

*"I may not agree with a word you say but will defend unto death your right to say it." Voltaire*

## **Editorial—**

# **Summer Jobs for Youth**

• Every summer a tragic scene has become all too familiar in communities across the nation. It's a picture of waste: Idle youth searching for something to do.

For the past three summers, through the YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CAMPAIGN, we have witnessed the dynamics of America's democracy working to transform youthful idleness into youthful productivity.

Now that school has let out this summer more than two million of the 13.5 youngsters 16 to 21 years old who are looking for work won't find it without help.

Even if we equal last year's national record of turning up some 1.1 million extra jobs for young people, the unemployment rate among youth will rise by 8 percent. That's because we've got an additional half-million youngsters looking for jobs this year.

Clearly, the stakes in this massive summer search for employment are very high indeed—for youth and adults.

For many of these youngsters, the children of deprivation, a job is no luxury. It's an absolute necessity. They have to earn enough money this summer to return to school in the fall.

For many others, a job means the difference between launching a productive and rewarding career or remaining idle, perhaps living on public assistance.

For every single one of them, a job means exposure to the world of work and to the responsibilities associated with performing with useful work and taking home a paycheck.

This campaign—now entering its fourth summer—demands the whole-hearted support of employers, labor, civic groups, fraternal organizations, churches, and schools in cooperation with all government levels.

As the President has said, "The young men and women who want a chance to work, and who are denied that chance cost this country more than it can afford."

Let's invest in our youth in 1968.