

A Proposal to Broaden the Composition of the Youth Peace Corps

The most exciting moment of the Presidential election campaign came for many Americans when President-elect Kennedy urged formation of a YOUTH PEACE CORPS.

"Think of the wonders skilled American personnel could work," he said, "building good will, building the peace. There is not enough money in all America to relieve the misery of the underdeveloped world in a giant and endless soup kitchen. But there is enough know-how and there are enough knowledgeable people to help those nations help themselves.

"I therefore propose... a peace corps of talented young men willing and able to serve their country in this fashion for three years as alternative to peacetime Selective Service--well-qualified through rigorous standards--well trained in the language, skills and customs they will need to know...

"This would be a volunteer corps--and volunteers would be sought among talented young women as well--and from every race and walk of life."

(emphasis added)

youth peace corps-2

It is unlikely that a YOUTH PEACE CORPS drawn exclusively from student bodies of colleges and universities will be genuinely representative of the population. A great many talented young people complete their education when they graduate from high school. Each year, tens of thousands in the top twenty-five per cent of the graduating classes decide to go no further. Generally speaking, these young people come from the lower-income families. On the other hand, the family income and status of the young people who earn degrees tends to be higher than average for the population.

The racial and cultural composition of a YOUTH PEACE CORPS might be made more representative and its usefulness enhanced if opportunity for service in the Corps could be opened to young people who satisfactorily complete training for journeymanship in one or another of the apprenticeable trades.

Such young people could make an immediate contribution to the creation of a modern economy in almost any economically underdeveloped country--and working as journeymen on the job could help begin the work of creating therein a skilled labor force.

youth peace corps-3

Characteristically, the young American who "serves his time" in a program approved by the Bureau of Apprenticeship of the United States Department of Labor must work for 8,000 hours on a precisely prescribed program under close supervision by journeymen and apprenticeship committees. In such programs, apprentices are required to spend some time working, under a journeyman's supervision, in all significant aspects of the trades in which they are apprenticed.

In almost all cases, only high school graduates are eligible for acceptance in a recognized apprenticeship program. During the training period (generally four years) the apprentice will also be required to take related classroom instruction of not less than 650 hours. In this time he will receive instruction and be required to demonstrate competence in subjects related to his trade. Generally, these cover elementary algebra, geometry, trigonometry, blue print reading, elementary physics, elementary metallurgy, shop drawing, and other, similar subjects.

In short, the young American who completes work in such a program

youth peace corps-4

is a well trained, and very likely highly skilled worker. He will generally be about 22 or 23 years of age--since almost all apprenticeship programs require applicants to be at least 18 years of age.

Almost certainly, the skills possessed by these young people are non-existent or at a premium in many underdeveloped countries. If the proposed Youth Corps is expanded to include some of them, the persons volunteering can work on projects and also begin at the same time to help train other workers in the countries to which they are assigned.

In fact, it would seem reasonable to expect that, in some cases, the services of such young people will be more eagerly sought than the services of engineers. Many underdeveloped countries are sending young men and women to the United States and to other Western countries for advanced academic training, but few, if any, send young people abroad to complete apprenticeships.

As an example of what might be done: a group of perhaps 25 young Americans, trained as motor and diesel engine mechanics, could establish in a single country as many as five repair depots. There, locomotives, trucks

youth peace corps-5

tractors, etc., could be repaired, and there, at the same time, perhaps as many as 125 young citizens of the country affected could begin training to become journeymen mechanics--or at least to learn well one or another aspect of the trade.

A similar group--balanced out in a variety of trades--could work at a power dam location doing the necessary wiring, installing panels, operating and maintaining equipment, while training others to take their places after they are withdrawn.

Still another group might work with road building or construction crews, immediately contributing of their own skill to the completion of the job at hand, but also carrying on a seeding operation which would enable others working with them to acquire needed skills.

With reasonably intelligent planning, it should be possible to make effective use of such groups in many of the economically underdeveloped countries.

The problems of recruitment in this country, and of giving appropriate prior training to such young people do not seem to be insuperable.

youth peace corps-6

Apprentices can be solicited to volunteer for service in the Youth Corps in the third (next to last) year of apprenticeship on the same basis that young college people apply.

During the fourth--generally last year of apprenticeship--they could attend classes at night and on week-ends for intensive training in the language of the country to which they are to be assigned as well as for general orientation.

Such programs probably can be arranged without great difficulty, since a large number of the apprenticeship training programs are organized in metropolitan centers in which college and university level teaching assistance ordinarily will be available.

During this final year when the volunteers are attending classes, their adaptability for work in the Youth Corps can be evaluated, and the obviously unqualified can be winnowed out.

If such a program is to be established within the next couple of years, important preliminary work should be begun now. As a minimum, what is called for immediately is the accumulation of data through the United Nations,

youth peace corps-7

appropriate organizations regarding the specific labor force needs of particular underdeveloped countries.

