low-income housing.

Dan Saunders, 20, of Oak Park, said he was sitting in a park last summer, when several AmeriCorps representatives recruited him.

"They asked me if I could use some money for college and I thought it sounded like a good thing to do," Saunders said.

With City Year, he spends mornings installing drywall at the construction site and afternoons working with children at a Cabrini Green youth center.

"Helping the kids leaves you with a good feeling," Saunders said. "It reminds you that nobody's all that different."

While City Year's philosophy of mixing middle-class and disadvantaged, at-risk youths is a broadening experience for many, it doesn't guarantee success for everyone. One of Saunders' fellow corps members was a high school dropout who was dealing drugs when he joined AmeriCorps after hearing about it at a Humboldt Park YMCA.

In December, the recruit said he had given up gang activities and was studying to complete his high school degree with City Year's help.

"There's no way I'm going to leave this, this is my last chance," he declared.

But a few weeks later, struggling to make ends meet on his \$600-a-month stipend, the recruit was dismissed by City Year for too many unexcused absences.

Despite Republican criticisms, strict attendance rules and other controls built into AmeriCorps have made it one of the best-managed federal programs, said Charles Moskos, a Northwestern University professor and AmeriCorps advocate.

While some Republicans would relish the opportunity to undo a Clinton program, AmeriCorps' administrative efficiency may be beside the point since the fledgling program has had little time to show many tangible results.

"Would anyone miss the AmeriCorps volunteers if they were gone?" Moskos asked. "No one knows yet."

OP-EDS

The Washington Post

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1995

C

M.

E. J. Dionne Jr.

Back to Citizenship

House Speaker Newt Gingrich performed a huge service for President Clinton last week. No, this isn't about that book deal. It's about Gingrich's attack on Clinton's national service program. By forcing the president to defend national service, Gingrich has given him a chance to shift the political debate from a moldy contest over "more" or "less" government to one about prior questions: What should government do in the first place, and what obligations do democratic citizens have toward each other?

The service program is certainly worth defending in its own right, and the best arguments for it have been made over the years by conservatives. It's true, as conservatives have said, that bureaucratic charity is not the preferred solution to social problems. Far better to have citizens engaged in helping each other, person-to-person, and to do so through local, voluntarily established institutions.

One of the most useful pieces of work done by conservative intellectuals over the last two decades was a 1977 essay, "To Empower People," by sociologist Peter Berger and the Rev. Richard John Neuhaus. They argued that if government relentlessly took over all charitable functions, it would endanger soci-

ety's "mediating structures"—the institutions created by families, communities and churches—that nurture individual virtue and "mediate" between government and the individual. Government, they argued, should make strengthening these institutions a central goal.

That, roughly, is what the service program does. The volunteers for AmeriCorps, as the main service agency is called, do not work for a federal bureaucracy. They work for already established local institutions that are trying to solve problems: preventing crime, teaching literacy, immunizing kids against disease, helping the homebound elderly, curbing teen pregnancy. The main function of the program's Washington arm, the Corporation for National and Community Service, is to monitor the programs—not for their adherence to bureaucratic rules but simply to make sure they're doing broadly what they claim to be doing.

Why spend any federal money on this sort of thing? Because the voluntary sector needs strengthening, and because federal money spent supplementing voluntary activities has a big payoff. A lot of volunteer organizations are having trouble finding people. Many parents—both parents—necessarily spend so much time working and then raising

their kids that they don't have a lot of time left over. Eli Segal, who heads the service program, sees it as "an effective way of filling in the holes" in the voluntary sector and a recognition of "the chords that bind us together as a people."

This last point is why the broader argument raised by the service program is so important. The idea of democratic citizenship inherent in the program is the one idea capable of answering the problems of two other ideas that are gaining currency in American politics: radical individualism and extreme multiculturalism.

Both ideas start at reasonable places. Almost all of us are individualists in that we value autonomy and freedom. But radical individualism suggests that we are completely free agents, thus denying the reality that our freedom depends on preserving a community that is civil, just, tolerant and nurturing of the other values on which freedom depends. Apart from such a community, freedom withers.

Multiculturalists started out with the fair argument that too little attention was paid to the contributions, ideas and interests of groups other than affluent white males—women, African Americans, Hispanics, working class people

and others. But pushed to the extreme, multiculturalists argued that the only forms of solidarity that counted were those within these particular groups.

Those who value the idea of democratic citizenship argue, against the radical individualists, that preserving freedom is a cooperative enterprise that carries burdens of responsibility. We can't just walk away from social problems. Against extreme multiculturalism, advocates of democratic citizenship argue that our sense of solidarity needs to transcend all our particularisms. Whites need to vindicate the rights of blacks, blacks the rights of whites, men those of women and women those of men.

The Clinton administration has been obsessed with its failure to "communicate" its achievements to the American people. This is the wrong obsession. It implies that the American people are too dumb or too bamboozled by Republican propaganda to "understand" all that the president has been doing.

What the administration should worry about instead is that it is losing the political argument. Americans have surveyed what they see as a series of messes—crime, family breakup, stagnating living standards for many in the middle—and a majority has decided (tentatively) that the best way to deal

with all of them may be for government to do little more than throw the book at criminals. This is not the product of selfishness but a retreat from government that is seen as ineffective, intrusive in the wrong places and insufficiently concerned with nurturing civic responsibility.

There is a corresponding retreat into enclaves. Suburbanites, to pick one example, are tempted to give up on the inner cities, figuring they have enough problems of their own. Think of it as the suburban (or male or white) answer to multiculturalism.

Clinton and the Democrats won't win the argument unless they reverse these trends. One worthy way of doing so is to preach the rewards—and the obligations—of democratic citizenship. A government based on this idea does not pretend to have all the answers. Still less does it claim the right to replace the civic institutions of a free people with its own. But neither is it an indifferent government, because it recognizes that government either strengthens or saps the ability of citizens to live together, solve problems and accept their moral obligations to each other. In this telling, government is not some alien structure out there. It becomes the realm of us all.

Clinton needs to save AmeriCorps

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Newt Gingrich wants to kill the Clinton administration's national service program because, he claims, it is "coerced volunteerism," a tortured concept he just invented.



Marianne Means

The man who had a \$4.5 million book deal approves of volunteerism, mind you, he just disapproves when it does not spring from a selfless desire to work for free, but actually results in concrete rather than purely spiritual reward.

Cute Newtspeak. Clever Newtology. This is the most convoluted act since Rose Mary Woods demonstrated how she struck a foot pedal barely within reach to accidentally erase 18 crucial minutes from a Nixon Watergate tape.

It would be hilarious were this not such serious business.

The president's program, called AmeriCorps, puts young men and women at work on public service projects for a year at the minimum wage. They are rewarded with \$4,725 in education vouchers, to be put toward college tuition or paying off college loans.

They commit to a regular full week's work, unlike the traditional unpaid Gingrich-preferred volunteer, who serves perhaps an hour or so a week, when he or she can find time away from job and family responsibilities.

National service corps participants are not forced to join this program; they must apply of their own free will. No coercion is involved. No government rope snares them in, no federal trap compels them. Far more people are clamoring to get in the program than funds can support.

And government incentives to prompt people to do what they should be doing in the first place is a social policy as old as communal living itself. Harry Truman is famous for remarking upon the irony of this phenomenon, but even he was a latecomer to the idea.

AmeriCorps combines idealism and practicality, opportunity and responsibility. What could be wrong with that? It has President Clinton's name on it, that's what's wrong. The resurgent Republicans would like to wipe out every trace of Clinton's presence in the White House.

