

August 20, 1935

[National Youth Admin. Director]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE STATE DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH
ADMINISTRATION

August 20, 1935

I am glad to see this particular group. We have been looking forward to the initiation of this youth program for a great many years. In previous days groups came down here to talk about education, child welfare and various things like that. They had very interesting discussions and they passed very nice resolutions. Later the whole proceedings were bound up and distributed around the country. Everybody went home and little, if anything, resulted from these efforts.

Our procedure is different. We have asked you here to start something. We have given you fifty million dollars. It is the first time the Federal Government has attempted a great national project of this kind. It is an experiment, but we are going to get action, something more than mere resolutions, out of it.

It is up to you to see that action is effectively carried out. I am very glad that we have such a fine personnel to start this work. As you know, a very large portion of the money is going to be used to enable boys and girls to carry on their education -- boys and girls who could not otherwise do it. But there is also a large

amount, very nearly half, set aside for other types of work such as vocational training, the building of playgrounds and the establishment of forums in various places.

We have not decided entirely on that part of the program as yet; that is one of the things we want to talk over with all of you.

As to the experimental part of it -- I suppose we can stress this -- we don't know how it is going to turn out next year when perhaps we won't have as much money. The future is going to depend on the success of the experiment. If the experiment is a success, there is not much doubt in my mind that future Congresses will continue the work. Therefore, for that very reason, you have a very great responsibility. The success of the program depends, in large part, on all of you. You are building for the future, not only for the coming year.

Of course, primarily, we have to recognize that the work this year is for the benefit of the young people of the families now on relief but, in a larger sense, it includes, through the effect it will have, all young people, in every part of the Nation.

Figures show that there are more than 2,900,000 young people in families on relief and of these 2,900,000, 1,700,000 are on relief in urban areas and 1,200,000 are on relief in rural areas. In addition to that, out of the

total of 2,900,000, half a million are negroes. Furthermore, less than one-half of all these young people have reached or gone beyond the eighth grade. It seems to me it should be our aim and purpose to secure for these 2,900,000 young people the opportunity to share equally with their fellows the normal blessings of our traditional American life, to be a part of and to have a share in normal family life, in school work and in the better fitting of themselves for jobs and for life work.

I wish I could have taken part in your discussions. I am going to follow the work you do with great interest and I am very proud of the way in which you are undertaking it.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 20, 1955

EXTRAPARLIMENTARY REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND MR. AUBREY WILLIAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION, TO
THE STATE DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH
ADMINISTRATION, WHITE HOUSE, August 20, 1955.

MR. WILLIAMS: These ladies and gentlemen have been appointed State Directors of the Youth Administration. It is a very great pleasure to me, Sir, to present them and to have them meet you.

THE PRESIDENT: I am glad to see this particular group. We have been looking forward to the initiation of this youth program for a great many years. In previous days groups came down here to talk about education, child welfare and various things like that. They had very interesting discussions and they passed very nice resolutions. Later the whole proceedings were bound up and distributed around the country. Everybody went home and little, if anything, resulted from these efforts.

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It is up to you to see that action is effectively carried out. I am very glad that we have such a fine personnel to start this work. As you know, a very large portion of the money is going to be used to enable boys and girls to carry on their education -- boys and girls who could not otherwise do it. But there is also a large amount, very nearly half, set aside for other types of work such as vocational training, the building of playgrounds and the establishment of forums in various places.

We have not decided entirely on that part of the program as yet; that is one of the things we want to talk over with all of you.

As to the experimental part of it -- I suppose we can stress this -- we don't know how it is going to turn out next year when perhaps we won't have as much money. The future is going to depend on the success of the experiment. If the experiment is a success, there is not such doubt in my mind that future Congresses will continue the work. Therefore, for that very reason, you have a very great responsibility. The success of the program depends, in large part, on all of you. You are building for the future, not only for the coming year.

Of course, primarily, we have to recognize that the work this year is for the benefit of the young people of the families now on relief but, in a larger sense, it includes, through the effect it will have, all young people, in every part of the Nation.

Figures show that there are more than 2,800,000 young people in families on relief and of these 2,800,000, 1,700,000 are on relief in urban areas and 1,100,000 are on relief in rural areas. In addition to that, out of the total of 2,800,000, half a million are negroes. Furthermore, less than one-half of all these young people have reached or gone beyond the eighth grade. It seems to me it should be our aim and purpose to secure for these 2,800,000 young people the opportunity to share equally with their fellows the normal blessings of our traditional American life, to be a part of and to have a share in normal family life, in school work and in the better fitting of themselves for jobs and for life work.

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STATEMENTS FILE

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EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE STATE DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL
YOUTH ADMINISTRATION, WHITE HOUSE,
AUGUST 20, 1935.