At the same time, a census should be taken of young Americans who are now working in certified apprenticeship programs. Simultaneously, governments of underdeveloped countries should be canvassed to determine where such help will be welcome.

Matching the information gathered in this way, it should be possible in a six-month period to determine in what areas of the world such programs are most needed, and in which countries they would have the greatest chance for success.

Thereafter, recruitment for at least a dozen pilot programs could begin. In all likelihood, it would be possible quickly to establish one or more such programs in each of the twenty largest American cities.

At the same time, education officials of the participating economically underdeveloped countries could be made aware of the kinds of classroom training that would have to be offered to the young people who would be included in such a

youth peace corps-8

program.

Where necessary, qualified teachers who volunteered for work in the Youth Corps would be dispatched to the affected countries to help create the needed programs.

Other members of the same Corps, qualified as psychologists, could assist education officials in the participating countries in the establishment of aptitude testing which would enhance the various programs' chances of success.

It is conceivable that in a relatively short period of years, several thousand qualified mechanics could be trained in apprenticeship programs by young American journeymen.

Aside from the political and cultural advantages that would accrue to our nation if such a program were successful, it might also justify itself in economic terms.

Journeymen trained in the United States use American tools, materials and methods. The people they train, almost naturally, would use such tools and methods also. American markets overseas might thus be expanded.

youth peace corps-9

Journeyman trained under Americans would be likely to feel friendly toward the persons responsible for their training. In most countries these newly created journeymen will be members of trade unions. As a minimum, it could be expected that workers trained by Americans would be somewhat less susceptible to the blandishments of the communists than those who receive training in programs sponsored by the Soviet Union.

Furthermore, workers selected for training in apprenticeship programs probably will be a cut above the ordinary, and likely therefore to be more influential with their peers than the average. Historically, it has been the skilled workers who have exerted the greatest influence in the development and leadership of the trade union movement, and graduates of apprenticeship training programs would probably often emerge as the local leaders of indigenous labor movements.

Considering what we know of the communist movement, it is reasonable to expect that it will regard the working class of the economically underdeveloped countries as a vital target--and it is not at all unlikely, it will offer apprentice

youth peace corps-10

training to these countries at some time in the near future--if this has not already been done.

Action now within the United States might put our country in a position to compete with the Soviet Union for the loyalty of workers in many economically underdeveloped areas, while helping to build healthy economies, raise standards of living, give workers the dignity and hope which often comes with the acquisition of valued skills, and help establish the basis for democratic life in the affected countries.

BS:c
oeiu42

Personal + Confidential

Provincial Secondary School
Maiduguri, Nigeria
February 12, 1961

Dear Ohet,

We are overjoyed to hear that the Peace Corps is making such progress. However, if you received our last newsletter you already know that our enthusiasm for the program is mixed with a large number of reservations.

Handwritten notes on left margin:
wonder
what
Amun
mya
Poy
Hush

Few will doubt that it is a good idea, but from this end at least, it seems that a great deal of hard thought and tact will be required to put the Peace Corps idea into successful operation. The basic problem here, as in most newly independent countries, is that the role that foreign advisors are to play in the future development of the society is still undecided. The momentum which carried many nationalist leaders into their respective government front benches has not been entirely spent. Until recently, success in politics has often rested on one's ability to mobilize sentiment against the alien colonial powers; and perhaps the most frequent recurring nationalist demand has been that the civil service be Africanized. To expect Independence to bring a basic change in this pattern overnight is, of course, wishful thinking. Regardless of how great the need is for outside personnel, the talk still goes on about sending all the Europeans home. (Incidentally, "European" as used here has racial rather than national connotations; we are Europeans and are usually thought of accordingly.) Here in the most conservative part of conservative Nigeria even our best friends among the students have half seriously told us that "the sooner the white people leave Nigeria the better." And a special parliamentary committee last year demanded sweeping Nigerianization of the civil service and educational system. Many, perhaps most, people here regard the hiring of "European" advisors and educators as nothing better than a necessary evil.

This, of course, is not to say that we are not wanted. At all responsible levels of government the drastic need for foreign teachers and advisors is fully realized. The point is simply that we are not welcomed with open arms on all sides, and that opposition and left wing parties will be able to mobilize considerable public opinion against Peace Corps personnel should anything go awry. The dependence of an ex-colonial nation on the talents of its ex-colonial masters and on others of the same race and culture acts as a constant irritant on the sensitivity and pride of even the most levelheaded people here. The hope is that now that Independence has been gained the temptation of complaining about the continued presence of alien advisors and technicians will take a back seat to the main task of modernizing and developing the country. This seems to have been the case in Ghana.