Republicans, in fact, have no objections to such stimuli when they come in the form of tax breaks, tax credits or subsidies to lure private industry or wealthy individuals into preferred development, investment or regulatory strategies.

THE SERVICE CORPS is a domestic version of President Kennedy's famous Peace Corps. It is designed to encourage good citizenship, provide needed civic service and help deserving young people go to college all at the same time.

It combines idealism and practicality, opportunity and responsibility. What could be wrong with that?

It has President Clinton's name on it, that's what's wrong. It might, if left intact, become a positive part of his historical legacy.

The resurgent congressional Republicans would like to wipe out every trace of Clinton's presence in the White House. He has mightily offended them by reversing major policies of the Reagan-Bush era and shifting some spending from the Pentagon toward domestic initiatives.

The national service corps, a Clinton campaign pledge, is the one program with which the president is totally identified. "It represents everything I wanted to do," Clinton says.

The Republicans complain that it is just more pork from big Democratic spenders. They hope that by slapping a big government label on it they can do in the program just as they did in the Clinton health plan.

But AmeriCorps volunteers are not reporting to some big new bureaucracy. They go to work for established local community and philanthropic groups that

are already serving the public in a wide range of ways, helping flood victims, repairing low-income housing, bringing supplies to elderly shut-ins, teaching illiterate adults to read and so forth.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT officials, and Washington bureaucrats, choose which organizations are to be helped. A small federal agency with a powerful inspector general was created primarily to monitor costs and conflicts of interest.

The cost, as federal budgets go, is not much. The program will fund 33,000 service jobs this year on a \$350 million budget. It could eventually put 100,000 young men and women to work — a help them go to college — at a cost of \$1 billion.

Republicans also contend that requiring volunteering is bad policy, because it will discourage millions of young people already doing community service from offering their services for free.

This is unrealistic, not to say hypocritical. Most current volunteers serve intermittently, part-time, and are financially secure. The program is aimed at providing reliable, consistent service from young people needing financial help to go to college who are also dependent upon earning an income for daily survival.

President Clinton vows to fight AmeriCorps. It is one of the places he has chosen to draw a line in the sand against the aggressive GOP challenge. He is correct on the merits. And it is a minimum pluck he must show if he is to earn a second term.

■ Marianne Means is Washington, D.C. columnist with Hearst Newspapers.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer 1-29-95

A baffling conservative assault on a worthy program

Much of what is going on in Washington today is admittedly puzzling as we struggle to master the vocabulary and understand the philosophy of the Newt Frontier. But nothing so baffles me as the conservatives' attack on AmeriCorps, the fledgling national volunteer service organization that seems to have been baptized with John F. Kennedy's immortal declaration, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."



TOM FIEDLER
POLITICAL
EDITOR

In its six-month life, AmeriCorps has attracted 20,000 volunteers, most of them late teens and twenty-somethings. That's more than the Peace Corps, its older and well-established cousin, attracted during its zenith years in the 1960s.

That apparently means little to Speaker Gingrich and the GOP's emergent conservative wing. In a speech last week to the Republican National Committee's winter meeting, Gingrich dismissed AmeriCorps as an example of "coerced volunteerism" that needed to be rooted out of the federal budget.

John P. Walker, president of The New Citizenship Project — an incubator of conservative thinking and ally of Gingrich — urged last week that conservatives engage in battle with President Clinton over AmeriCorps as a way of clarifying their divergent philosophies.

"AmeriCorps embodies the bureaucratic populism that has become the variant of big-government liberalism," Walker wrote.

So what is this evil that good conservatives must rip from the bosom of the federal government? In South Dade, it's young

people with hammers and saws and a hunger to help who are building houses through the Habitat for Humanity program, working alongside the prospective owners and helping weekend volunteers learn the necessary skills.

In Broward, they're volunteers who are tutoring teens on the verge of dropping out of school. The idea is that if the teens can keep up in their classes, not only will they be enriched personally, but the community has one less youth — with too much energy and too much idle time amid too much temptation — to drift into crime.

In Miami's Overtown this weekend, AmeriCorps volunteers worked with families around Phillis Wheatley Elementary to clean up a vacant lot — long a hangout for drug dealers — and transform it into a community garden. It's one less place for crime to take root. And in Liberty City, volunteers help residents remove lead paint from old apartments — paint that, when eaten by children, can cause permanent brain damage.

The list of Florida projects is eye-opening, some rural, some urban. In Pinellas County, volunteers assist police every day, while at night they attend classes toward a police certification. In Frostproof, they work with elderly farmworkers — an overlooked and vulnerable group of people.

Meanwhile, nearly 100 volunteers will fan out through the Everglades and Florida Bay, helping scientists to gather the ecological data critical to saving that endangered jewel.

This is not, says Jim Brower, deputy director of Florida's AmeriCorps program, a jobs program. The pay is too small and the hours too long for that.

"This is a program for people who want to make a difference," said the retired Navy officer. "What this does is enables people who might not otherwise be able to volunteer and serve the community to be able to do it."

The financial rewards are clearly minuscule. Each volunteer gets \$7,640 a year in salary, or \$116.92 a week, about half the minimum wage. That weekly stipend is roughly what a congressman makes in two hours (not counting the lobbyist-paid perks). The maximum hitch is two years.

In addition, for every year of service, the federal government agrees to pay \$4,725 toward college or vocational school expenses.

What makes this attack more puzzling is that the AmeriCorps would seem to encourage the values that conservatives take so much pride in emphasizing, rightly so.

The program, of course, is erected atop a foundation of

charity toward others. It also insists that those people who benefit from most AmeriCorps programs also contribute to it.

When volunteers work in an inner-city neighborhood helping residents make their houses safe against burglaries, the residents — through homeowner associations and other means — are asked to contribute a portion of AmeriCorps' costs. Typically, they are also enlisted as workers in other neighborhood projects led by AmeriCorps volunteers.

It's part of that citizen compact: with every right comes a responsibility.

Moreover, all but a few of AmeriCorps' projects are controlled by the community in which they occur — not imposed

on them from Washington, D.C., or Tallahassee. The volunteers are not even federal employees; they draw their paychecks from the program, in which they work.

So much for Big Government. As kind-hearted as AmeriCorps may be, it's also a hard-headed business investment for taxpayers. For one thing, the local community gets far more from each worker than would otherwise be possible to buy on the open market.

And — just as with the GI Bill — every penny we spend on a volunteer's salary and tuition will likely come back to the U.S. Treasury many times over. The college education will enable the ex-volunteer to command a higher salary in the job market, which means higher income-

taxes flowing back.

This is not — or shouldn't be — a Democrat versus Republican issue. Among its backers have been U.S. Sen. Connie Mack of Florida, a Republican, and his colleague, Bob Graham, a Democrat. Former President Bush supported the program and presided during pilot programs.

And it may be instructive to note that in the 10 Florida counties where AmeriCorps is active, the GOP is dominant in the politics of all but one (Broward).

It would be disheartening to suddenly see congressional Republicans stampede into line behind Gingrich because of his personal and mindless hatred of government. There is an irony in that.

The speaker, his new book deal aside, has spent his life dependent on income from the public treasury. He grew up as the son of a military officer, attending government-financed schools.

After attending graduate school (which he was able to do because he applied for and received a student deferment from the draft, unlike so many of his peers in the 1960s), he was hired as a professor at a state college. He now, of course, draws his salary from you and me.