Mr. Williams: These are the persons that have been appointed as State Directors of the Youth Administration. It is a very great pleasure to me, Sir, to present them here and to have them meet you,

The President:

I am glad to see them all here. I was told there was 48 States in the Union but I think there are about 65 or 70.

I am glad to see this particular group because it is something we have been looking forward to for a great many years. You know, we have had in previous days things that were known as White House Conferences -- groups that came down here to talk about education and child welfare and ^{various} things like that. They had very interesting discussions and they passed very nice resolutions and the whole thing was bound up in a fine binding and distributed around the country and

everybody went home and everybody was satisfied.

Our procedure is somewhat different. We have asked you to come down here to start something and we have given you fifty million dollars to do it with. It is the first time that the Federal Government has ever gone into a great national project of this kind. It is an experiment, but we are going to get some action out of it instead of mere resolutions. It is up to you good people to see that that action is carried out. It is the first practical step that the Government has ever definitely taken. I am very glad that we have such a fine personnel to start this work. As you know, a very large portion of the money is going to be used to enable boys and girls to carry on their education — boys and girls who could not otherwise do it. But there is also a large amount, very nearly half, set aside for other types of work such as vocational training, the building of playgrounds, the establishment of forums in various places. We have not decided entirely on that part of the program as yet, that is one of the things we

want to talk over with all of you.

As to the experimental part of it, and I suppose we can stress this, we don't know how it is going to turn out next year when perhaps we don't have as much money or the year after. The future is going to depend on the success of the experiment. If the experiment is a success, there is not much doubt in my mind that future Congresses are going to continue the work and therefore for that very reason you have a very great responsibility. The success of the program depending in large part on all of you, you are building for the future and not only for this coming year.

Of course, primarily, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ we have to recognize that the work this year is for the benefit of the young people in the families of those who are now on relief but, in a larger sense, it includes through the effect it will have ^{on} all young people in every part of the nation. Our figures show that there are

more than 2,900,000 young people in families who are on relief and of these 2,900,000, ~~xxx~~ 1,700,000 are on relief in urban areas and 1,200,000 are on relief in rural areas. In addition to ~~them~~, ^{that} out of the total of 2,900,000, half a million are negroes. Furthermore, less than one-half of all these young people have gone beyond the eighth grade. It seems to me that it should be the aim and purpose of what you are going to undertake to secure for these 2,900,000 young people the opportunity to share equally with their fellows the normal blessings of our traditional American life, to be a part of and to have a share in normal family life, in school work and in the better fitting of themselves for jobs and for life work, and the chance to be valued members of their industrial, social, economic and rural communities.

I am tremendously keen about this whole thing, personally. I think it is going to be one of the two or three most interesting experiments that the national government has conducted in our day and

generalism and that is why I am awfully glad to greet you down here.

I wish I could have taken part in the discussions you have had. I

am going to follow the work you do with a great deal of interest and

I am very proud of the way in which you are undertaking it.

1. - p. 20, April 1
2. - p. 21, April 2
3. - p. 22, April 3
4. - p. 23, April 4
5. - p. 24, April 5
6. - p. 25, April 6
7. - p. 26, April 7
8. - p. 27, April 8
9. - p. 28, April 9
10. - p. 29, April 10
11. - p. 30, April 11
12. - p. 31, April 12

Handwritten notes on lined paper, possibly a list or a set of instructions. The text is written in a cursive, somewhat illegible script. It appears to be a list of items or steps, with some numbers and symbols interspersed. The first line starts with a period and a number, followed by several lines of text that are difficult to decipher due to the handwriting.

Handwritten notes on lined paper, continuing from the first section. The text is written in a cursive, somewhat illegible script. It appears to be a list of items or steps, with some numbers and symbols interspersed. The handwriting is consistent with the first section, and the text is difficult to decipher due to the cursive style.

It is a great satisfaction to me to observe the almost universal approval which the people of our country have given to the establishment of the National Youth Administration.

The work which you are being appointed to do is primarily for the young people in the families of those now on relief. But it also includes all young people, in all parts of the nation.

I am informed that there are more than 2,900,000 young people in families who are on relief, of which there are 1,700,000 on relief in urban areas and 1,200,000 in the rural areas. Of the total, there are 500,000 negroes - and less than one-half of all youth have gone beyond the eighth grade.

I conceive it to be the aim and purpose of what you will undertake to secure for these 2,900,000 young people the opportunity to share equally with their fellows the normal blessings of our traditional American life, to be a part of and have a share in family

life, school work, to have a job and the chance to be a valued member

of their industrial and social communities.

