

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 6, 1984

Dear Mr. Howe:

Thank you for the information you were kind enough to forward in support of the American Conservation Corps Act. I can assure you it was carefully considered in our deliberations.

As you know, the Administration had a number of serious concerns about the bill which were not remedied in the final version. As a result, the President felt it necessary to exercise his veto authority. I have enclosed a copy of his statement on the subject for your information.

Again, we appreciate you taking the time to convey your views.

Sincerely,



James W. Cicconi
Special Assistant
to the President

Mr. Sydney Howe
Executive Director,
Human Environment Center
810 18th Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20006

Human Environment Center

810-18th Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006 • 202/393-5550

October 16, 1984

James Cicconi, Special Assistant
to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Cicconi:

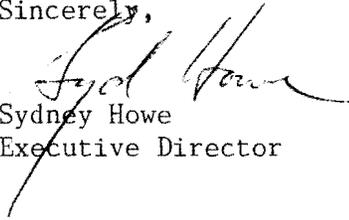
We hope very much that you will consider the enclosed copy of our October 15 letter to the President, which appeals to him to sign the American Conservation Corps Act.

Our Center has been studying and assisting local and state conservation corps programs for four years. While we believe strongly in ACC, we can appreciate that opinions may differ. And we know that conflicting and sometimes erroneous information enters corps discussions!

If the White House assessment of the ACC Act should encounter questions concerning costs, benefits, relevant prior-corps experience or other matters, we would be grateful for an opportunity to comment -- however informally or confidentially. Alternatively, we can suggest specific sources, both in documents and experienced officials, for reliable information that may be needed.

Hoping for your favorable review,

Sincerely,



Sydney Howe
Executive Director

encl.

SH/lw

Human Environment Center

810-18th Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006 • 202/393-5550

October 15, 1984

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

**Re: Signing of American
Conservation Corps Act**

Dear Mr. President:

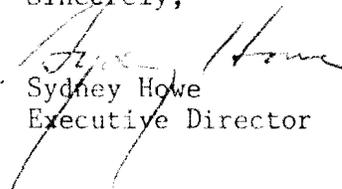
Please sign the American Conservation Corps Act just passed by the Congress and due at the White House shortly.

Recognizing that you have held reservations about the ACC, we believe you will find most of them met in the final wording of this Act.

Hard-work conservation corps programs are the only form of public service job creation that has consistently won support across the political spectrum -- from the time of Alf Landon and FDR to that of Jerry Brown and George Deukmejian. The American people still revere the Civilian Conservation Corps. Your founding of the effective California Ecology Corps is another important case in point, and the most recent example is Governor Thornburgh's Pennsylvania Conservation Corps going on line this month. The enclosed "Conservation Corps Profiles" document the considerable multi-state and local corps movement that has sought ACC and would be greatly facilitated by the Act's strong partnership features.

Your own aggressive and demanding leadership could make the American Conservation Corps a model of disciplined work and training -- to turn out young men and women whom business and industry want to hire.

Sincerely,



Sydney Howe
Executive Director

encl.

SH/lw

Conservation Corps Profiles

DRAFT

September, 1984

There has been a remarkable emergence of state, local and non-profit conservation corps since the 1981 termination of most such Federal programs. Data here show \$108 million now spent annually for corps operations in the U.S.A. -- \$86 million by 14 states, \$12.5 million for 13 local and non-profit corps, and \$10 million by Federal agencies (vs. a Federal \$260 million before 1981). Canada, with one-tenth of our population, spends \$100 million per year on comparable activities.

These programs depend upon many conservation, youth and jobs interests for their political sustenance. Most are seriously underfunded but continue to demonstrate the cost-effective value of conservation corps programs for youth, for natural and community resources, and for the public welfare.

This information has been gathered from corps managers, but the Center is responsible for any errors or omissions. Corrections and additions are earnestly invited. (Human Environment Center, 810 18th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006; 202/393-5550)

Year-Round State Corps

Alaska Conservation Corps(\$402,000):* Administered by, and operates in Alaska State Parks. Employs 85 enrollees, ages 15-18, in summer and a few, ages 18-24, in year-round programs. Non-residential and residential.

Mike D. Lee, Director
Alaska Conservation Corps
Pouch 7001
Anchorage, AK 99510
907/265-4504

California Conservation Corps(\$37.2 million): A division of the California Resources Agency. Contracts with federal, state and local land-managing agencies. Ages 18-23. Has mandatory GED and literacy program. Operates 19 residential centers and 13 non-residential satellites.

