

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE (KANSAS)
BEFORE THE SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR
OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
RELATIVE TO H.R. 5625
(TO PROVIDE A NATIONAL SERVICE CORPS)
(Wednesday, June 26, 1963)

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity to make my views relative to H.R. 5625 known to your committee. I am not aware of the contents of the statement previously made today to this committee by the Governor of Kansas, however, I feel certain the great majority of Kansans who are fully informed about H.R. 5625 and who have fully considered the ultimate scope of such legislation, in light of the countless serious problems confronting our country, would most certainly oppose it. As I will point out, there may be a demonstrated need for increased activity in specific areas, but there is no demonstrated need for the federal government to rush in with a sugar-coated program which would ^{supposedly} improve social conditions in Kansas and throughout the nation.

During the past few months the Administration has on several occasions impressed upon Congress the need for more legislation to improve the social conditions of our country. Another such occasion arrived April 11 when a bill proposing the National Service Corps was introduced. Under this proposal, a maximum of 5,000 corpsmen are expected to be recruited by 1966 who, after 4 weeks of training would be available to local volunteer organization, as the President determines, to assist them with their social projects. In addition, a federal clearing house would be established to collect information which would be distributed by a national staff to co-ordinate local activities. This program is expected to cost at least \$30-million per year by 1966.

The Administration's reasons for the program appear in the Attorney General's report to the President as a result of a 5-months study of "The President's Study Group on National Volunteer Services." Apparently 22 million existing volunteers, 133,000 professional social workers, 1,521,000 teachers, 282,000 law enforcement officers, and 201,000 members of the clergy are not filling the bill. Therefore, from the untapped

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millions of Americans who would like to volunteer but are unable because there is "no national rallying force to challenge them" the Administration expects to recruit 5,000 more saying, "the office of the President can unquestionably summon them to action."

In assessing the validity of any new program one has to inquire whether existing programs are insufficient and, if so, whether proposed programs offer a better method of eliminating current problems. While present approaches to social evils are not entirely successful in their activities, it must be remembered that history has never witnessed a completely successful approach for doing anything. It is my opinion the toll of this program would ultimately be devastating to the American people. In a world so wrought with tensions and difficulties it behooves responsible government to offer programs which tend to increase the character and self reliance of its citizens rather than to erode them. The gist of N.S.C. clearly does not conform to this essential requirement, as a brief analysis will demonstrate.

First, experience has taught us that in those areas where the federal government intervenes, local action is stifled rather than encouraged.

Second, the N.S.C. runs counter to the substance of volunteer work. "Paid charity" is a contradiction of terms.

Third, the N.S.C. when viewed in juxtaposition to the Administration's request for a 5 percent floor on charitable deductions would seem to indicate that it is more interested in creating more government than less misery.

Fourth, the N.S.C., being a program neither contemplated by the people or Congress, represents a high-handed method of political maneuver inconsistent with the fundamentals of American government, where grass roots action and local initiative alone should give rise to legislation and social reform.

Lastly, it is an affront to the individual of the country to suggest that his own sense of urgency and duty is so lacking that he not

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only must be summoned to action by the President, but must be paid to be charitable. The inconsistencies in the N.S.C. proposal outlined above are so blatantly present to the ordinary eye that the very program and the motives behind it cannot even be free from suspicion.

It is clear to me that the enactment of the N.S.C. proposal would be an arbitrary usurpation by the federal government of those responsibilities traditionally reserved to the common man. It furthermore must be remembered that, if history has taught us anything, it is that too much harm has been done to civilization in the name of humanity to allow us to accept "do-good" programs without the most careful scrutiny.

I believe it can be safely stated the majority of Kansans are perfectly willing to forego the luxury of this type program. We oppose the ever-expanding arm of federal bureaucracy. Strong leadership on state and local levels can accomplish more in a day, in my opinion, without any added cost to the overburdened taxpayer, than the Service Corps could in a year. Anyone familiar with government must know this bill represents "a foot in the door" approach, hence what may appear appetizing now, will be difficult to swallow later. In my humble opinion, this Administration should quit trying to tranquilize America with emotionally pitched programs. Instead of treating adult Americans as children in need of constant federal paternalism, the Administration might concern itself just once with the plight of the generations who some day must pay for the "dream world" its leaders want to prepare for us.