Perhaps Gingrich might change his view of AmeriCorps if he took its approach to public service. He could forgo his salary and perks in favor of the \$7,640 stipend for the next two years.

That would be a start.

But of course by doing his service in Congress he'd miss out on the chance to help people directly who have been through disaster or are hoping to avert one; he'd miss the chance to experience the fear and frustration of those who try to lead good lives in crime-riddled neighborhoods; he'd miss the joy of teaching a child to read, thereby opening his or her mind to a world of wonder and opportunity; he'd miss the true meaning of JFK's clarion call.

Most of all, he'd miss the chance to gather material for a great second book. An apologia for his first.



Herald file photo

READY TO WORK: AmeriCorps volunteers in Dade County were sworn in by President Clinton via satellite at the Miami-Dade Community College downtown campus in September

Hey, Newt, quit picking on Americorps



JESSE JAMES

"I will get things done for America — to make our people safer, smarter and healthier. I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities. Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere. I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond. I am an Americorps member. And I'm going to get things done."

Twenty-three thousand energetic, mostly young people have taken that oath and are in fact getting things done in hundreds of communities across the country — including Dallas. They are the members of President Clinton's national service program, Americorps.

The Americorps participants work full- or part-time at community agencies for minimum wage. They can work up to two years in one of four areas: education, environmental protection, public safety, or health and human services. In return, they receive \$4,725 annually to help offset college or vocational training costs.

Mr. Clinton introduced one Americorps member during his State of the Union address last

week. A high school dropout who had gotten married and had four children, Cindy Perry has since received her high school equivalency certificate and will use her Americorps money for college.

In mentioning Ms. Perry, the president was sending the strongest possible message that his national service program not only will change communities for the better, it also will improve the lives of those who are lending a hand.

Mr. Clinton is touting the year-old program because House Speaker Newt Gingrich and other budget-conscious Republicans have targeted it. Mr. Gingrich, in a recent interview with Newsweek, put the administration on notice: "I am totally, unequivocally opposed to national service. It is coerced voluntarism. ... It's gimmickry."

Nonsense. The members aren't coerced. Members come to the program primarily because they want to help their communities. If they didn't, they wouldn't work for minimum wage. And, excuse me, but \$4,725 didn't go too far toward getting a college degree the last time I checked.

Individuals voluntarily sign up for our armed forces and the Peace Corps because they want to serve. Our military personnel are paid for their service, and rightly so. Peace Corps volunteers are paid a stipend as well. Americorps is no different. So what is the gimmick?

Still, Republicans like Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa are critical of the program because, he says, "it seeks to federally bureaucratize voluntarism, thereby standing the concept on its head." In truth, only 100 people work for the Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the program.

Americorps is a model of decentralization. A third of the program's funding is doled out to

several national nonprofit groups, while the remainder goes to state commissions. The states in turn award grants to local organizations, which recruit and hire the Americorps members. Locally, the Greater Dallas Community of Churches has hired 49 people to tutor, teach alternatives to violence, improve access to health care and reduce hunger.

The decentralized aspect of the program is what prompted 16 House Republicans to send a letter to their colleagues in 1993 asking them to support legislation establishing the program. "The president's proposal is structured as a Republican would have structured it, and ... it deserves broad Republican support," the letter said.

Mr. Grassley also claims the program is too expensive, arguing that the per-member cost is at least \$30,000. Yet the head of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Eli Segal, says the annual expense is actually less than \$20,000. That includes a \$7,200 living allowance, the \$4,725 scholarship and roughly \$7,000 in health care, child care and other administrative costs.

All told, Americorps is expected to cost \$1.5 billion during the next three years. Sure, that sounds high at first. But let's consider the benefits of the program — like immunizing 104,000 Texas children, as 80 members did, or providing a second chance for kids who have been on drugs or dropped out of school. No other single program can buy as much for the money.

That is the kind of cost-benefit analysis Republicans ought to be doing. That is the kind of cost-benefit analysis that can get things done in this country.

Jesse James is an editorial writer and columnist for The Dallas Morning News.

VIEWPOINTS

Editor Bob Moos

Viewpoints is a daily forum for a diversity of opinions and does not necessarily reflect the editorial positions of The Dallas Morning News. We welcome submissions. Please address columns to: Viewpoints, The Dallas Morning News, Box 655237, Dallas, Texas 75265. Or send them by facsimile to (metro 214) 263-0456.

Pennies to Save Lives From the Trash Bin

I REALIZE that Newt Gingrich has a right to speak any words he wishes — after all, he's speaker of the House. But why is he so opposed to thinking before he speaks?

This week, for instance, he said the national service program, the one called the domestic peace corps, should be abolished completely because, in his opinion, "It is coerced voluntarism . . . It's gimmickry."

Well, a lot of people have seen this "gimmickry" — and almost unanimously they are impressed. They say it works. They include me.

I've become familiar with City Year, one of the groups that inspired President Bill Clinton to create the federal service umbrella, known as AmeriCorps. Campaigning in Boston in 1992, he visited City Year and came away saying he wanted to use it as a model for a national program. A year later, after shepherding that model through Congress, he signed into law the National Service Trust Act of 1993.

Here's what it does. It puts 20,000 young volunteers to work all across the country in 350 nonprofit organizations, helping themselves and others. The three-year goal is to expand the volunteer force to 100,000.

The age group is 17 to 23. They come from every background — Ivy League graduates, inner-city youths seeking their General Equivalency Diploma so they can make it to college, high school graduates taking a year off to do some good and learn community leadership skills, former gang members, single mothers, whites, blacks, Latinos, Asians.

Does every young corps member turn into a winner? No, not every single one. But the success rate is very, very high.

City Year, the group I've seen, was founded in Boston about six years ago by two Harvard Law School graduates, Alan Khazei and Michael Brown. They began with about 50 young people. Now they have more than 300.

What they do is renovate old buildings, serve as teachers' aides and tutors in schools, fix up parks and playgrounds, provide assistance to the elderly, build food banks and soup kitchens in church basements, work with the homeless and conduct school workshops on violence prevention and on drug and AIDS awareness.

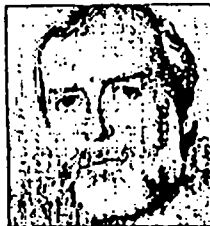
For the first three years of its existence, City

Year existed entirely on private funds. Corporations like Timberland and Reebok and many others became sponsors. The first federal funding became available in the Bush administration. Clinton's AmeriCorps added measurably to that and has made expansion possible.

City Year alone, by dispatching youths already trained, has opened programs in five other cities. Other groups, like Habitat and YouthBuild, are doing the same.

SYDNEY H. SCHANBERG

*I wish the speaker
would go
look at
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what they do.*



An aide to Speaker Gingrich, explaining his boss' opposition, said "it is a program that spends a lot of money for few benefits. This is an employment program, not national service where work is voluntary." I wish the speaker would go look at these young people and see what they do. If he'll agree, I'll personally take him to Boston and have him meet them. I don't know if the experience will change his mind about funding the national program, but I'm willing to bet his spirits will be raised.

The federal spending now on AmeriCorps is about \$200 million a year — hardly a burp in the national budget. Thousands of lives are being saved from the trash bin, thousands of young people are getting on-the-job street training in coping with serious social problems. The volunteers are getting a lot out of it — and so are we as a nation.