The obstacles and dangers presented by this touchy situation are great and a number of mistakes will no doubt be made before the project is worked out. Far from feeling that our on-the-spot situation has given us a monopoly on good ideas concerning the Peace Corps, we're afraid that it may have narrowed the scope of our vision. Our ideas concerning the program and its possible pitfalls are listed below in four groups: 1) selection; 2) type of project; 3) magnitude of the program; 4) financial and other mechanical arrangements.

1. Who should be selected? We can hardly overemphasize the importance of sending the right people. The idea of accepting large numbers of American technical assistants, teachers, etc. is and for some time will be in a trial stage. A few bad choices sent out with the first contingent might seriously damage the entire program. Before our group came here last fall there had been five carefully selected American teachers in the Northern Region. Two broke their contracts after less than a year and went home without so much as giving advance notice to the government. A third is now in trouble with the police on questions ranging from politics to morals; and a fourth will probably go home this spring without completing his contract. You can easily understand the Education Ministry's having a rather sour attitude towards American teachers after this experience. We should emphasize that the five who came out here 18 months ago appeared to be ideal candidates.

In view of the fact that the program will probably be quite small in its initial stages we feel that you should be highly selective in your choice of Peace Corps personnel. There doesn't seem to be any problem about the supply of enthusiastic candidates for the jobs.

Concerning selection, the most important point to bear in mind is that most of the situations with which we are confronted here are unlike anything we or any average American youth, has encountered before. Those who have excelled in a limited field at home may be complete failures here. The campus wonderboy is not necessarily the best Peace Corpsman. We obviously have no fool proof way of ensuring that you select only the best. We would suggest, however, that candidates be rated against the following criteria, listed below in order of importance.

a. Adaptability and flexibility. In our minds this is the quality most needed. One must be willing to change his mind when confronted with new facts, and cheerfully to tackle unforeseen and difficult problems as they arise. The candidate must be able to adapt to a completely alien culture, to new and often infuriating levels of government efficiency and integrity, as well as to what is usually an entirely new job. If the candidate is a recent college graduate perhaps the best qualifications in this line would be a varied and active extra-curricular career and a good record of varied summer employment.

b. Maturity. We hardly need emphasize that candidates must be mature in all respects, thoughtful and considerate of others, and able to work well with people of diverse backgrounds. The worst possible candidate is one who is insecure, argumentative and easily upset by small setbacks or personal criticism.

c. Professional qualifications. You might be surprised that professional qualifications come so low on our list of criteria for the good candidate. Although we have found teaching difficult, the greatest challenge of all here is in the field of personal relations --either with students, other members of staff or townspeople. Of course, professional qualifications should be a very important standard by which to judge candidates; there is no excuse for our sending over anything but really top notch teachers, technicians, etc. From the looks of the response at Yale, Harvard, and all over the country, magna cum laudes and other highly qualified people will be a dime a dozen among your candidates. Hopefully, you can afford to choose only those who measure up well against the

personal criteria we have mentioned in "a", "b" and in "d" below. In reviewing a candidate's professional qualifications, the selection committee should look for versatility. Teachers, for example, are much more useful if they can teach three different courses and repair the school truck as well.

Looking at this question from the negative point of view, a person who turns out to be not particularly good at his job won't do the U.S. or the Peace Corps program nearly as much harm as would an indiscreet and immature person who is constantly at loggerheads with his superiors, his colleagues, and other members of the community.

Incidentally, Chet, we're not sure that we agree with you about sending these without a college degree. It is perfectly possible that a high school graduate of reasonable age and maturity might be an excellent candidate, but we feel the chances are against it. First, regardless of the academic results, four years at a university is a very broadening experience which would be difficult for a high school graduate to gain elsewhere except in unusual cases. Second, most institutions in the newly independent countries are quite stuffy about whom they accept. Nancy, with two years of college, has been teaching here for six months without approval by the Ministry of Education. It wasn't until last week that they decided that she was "qualified." Sending high school graduates would create substantial technical difficulties with the recipient countries which might best be avoided, or at least postponed until the program is on less precarious footing. Third, one might ask, "if the candidate is truly outstanding, why didn't he find some way of getting a college degree?" Fourth, most areas, even Nigeria's Northern Region, have quite a few secondary school graduates. Were high school graduates sent as part of the Peace Corps, the program would no doubt be attacked on the grounds that it was competing with, rather than supplementing, local talent, and that it was preventing a number of local people from gaining much-needed experience in government jobs. Finally, most countries would find it a bit insulting to be offered people with no more than high school diplomas, regardless of how much they were needed. We realize that the program would have substantially more popular appeal at home if it were not limited to college graduates. No doubt our reservations on this question sound highly undemocratic. We don't, however, feel that it would be wise to accept high school graduates as long as there are a sufficient number of qualified candidates with university degrees.

d. Motives. We feel that the reason why a person desires to work as a teacher in Nigeria or a technician in India are of great importance. In our rather limited experience, those who have come here hoping to bring light and truth to the country singlehandedly, or to liberate the struggling masses, or to "save Africa" have had a most difficult time and have on the whole done an unsatisfactory job. These highly idealistic people often find after three or four months that they haven't saved or liberated anyone and that they are stuck with a very normal, unglamorous, tiring and difficult job. We don't by any means suggest that idealism should be discouraged, but it must be combined with a willingness consistently to work hard at a job which often seems only remotely related to one's higher motivating ideals.

