

ACTION UPDATE

August 2, 1978

Urban Package Moves Through Congress

On July 21, the Senate passed a bill which would allow ACTION to create the Urban Volunteer Corps and the Good Neighbor Fund, two elements of President Carter's \$8 billion urban package. Both the Urban Volunteer Corps and the Good Neighbor Fund are intended to provide small scale human and financial resources to neighborhood groups and associations that are attempting to help themselves.

Approval of the programs by the House and appropriation of funds by Congress this summer would clear the way for the new urban volunteer effort to get underway this fall.

Commenting on the Urban Program, Sam Brown said, "These neighborhood-based volunteer programs are an answer to those who argue against big government and big spending.

"The urban volunteer programs are people-intensive instead of money-intensive," he said. "For every dollar we invest in this program, we anticipate a return of \$10 in volunteer services--people aiding neighborhood projects and people in need."

Under the Urban Volunteer Corps, ACTION would work with the existing private voluntary sector in as many as 145 cities to organize volunteers with needed skills -- teachers, accountants, artists and others -- and match their skills and experience with active neighborhood groups which lack them. These arrangements would only be made with the concurrence of locally elected officials.

Under other sections of the Senate bill, ACTION would be permitted to arrange volunteer counseling for low and fixed income people and give small grants--averaging \$5,000--to neighborhood groups for them to purchase materials, supplies and tools for their projects.

The bill, which passed without objection, authorizes \$25 million for the new programs in FY 79, 80, and 81. They are among the first of President Carter's urban initiatives to pass either the Senate or the House of Representatives.

The Senate also approved an authorization of \$80 million for ACTION's three Older Americans Volunteer Programs for fiscal 1979 (Oct. 1, 1978 - Sept. 30, 1979). The legislation authorizes \$25 million for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and \$55 million for the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs. In fiscal 1980, the amounts authorized are \$30 million and \$62.5 million, respectively. In fiscal 1981, RSVP would be authorized to receive \$35 million and the Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Programs could obtain an appropriation of \$70 million under the Senate bill.

Expenditure of funds for the urban programs authorized by the Senate is contingent

on the appropriation of \$72.6 million for the three Older Americans Volunteer Programs administered by ACTION, an increase of approximately \$10 million over the amount being spent this year.

For VISTA, the Senate approved a three-year authorization for such sums as may be necessary to support the program. For fiscal 1979, ACTION has requested \$38,495,000.

House approval of similar legislation is pending. Floor action is expected in the House in early September.

Another Challenge: Meeting Rural Needs

The creation of a "Rural Initiatives Task Force" to assess ACTION's involvement in endeavors to help the rural poor and to chart new programming directions and priorities was announced by Sam Brown in a June 23 memo.

The Task Force, headed by DO Director John Lewis along with Don Green of the Director's Office, cuts across agency staff to involve representatives from all program and planning areas. The 19 members already have met twice and will continue on a semi-monthly schedule. A final report will be issued early in the fiscal year.

Having done an "outstanding job in developing plans to make a significant impact on urban problems, now we need a more concerted effort within the agency to respond to rural problems and needs," Brown said.

Already in the planning stage for FY 79 are programs for rural women, small farm owners, youth, work-study or demonstration projects to involve college and university students and a new VISTA effort to aid migrant workers.

These new projects would supplement those already in operation. As of March 1, 1978, approximately 40 percent of ACTION's domestic resources were allocated to rural areas. A total of 1,672 VISTA volunteers are currently serving in 288 rural projects across the country.

Task Force members are Helen Kelley, OAVP; Margery Tabankin, VISTA/AEP; Jane Watkins, Directors' office; Dorothy Mann, Deputy Director's office; Pirie Gall and Whett Reed, PC; Dennis Derryck, David Muchnick, Lee Weiner, Herb Tyson, and Ann Turpeau, OPP; Barbara Sugarman, OVCP; Mary Cramer, OAVP; Charles Rinker, LG; Andrea Kydd, VISTA/AEP; Hulbert James, Chuck Everett and Skip Bell, DO/D.

In planning programs to benefit rural women, task force members will identify projects and programs that will help women achieve economic security and take an active role in rural development.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Community Services Administration and ACTION are co-sponsoring five regional small farm conferences scheduled for July, August and September. The conferences will give more than 400 low-income farmers from across the nation a forum in which to voice their problems and needs.

ACTION also is informally exploring the possibility of rural Youth Community Service models that will focus on health and other service needs.

In another project, the agency would work with the Black Mayors Conference and selected colleges and universities to connect the resources of public administration students needing governmental experience with small towns too poor or too small to hire adequate staff.

In addition, ACTION is designing programs that will allow VISTA volunteers to help organize itinerant industry councils while traveling with migrant workers. The volunteers will keep workers and communities informed of various services and programs available to them.

"I am especially anxious to find ways to utilize the broad experiences and knowledge gained by Peace Corps over its many years of active programming in rural areas around the world," Brown concluded.

Minority Recruitment: Making Programs Look Like America

"We hope to attract so many minority people into ACTION programs that the programs end up looking like America," said Larry Brown, Director of the Office of Recruitment and Communications.

"When those of us responsible for minority recruitment one day leave the agency, we want to be sure that the commitment is so deep and so built into the normal operations and structure that it won't be dropped," Brown said. "Sam Brown's leadership on this issue is a strong sign that it will succeed."

ACTION's first formal minority recruitment effort in more than seven years began in March 1978 with the creation of the agency-wide Minority Recruitment Committee headed by Carol Word, former Peace Corps volunteer in Tanzania and Acting Peace Corps Country Director in Thailand. Ms. Word is Brown's special assistant.