Since Gingrich objects to the spending, let us look at what the volunteers are paid. At City Year originally, they got about \$100 a week. If they stayed the full year, they received an additional \$5,000 for college or job training. Those who had already finished college received a smaller bonus.

Now under the AmeriCorps program, volunteers are expected to commit for two years, receiving \$7,500 as an annual living stipend and \$4,725 a year toward further education. Like every other taxpayer, I'm aware that a fair amount of government money gets wasted. But I've seen how this national service money is used. It's anything but a waste; it's a pure investment in the United States of America.

The reason I've seen how City Year works is that one of my daughters, Rebecca, is part of it. She graduated from Stanford in 1993 and is in her second year in the Boston program. The first year, she was a team member. Now she's a leader of a team.

Her team is as diverse as our nation has always been — Brooks Emanuel from Atlanta and Jenny Evert from Minnesota and José Cerneno from Dorchester out of Puerto Rico and Robert Hannaford from North Quincy and Shervin McClellan from Lynn and Darrell Greene from Mattapan and Natalie Pierre of Trinidad and now Dorchester and Yessenia Alvarado from Chelsea via El Salvador and Len Swartz from Hull.

You'll find them most days at a school in Chelsea, one of those struggling communities that ring Boston. The school, housed in the tired Chelsea High School, is called Early Childhood Program, which runs from prekindergarten through the second grade. If you sit for just a few hours and observe the City Year team members working with these 3- to 8-year-old black and Latino and Vietnamese and Cambodian kids, you will learn many things, not least of which is how much these volunteers are needed.

I sincerely hope the House speaker will visit them.

JAN 12 1995

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Volunteers

Living the dream on Dream Street

As we prepare to celebrate the Martin Luther King holiday it will be more than a day off, of marches, of prayers. It will be a day of action in South Phoenix Village.

The Share the Dream project begins with 120 volunteers descending on the village armed with brooms and rakes and gallons of paint. And they will help 21 senior citizens of South Phoenix help themselves with a clean up and home painting campaign.

But these are not just any volunteers, they are from AmeriCorps/National Civilian Community Corps - the national service program created by President Clinton as part of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

Inspired by such men as King, John F. Kennedy and Franklin D. Roosevelt, President Clinton too had a vision. His was for reenergizing the youth of this country and rebuilding America with a domestic version of the Peace Corps that allows students to trade public-service work for college-tuition money.

THESE AMERICORPS members — which got its name from Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps and Kennedy's Peace Corps — are deployed throughout the country to meet critical needs in urban and rural communities.

Young people, between the ages of 18-24, have committed 11 months to two years to community service where they are taught skills for specific projects. More important than the tuition money they'll earn, the program teaches young people how to develop themselves into good citizens, to give back to the community rather than take from it. In President Clinton's words to "strengthen the cords that bind us together as a people."

And they must do it by adapting to new environments and effectively working with people who sometimes are very unlike themselves. With these skills they should go through life with a greater understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity, problem solving and how to work with other people.

"This program sends a strong message and a gives tremendous boost to South Phoenix," said Gail Knight, executive director of the Community Excellence Project.

CEP has been the vehicle in South Phoenix Village — which is a 12 block area in Phoenix between 24th and 32nd streets, from the River Bottom to Roeser Road — that has empowered residents and businesses to effect change in their community. And with that newfound power they have addressed crime prevention, housing rehabilitation and development, human care services for youth and families, economic development and employment training.

IN THE VILLAGE it is "Dream Street" that has become their model neighborhood. Dream Street is actually Corona, between 24th and 28th streets. It is where the residents are concentrating their revitalizing efforts to be the cornerstone and showplace of what is possible.

But so often the longtime residents have had to go it alone building public confidence with action, creating economic opportunities and safe living conditions, and keeping the destructive forces at bay. Depending on themselves and working with governmental agencies to make Dream Street a reality.

That's why having the AmeriCorps volunteers is so special.

"People who had a skeptical attitude about the community, this gives them optimism and a reason to be motivated," Knight said. "For a long time there has been the desire for the community to look better and people to take an interest. It will generate a tremendous amount of momentum and build an appreciation that young people do care, that not all are out to destroy their community."

AmeriCorps will be in South Phoenix Jan. 14-19. In addition to working they will also be learning through workshops and participate in the King march Jan. 16.

Strengthening the cords that bond us is really what the Martin Luther King holiday is day about. It is a generation to generation covenant that crosses all bounds. So that on this day, people no will have to dream the dream, they can live it too.

Kimberly Crockett can be reached at 271-8461.

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the New Citizenship Project

Board of Directors
John P. Walters, *President*
William Kristol, *Chairman*
Jay P. Lefkowitz

January 25, 1995

MEMORANDUM TO: CONSERVATIVE REFORMERS

FROM: JOHN P. WALTERS

SUBJECT: THE IMPORTANCE OF DEFEATING AMERICORPS

In last night's State of the Union address, President Clinton called AmeriCorps "the essence" of his vision for the future, "the New Covenant."

Conservatives may be tempted to let the President keep his "domestic Peace Corps." There are, after all, many other important fights ahead. Why take the grief of being charged with mean-spirited partisanship by seeking to abolish AmeriCorps? Why not let Clinton have his modest, and relatively harmless, program?

Because a debate over AmeriCorps presents an important opportunity for conservatives to define a real reform agenda that fosters citizenship -- and distinguish it from Mr. Clinton's. AmeriCorps embodies the bureaucratic populism that has become the new variant of big-government liberalism. Yes, liberals will acknowledge, big government has become inefficient and even destructive. But its programs should not be dismantled. Instead, they should be "reinvented" to "serve" American communities. This is the new liberal formula to save big government. Conservatives will have to meet this challenge, and overcome it, to get on with the task of real reform. And AmeriCorps is as good a ground as any to fight this out. Here are three reasons:

1. AmeriCorps will undermine healthy volunteerism. Roughly 80 million Americans are unpaid volunteers, serving especially in religious organizations, long the backbone of community service. Countless groups offer night and weekend volunteer opportunities to better enlist the energies of working people and students. Paid "volunteerism" will discourage real volunteerism -- precisely the type of perverse incentive that is the hallmark of the welfare state. And AmeriCorps' effort to bolster a successful private activity -- voluntary community service -- with an infusion of federal tax dollars will encourage community organizations to become dependencies of the federal government. In the process, local control takes second-place to federal grant-seeking. Indeed, AmeriCorps' ethic suggests that we owe a special debt to the federal bureaucracy. Thus, it is no accident that more than 1,200 of the first 20,000 "volunteers" have been assigned to federal agencies.

2. Like all government bureaucracies, AmeriCorps costs too much. The average AmeriCorps "volunteer" will receive a \$7,400 annual stipend, plus \$9,450 toward payment of higher educa-

tion debts. That's \$7.27 an hour per "volunteer." And this does not include the program's automatic health and childcare benefits, the cost of its Washington-based bureaucrats, or the \$1.7 million AmeriCorps ad campaign.

3. AmeriCorps is ripe for liberal abuse. Press reports of the politicization of AmeriCorps have already appeared. *Washington Monthly* characterized AmeriCorps' pilot program, the 1993 Summer of Service, as the "P.C. Corps." Participants in this affirmative action-laden hug-a-thon quickly balkanized into ethnic and homosexual caucuses. After this debacle, the 1994 pilot program, the Summer of Safety sought to address public concern about crime. Yet *The Los Angeles Times* reported that liberal activists in San Francisco's "Summer of Safety" program used its "volunteers" to organize a rally against the crime bill's "three strikes and you're out" provision.