Concerning wives of the married candidates, they should be subjected to all of the above criteria except professional qualifications. Of course, candidates whose wives are qualified to teach or work as nurses, etc. should be favored. Here in Maiduguri, we have seen how much trouble an unhappy or mal-adjusted wife can cause. One of the best teachers at the school had to leave because of his wife's deeply rooted anti-African bias. We do feel, however,

This assumes the Peace Corps are to be teachers & do men push into school

that as long as the wife is happy, married couples find it much easier going out here. Both of my Yale '60 friends here who are single say that they would be much better off were they married. Working here could be a very lonely and trying experience; companionship and moral support are constantly needed.

Of course, successful candidates must be physically fit.

The question of how to select the candidates certainly is a baffling one. The African-American Institute selection process for teachers seemed to be about as complete as possible, but it has been far from satisfactory. The problem is made especially difficult by the great importance of the intangibles such as adaptability, maturity, and motivation. We hope that the difficulty in testing these qualities will not lead to a greater reliance on the more easily calculated attributes such as professional qualifications and academic honors received in college. Obviously selection should be based as far as possible on interviews and personal recommendations. One or more boards of selection might be formed which should consist of Americans with employment experience in the recipient countries, State Department people, people from the professional or academic world to pass on the professional qualifications of the candidate, and representatives of the recipient governments. In each case, the recipient country should be involved in the final decisions on candidates. Besides making a valuable contribution to the selection process, this would give the recipient countries a greater feeling of mutual participation in the project and would also avoid the charge that the U.S. was sending hand-picked State Department men to Africa and Asia under the guise of technical assistance.

We realize that screening and interviewing are terribly costly. This is one area, we suggest, where you should forget the cost and do the best job possible. Above all, on the question of selection, we feel, a) that if necessary, quantity should be sacrificed for quality and b) that the magnitude of the program isn't nearly as important as the original impression made by whatever people are selected, however few.

2. What type of project would be suitable for Peace Corps personnel?
The answer to this question is almost limitless. In any ministry in Kaduna or Lagos the people in charge will say that the most drastic need is for qualified staff--for administrative and field work. Anyone with a degree, and preferably experience in agriculture, forestry, engineering, economics, animal husbandry, industrial administration, medicine, conservation, geology, and no doubt other areas, would have no trouble finding jobs here in Nigeria and elsewhere in Africa if the administrative snags could be worked out. Jobs might range from working as an economic advisor to a Ministry for Economic Development, to trekking around in the field as an Agricultural Officer disseminating information concerning the latest and best method of harvesting groundnuts. The need for doctors and nurses is especially great.

Most of the Peace Corps people will probably go into education where jobs would be open to science, history, English, geography, mathematics, and other graduates, with preference given to candidates with science or mathematics degrees and to those with teaching experience. Most of these would probably be employed by secondary schools, teacher training centers, and institutions on that general level. Most governments are not willing to bear the cost or

administrative headaches of importing primary school teachers. Here in Nigeria there is at present, a serious need for university lecturers and instructors, especially in the physical sciences.

We feel that as far as possible the recipient countries should be the originators of Peace Corps projects. American advisors should be active in formulating plans, but the projects should at least appear to be locally inspired and run. Of course there are many projects where such an approach would be inappropriate, but we feel that it should be favored wherever possible. This would underscore the cooperative aspect of the program and would pretty well spike the guns of those who level the charge of foreign intervention at every conceivable assistance program. Why not invite the governments of a few newly independent nations to go over drafts of the Peace Corps proposals and to submit criticisms?

You no doubt are already familiar with the various programs already in existence which in their limited ways are similar to the Peace Corps idea. People like Steve Bailey, Professor Wilson at M.I.T. and Harry Heintzen at the African American Institute might give you some helpful advice concerning the problems encountered in running their respective programs.