The minorities ACTION is interested in recruiting include: blacks, Hispanics, native Americans and Asian Americans. (See box). Brown stresses that reaching minorities is not a matter for recruitment alone, however.

"We must open up programming," Brown said, "improve our recruitment techniques and be certain that our placement process, medical and legal handling are sensitive to those unfamiliar with bureaucratic systems and requirements."

"We have always recruited minorities," said Vinette Jones, Director of Recruitment, "but not with the focus we now have. We constantly build our programs, materials and media with the majority in mind. We recruited at the larger schools across the nation because this meant a greater return for our dollar."

"Our headquarters and service center staffs are heavily involved in creating campaigns and other activities that speak to and are sensitive about the concerns of minority individuals as potential volunteers."

"It has largely been a problem of awareness," said Ms. Word. It has been a failure on our part to reach out to minorities. ACTION needs to be seen as an option for minorities. Most haven't thought about it."

Ms. Word explained that in recent years, when emphasis has been on recruiting highly skilled rather than skill-trained volunteers, the number of minority applicants was smaller than ever. This was because most program requests, particularly for Peace Corps, were for BA/BS degrees. Since 80 percent of minority students graduating from college were liberal arts graduates, few minority students were "eligible" for programs.

"There are very special places for blacks and Hispanics and for all minorities," Ms. Word noted. "World affairs has not been a traditional arena for minorities, but we are uniquely qualified to work with people of certain Third World nations. Many of the skills that we use in our own communities are applicable to developing nations."

Conversely, she said, there are some countries in which certain minorities would encounter difficulties. People in programming and placement must be sensitive to such situations.

One difficulty with studying the problems of minority volunteers has been that the reasons minorities give for early terminations have never been evaluated - again, because all personnel paperwork has not included any indication of minority status.

When increased minority recruiting efforts were formally underway last March, the endeavor was three-pronged: immediate, short-term and long-term goals were established.

The immediate problem was to identify minorities for programs that would begin training this summer and to see that their applications were processed. The short-term goal was to reach more campus minorities before the summer, traditionally the time when most volunteers join ACTION. ACTION senior staff members including Sam Brown, Mary King, Carolyn Payton, Larry Brown, John Lewis, Raul Rodriguez, Marge Tabankin, Vinette Jones, Carol Word, and others, along with service center staff, visited colleges and attended conventions around the country to emphasize the minority drive.

The long-range minority recruitment effort involves a task force comprised of about 20 people from throughout the agency. They are to provide a package of recommendations by August 15, 1978. Five sub-committees are working to see where efforts in the areas of recruitment, communications processing and placement, programs and programming support and post-service support can be strengthened.

Several ideas to enhance minority participation in ACTION volunteer programs have emerged and still are being refined. For example, along with the idea of recruiting generalists today, skill-training opportunities will be expanded to teach generalists certain skills particularly applicable to volunteers serving Third World nations or in low-income areas.

Ms. Word sees a special role for minority former volunteers. RPCVs could staff small recruiting offices on predominantly minority campuses, taking the Peace Corps/VISTA concepts to nearby communities and non-campus groups. "It really makes a difference to hear first-hand about the experiences of minority volunteers," Ms. Word said.

Persons interested in submitting suggestions - or those who would like more information about minority recruitment - may contact Carol Word at ACTION, 806 Conn. Ave., NW, Room P-302, Washington, D.C. 20525.

ACTION GRANT Helps Minorities

Minorities and low-income citizens stand a better chance of serving on one of Rhode Island's 200 or more state boards and commissions because of an ACTION grant awarded in June.

The grant went to the Governor's Project on Citizen Participation, one of Gov. J. Joseph Garrahy's outreach programs which are aimed at bringing more citizens into an active role in shaping state government. This is the third year that ACTION has provided grant money to the project.

During the past three years, the Governor's Project has served as a central clearinghouse for information on volunteer activities. The project is also coordinating a "crisis volunteer program" in which volunteers will be placed in state and federal agencies such as HEW and the Community Action Program (CAP) as well as private volunteer agencies during emergency periods.

The project's new federal grant for \$18,700 (matched by \$20,300 in state funds) will budget an entirely new program, however.

According to Executive Director Marilyn Thetonia, project workers will begin a six-week outreach drive to all minority and low-income clubs and organizations looking for citizens interested in serving on state advisory boards. Following this, training sessions on state government, advisory boards and the application process necessary to be considered for appointments will be held for those who are interested. A list of qualified applicants then will be sent to the Governor, who appoints the various members of state boards and commissions.

"When we say minorities, it means more than blacks. It means increasing the number of Portuguese, Colombians, Panamanians, Hondurans and others," according to Robert Pirraglia, special assistant to Gov. Garrahy. "Women have not been adequately represented either. They're not classified as a minority, but they are a minority in terms of representation."

Pirraglia added that they also plan to recruit more representatives from the senior citizen community, in addition to those already active and community-minded.

The project's goal is to attain some percentage representation on state boards and commissions in Rhode Island with 45 due to be added by the end of this year.

With the ACTION grant the Rhode Island Governor's Project will not only launch its new outreach drive but also will begin and in some cases continue successful community activities.

One ongoing project is a student volunteer program at Rhode Island College in Providence where 35 students first semester did volunteer work at 13 state agencies. In addition to conducting research at the Correction Department the student volunteers also handled case work at the Human Rights Commission and the Citizens Information Service.