Bud Sheble, Director
California Conservation Corps
1530 Capitol Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95814
916/445-0307

Connecticut Conservation Corps(\$585,000): Administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. Operates eight-member crews in state parks and forests. Ages 18-26. Non-residential.

Richard Couch, Director
Planning and Development
Division of Conservation/Preservation
Dept. of Environmental Protection
Hartford, CT 06106
203/566-5026

Iowa Youth Corps(\$1,200,000): Administered by the Iowa Office of Planning and Programming. Public and private agencies provide 30% funding and operate programs on non-federal public lands. Ages 14-19. Operates summer conservation program, volunteer program and year-round in-school service corps component for disadvantaged youth. Non-residential.

JoAnn Callison or Philip Smith
Office of Planning & Programming
523 East 12th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319
515/281-3927

Michigan Conservation Corps(\$5.2 million): Administered by the Department of Natural Resources. Operates on public land. Enrollees must be 18-25 and on general assistance when hired. Joined with the Michigan Community Service Corps in Project Self-Reliance, a career counseling and skills development effort to place enrollees in private sector jobs. Non-residential and residential

Timothy Ervin, Director
Michigan Conservation Corps
Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909
517/373-0134

Minnesota Conservation Corps(\$805,000): Administered by the Department of Natural Resources. Operates on state-owned land. Ages 18-26. Non-residential.

John Grix, Director
Office of Youth Programs
Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources
Centennial Office Bldg., Box 4
St. Paul, MN 55155
612/296-2144

Other Corps Programs

Anne Arundel Co. Conservation Corps, MD
(\$250,000): Funded through the JTPA and Community Development Block Grants. Administered by County Office of Manpower. Operates on public lands. Ages 18-24. Year-round, non-residential.

Dorothy McGuinness
Anne Arundel Youth Conservation Corps
P.O. Box 1831 - MS 1306
Annapolis, MD 21404
301/224-1319

Dutchess County Youth Community Service Corps, NY (\$300,000): Administered by the non-profit Youth Resource Development Corp. Crews work in county and state parks and in service corps projects, including rehabilitation for the Poughkeepsie Housing Authority. Ages 16-19. Employs three crews of in-school youth and four of high-school drop-outs.

James Klasen, Director
Youth Resource Development Corp.
P.O. Box 4737
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602
914/473-5005

East Bay Conservation Corps, Hayward, CA (\$700,000): Administered as a private, non-profit organization. Funded through government grants, philanthropy and fees for services. Contracts for work with land agencies. Ages 14-26. Year-round, non-residential.

Joanna Lennon, Director
East Bay Conservation Corps
951 Palisade St.
Hayward, CA 94542
415/582-9629

Marin Conservation Corps, CA (\$1.25 million): Sponsored by Marin Private Industry Council as non-profit organization. Funded by fees for services, foundation grants and public agency funds. Contracts for work with federal state and local agencies. Ages 18-26, year-round, and 15-22, summer. Non-residential and residential.

Harvey Morrison, Director
Marin Conservation Corps, Box 89
San Rafael, CA 94915
415/454-4554

Montgomery Co. Conservation Corps, MD (\$770,000): Administered by the Department of Family Resources. Work sites/projects provided by Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission and Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. Operates on county land. Ages 17-22. Year-round, non-residential.

Richard P. Crane
Montgomery Cty. Dept. of Family Resources
Division for Children and Youth
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850
301/279-1530

Multnomah County Youth Services Demonstration Project, OR (\$102,000): Administered by Multnomah County Youth Services. Funded by fees for services, donations and Community Development Block Grants. Operates on public lands and in low-income urban neighborhoods of Portland area. Minimum age, 18. Year-round, non-residential.

Jimmy Brown
Multnomah Cty. Youth Services Project
5205 Southeast 86th Ave.
Portland, OR 97266
503/775-8170

National Service Corporation, New York City (\$7 million): Administered by a non-profit corporation funded by New York City. 18 year-olds serve as volunteers in conservation and human service projects. Enrollees earn \$80 per week and receive a \$2,500 cash or \$5000 scholarship bonus after one year of service. Year-round, non-residential.

Carl Weisbrod, Executive Director
National Service Corporation
330 West 42nd Street
New York, NY 10036
212/971-6865

Northwest Youth Corps, Eugene, OR (Funding varies with contracts): Administered as a private, non-profit organization funded by fees for services from private logging companies and non-profit organizations. Ages 16-18. Operates two five-week summer sessions.