3. How large should the Peace Corps be? The long run prospects for the Peace Corps appear to be almost without limit; one can easily imagine tens of thousands of Americans working overseas under such a program. For the first two or three years, however, we feel that the magnitude of the program should be governed by at least two considerations. First, the capacity of most underdeveloped countries immediately to absorb a vast number of teachers, technicians, etc. is severely limited. We estimate that the Northern Region Ministry of Education could efficiently utilize at most 120 additional teachers next year. The need for educational personnel is great, but facilities for using a large influx must be prepared in advance. Second, the first year or two will be somewhat in the nature of an experiment and in view of this, we feel that the whole task of successfully administering the program will be made substantially easier if you are dealing with fairly small numbers of highly selected people. It seems unwise to commit yourselves on a massive scale in one precise direction until you have a fairly good idea how it will work out.

4. Financial and other mechanical arrangements. Most of the mechanics of the Peace Corps will have to be decided after careful thought and negotiation. A few of our ideas are outlined below.

a. Length of service. We feel that two years should be the absolute minimum period of service. First, any shorter period would not give the Peace Corpsman adequate time to master his job and thoroughly familiarize himself with his community and to make close friends. In the six months we have been here we have made strenuous efforts to learn about the Kanuri and Hausa people and to make friends with Nigerians from all walks of life. We have worked equally hard at developing our teaching methods and improving the subject matter of our courses. As yet we have hardly scratched the surface. Second, short tours of duty are costly as they involve a much more rapid turnover which means additional expenses for transportation, selection, orientation, and administration. Third, there is likely to be a great difference between the candidate who wants to go to Africa for a summer or

a year and the one who is willing to spend two or three years of his young life working abroad. The only justification which we can see for offering short tours of duty would be the unlikely situation of your not having enough qualified candidates.

b. Pay and other financial aspects. No doubt this will be a very complicated aspect of the program. Here are two simple suggestions. First, most young Americans who desire to teach or work in a civil service job in Africa or Asia are not out to make money. As long as the salary is high enough to allow a level of living which will not impair the person's working efficiency or endanger his health, it will be regarded as sufficient by most candidates. Second, you should avoid the impression that the program is an act of charity. Most governments can pay part of the bill. Where possible, why not let them pay the most conspicuous part?

Incidentally, the Nigerian government refused to allow the British Government to pay for even wives' and children's allowances of the British personnel who have stayed on in the Nigerian civil service. The argument was that two separate paychecks might create divided loyalty. You will no doubt encounter this type of thinking, however unfounded.

One problem remotely related to salary which will no doubt come up is that many well qualified professional people with good jobs at home will be willing to work for reduced pay only if they can be sure of returning to their old job, or one equally good when they have finished their service with the Peace Corps. In some cases satisfactory arrangements have already been made. The Detroit School Board, for example, has given a friend of ours now teaching in Katsina a three year leave with his job guaranteed when he returns. This seems to be a near perfect arrangement, but we doubt that it will be widely accepted by other school boards. Considering the importance of sending experienced professional people as part of the Peace Corps, we feel this problem should be tackled as soon as possible.

c. Orientation period. Most young Americans who come out here have very little idea of what to expect and of how to deal with the many problems which confront a newcomer in his first two months. The usual resort is to trial and error which usually succeeds after numerous faux pas and mistakes. Obviously a good stiff orientation period including discussions of local culture and history, intensive preparation for the new job, an intensive language program, and a general political briefing on the area is needed. If possible, informal personal contact with citizens of the recipient countries should be included as part of the orientation. The orientation period should be compulsory for wives as well as for the candidates themselves. If possible, the orientation period should cover most of the summer before the Peace Corps men leave to take up their jobs. Incidentally, many of the British teachers here have been through a year's course in London specifically designed to prepare them to teach in West Africa.

Those who have a break in their tour during the summer months might meet in regional conferences to exchange helpful information, to iron out difficulties, and to restore the idealism and esprit de corps of the participants which might have been worn thin by a year of hard work in the field. While these conferences should be under the guidance of highly competent and trained American personnel, they should also utilize local economists, engineers, educators, etc. as speakers and discussion leaders.

A number of local counterparts to our Peace Corps personnel should be encouraged to participate. The conferences could serve as a means of disseminating information and advice to the Corps men as well as a good nucleus for a constant re-evaluation of the program.

The admittedly substantial cost of the conferences would be more than balanced by the fact that they would ease the administration of the program, they would allow the Peace Corps agency at home to keep in close, but inconspicuous touch with its personnel, and they would increase the cohesion of the program. They would also provide the Peace Corps personnel with a fine opportunity to see more of their area than they otherwise might, and to gain a much wider perspective through group discussions on specific problems related to their work dealt with on a regional or continental basis. The publicity generated by these conferences would convey to those people not directly in contact with Peace Corps personnel the idealism and dedication of American Youth, as well as the new look in Washington. The conferences could be held in important capitals of the region on a rotating basis, i.e. for the East Africa region, one year in Kampala and the next in Dar es Salaam.

d. Administration of the program. In view of the suspicion with which Western personal are regarded in so many newly independent countries, it would be wise to have the Peace Corps program administered in the United States by a non-governmental body. We have no idea how, or even if, this could be done, but we do think it is important. In the recipient countries you should attempt to disassociate the Peace Corps administrators and personnel from the diplomatic mission as much as possible. Would it be possible for the United States Government to give the various governments who have asked and been selected to receive Peace Corps personnel a carefully totalled lump sum of money to hire an American Peace Corps administrator and to pay the salaries and expenses through him to the Peace Corps personnel?