The project has also designed and will conduct a mock legislature course scheduled for this fall in which high school students learn about lobbying and legislative procedures.

Director Thetonia hopes that the Governor's Project on Citizen Participation will evolve into a "central place where people can enter their names into a volunteer data bank" or where various state and private agencies with volunteer opportunities will inquire for qualified applicants.

India Reunion: 10 Years After the Peace Corps

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Reunions are a time to ask and answer questions: What are you doing now? Whatever happened to...? Do you remember the time we...?

But the reunion of the 39th group of Peace Corps volunteers who served in India (India 39) 10 years ago gathered not only to satisfy answers to these kinds of questions, but to pose another question as well: How did the Peace Corps affect their lives?

Sargent Shriver, the first director of the Peace Corps, was on hand to ask yet another question: Does the Peace Corps have a future? Shriver concluded that indeed it does and said that the Peace Corps "may be one of the best expressions of our national ideals."

In mid-July, 51 of the 57 Peace Corps volunteers who comprised India 39 gathered from across the nation to enjoy long discussions and camaraderie in Washington, D.C.



Activities began with a White House reception hosted by probably the most famous former Peace Corps volunteer in America today, Lillian Carter, the President's mother. From 1966 to 1968 Miss Lillian, a retired nurse, served in a small clinic for 15,000 factory workers northeast of Bombay. She maintains that "India, to me, is the most wonderful country on earth, except America."

As the former volunteers greeted her at the entrance to the State Dining Room in the White House, Miss Lillian welcomed each with hugs and kisses.

The Indian Ambassador to the United States, Nani Palkhivala, addressed the group at the Hotel Washington, saying, "The realm of values has no dollar sign. Movements like the Peace Corps go a long way toward building bridges between nations."

All 57 of the India 39 volunteers were assigned by the Indian government to assist with and help develop family planning programs throughout the country. "Family planning should still be our first priority," Ambassador Palkhivala observed.

The population of India is 635 million -- more than the populations of Africa and South America combined. Thirteen million people are born each year.

Panel Discussion

An afternoon panel discussion concerning how the Peace Corps affected the lives of India 39 members was moderated by Harris Wofford. Wofford acted as President Kennedy's special assistant for civil rights. He was the first Peace Corps

director in Ethiopia and later served as the director of the Office of Evaluation and Planning at Peace Corps headquarters. For the past eight years, he has been the president of Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pa.

In recalling her Peace Corps experience, June Heintz of Baltimore, Md., remembers it as being "totally painful at first. We were such babies. There were vicious, terrible germs. It was a deeply trying experience--but a test that I'm stronger for."

Ron Tschetter of Minnetonka, Minn., pointed out that his two-year service "had a dramatic impact on my life. When we (Tschetter and his wife, Nancy) decided that Peace Corps was something we wanted to pursue, we had the motivation but no understanding of what the world was all about."

Sally Ballin of Westford, Vt., mentioned that "it is difficult to weed out what has been assimilated and internalized over the past ten years. But there must be a lot of sensitivities we all came home with."

Miss Lillian agreed. "It was the best thing that ever happened to me," she said.

Gabe Ross of Elkins Park, Pa., noted that he joined the Peace Corps "for intellectual reasons. Yet it became a human, feeling experience. I had never seen a person die before; I had never seen a baby born before I went to India. It became a completely experiential thing."

"The conventional wisdom of the Peace Corps has always been: the volunteers get more out of it than they feel they give," Wofford commented.

Shriver Speech

In the evening, the group was addressed by Sargent Shriver, the first director of the Peace Corps and the brother-in-law of the Peace Corps' founder--President John F. Kennedy.

Shriver was introduced by Larry Brown, a member of India 39 and the director of the Office of Recruitment and Communications. Brown is the highest-ranking former Peace Corps volunteer in the agency.

Shriver began by paying tribute to Miss Lillian, whom he called "a tall, sailing- ip of a woman--undaunted, explorative, salty, clean and straight and beautiful."

Shriver described India 39 as "still very much a group of Peace Corps volunteers. The kind of people who volunteered in the first place, who went through all the harrowing experiences of India and came home to lead extremely productive lives here."

He said that they had gathered "not as legionnaires to relive old glories...We're seekers. We're hoppers. We are thinkers who, having committed ourselves intellectually in the past to a concept of conduct and purpose, are now wondering whether

we were right. And if right, are we out of date now? Is there any substance to the Peace Corps idea today or are we just survivors of Camelot?"

He maintained that "the Peace Corps idea can make sense only within a world view...We must see ourselves...as a nation with profound obligations to be peace-makers, to bear any burden, to share any risk to preserve the blessings of peace for ourselves and for our children.

"Within that kind of national purpose, the Peace Corps may be one of the best expressions of our national ideals," Shriver said.

Peace Corps In India: A Perspective

India was one of the first countries to receive Peace Corps volunteers with the arrival of a contingent of 26 in 1961 in Punjab. After reaching a peak of slightly more than 1,200 volunteers in 1967, volunteer strength began falling as the Indian government began to take over development tasks.

In August 1972, the government of India informed all foreign volunteer organizations that in the future no country would be allowed to supply more than 50 volunteers to India's development programs.

The deadline for reaching this level was January 1974. This date was established so that the large Peace Corps program could comply with India's directive through normal attrition of groups completing their service, and so that no dislocation of volunteers would be necessary. During the 15-year period that Peace Corps served in India, close to 6,500 volunteers were assigned to a variety of projects. The last volunteers departed India in 1976.