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~~EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE STATE DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL
YOUTH ADMINISTRATION, WHITE HOUSE,
AUGUST 20, 1935.~~

Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. Williams: These ~~are the persons that~~ have been appointed

~~as~~ State Directors of the Youth Administration. It is a very great
pleasure to me, Sir, to present them ~~here~~ and to have them meet you.

II

The President:

~~I am glad to see them all here. I was told~~

~~there was 48 States in the Union but I think there are about 65~~
~~or 70.~~

I am glad to see this particular group ~~here~~

the initiation of this youth program

~~concerning~~ we have been looking forward to for a great many years, ~~you~~

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~~Conferences~~ groups that came down here to talk about education, ~~and~~

various child welfare and things like that. They had very interesting discus-
sions and they passed very nice resolutions, ~~and~~ the whole ~~thing~~

Later proceedings were

and
~~bound up in a fine binding and distributed around the country, and~~

Everybody went home and ~~nothing was done~~ ^{if anything} ~~was done~~ ^{little} ~~was done~~ ^{resulted from these} ~~was done~~ ^{efforts.}

9 Our procedure is ~~what~~ different. We have asked you ~~to~~ ~~come down~~ here to start something ~~and~~ [✓] we have given you fifty million

dollars ~~to start with~~. It is the first time ~~that~~ the Federal Government has ~~ever~~ ^{attempted} gone into a great national project of this kind. It ^{is more} is an experiment, but we are going to get ~~some~~ ^{something more than} action out of it ~~instead~~ ^{of mere resolutions}

⁹ It is up to you ~~and the people~~ ^{to see that} ~~that~~ ^{effectively} action is carried out. ~~It is the first practical step that the Government has ever definitely taken.~~

I am very glad that we have such a fine personnel to start this work. As you know, a very large portion of the money is going to be used to enable boys and girls to carry on their education — boys and girls who could not otherwise do it. But there is also a large amount, very nearly half, set aside for other

types of work such as vocational training, the building of playgrounds, ^{and} the establishment of forums in various places. ⁹ We have not decided entirely

on that part of the program as yet; that is one of the things we

want to talk over with all of you.

II As to the experimental part of it, ~~and~~ I suppose we can stress this, we don't know how it is going to turn out next year when perhaps we ~~won't~~ have as much money ~~as the year after~~. The future is going to depend on the success of the experiment. If the experiment is a success, there is not much doubt in my mind that future Congresses ~~are going to~~ ^{will} continue the work, ~~and~~ therefore, for that very reason you have a very great responsibility. The success of the program ~~depends~~ ^{depends,} in large part on all of you, you are building for the future ~~and~~ not only for the coming year.

II Of course, primarily, ~~in connection with~~ we have to recognize that the work this year is for the benefit of the young people ~~in~~ the families ~~of these children~~ now on relief but, in a larger sense, it includes through the effect it will have all young people, in every part of the nation. IF figures show that there are

more than 2,900,000 young people in families ~~who are~~ on relief and of these 2,900,000, ~~xxx~~ 1,700,000 are on relief in urban areas and 1,200,000 are on relief in rural areas. In addition to ~~them~~ ^{that}, out of the total of 2,900,000, half a million are negroes. Furthermore, less than one-half of all these young people have gone beyond the eighth grade. It seems to me ~~that~~ ^{reached or} it should be ~~the~~ ^{our} aim and purpose ~~of what you are going to undertake~~ to secure for these 2,900,000 young people the opportunity to share equally with their fellows the normal blessings of our traditional American life, to be a part of and to have a share in normal family life, in school work and in the better fitting of themselves for jobs and for life work, ~~and the chance to~~ be valued members of ~~their~~ industrial, social, economic ~~and rural~~ ~~communities.~~

~~I am tremendously keen about this whole thing, personally~~
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 I think it is going to be one of the two or three most interesting experiments that the national government has conducted in our day and

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I wish I could have taken part in ^{your} the discussions ~~you have had~~. I

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I am very proud of the way in which you are undertaking it.

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NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION

1734 NEW YORK AVENUE NW.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 20, 1955

The President
The White House

My dear Mr. President:

Attached I am sending a memorandum with regards to your meeting this afternoon with the State Directors of the National Youth Administration.

I have appointed Directors for forty-six of the forty-eight states. A good number of these are taking on this new work without additional compensation. They include a large number of persons who are part of the educational system of their several states, as well as people who are part of our Works Progress Administration.

The program which has been arranged for them has or will include talks by Mrs. Roosevelt, Miss Josephine Roche, Mr. Hopkins, Dr. Studebaker, and numerous other persons. They will remain in Washington until Wednesday.

Yours very truly,


Audrey Williams
Executive Director