Along these lines, we feel that if the service in the Peace Corps were worth a draft exemption, the program would be attacked here on the rather muddled, but understandable thinking that if the United States Government will exempt youths from the draft to join the Peace Corps, the program must be either quasi-military or in some other way closely tied to America's military interests. Moreover, were the program a substitute for the draft it would be open to all sorts of fire at home. Admittedly, without the draft exemption, it loses much of its attraction, but the best candidates will be enthusiastic regardless of their draft status.

We trust that considerable discretion will be used in selling and publicizing the Peace Corps at home. The program would be seriously weakened if the President and others spoke publically about the Peace Corps as a "bold program to counter the Russians in Africa." The "Cold War" must be kept entirely out of the program if it is to be acceptable in neutral Africa and Asia.

If you feel that our thoughts so far have been too cautious and conservative our closing idea should balance things out. Why doesn't the President make a special appearance at the next United Nations session to make proposals along the following lines:

a. that the Peace Corps should be an international body--a vast technical assistance and educational pool on which member nations may draw.

b. that each nation may contribute Peace Corps personnel of its own choice to be under U.N. direction.

c. that the "United Nations Peace Corps" should be administered by a committee of representatives from the countries contributing Peace Corps personnel as well as those receiving them.

We're sure that if you, Tom and Jim put your imaginative heads together you could do wonders with this idea. How might the U. N. Peace Corps be financed? Of course, the President could tell the U.N. that until such a U.N. Peace Corps is set up we will go ahead with ours, but will happily turn our program over to U.N. direction as soon as a competent U.N. program is established.

Admittedly the plan is on the flighty side but it may have quite a bit to be said for it. First, even if as is likely the proposals were not implemented by the U.N. it would clear our Peace Corps of the suspicion that it is a cleverly disguised plot to interfere in the affairs of newly independent countries. The mere fact that we are willing to turn the Peace Corps over to United Nations direction would calm many fears.

Second, such proposals would make a tremendous impact in Africa and no doubt elsewhere. They would endear the President to millions everywhere, would clearly demonstrate our good intentions and would give the Peace Corps idea, with its great popular appeal, more publicity than it would ever receive otherwise.

Third, the proposals would give the U.N.'s prestige in the newly independent countries a badly needed shot in the arm.

Fourth, a proposal for a U.N. Peace Corps would put the Russians in a bad spot. They could hardly afford to oppose it and yet I doubt they would greet its implementation enthusiastically. Even if they were able and willing to turn over hundreds of linguistically and otherwise qualified teachers and technicians to the U.N., those countries which now refuse to accept Russian personnel could continue to do so. The United States as the initiator of the program would receive credit as the country sincerely interested in world development and education. Moreover, considering the tremendous advantages we have in terms of head start, language, and the general idealistic and service mindedness of so many of our young people, it is reasonable to feel that Americans would constitute a vast majority of the U.N. Peace Corps.

A danger in the U.N. Peace Corps idea is, of course, that it might provide the Russians with an opportunity to infiltrate more countries with their politically minded "advisors" and "technicians." As the recipient countries would have the final word in regard to which U.N. Peace Corps personnel they will accept, we feel this danger would be minimized. No doubt there are other dangers as well.

We are not entirely sold on the "U.N. Peace Corps" idea, but we feel that it is certainly worthwhile serious thought. It might be a good idea to establish our Peace Corps as a successful working reality before considering proposals for a U.N. Peace Corps.

This letter is already much too long. Reading over it, we seem to have offered more questions than answers and left a number of ideas more or less hanging. If we had more information concerning precisely what is being discussed and what has been done so far, we might have been more specific. As you can no doubt tell, we are very excited about the Peace Corps and, at the same time, worried. On one hand it could be the greatest machine for producing "ugly Americans" yet created by the United States Government, and on the other it is a program whose idealism and potential impact are comperable only with Point Four and the Marshall Plan.