Arthur Pope, Director
Northwest Youth Corps
895 East 39th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97405
503/343-6419

The New CCC

MENTION OF THE Civilian Conservation Corps brings back memories of the Great Depression and a program authorized by Congress in 1933 as part of the New Deal. Black-and-white newsreel films of this period show a smiling Franklin Delano Roosevelt — cigaret holder at jaunty tilt — speaking to tanned and healthy young men at a woody encampment.

The CCC served as home, employer and educator for some two million young people before it was abolished because the U.S. entered World War II. It put some cash in their pockets, gave them a chance at good, hard physical work and spared them the humiliation and malaise that gripped most of urban America during that wretched period.

There are also memories of the program's resurrection by Governor Jerry Brown as a state project aimed at providing part of the answer to his question: "How do you take people who are on islands of despair and move them into the mainstream?"

Now a municipal version of the CCC, the San Francisco Conservation Corps, has gotten under way with remarkably little fanfare considering the fact that it is the only such city group in the United States. Mayor Koch of New York, the notoriously opinionated — and street smart — leader of this country's ultimate urban challenge, is sending out four of his representatives to see just how San Francisco does it.

When they arrive, in addition to meeting with Mayor Dianne Feinstein, who provided strong leadership for the project, they would do well to talk to Court of Appeals Justice J. Anthony Kline, an articulate and energetic jurist considered its "guiding spirit." Some time ago, when Justice Kline was sitting on the superior bench and presiding over juvenile court, he was struck with the dismaying problem of what to do for these kids who came from broken homes, had little talent to improve, or motivation to work — and showed up in the courts again and again.

★ ★ ★

THE SAN FRANCISCO Conservation Corps is something of an answer to that. This, the country's first municipal youth job corps, will be taking on young men and women and paying them minimum wages. The major current project is cleanup and beautification at Twin Peaks.

San Francisco Chronicle

THE VOICE OF THE WEST

Richard T. Thieriot, Editor and Publisher

Charles de Young Thieriot, Publisher 1955-77
George T. Cameron, Publisher 1925-55
Founded 1865 by Charles and M.H. de Young

"This program will be aimed at hardcore unemployed young people," said the Corps' new director, Robert J. Burkhardt. "We promise them no vacation, just plenty of dirty, back-breaking work in all kinds of weather."

And what will these young people get out of it? Well, aside from the pay — minimal, to be sure — and the hard work, the Corps should be a training ground that will inculcate a sense of discipline and responsibility. These are qualities most of them lack — and are vital in helping them get a future job.

The local CCC program is unusual in that it is an independent, non-profit corporation. The city is providing \$580,000 from emergency jobs funds, and the rest of the program's million-dollar budget has come from the private sector: Standard Oil of California, the Bank of America and the Cowell, Hewlett-Packard and San Francisco Foundations have all provided funds.

This brings us to an important point. Currently pending in the U.S. Senate is that body's version of H.R. 999 by Representative John Seiberling, D-Ohio, which would create an American Conservation Corps nationally. The Senate version's funding is unfortunately less than that in the Seiberling bill, which passed the House by an overwhelming vote of 301-87 last year. This would mean some money for San Francisco project. But more important is the principle of establishing a national Corps. Senate Energy Committee Chairman James A. McClure, R-Idaho, would do well to ask for a floor vote. The bill also deserves support from the White House. After all, the one New Deal measure that Republican Alf Landon supported when he made his ill-fated run at FDR in 1936 was the CCC. This is a program that does something about a terrible waste in human lives.

Forbes, August 15, 1983

Fact and Comment

By Malcolm S. Forbes, Editor-in-Chief

FOR MOST OF THE UNEMPLOYED, JOBS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

are the only real answer. But that answer is largely no answer for the vast percentage of young, inner-city unemployed, i.e., blacks, Hispanics, Chicanos and other minorities. There is a potential answer, though, for those suffering this unyielding, embittering frustration.

During the Depression's direful days in the Thirties, one program that worked wondrously well was the Civilian Conservation Corps. It employed around 3 million youngsters and lastingly enriched our land—as, for instance, in the planting of 1.3 billion trees.

Today we have a crying need for reforestation, for fire trails, for drainage and flood control, for rehabilitating city parks and our national park system.



Calif. Conservation Corps worker

New York's Democratic Senator Pat Moynihan and Maryland's Republican Senator Mac Mathias are sponsoring a Senate bill for a new conservation corps that would hire up to 100,000 unemployed youths at the minimum wage to tackle such conservation tasks. The House has already passed a bill of similar intent.

The economy's recovery isn't going to meet the youth employment need that plagues virtually all our cities. With a renewed Civilian Conservation Corps we can make a real beginning in tackling

the problem. And with the work that corps volunteers could accomplish, they would richly enhance our environmental heritage.