Peace Corps' participation in India emphasized food production -- the main thrust of the country's development plan. Volunteers helped to introduce new "miracle" strains of wheat and rice as part of the Green Revolution. Others served in such programs as water resources, farm management and animal husbandry.

The Peace Corps also answered India's high demand for family planning services, teacher training and small business assistance.

According to a Peace Corps official, there are currently no plans to re-enter India at this time.

PC To Help in Pilot Rural Health and Nutrition Project

"You don't need a medical degree or professional experience in health to meet basic health and nutrition needs on a village level," maintains Arlene Mitchell, an evaluation specialist in the evaluation division of the Office of Policy and Planning.

"Health, nutrition education and preventive care can be done very effectively by people from any background who are given good basic training," says Ms. Mitchell. A 1971 mass communications graduate of Michigan State University, she demonstrated this as a Peace Corps volunteer serving with a maternal and child health care and nutrition project in Niger from 1974 to 1976.

Recently, Ms. Mitchell was able to apply her experience as a Peace Corps volunteer to the planning of a Rural Health and Nutrition Project in The Gambia that initially will involve 12 volunteers. The project, a cooperative effort of The Gambia government, the World Bank, the Peace Corps, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and UNICEF, focuses on village people and Peace Corps volunteers working together to improve local health conditions.

Ms. Mitchell reports that Gambians living in rural areas suffer from inadequate health services: rural dispensaries and subdispensaries are dependent on periodic visits by mobile teams of medical personnel, and are often located miles from the people they serve. The new program will build on the existing structure by providing training for village health workers and health and nutrition educators on the village level, and supplying additional medical supplies and support to the existing facilities at the next levels. Eight Peace Corps volunteers (trained "generalists") will work with the locally selected health workers in their communities, and three Peace Corps volunteer nurses will serve as liaisons between the villages, dispensaries, and regional health centers, providing technical assistance and supervision, according to Ms. Mitchell. Another volunteer already in The Gambia will work with project team members to coordinate logistics and the provision of supplies, and two Gambian sanitation workers are slated to assist villagers to improve sanitary conditions in the target area.

The project will supplement a rural agriculture program sponsored by the World Bank which has been underway for about one year in the 40-village target area. Earlier this year, the agriculture project's field workers expressed a need for a health and nutrition component to complement their efforts to improve food production in the area, while at other levels, The Gambian government and World Bank policy members called for increased emphasis on health and nutrition programs, particularly for rural areas.

"Maternal and child health care is a priority of The Gambian government as well as of most Sahelian nations and development agencies involved in the area," says Ms. Mitchell. The Gambia is a member of the CILSS (a French acronym for the Permanent Committee for the Control of Drought in the Sahel), and the new Rural Health and Nutrition Project includes many elements of the CILSS model strategy for the health component of development programs in the Sahel. It also represents the combined efforts of several agencies operating in The Gambia in an integrated approach to the rural health situation in the country.

The project is scheduled to begin in February 1979, with the arrival of 11 Peace Corps trainees, and the first tangible results -- a decrease in minor first aid cases and an increase in pre-and postnatal referrals at the dispensary and subdispensary levels -- should be evident within six months of the project's inception.

"The project area is to expand to include a projected 120 to 150 villages," concluded Ms. Mitchell, "and we expect that Peace Corps volunteers will play a critical role in its expansion."

Peace Corps Fellows Program Revived

The Peace Corps Fellows Program, designed to identify, recruit, and train former Peace Corps volunteers for overseas Peace Corps staff positions, has selected six candidates. This program existed in the late 60s, and proved to be a most successful staff training system. It was discontinued in the 70s, but was resurrected by Carolyn R. Payton in November 1977. The new Fellows Program involves a special effort to identify minorities and women for those positions of potential leadership. Of the six Fellows selected, two are minorities and three are women.

The Fellows Program is a 12-month program of in-depth, on-the-job training in PC/Washington followed by a 30-month overseas staff assignment. Training will provide long-range professional preparation for Peace Corps service. It will be tailored to each Fellow's needs and may include formal short courses and workshops, as well as assignments in such headquarters offices as Programming and Training, Special Services, Recruitment, and Selection. Following training, candidates will be placed overseas as Associate Peace Corps Directors for training, programming or administration.

Nominations for Fellows positions began in November 1977 and closed in March 1978. Each Peace Corps Country nominated one volunteer per 100 PCVs in-country. Peace Corps Washington office and Domestic Service Centers also nominated. There are 81 candidates in all. To date, 45 nominees have been interviewed by members of the Fellow Committee. Although six candidates have been selected for the program, interviews will continue until the end of the year. Plans call for approximately 12 candidates.

According to Nancy Graham, Executive Director of the Fellows Program, the following former Peace Corps volunteers have been chosen to date: Dennis Bethea (Ethiopia), James Taylor (Liberia), Kathy Stephens (Korea), Steve Long (Nepal), Susan Hancks (Liberia), and Elizabeth Ernst (Upper Volta)."

11,000 Pounds of Seed Given to Peace Corps

The Vaughn-Jacklin Seed Co., of Downers Grove, Ill., has donated 11,000 pounds of vegetable seeds to the Peace Corps for use in nutrition projects around the world.

Through the combined efforts of Region V's (Chicago) Volunteer Recruitment Specialist Jim Carpenter and the Peace Corps Partnership Office, the 19 varieties of seeds will be divided equally among 40 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The seeds will be used in community and garden projects, school garden and agricultural educational programs.