We hope everything is going well. Please keep us in touch about the fate of the Peace Corps. Sorry this has been so businesslike. We have a million other things to talk about.

love from us both,

Sam and Nancy

1) Tray Layer

2) Hygiene & Health - 1st and 2nd

3) Team - 3

4) Background - culture & manner
people - set a city

5) I have - Live last 3 months

no phone /
or pen /
Screen out
those who
increase
on help
disturb

training - punitive conduct
food - as ready to
what report report
where go
to money - trust

6) using nylon youth —

artwork counter

where every unit is a column

system

7) Tools + Equipment —

Iron Press —

Hammer —

Small — work table

welding eqpt

Hand Tools —

Jap. — { working paper } —

~~old car~~ —

old car { junk yard
for buying hardware }

Repair + tools with

Repair — parts — not replace with new

8) Determine in advance

which countries - need & would
welcome -

get, look

train for specific countries

work out details with
country in advance

9) Pay

GI pay = period, make sure

main wage = after if they stay on

10) Survey ~~absent~~ — rupt reports
accounted — security
just as in trusty Survey

Students Rush for Kennedy's Peace Corps

By ELIE ABEL

Chief of Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—

The class of '61 is all fired up about President-elect Kennedy's plan to recruit a youth peace corps for pick-and-shovel duty in the struggling new countries of Asia and Africa.

Kennedy received a task force report this morning on the pros and cons of the youth corps idea from Prof. Max F. Milliken, director of the Center for International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

SHIRTSLEEVE RECRUITS

Kennedy's original proposal, delivered in an offhand manner during the presidential campaign, produced an electric response on the University of Michigan campus. In fact, nothing else that Kennedy said in

449 Leads in Murders Given News

Readers of The Detroit News, stirred by the brutal murders of Marilyn Donohue and Mrs. Betty James, have supplied 449 tips in hopes of putting police on the slayers' trails.

Of these, 336 were leads which the informants believed would assist police in capturing Miss Donohue's killer. The other 113 were tips on Mrs. James' murder.

71 STILL PROBED

Police already have checked out 295 tips on the Marilyn Donohue case and 83 relating to Mrs. James' death.

Seventy-one still are under investigation.

Detective Lts. Sebastian Eifrid and John Ware are coordinating follow-up work on the tips.

They said Saturday that the information has led to the solving of a number of minor crimes and two murders.

MURDERS CONFESSED

The two murders, one in Chicago and the other in Birmingham, Ala., were confessed by James Parker, 28, alias Lovell Collins, when picked up for questioning in the Donohue case.

He has since been extradited to Birmingham to stand trial.

The Detroit News has offered separate rewards of \$5,000 apiece for information supplied by civilians exclusively to this newspaper that leads to the arrest and conviction of Miss Donohue's or Mrs. James' killers.

hundreds of stump speeches across the country had comparably favorable reaction.

Robert R. Bowie, director of the Center for International Studies at Harvard, predicted, "A thousand or more seniors coming out of college could be recruited every year to do most anything for two or three years in one of the underdeveloped countries."

The cross-country excitement in college circles started Oct. 5 when Kennedy suggested that it might be a good idea to recruit "the very best of our young people" as volunteer ambassadors in shirtsleeves to go into "the places that really need them and do the sort of jobs that need doing."

Apparently the timing of Kennedy's tentative proposal was sharper than he realized.

25 COLLEGES ACT

When he mentioned the subject again, in a mid-October speech at Ann Arbor, Michigan students liked the idea so well that they formed an organization called Americans Committed to World Responsibility to help prepare themselves for overseas service.

Within a matter of days, some 25 other colleges and universities set up similar bodies. The Michigan group drew hundreds of students to its meetings.

On Dec. 9 and 10, a symposium was held at Ann Arbor on "The Peace Corps and World Responsibility." More than 20 Michigan faculty members conducted seminars on the areas abroad that might be served by the youth corps.

IDEA NOT ORIGINAL

Kennedy was so encouraged by the rush of volunteers that he spelled out the plan in more detail during a San Francisco speech five days before the election.

The idea was not original with Kennedy, however. It had been explored last year with the introduction of youth corps bills by the late Senator Neuberger (D-Ore.), Rep. Reuss (D-Wis.) and Senator Humphrey (D-Minn.).

The House Foreign Affairs Committee, after studying these proposals, was convinced that a "significant number" of young Americans trained in agriculture, home economics and other practical fields would volunteer, "motivated more by a desire to serve than to advance their careers."

'PRACTICAL IDEALISM'

Reuss and Senator Mansfield (D-Mont.), the new majority leader of the Senate, both feel strongly that foreign aid programs have backfired because of the stress on building military strength and grandiose projects remote from the lives of the people.

The youth corps, Reuss argues, could get U.S. aid efforts back on the right track by showing the rest of the world that practical idealism and good works are still a part of the American tradition.

Peace Corps Plan Keeps Draft Duty

[1961]

NEW YORK, Jan. 9. — (AP)—A plan to put idealistic young Americans to work helping underdeveloped countries, without promising them exemption from military service, was made public today by advisers to President-elect Kennedy.

The Kennedy headquarters distributed the report of a task force on the Youth Peace Corps without indicating whether Kennedy had approved it in detail.

