YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

More Youth Employment Opportunities Are Needed.

- 700,000 young people aged 16 through 21 were *not* in school and were *not* employed in December 1962.
- Unemployment rates in the 16-21 age group are about three times as high as unemployment in the adult population.
- 18 out of every 100 high school graduates in June 1961 who did not go on to college were still unemployed in October 1961.
- 28 out of every 100 school dropouts were unemployed in October 1961.
- 26 million young people will enter the labor market during the 1960's—about 2½ million new young jobseekers every year.
- To employ these young people, the American economy must create 25,000 new jobs every week for the next 10 years.

Youth Employment Proposals in the 88th Congress.

In order to open up new job opportunities for America's young people, Senator Humphrey (D., Minn.), Congressman Blatnik (D., Minn.), Congressman Perkins (D., Ky.), and many other members of Congress have sponsored legislation to set up a Youth Conservation Corps and to encourage programs of local area community service employment for young people. The Humphrey bill, S. 1, and the Perkins bill, H.R. 1890, have Kennedy Administration approval and support.

The purpose of this legislation is twofold—(1) to provide jobs, job training, and work experience for youngsters who are otherwise unemployed, and (2) to stimulate development and conservation of America's outdoor natural resources as well as development of local community service activities.

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) and the community service program should *not* be confused with proposals for a "domestic peace corps" or "national service corps" which would recruit more highly trained volunteer workers.

In 1959 during the 86th Congress, the Senate passed a YCC bill but the House of Representatives failed to act on it. During the 87th Congress the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee and the House Education and Labor Committee approved youth employment legislation, but the House Rules Committee blocked further action. Prompt action by the 88th Congress on youth employment legislation is imperative.

President Kennedy Supports Youth Employment Opportunities Act.

In his economic report to Congress on January 21, 1963, President John F. Kennedy declared "The persistently high rates of unemployment suffered by young workers demand that we act to reduce this waste of human resources. I will therefore recommend the passage of a Youth Employment Opportunities Act to foster methods of developing the potential of untrained and inexperienced youth and to provide useful work experience."

When Senator Humphrey introduced his bill in the Senate, he said "First, I believe it is essential to recognize that S. 1, the Youth Employment Bill, carries with it the full approval of the White House and the Bureau of the Budget. This bill has been cleared down to the last comma with the Administration. This is the Administration's bill relating to the problem of Youth Unemployment. It is the first bill of the 88th Congress to receive such White House endorsement."

The AFL-CIO Supports Youth Employment Legislation.

The Fourth AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention in December 1961 adopted a resolution of support for enactment by the Congress of a Youth Opportunities Act and establishment of a Youth Conservation Corps to help meet the employment needs of America's young people.

The Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, in its report on the YCC bill in the 87th Congress, stated clearly that work performed by YCC members should not take jobs away from adult workers.