Voluntary community service is not the business of government. And overpaid, Washington-created "volunteers" are destructive of genuine charity. Abolishing AmeriCorps, the newest extension of welfare-state liberalism, will be an important step in rolling back big-government liberalism and opening the way to truly reinvigorating citizenship.

George F. Will

Two Liberal Losers

President Clinton's turbid State of the Union address was a metaphor for modern government—sprawling, metastasizing, undisciplined, approaching self-parody. It underscored the fact that his administration now is politically almost harmless, but is aesthetically excruciating.

The address was heavily larded—exactly the right word, that—with semi-conservative words about cutting taxes, spending and regulations. However, regarding two matters Clinton considers crucial—the AmeriCorps “national service” program and the minimum wage—the address was half-baked and half-hearted liberalism.

AmeriCorps, says Clinton, will revive American volunteerism. The approximately 80 million Americans who volunteer their time to religious and civic organizations may wonder who needs reviving and how much it matters whether AmeriCorps eventually produces 100,000 more volunteers. Today 2.9 million of America's 80 million volunteers are ages 18 to 25, the ages of AmeriCorps “volunteers.”

To Americans who use the English language to communicate thoughts rather than parody them, the use of the word “volunteer” in connection with AmeriCorps' recruits must seem like the latest redundant evidence that Washington is stark raving mad. To plain-speaking Americans, a volunteer is someone who contributes his or her unpaid labor. Clinton's “volunteers” will be paid a \$7,400 annual stipend, plus \$9,450 worth of college expenses over two years. And this is not all that Clinton's little puddle of government-manufactured “volunteers”—little relative to the 80 million true volunteers who need neither financial incentives from, nor organization by, government—will cost taxpayers.

In addition to the health and child-care entitlements for AmeriCorps members, and AmeriCorps' Washington bureaucracy, money is spent to locate “volunteers” to take AmeriCorps money. The Omaha World-Herald says that AmeriCorps gave Nebraska's state government a \$457,622 grant to recruit 23 AmeriCorps members. That \$19,896.60 per recruit calls into question the effectiveness of the \$1.7 million AmeriCorps paid a Washington PR firm for national advertising.

According to the New Citizenship Project, a conservative advocacy group, of AmeriCorps' first 20,000 “volunteers,” 1,200 are working for agencies of the federal government. The New Citizenship Project warns that AmeriCorps is ripe for politicization, citing a Washington Monthly report that a 1993 pilot project became an exercise in identity politics and political correctness, developing ethnic and homosexual caucuses. And the Los Angeles Times reported that a 1994 pilot project in San Francisco used its “volunteers” to protest “three-strikes-and-you're-out” crime legislation.

Clinton calls AmeriCorps the achievement “I would say I was most proud of.” No minimum wage increase will be rival for that title.

In 1992 candidate Clinton endorsed increasing the minimum wage. During 1993 and 1994, when he had a congressional majority that would have done it, he did not ask for it, primarily because some sensible Democrats told him it was a dumb idea. Al From, head of the centrist Democratic Leadership Council, which once advertised Clinton as a New Democrat, says of the minimum wage proposal: “It's anachronistic, it's a loser, it's got no bite with the middle class. And it screams old Democrat.”

Now that there is a Congress that Clinton knows will not enact an increase, he calls it urgent. However, during Tuesday night's oration, when he was pitilessly detailed about almost everything, he remained reticent about how much the minimum wage should be increased. Leaving aside the unwisdom of government telling employers what to pay employees, it is generally true that when you increase the cost of something, people buy less of it. There is evidence that is true of labor at the low end of the wage scale.

The first federal minimum wage—25 cents an hour—was enacted in 1938. Since then, the longest time between increases was from 1981 to 1990. During that span, teenage unemployment (teenagers are a third of all minimum wage earners) fell from 23.2 percent to 15.5 percent, and black teenage unemployment fell from 48 percent to 31 percent. Then the forces of compassion struck, raising the minimum wage twice, in 1990 and 1991. In 1992 teenage unemployment was up to 20 percent.

Now, it is problematic establishing causation for any phenomenon as complex and varied as joblessness. And some studies, including one by associates of the current secretary of labor, purport to show that the minimum wage can be increased somewhat without increasing unemployment. However, the question is academic because a former academic—Rep. Dick Army, the ex-professor of economics who now is majority leader—says he will oppose an increase “with every fiber of my being,” and he will have much company.

But this is of more than academic interest: The minimum wage is now \$4.25 an hour. Clinton is said to be thinking about seeking \$5 an hour. The New Citizenship Project calculates that AmeriCorps “volunteers” earn more than \$7 an hour.

WASHINGTON POST
1/29/95

University of Notre Dame

Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

President Emeritus

Theodore M. Hesburgh Library
13th Floor

AMERICORPS AND AMERICAN VALUES

By Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.

Perhaps no concept so permeates the history of our nation nor captures the essence of our religious and ethical tradition as does service. I have seen many types of national service, from the CCC in which I served as chaplain in the 1930s; to the Peace Corps, in whose heady earliest days the University of Notre Dame and I played a part; to the bipartisan Commission I co-chaired in 1979, which recommended a new national service initiative; and to the latest and best conceived movement for national service, the new AmeriCorps. I have spent my adult life watching this movement develop, and I feel very comfortable about what AmeriCorps is -- and what it is not. In all the recent debate about AmeriCorps, those facts sometimes seem to get lost, and that's a shame -- not just for the 20,000 Americans now Members of AmeriCorps, nor just for the hundreds of thousands of Americans interested in joining it, but for the hundreds of communities around the country that AmeriCorps has reached and the thousands that need its touch.

That is where the real AmeriCorps begins -- in local communities. It works in our biggest cities, like New York, where AmeriCorps Members help keep all of the city's boroughs safer with the NYPD Cadet Corps. They show students in the South Bronx how to keep disputes from getting violent with AmeriCorps' Aspira; they teach classes in the toughest schools with Teach for America; they help the elderly live independently with the City Volunteer Corps; and they serve throughout the City with a score of other charities.

And AmeriCorps works in smaller cities and tiny rural hamlets too. Notre Dame has recognized AmeriCorps' value. That's why it joined, fielding 40 extraordinary college graduates who teach in South Bend schools in the summers and in 30 financially strapped schools in four southern states during the school year. The principals of these schools say these AmeriCorps Members are "on a mission", and their spirit and commitment have enriched their students' lives and re-energized their fellow teachers. Those students wouldn't make it without the AmeriCorps Members -- and the 40 young teachers couldn't live out their commitment without AmeriCorps.

We knew that in 1979, when our bi-partisan Committee for the Study of National Service recommended "a public corporation chartered and funded by Congress but drawing its leadership largely from the private sector of American society." That is the basic structure of AmeriCorps, but it's even better than our 1979 version: AmeriCorps is guided by a corporation (the

- 2 -

Corporation for National Service), but it has also moved most of the decision-making closer to problems by giving authority and responsibility to the states and by having programs operated by local non-profits. AmeriCorps is funded by Congress, but it requires local companies and foundations to foot a substantial part of the bill. And AmeriCorps is headed by business people (its CEO, for instance, is a Boston businessman), monitored by a private sector board, and wedded to competition, not politics, as the method by which grants are made and participants join up.