Kennedy proposed the general idea during his campaign, suggesting peace corps service might be a substitute for military service.

OPPOSES DRAFT IDEA

But Dr. Max Millikan, director of the Center for International Studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and head of the task force which drew up the plan, reported he considered it "undesirable to publicize this program as an alternative to the draft."

There are plenty of dedicated young men and women ready to sign up without this induc-

ment, he said, especially since the program would be launched on a relatively small, experimental scale, involving only some hundreds of students.

Millikan suggested volunteers could be eligible for draft deferment as some graduate students now are.

The youth program, as Millikan's group sees it, would be tailored to the talents and enthusiasm of college graduates in their 20s.

MIGHT 'BACKFIRE'

Maturity and possession of skills in short supply in the country being aided should be required Millikan said.

He said "Such joint efforts, if improperly conceived and poorly administered, can backfire badly and damage rather than improve international understanding."

Millikan also advised against setting up "substantial American communities, in the foreign country, not easily assimilated into the local society."

The danger of such a course, he said, is illustrated by American colonies of military and other personnel abroad.

URGE SMALL UNIT

To keep the operation flexible and experimental the task force ruled out a massive centralized, federally operated program. It suggested a small semi-independent government organization.

Most of the operation would be supervised by universities, foundations and similar institutions.

The supervising government agency would be called the International Youth Service Agency. It would be governed by a board of directors representing the International Cooperation Administration, the U.S. Information Agency, the State Department and private foundations and professional groups.

Volunteers would receive several months of training, including language studies where necessary, and would be expected to serve at least two years.

PAY FOR TRAINING

The United States would pay for training and transportation and, where necessary, provide some other benefits. Host governments would pay the basic wages, at local rates, and care would be taken to avoid setting them up as a conspicuously well-to-do class.

A companion report today, prepared under the direction of Prof. James M. Davis of the University of Michigan, called for an intensified educational, technical and cultural exchange program.

Davis, an education professor who heads the U-M International Center, recommended "increasing our exchange programs with the Communist bloc European countries as quickly as satisfactory arrangements can be made."

Quiz Faces Appointees to Cabinet

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—(AP)—Senate hearings on President-elect Kennedy's Cabinet appointments will start Wednesday. First to come under the Senate's "advise and consent" procedure will be Douglas Dillon, Kennedy's choice for secretary of the Treasury.

It was learned last night that the Senate Finance Committee, headed by Senator Byrd (D-Va.), has set Wednesday morning for a hearing on Dillon, one of two Republicans selected by Kennedy for the Cabinet.

QUICK NOD SEEN

The appointments cannot be sent officially to the Senate until after Jan. 20, when Kennedy takes office. But to speed things up, there is no rule against holding the necessary hearings earlier.

Senator Mansfield (D-Mont.), the new majority leader, predicted speedy Senate confirmation of Kennedy's Cabinet choices. But he said he expects some of them to be questioned at length by Senate committees.

Indications are that the President-elect's brother, Robert F. Kennedy, will get the closest scrutiny as attorney general-designate. It is the first time a president has named his brother to a Cabinet position.

REJECTION RARE

Robert Kennedy's age, 35, also has brought mutterings from senators about his experience for the job as head of the

[Jan. 1961]



HE WAS IN to see President-elect John F. Kennedy and Max Millikan, director of the Center of International Studies at MIT, told him about a report recommending a peace corps to aid underdeveloped nations.

Peace-Unit Proposal Altered

NEW YORK — (UPI) — A special "task force" Sunday recommended enactment of President-elect John F. Kennedy's campaign proposal for a "peace corps" of young Americans to serve as missionaries of democracy in underdeveloped countries.

The task force considerably toned down Kennedy's original proposal, however, by advising against making corps volunteers exempt from military service. It urged a very conservative beginning for the program.

* * *

KENNEDY RECEIVED the report in Washington Saturday from Dr. Max Millikan, director of the Center for International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Kennedy made the report public here Sunday.

The report suggested only a few hundred Americans be sent to underdeveloped countries in a pilot operation in the first two years.

It said these few should be hand picked so only the best qualified of the applicants would go abroad to work as teachers and technicians and in other posts.

The program would provide an extension of the Point Four economic aid to underdeveloped areas and supplement similar work now done by thousands of religious missionaries and employes of various United Nations aid organizations.

* * *

MILLIKAN SAID members of the proposed international youth service agency should have college degrees and be at least 21 years old.

They should be paid for their work, but not enough to live on standards far above those of the natives, he said.

Kennedy spent a quiet day in New York before flying to Boston Sunday night. He went to mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, where he met former Postmaster General James A. Farley.

The President-elect later called on Herbert H. Lehman, former senator and governor, to discuss local New York Democratic politics, the current fight by liberal Democrats to oust Carmine De Sapio as head of Tammany Hall and national and international problems.