- According to Carpenter, companies have donated seeds to the Peace Corps previously but on what he termed a "hit-or-miss" basis. This is the second year, however, that Vaughn-Jacklin has made a contribution to the Chicago office. This donation represents an increase 10 times over the donation of the previous year.

The idea of seed donations originally was conceived by Carpenter 10 years ago when he was a Peace Corps volunteer in an agricultural 4-H program in El Salvador. Through written requests, he received 10 small boxes of seeds from a company in Portland, Ore.

This year, Carpenter also has secured 250 free copies of the "Vegetable Garden Guide" from O.M. Scotts & Sons, in Maryville, Ohio for distribution with the seeds.

The first shipment of seeds left July 3 for Africa, with others following throughout the month until the 900-box shipment is completed. Carpenter packages the seeds himself, and is often able to ship as many as 120 boxes weekly. The response to last year's shipment was tremendous, Carpenter said.

When Peace Corps Country Directors' offices were cabled this spring to see if they were interested in receiving seeds, they expressed great interest in participating in the program again.

In Memory

ACTION mourns the death of staff member Shirley Ivery on June 13. Ms. Ivery, 28, had been a secretary in the Office of Voluntary Citizens Participation since March 15. She joined ACTION in December 1976 as a special assistant in the Office of Special Affairs.

A native of Wayne County, N.C., Ms. Ivery lived in Landover, Md. She leaves a son, Marquis Boone, 7.

Anyone wishing to make a contribution in Ms. Ivery's memory should send a check or money order to the Lupus Foundation of Greater Washington, 7319 Parkwood Court, Falls Church, Va. 22042.

The Longest Walk

"We were well aware that helping make a meal for the Indians did not make us one of them in experience or need," said an ACTION staff person. "We could only hope that our presence and empathy not be mistaken for insult."

On July 15, about 70 ACTION staff persons and former volunteers drove in a caravan of 20 cars from ACTION headquarters to Greenbelt, Md., where the 3,000 Indian participants in "The Longest Walk" were camping. Greenbelt Park is 12 miles from Washington, D.C., where the Indians were beginning nine days of protest against the latest of more than 300 treaties made and broken with native Americans.

ACTION as a federal agency was not formally involved with the Indians' protest. Many employees, however, volunteered their own time and energy to aid the Indian's cause.

"The walk is a response by native North American people to pending Congressional legislation that would totally abrogate their sovereign rights," said Francesco Isgro, former Peace Corps volunteer in the Central African Empire, now working as a placement assistant for Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) programs at headquarters.

Eleven pieces of legislation awaiting Congressional action would negate certain fishing, grazing and mineral rights the Indians still hold in some areas of the country. And a bill called the Americans 'Equal Opportunity Act' would permit private ownership of Indian land that has been traditionally held as communal property.

This bill, the Indians maintain, would open the way for land speculation and would break up the reservations. Although many Indians and Indian supporters



Two 'husking' young men prepare food for the Longest Walkers.

- have protested reservation conditions, most Indians have lived on them all their lives and do not want to leave them.
- This was the largest American Indian demonstration in history. Many of the Indians arriving in Greenbelt Park had been on the walk from its beginning at Alcatraz Island just off the California coast in San Francisco Bay on February 11.

"Walk leaders extended an invitation to the Senate to take part in the four-day religious ceremonies in Washington, D.C.," Isgro said. "This marks the first time in history that such an invitation has been extended and it has been an attempt by all the Longest Walk participants to stress the peaceful, spiritual nature of their effort."

Walkers relied mainly on the Washington, D.C., community for their food while they were camping in Maryland. ACTION staff persons volunteered their own time to solicit local grocery stores and food chains for donations. The Ithaca, N.Y. Co-op Store brought a truckload of onions and carrots. The U.S. Department of Agriculture provided unlimited surplus food stuffs that were used throughout the week. Altogether \$20,000 was raised to support the walk.

Rich Creecy, a clerk-typist in Administration and Finance/Contracts and Grants Management, coordinated the day's events. Ken Rawie, a computer specialist in Computer Services, and Ronnie Priddy, placement officer for health, worked to get transportation and housing for the elderly. Dottie Andrade, assistant for health in Placement, mobilized the Longest Walk Support Committee and served as overall coordinator.

The ACTION caravan arrived at the park about noon. They were greeted by Indian security guards and U.S. Army personnel. The individual Indians' camps were set up, but those Indians not on guard duty were at the Washington Monument where the first demonstration was being held. Greenbelt Park was a ghost camp of tents and tepees, guard dogs and clothes on lines.

- Security guards asked that ACTION cars coming and going from camp have "The Longest Walk" bumper stickers on them. ACTION cars thus marked were hailed and cheered by the Indians.

Finally, the roving bags of onions, boxes of green beans and cans of corn were distributed among the four kitchen areas. Wood arrived. The U.S. Army people filled 30-gallon cans with water and put spigots on them for washing dishes. Fresh meat arrived at 6 p.m. and was added to a stew of canned meat and a mixture of fresh canned vegetables.

The camp for the elderly and a medical camp was set up. ACTION volunteers were still scurrying for lamps, paper plates, and other utensils when the Indians returned at about 8:30 p.m. from the Monument grounds by the busloads.

Entire families, carrying children, walking silently, tired after a 10-hour day in Washington's humid heat began to file back into the campsites. Many fixed their own meals, many went to the kitchen stations.

Indians of more than 94 tribes were represented. As they crossed the country, millions of Americans offered their support. Mayors in St. Louis, Minneapolis, Sioux City and Topeka, to name a few, issued proclamations in support of the Indians' treaties as did governors in Michigan, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois.