Some have wondered whether the \$600 a month AmeriCorps members earn as a living allowance, and the \$4725 scholarship or student loan repayment they can earn through a full year's service, destroy the spirit of service. It hasn't done so in the Peace Corps. It hasn't done so in the many youth and service corps that started in the 1980s here at home. And it hasn't done so in AmeriCorps. Many of us in the clergy take a vow of poverty. Citizens need only take a vow of responsibility. AmeriCorps does demand sacrifice from its Members. And for those who answer the challenge, it provides not only the opportunity to help pay for college, but the higher reward of making a difference, and the lifelong satisfaction of building community.

If we are to recapture basic values that our history and religion teach, we must make the challenge of service accessible to more than those who can afford to take a year off. And if we wish to reclaim our communities from the danger of crime, the decline of education, the decay of environment, the demoralization of the homeless, then we know that more trained, focused help is needed. That, too, is what AmeriCorps is. Churches have always called parishioners to aid those in need, and Americans of all faiths have been the most generous people on earth. But more is needed. Week-end volunteers return to their jobs Monday morning, as do parents to their children, and the clergy to their congregations. AmeriCorps is designed to make the most out of what each American can give in time and talent -- that's why those organizations that have always made service their mission, from Notre Dame to the Red Cross to Habitat for Humanity to the YMCA to the Multiple Sclerosis Society -- 350 in all -- have been proud to join the AmeriCorps Network.

Sixteen years ago, our Commission concluded that "since service appears to us to be a critically missing dimension in the education and development of American young people for an adult life of productive work and good citizenship, we think that the sooner a system of National Service if established, the better for the nation." It was a non-partisan idea then. It was a non-partisan idea when President Bush signed a national service law in 1990.

- 3 -

It was a non-partisan idea when Congress created AmeriCorps less than a year and half ago. It should be free from political gamesmanship now. Values matter, now more than ever. Let AmeriCorps help nourish the roots of citizenship, so that all our American dreams can flower.

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh served as the university of Notre Dame's president from 1952 to 1987. He has chaired numerous national commissions, including the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

X

Volunteers or Not, They Get It Done

By SARA ENGRAM

Don't call members of AmeriCorps volunteers. As anyone connected to the program is quick to point out, they're full-time workers. You won't find many "volunteers" who spend 40 hours a week or more on the job.

But for some Republicans the term is a handy buzzword for igniting a partisan debate. "To replace voluntarism with bureaucrats is wrong," says House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Supporters of AmeriCorps — and of the ideals of national service — are ready with their answers.

"They're not replacing anyone," says Rhoda Dorsey, former president of Goucher College and chair of the Governor's Commission on Service, the board that oversees Maryland's AmeriCorps efforts. AmeriCorps funding is available only for projects that are not being done by anyone else. If these workers didn't offer these services, nobody would.

Hilda Peterson, 45, a mother of seven children in Cumberland, has learned first-hand the needs that exist in her community. As an AmeriCorps worker in Western Maryland, she has been able to extend a meal-delivery program for senior citizens into a rural community where elderly people were getting no help.

Often, Ms. Peterson says, these people were existing on diets of crackers and applesauce simply because they were unable to prepare more nutritious meals. Her most satisfying experience is the aid she has been able to provide for a woman in her 90s, crippled with arthritis and living alone in a farmhouse several miles from her nearest neighbors. "Helping her has made the whole thing worthwhile," she says.

In Baltimore, 28-year-old Sean Stevenson, an AmeriCorps worker who is tutoring in a city elementary school, cites the first-grade child who spent her days in silence before the program began. Now, he says proudly, she's such a confident little girl, "she talks all day."

Ms. Peterson and Mr. Stevenson, like those AmeriCorps members who were present in the House chamber for President Clinton's State of the Union message this past week, are volunteers in the sense that they asked to participate. But these days soldiers also volunteer for the army, and even members of Congress voluntarily run for office. Yet once they're in service to the country, no one expects them to serve for free.

In contrast, AmeriCorps workers come close to working for free. They earn only a small living allowance, usually around \$600 a month, plus about \$1,200 a year in health benefits. For most of them, the enticement is a voucher for \$4,725, to be used for education and collected only after they have completed a year of service, or 1,700 hours of work.

Their one-year service to America costs about \$13,000 each, 20 percent of which is covered by the programs in which they work.

Meanwhile, AmeriCorps members are plowing plenty of rewards back into the communities. That's especially true in Maryland. With 854 people serving in some 18 different programs, Maryland now has more AmeriCorps members per capita than any other state. The benefits they provide don't come just in dollars and services, but also in the spark of imagination that helps communities pull together to find local, small-scale, non-bureaucratic solutions to problems.

That's another place defenders of national service differ sharply with the critics. AmeriCorps encourages partnerships that would seem unlikely in other contexts. In Baltimore, Mr. Stevenson works in a program called Enable, which offers a range of services under the auspices of Baltimore Reads, Inc., the School of Pharmacy of the University of Maryland at Baltimore and Community Building in Partnership, Inc.

As Dr. Dorsey notes, we live in a society that believes in solutions. We tell ourselves that if we can define a social problem and devise a way to tackle it, we can solve it. But that kind of thinking has often led to exactly the kind of expensive and expansive government efforts that Speaker Gingrich and his allies detest.

AmeriCorps has a different philosophy. It puts a premium on small-scale approaches and on finding ways to leverage local resources, both in money and time. Many AmeriCorps programs make use of a "cascading" model of voluntarism, in which AmeriCorps workers recruit and train volunteers for various projects, who in turn recruit and train other volunteers, thus multiplying the rewards many times over.

"This is a not-very-expensive way of tackling problems that have not been amenable to solutions on a grander scale," Dr. Dorsey says.

AmeriCorps gets things done — from feeding hungry people and tutoring students to taking health services door-to-door and cleaning up public areas. No wonder President Clinton considers AmeriCorps one of his proudest achievements.

Sara Engram is editorial-page director of The Evening Sun.

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expressing my continued strong support of the concept of national service. The passage of the national service bill in the last Congress was an event that I, along with a number of my colleagues, looked forward to for many years. Since President Clinton signed the legislation into law on September 21, 1993, thousands of Americans have served our country in projects which range from teaching school in inner-city neighborhoods to preventing destruction of lands along our Nation's rivers.

The case for this initiative depends on understanding that it is uniquely a program that offers a triple investment in the future productive capacity of our people and our communities—first of all, in the service performed; the service experience, No. 2; and the postservice benefit for our young people, No. 3. I know that the word "investment" has been much abused in debates on the Senate floor in recent years, and for some it is just a code word for Government spending. We must not, however, become so cynical that we cannot see a real investment with a real payoff when it is staring us in the face.

The idea for this investment came from recognition that many Americans have, for the first time, perhaps, in our history, forgotten the relationship between rights and responsibilities. We often see reports in the news media about various groups proclaiming that this Government service or that Government service is a right. We are so often reminded of the rights all Americans should enjoy that we often lose sight of the other side of the same coin, and that is the responsibilities that we must share in order to make these rights possible. Just as we have rights to freedom, to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, those sacred rights carry with them equally sacred responsibilities. The National Service Program was created to provide young Americans with opportunities to fulfill that obligation to give something back to their country and to their communities.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who dedicated his life to the cause of civil rights and whose birthday we celebrated this past Monday, understood that only through assuming responsibilities that accompany our rights can we help ourselves. He said in the last Sunday morning sermon before his assassination:

Human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of men willing to be co-workers with God, and without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation. So we must help time and realize that the time is always ripe to do right.

National Service provides young people a means to meet the challenge to do right while expanding their own horizons and building opportunity for their futures.

