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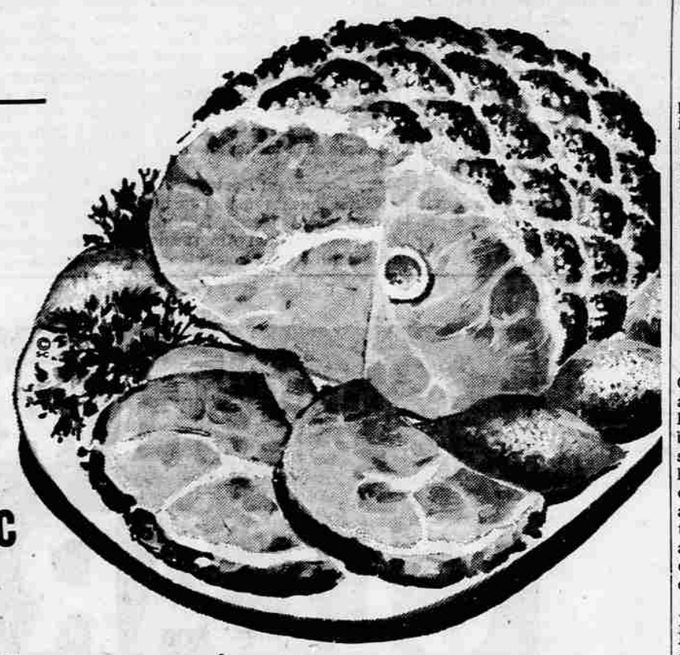

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Congressional Support Grows For Modified CCC Camp Plans

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Washington Correspondent

Washington (Special)–Support appears to be mounting in Congress for activation of a modified CCC camp program designed to put idle teen-age boys to work rebuilding and improving national forest and park facilities.

A. Robt Smith

Twenty senators, including Oregon's Sens. Wayne Morse and Richard L. Neuberger, have joined in sponsoring a bill to establish a Youth Conservation Corps "to provide healthful outdoor training and employment for young men and to advance the conservation, development and management of national resources of timber, soil, and range, and of recretional areas."

Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.), is the chief sponsor. He believes it would provide at relatively low cost a program for combatting juvenile delinquency and furthering natural resource conservation. Some of the details of the bill are:

The YCC would be composed of 150,000 boys from 16 to 22 years of age, except for a small percentage over 22 with special conservation skills.

The boys would be paid the basic pay of the lowest rank of enlisted men in the Armed Services, which is now $78 per month, plus subsistence provisions. They would receive no less than 10 hours weekly of general education and vocational and conservation education.

Enrollment Priority

Indians would get priority in enrolling in the YCC for work on projects on or near reservations, if the YCC at the time has less than 10 per cent of its ranks composed of Indians.

Boys would sign up for one year or special vacation periods for students. They would be assigned, after orientation, to units of perhaps 50 or less boys under supervision of state and federal professional foresters and others.

The YCC would be run by a Commission made up of government officials representing the various departments and agencies that would offer work for the boys–Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Sen. Humphrey pointed out that the old Civilian Conservation Corps, which operated for nine years until World War II, resulted in planting of 3 billion trees, building 150,000 miles of trails and firelanes, erecting 4000 fire towers, 45,000 bridges and thousands of buildings, and stringing 85,000 miles of new telephone wires. They built check dams against soil erosion, cut and thinned 4 million acres of timber, fought fires, planted forage grasses on nearly 40 million acres of brushy lands.

Estimates Made

Humprey said that the Natural Resources Council, composed of heads of nationally known conservation organizations, has made estimates of what investment must be made "to bring the corrosive action of man against nature under control, and to rebuild the productive capacity of our lands and waters enough to sustain the predicted population of 50 years from now." He said this showed a need for $3 billion to improve forests; $4.5 billion to halt loss of topsoil and protect watersheds; $1 billion to stabilize soils and increase forage yield of western rangelands; $2 billion to improve outdoor recreation facilities; and $1 billion for wildlife refuges.

"There is work enough to employ several hundred thousand men for a decade or more at useful, not makework, jobs," Humphrey contended.

Humphrey doesn't claim a YCC is the complete answer to juvenile delinquency, but he believes it would offer an alternative to "boredom, confusion and trouble" that confront many high school dropouts who can't find jobs. They would learn new skills in the YCC, while performing useful work, which would help them upon returning to join the country's labor force. Many might be prevented from winding up in the nation's crowded prisons and reformatories. The senator said:

"A county judge in Oregon tells me that in his opinion the savings in lessened costs, for juvenile detention homes and reformatories, from the youth conservation program would almost cover the expense of the project."

The bill would authorize costs of $375,000,000 a year for the YCC. There is nothing new about the idea of putting boys to work in the woods under state supervision after they've got into trouble. The Library of Congress found that forestry camps for delinquent boys have been operated by 13 states, as well as many counties, cities and proviate volunteer groups. Listed among these was the MacLaren School for Boys at Woodburn and Boys' Work Camp at Tillamook. The library's report said each of these Oregon camps had about 25 boys, that the Tillamook camp took those from MacLaren who had adjusted satisfactorily. They did fire prevention, timber clearance and park development work, but at Tillamook they worked only four hours a day and attended school four hours.

Camps Functioning

Camps of a similar nature have been functioning in California, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah and Washington state.

Humphrey claims this limited survey "clearly demonstrates that our proposal for a YCC is grounded on a great deal of varied experience. At the same time, it demonstrates that the sum total of all these local and state efforts is far, far less than the needs of the nation."

Senators joining with Humphrey are from both parties and from states in all sections of the country. The bill has been referred to the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, of which Sen. Morse is a member.

Girl Falls Short In Wake-a-Thon Try

Pocatello, Idaho –(UPI)– Disc jockey Jo Warner, hoping to set a new wake-a-thon record, fell asleep in her fiance's arms Wednesday night.

She had stayed awake for nearly 203 hours, 47 hours short of the goal she had set for herself.

The attractive 22-year-old blonde's wake-a-thon ended just 202 hours, 41 minutes and 10 seconds after it began. She had spent the time spinning records at her studio in an effort to aid the March of Dimes.

Havana Barbers Appeal To Castro

Havana –(UPI)– The Barbers' Union, concerned by slackened business, has appealed to Cuba's revolutionaries to abandon the "shaggy-dog look" which has become their trade mark.

At a public meeting, the union adopted a resolution declaring that the "patriotic necessity" for beards and manes of hair ended when Fidel Castro's guerrillas came out of the hills Jan. 1.

"The post - revolutionary new look should be smooth cheeks and cropped hair," the resolution said.

LAW PROFESSOR DIES

Evanston, Ill. – (UPI) – Robert Wyness Millar, 82, professor emeritus of the Northwestern University Law School, died Monday in Evanston hospital.

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