Several foreign countries expressed their support for the march and Buddhist monks traveled from Japan to join the Walk-in San Francisco.

The Indians held religious ceremonies and educational workshops during their stay in the Capital. The workshops, held on the Monument grounds, were to make people aware of the pending Congressional bills that the Indians felt deny them their fishing, grazing and mineral rights.

The Indians also marched on the U.S. Capitol, the Supreme Court Building and the White House, where they relayed their concerns to Vice-President Mondale.

Cynthia Poindexter, formerly a Peace Corps volunteer in Tanzania, now working in ORC, summarized her day at Greenbelt:

"We started cooking as the sun went down. By 12:30 a.m., we finished cleaning up the tent and turned out the lights. The moon was shining through the trees; the night was very still.

"We had heard drums and chants earlier from what sounded like a large gathering. When they started again, we went to listen. Five Indians from the Red School House in St. Paul Minn., were beating drums and chanting, filling the night with ancient and spiritual sounds."

Regional Director's Spotlight: Joe Bernal



Joe Bernal

"Too often, we have well-dressed, articulate Chicanos who speak out but have no real sense of commitment to community issues," comments Joe Bernal, who was appointed ACTION Regional Director in Dallas last February. "Community sensitivity is essential for good, sound leadership."

A native San Antonian, Bernal, 51, has been actively involved in progressive change for more than 35 years. He says that Mexican-Americans are entering the third stage of their development. The first he describes as a period of trying to belong, be assimilated into the societal mainstream. This usually meant a complete rejection of cultural heritage, he notes.

The next phase was the demonstrative consciousness-raising phase, when those who had been assimilated met with the same prejudices as before. They then realized that giving up one's name, traditions and culture would not necessarily improve their lot in American society. At this point, Bernal says, people became aware of their "Mexicanismo" and became proud of it.

"People grabbed hold of whatever symbols they could---a serape, a brown beret -- in an act of declaration and affirmation of what we are. This level of attention had to be raised to attract the attention of all."

Now, he says, people can affect change from within because they have been better trained to do so, and, he notes, because they are secure about themselves and

where they are going. He sees the 1970s as a time for rational action on subjects raised during the 1960s and thinks that Mexican-Americans are more prepared than ever to accept this challenge to act.

"The old cliché about working within the system for meaningful change really had no meaning for minorities if they had not reached the level of awareness which carried with it a commitment to community affairs," he says.

"ACTION is based on community organization. We work predominately with deprived groups for the 'empowerment' of the poor.

"However, the thing I try to stress to our volunteers is that it's not a question of 'doing' for the poor--- we don't want them leading the parade. Rather, we want to work 'with' the poor in developing and enhancing leadership. We're not there as missionaries; we're there to give them the opportunity to voice their own concerns."

Bernal was a Texas state representative from 1964-66 and a state senator from 1966-72. He worked to draft and enact the Bilingual Act of 1969, which provides funds for bilingual education in Texas. Additionally, he was one of the founders of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund which has a \$2 million budget. He also was chairman of the Mexican-American Democrats until he resigned to accept his position as regional director.

"It was very hard for me to leave San Antonio," Bernal says. "But I needed a change. I needed to grow in new directions. San Antonio also needed new leadership, and we must all make room for new leaders.

"Having been trained in social work and education, my work at ACTION is a logical extension of what I've been doing most of my life. But, it also offers new opportunities to work with a program I've long admired...I like the 'family' I've joined."

Former Volunteers Make the Connection

What do you do when you need to code 35,000 former volunteer cards, fast? You call 37 former volunteers living in the DC area, who then spend an afternoon in early July coding the cards in ACTION headquarters.

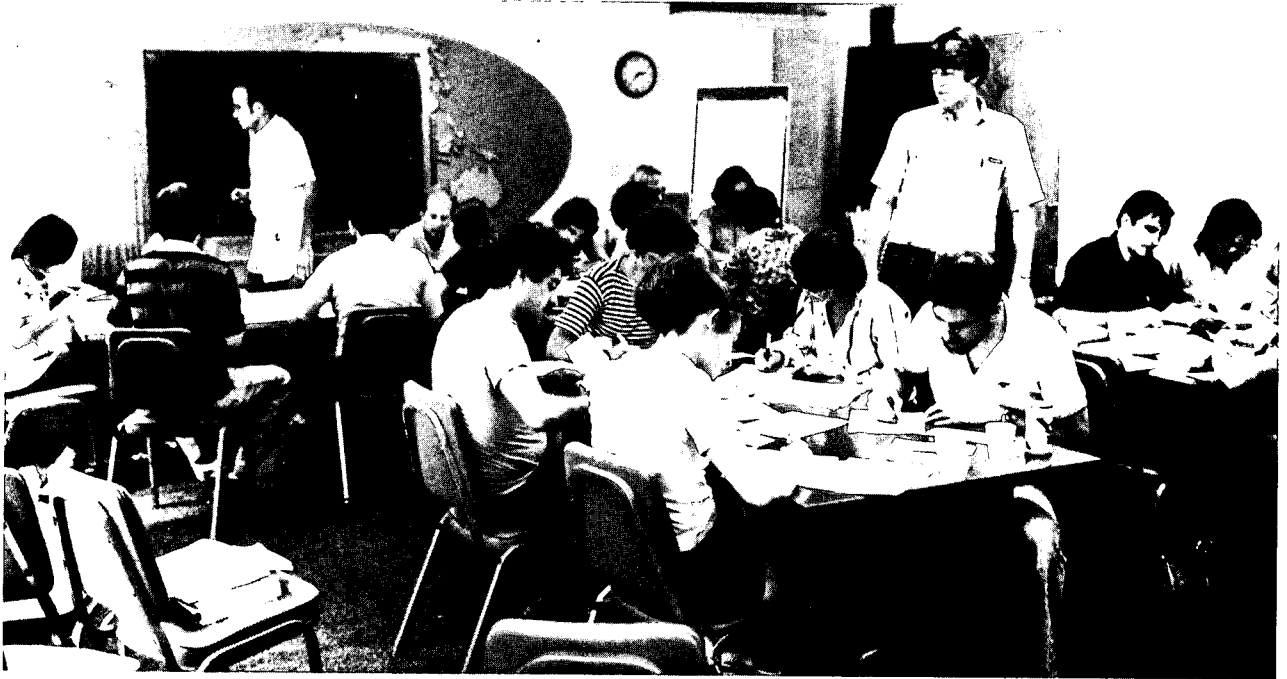
The cards had been returned by former VISTAs and RPCVs interested in being included on an updated ACTION mailing list and in helping with recruitment and PC/VISTA educational activities. The cards contained information which had to be hand-coded onto keypunch forms for entry onto the file.