NATIONAL SERVICE

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the national service program which has been the subject of a good bit of discussion in recent media accounts and which President Clinton addressed this last week.

From the outset, I want to make it clear that I join President Clinton in

Critics have tried to attack the National Service Program in a number of different ways. During the debates on the authorizing legislation, we heard cries of how many more Pell grants we could fund with the money, or how many more job training programs we could fund with the money. Though these criticisms are valid as far as they go, they almost inevitably lose sight of the fact that National Service does not exist for the purpose of simply providing student aid or even job training. National Service exists primarily to provide service. And if the program is not providing service, then it does not deserve to exist. A good analogy is our Nation's Armed Forces. We do not maintain Armed Forces in order to provide valuable skills and develop good character in young men and women. Rather, Armed Forces personnel develop skills and character in the military as they carry out their primary mission of providing our Nation's security.

The same is true of national service. Would critics have the Senate disregard the benefits to society of national service participants providing employment counseling and tutoring to homeless people in Atlanta? Should we ignore the benefits of the first-time immunization of 33,000 children in Fort Worth, TX, in one month which was carried out by those serving in the national service program?

I could go on and on with the kind of service being provided. That is the true test of national service. Are we really serving people and helping communities? Considering the benefits national service provides at the community level, it is difficult to see why there are so many objections to this program. Indeed, given the debates we have heard on unfunded mandates and we continue to hear that on legislation in this body, I would think that our colleagues would agree that national service represents the type of program that we ought to support.

National service is not a Federal mandate for any specific type of service, nor does it require that communities participate at all. National service gives communities and service organizations and young people the chance, voluntarily, to identify and perform the kind of service which best meets their local needs with the Federal Government providing the funding. So it is almost the opposite of a Government mandate.

At the same time, it provides meaningful work for young people addressing real problems without Federal micromanagement. This real work for real value will ensure a strong payback for the taxpayers' dollar. In the program, national service instills in young people the strong traditional values of hard work and responsibility. They learn those values because they are serving—it is not a program to teach those values. It is a program where the values are learned because of service rendered.

As for the claim that national service is—quoting one of the critics—"coerced volunteerism," I would suggest that critics ask any of the more than 200,000 people who requested applications for last year's AmeriCorps Program or the 20,000 that were selected and are now serving, whether they were coerced. National service is not coercion any more than was the Montgomery GI bill which provides educational benefits for hundreds of thousands of young Americans who serve and have served in our Nation's All-Volunteer Force.

Instead, like the Montgomery GI bill, national service is an opportunity, an opportunity that young people all over America have said they want. Nothing is more evident of that than the overwhelming number of applications. I think we will see even more of the applications in the years to come, assuming this program continues.

As for the benefits of service, and to me this must be the way we judge the program more than any other judgment, although there are, really, as I said, three parts to the program, service is the No. 1 part. In my State alone the excellent works that have been performed by these young people is very impressive. In Georgia, national service participants are working in Atlanta area schools as teaching assistants, tutors, and mentors. They are aiding police in developing a community-oriented police program in Albany, GA. They are helping create an emergency 911 network in Douglas and Coffee County. They are identifying local environmental programs in Decatur, GA, and developing plans to engage youth in solving them. They are tutoring hundreds and thousands of young people every day in elementary school. They are also in some of the rural areas that I visited. They do not have any foreign language teachers in the schools there and they have found that with the immigration that is growing in our State and other States, these young people who are in school that cannot speak English need help. In many cases, in a couple of the rural communities, that help is coming from national service participants who have a second language and who are able to be the only ones in the community that can really communicate with the newly arrived legal immigrants in our school.

All of these efforts are duplicated in national service programs nationwide. From aiding the American Red Cross and providing food and clothing for California flood victims to building homes for needy families in the poorest sections of Miami, with Habitat for Humanity.

In conclusion, Mr. President, national service provides a triple payback in valuable service to the community. Higher skills and lower debts for our young people for attending colleges or getting advanced education after high school and a much stronger sense that we are all in the American enterprise

together, bound by mutual respect and mutual obligation.

In the Peace Corps Program in my State the participants begin each day with a chant announcing their readiness to serve, to earn, and to learn. That, Mr. President, is the most eloquent summary of the concept of national service that I think we can offer. To serve, to earn, and to learn.

I urge all Senators to listen to our young people, to visit these programs, to make sure that the criticism of the programs—which is welcome—make sure it is constructive, to make sure we look at whether we are really getting service in the communities where they are serving, rather than simply oppose this program as another governmental program.

I urge all Senators to particularly talk to our young people, listen to them, and see what they say about what they are doing in serving and earning and learning and continuing to give them a chance in this regard. There is room for improvement in the program. There is room for constructive criticism. There is room, perhaps, that would affect the budget. In my view, blind opposition to this exciting concept is simply not the way to go at this point in time.

I think the main measure must be whether we are getting service from these young people and whether they are helping the communities, helping young people, helping those in need. It is my hope that if this program works and I believe it is working, that it will be viewed in the future as not simply an addition to the way we deliver services to those in need in our country and in our communities but rather in lieu of some of the existing programs.

I can think of no better way to deliver social services in this Nation to those in need. We are going to continue to have people in need. We are going to continue to have community demands that cannot be met with nominal funding. I can think of no better way than unleashing the energy, enthusiasm, and idealism of tens of thousands of America's young people in addressing these critical problems. To me this is the way we ought to begin thinking about shaping our social services.

At this point in time this program is in addition to the existing programs. We should look at it more and more as a substitute to some of the programs and a supplement to others.

I thank the Chair. I know the Senator from New Hampshire would like to speak. I yield the floor.

Mr. SMITH addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

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Divider Title: 5

No Attachments

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Divider Title: 6

FLORIDA TIMES-UNION

JACKSONVILLE, FL
DAILY 182,136

WEDNESDAY
DEC 21 1994
BURRELLE'S

NATIONAL SERVICE

Americorps designed to complement armed forces

62979T
As an active supporter of the Americorps national service program and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I strongly disagree with the Times-Union's recent editorial charging that Americorps damages military recruiting.

The armed forces offer far greater benefits than national service. Military salaries are much higher than the minimum wage allowance of Americorps members.

As was noted in the editorial, "college tuition of \$20,000 to \$30,000 can be earned for an Army hitch." Americorps' maximum education award for a year of service is \$4,725.

In fact, the Americorps award was set significantly lower than GI bill awards in recognition of the greater sacrifice made by those who serve in our armed forces. Moreover, under the national service law, veterans are encouraged to join Americorps and earn its benefits without diminishing those earned while in the military.

More than 2 million recruits currently serve in our armed forces. Americorps fields 20,000 members.



The program was designed so as not to impair military recruiting and to reflect the diversity of citizens seeking to serve our nation.

Americorps meets its much smaller need by drawing from a larger recruiting universe, including people of all ages, people with disabilities and many others who do not meet the requirements for military service.

Each year, Army recruiters turn

away more than 100,000 people who want to serve but fail the physical examination. For many of them, Americorps offers an opportunity to get things done for their country.

Americorps' commitment to work in partnership with our armed services has resulted in major programs that it operates with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and organizations such as the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

Americorps is designed to complement, not detract from, the great work of the armed forces. Protecting freedom at home and abroad, our men and women in uniform give all that a nation can ask of its citizens.

Inspired by that greater sacrifice, Americorps members work with communities to solve basic problems, get results and reap the opportunities of our free society.

DAVID C. JONES
Arlington, Va.

DRAFT

AmeriCorps: On the Offensive for our Communities

by

David C. Jones, General USAF (ret.)

As a supporter of the AmeriCorps national service program and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I was pleased to see President Clinton recognize four AmeriCorps members for their service to our country during his State of the Union Address. I was especially gratified that one of those dedicated and determined young people, Philip Wu, is a U.S. Army veteran who is complementing his military service with a hitch in AmeriCorps.

Philip served as a telecommunications specialist in the Army, then used his G.I. Bill benefits to complete two years of college. As an AmeriCorps member, he builds homes with the Miami Habitat for Humanity program. He draws on skills learned in the military to recruit, train and supervise volunteer builders. From AmeriCorps/Habitat, he has learned skills in all aspects of home construction. And he'll use his education award from AmeriCorps (\$4,725 for each year he serves) to finish college and get his degree (veterans earn AmeriCorps benefits without diminishing those they earned in the military).

Philip Wu's example shows a common chord of spirit--a spirit that gets things done--in the work of those who serve our volunteer Army and those who serve full-time in AmeriCorps. Of course, our men and women in uniform give all that a nation can ask of its citizens, protecting freedom at home and abroad. Their's is a far greater sacrifice.

But just as our armed forces provide for the national defense, AmeriCorps is mounting a national offensive here at home against problems that threaten our society. This offensive involves 20,000 AmeriCorps members serving in locally-run programs, tutoring high-risk children, cleaning up our rivers and streams, working with police to reduce crime, helping disaster victims rebuild. AmeriCorps provides 350 community programs with the best resource of all--Americans who want to shoulder responsibility and serve our country.

Like our armed forces, AmeriCorps is mission-based. AmeriCorps programs either deliver results or lose their funding. Service builds character while it rebuilds communities, and AmeriCorps members get a chance to give others a hand and get a hand with education costs. But while AmeriCorps invests in the individuals who serve, it makes a far broader investment in renewing our society and enriching our economy. Our communities are leveraging every tax dollar that supports AmeriCorps.

For example, a 10-member team of the AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corps worked with a Baltimore community to build an after-school education and recreation program for high-risk kids. The AmeriCorps team restored a local park, refurbished a nearby recreation center, organized and trained local residents to conduct activities and tutoring programs that give

kids an alternative to the streets and build their academic skills. With its job done, the AmeriCorps team moved on to a new challenge, but left behind a center that serves 75 to 85 youngsters. The team had also helped set up a homeowner and renovation program that trains people to become first-time homeowners.

Other cases in point. An AmeriCorps member in rural Kentucky works every day with children in a public school, teaching them to read so they can compete and won't drop out of school. In Texas, more than 100,000 children have been immunized and will never need public health services for treatment of a host of diseases, saving over five dollars for every dollar invested. In Kansas City, Missouri, an AmeriCorps program closes crack houses and gives youth alternatives to drugs and gangs. And in Miami, with help from Philip Wu, families who once depended on subsidized housing will be paying mortgages on their first homes. These are major, long-term investments, both human and financial.

AmeriCorps programs work. They show what we can accomplish when government operates as a true partner of communities. And most important, they build citizenship by enacting an old truth that the men and women in our armed forces learn so well--to earn opportunity you must take responsibility for yourself and for others.

*David C. Jones, General USAF (Ret.), chairs the advisory board of AmeriCorps*NCCC (The National Civilian Community Corps). He served as Air Force Chief of Staff from 1974 to 1978, and as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1978 to 1982.*

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Divider Title: 7

AmeriCorps Private Sector Partnerships

AmeriCorps Investors - Corporations and Foundations

AmeriCorps programs are required to demonstrate community support by securing matching funds from non-governmental sources. The following is a partial list of businesses and foundations that have invested ten thousand dollars or more directly in local AmeriCorps programs:

CORPORATION

FOR NATIONAL

 SERVICE

Ahmanson Foundation

Alcoa

AlliedSignal

Allstate

Amelior Foundation

American Express

Anheuser-Busch

Arthur Anderson

ARCO

Arizona Community Foundation

Astrum International

Atkinson Foundation

Baltimore Community Fund

Baxter

Bechtel

BellSouth

Booth Ferris Industries

Botwinick-Wolfensohn Foundation

British Petroleum

Bullitt Foundation

California Community Foundation

Capital Cities/ABC

Charles A. Dana Foundation

Charles Hayden Foundation

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Central New York Community

Foundation

Clark Foundation

Compaq

Copelco Financial Services

Cowell Foundation

Dan Murphy Foundation

DeKalb Pictures

Digital

Dion Foundation

Dressner Industries

Drinker, Biddle & Reeth

Echoing Green Foundation

Enron

Entergy

Ewing Marion Kauffman

Foundation

Fannie Mae

Federated Department Stores

First Union National Bank

Fleet Charitable Trust

Foundation for the National Capital

Region

The Gap

General Electric

Girard Foundation

Goldsmith Foundation

Graham Foundation

Grand Rapids Foundation

Greater Cincinnati Foundation

Greater Kansas City Community

Foundation

Greater New Orleans Foundation

Haas Family Foundation

Haas Jr. Foundation

Haas Sr. Foundation

Hall Family Foundation

Harrah's Casino

Helen Bader Foundation

Helen & Jeannette Weinberg

Foundation

Hewlett Foundation

Hogg Foundation

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000

bold denotes a cash commitment of \$100,000 or greater

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

Home Depot
 Houston Endowment
IBM
J.P. Morgan and Company
James Irvine Foundation
Johnson & Johnson
 Key Bank of New York
Knight Foundation
Lannan Foundation
 Lederly Laboratories
 Liz Claiborne
 Lola Wright Foundation
Luce Foundation
 M. and P. Haas Foundation
 McKesson
 Meadows Foundation
 Meyer Foundation
 Microsoft
 Millipore
 Milwaukee Foundation
 Mitsubishi Electric America
Mobil
 Morgan Stanley
 Monsanto
 NationsBank
 Natural Gas Pipeline of America
 Niagara Mohawk
 NYNEX Foundation
 New York Times
 Packard Foundation
 Panhandle Eastern
 Pennsylvania Legal Services
 Pepsi Cola
 Pew Charitable Trust
 Philadelphia Bar Foundation
 Philanthropic Ventures Foundation
 Phil Hardin Foundation
Philip D. Reed Foundation
Philip Morris
 Phoenix Suns
 PNC Bank
 Popeye's of Maryland
 Price Charities
 Prince Charitable Trust
 Proctor and Gamble

Prudential Insurance
 R.J. Reynolds
 R.K. Mellon Foundation
 R.P. Simmons Foundation
 Rhode Island Hospital Trust Bank
 Richard Seaver Trust
 Richardson Foundation
 Robinson Foundation
 Rockwell Foundation
 The Rouse Company
 Safeco Insurance
 Sallie Mae
 San Diego Community Foundation
Seagram
 Shell Oil
Skillman Foundation
 Sony Corporation of America
 Sprint
 Star Foundation
 Steelcase
 Stover Foundation
 Strauss Foundation
 Sturgis Foundation
 Tandy Foundation
 Tenneco
 Texaco
 Time Warner
The Timberland Company
 Toyota
 Treasure Coast Pictures
 Union Pacific
 UAW/Chrysler
 UPS
United Way of America
W. K. Kellogg Foundation
Walter Family Foundation
 Whitaker Foundation
 William Keck Jr. Foundation
 Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation

list in formation - 1/95

bold denotes a cash commitment of \$100,000 or greater