According to the project staff member Jim Callahan, the mass effort "helped us complete in one afternoon a task that would otherwise have taken months. The problem was that the addresses were becoming more and more out of date every day that they remained on the cards in our office."

The mailing list which is being created will serve to keep former

volunteers informed about Peace Corps and VISTA activities through the newsletter Reconnection, and to more effectively involve them in activities such as speakers bureaus, recruitment referrals, and alumni organizations.

Reconnection, in part, serves to inform former volunteers of current policies and programs and provides a forum for their comments. It also features articles about former volunteers who are involved in careers or activities which relate to or were stimulated by their volunteer service. ACTION staffers who know of former VISTA or Peace Corps volunteers whose activities or work might make an interesting article, or of reunions being planned by former volunteers, are requested to contact Lynn Miller or Jim Callahan at (202)-254-8406.



Washington, D.C., area former volunteers code cards to establish a mailing list of former volunteers.

VISTA Sponsor Receives Public Service Award

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- "My Daddy used to tell me, 'Man will be judged by the deeds he does,'" said Bernard Powell, recent winner of the prestigious Jefferson Award for Public Service. "When you get through the talking, it's about how much work you get done. But you have to keep an eye on the work that needs to be done, too."

Powell, 31, is director of the Social Action Committee of 20 (SAC-20), a VISTA - sponsoring group that organizes deprived neighborhoods in Kansas City, Mo., to "keep them alive until revitalization can take over."

VISTA volunteers have worked with the project since 1975; today, there are six volunteers serving there.

The American Institute for Public Service presented the Jefferson Award to Powell in a ceremony at the Supreme Court in Washington on June 27. Other winners honored at the ceremony included the late Sen. Hubert Humphrey, Jerry Lewis, and Andrew Mellon.

The Jefferson Awards were founded in 1972 by Samuel S. Beard to "honor the ideals and achievements in the field of Public Service and to develop a new leadership in the United States," according to an Institute publication.

According to Powell, the VISTA volunteers at SAC-20 have been instrumental in helping provide opportunities for people in neighborhoods to "do for themselves" by overcoming initial organizational problems.

"VISTA volunteers have been some of the major pushers in getting people organized in the neighborhood," Powell said. "Their primary objective is to organize and provide technical assistance where needed to local people who want to get their neighborhoods moving."

Powell adds that if the neighborhood people did not do the work themselves, "there would be no paint crews, no clean-up crews, no recreational programs. But the VISTA people get them going, and are a very important part of our organization here.

"Right now, VISTA volunteers are organizing a key club of neighborhood block presidents who will try to bring together a total picture of how our community is doing, and where it should be going."

Powell has a long activist background, working during the 1960s with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and later for the Congress of Racial Equality before forming SAC-20 in the early 70s.

Postscript To Posters: OAVP Contest Deadline Extended

The first poster contest ever held for Older American Volunteers and the people they serve closes on September 15. The contest, which was announced in the May issue of Prime Times, originally carried an August 15 deadline.

Volunteers and persons they serve through the Foster Grandparent, Senior Companion, and Retired Senior Volunteer Programs may submit an unlimited number of poster entries. All entries, however, should illustrate how contestants view the Older American Volunteer Programs with which they are associated.

The posters will be judged in the following four categories: professional artists, non-professionals, teenagers and children under 13.

There will be one first place winner, five runners-up and five honorable mention awards for each category in each program. The winners will be judged and announced later in the fall.

The contest is being conducted by Creative Services, Office of Communications. Those interested should contact Cynthia Poindexter, ext. 47526.

RSVP in Wisconsin



Ruth Peterke

MANITOWOC, Wis...."If it weren't for RSVP volunteers, there probably wouldn't be anybody doing these things for others," said Phyllis Novy, RSVP Director in Manitowoc, Wis.

She and her assistant, Barbara Koch, work with nearly 500 volunteers throughout Manitowoc County -- a farming and manufacturing area nestled on Lake Michigan.

"It's all worthwhile," she added, "when I'm able to match the talents and skills of volunteers with RSVP opportunities." She has a considerable talent pool as more than 25 percent of Manitowoc's population is over 55. That adds up to 8,300 seniors among the 33,400 people of this primarily working class community of German and Bohemian ancestry.

Also enthusiastic was Phyllis Novy's boss, Bernice Barta, Manitowoc's Director of Aging.

Bernice cited the increasing involvement of seniors -- demonstrated by approval last April of a referendum to build an \$800,000 multi-purpose senior center.

She described how seniors in 1974 were defeated in their first attempt to build a center. They rose to the challenge, however, and sold the community on the need in 1978.

Bernice estimated that "70,000 different senior participating services will be utilized at the new center" by people in the city and surrounding county of 87,000 people.

The Manitowoc spirit of voluntarism is demonstrated by Ruth Peterke, an RSVP volunteer teacher at the River School for the Handicapped. Miss Peterke, as her young charges call her, returned to teaching last year after 47 years in business. The 71-year-old teacher said, "I like working with kids, especially those with the least ability to learn."

Ruth started teaching three days weekly with handicapped youngsters 6-9 years old. After she found she liked it, she stepped up to five days. "I'm patient with kids, and they know I'm mature, so we get along," she mused.

A regular teacher reported that no job was too tough for Ruth. Her pattern is to begin with a brief group session; then work one-on-one for the remainder of the day. There must have been love between teacher and students, if hugging and kissing at day's end was an indicator.

Frank Kolar is a RSVP volunteer guide with the Manitowoc Maritime Museum. Frank's specialty is showing visitors around a 300-foot

World War II vintage American submarine near Lake Michigan.

Frank proudly stated that "Manitowoc built 28 subs during the big war." He maneuvered through the submarine's compartments, fascinating visitors with a detailed description of the sub's functions and capabilities. Frank sees his mission as the spokesman who will keep people aware of Manitowoc's maritime tradition.

Another RSVP volunteer is Elinor Jagodensky. Without her there might not be an American Cancer Society office in Manitowoc, because she is the only person in the office.

"My objective is to educate people on cancer and its causes" she said in a firm voice belying her 81 years. "I also furnish transportation to cancer patients and operate a fund raising crusade."

Elinor served five years as a RSVP volunteer and remains highly motivated because of family experiences with the dreaded disease. Of nine sisters and brothers in her family, she lost three sisters and a brother to cancer.

She apparently continues to make a favorable impression on local citizens. On the day Elinor was interviewed, she received a \$1,000 check for the cancer society. The giver "had this money and thought it was a good place to leave it," Elinor said. "The usual donation is only about a dollar."

ACTION Solar Energy Policy

ACTION is participating in the Cabinet level domestic policy review of solar energy announced by President Carter on May 3, 1978.

By September 15, 1978 the Solar Energy Policy Committee will provide the President with analysis of three basic areas: first, solar energy's potential long- and short-term contributions to domestic and international energy demands; second, a review of current federal solar programs to see if they are effective in bringing solar technology into widespread use; and third, recommendations for an overall solar strategy to enhance federal, state and private efforts to accelerate the use of solar technologies.

According to Sam Brown, ACTION's commitment to community participation by citizens makes the agency a natural advocate for the small-scale, decentralized, people-oriented aspects of the administration's strategy. ACTION's experience at home and overseas indicates that such approaches to energy development are essential, especially in rural areas, if large numbers of people, including the poor, are to benefit.

The Peace Corps is beginning to focus on energy needs in Third World countries. Individual Peace Corps volunteers have designed and introduced solar grain dryers, greenhouses and heaters and have also exploited wind energy, forest products, and biomass conversion techniques. The Peace Corps will soon begin an audit of rural energy needs and sources in rural areas throughout the Third World.

VISTA volunteers have been aiding the poor and elderly to consider solar energy to reduce their dependence on costly energy sources. VISTA volunteers in Connecticut are encouraging a low-income housing project to apply for grants to install solar heating equipment. In southwestern states, VISTA volunteers are holding neighborhood workshops to train low-income people to build greenhouses onto their houses and hogans to capture the sun's rays for growing food and heating their home simultaneously. And in urban areas, volunteers have been promoting solar energy as an alternative energy source when organizing residents to deal with utility rate hikes.

ACTION already has solicited the participation of former volunteers who are interested in or have been working with small scale or alternative energy sources through the former volunteer publication, Reconnection.

To provide the President with additional recommendations, a series of 11 solar energy policy forums was held during June and July to solicit comments and ideas from a wide range of citizens including energy consumers, solar advocates, solar energy equipment manufacturers and state and local government officials. The open forums were held in each of the 10 federal regions throughout the country and in the District of Columbia.

At the June 27 forum in Denver, Colo., Brown discussed the potential of solar energy to the world's energy needs and explained the Peace Corps' involvement in introducing solar techniques to Third World countries.

Kelley Clicks with The National Endowment for the Arts

Joan Kelley, acting chief of the news bureau in ORC headquarters, has been selected by the National Endowment for the Arts as the photo/journalist for the Fourth Federal Design Assembly which convenes in Washington, D.C., in September.

More than 800 government officials will attend the two-day event in addition to members of professional design societies and representatives of Congress. The purpose of the assembly is to provide a better understanding of the design process and its integration into federal decision-making policy.

Kelley will be responsible for the film documentation of the assembly. She then will help to compile a portfolio which will be distributed to high level government officials and perhaps sold through the Government Printing Office.

In June, Kelley was nominated as "one of the outstanding professional photographers" chosen from the federal and private sector to serve on a panel which evaluated applications and slide portfolios in connection with the Civil Service Commission's Examination for Visual Arts.

Kelley joined the ACTION staff in 1971 following 1 1/2 years as a photographer/writer with the White House Conference on Children and Youth. She was the staff photographer at the Office of Economic Opportunity in the late 1960s.