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## Foster Grandparents Praised by First Lady

First Lady Nancy Reagan welcomed Foster Grandparents to an afternoon reception on May 4, in the East Room of the White House. She thanked some 105 Grandparents for "their wonderful work with the grandchildren, and the kindness and love they have shown."

The Grandparents serve in three projects, two in the District of Columbia and one in Prince Georges County, Md. In D.C., they are assigned to programs sponsored by the Greater Washington Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and by the United Planning Organization. In Maryland, they serve in a program sponsored by the Prince Georges County Department of Aging.

Joining the Grandparents was the Peabody Senior Citizens Choral Drama Group from Memphis, Tenn., which provided musical entertainment in 1920s dress (see photo), and actor Pat O'Brien, whom Mrs. Reagan introduced as "my old friend." Mr. O'Brien recently celebrated his 81st birthday and 50th wedding anniversary.

Afterward, the First Lady invited her guests into the State Dining Room for iced tea and coffee, and chatted informally with them.





*Tom Pauken, several members of his family, and ACTION staff at his reception.*

## Pauken Confirmed: Stresses New Initiatives

The Senate of the United States has unanimously confirmed the appointment of Thomas W. Pauken as director of ACTION. Following the May 7 vote, Pauken emphasized that ACTION would seek to expand its role in aiding the poor and disadvantaged through development of programs targeted at specific populations.

"Our agency has a major responsibility to mobilize the involvement of our citizens to meeting pressing human and social needs through expanding voluntary action in targeted areas," Pauken said.

Plans include cooperation with the private sector, business, labor, private non-profit volunteer organizations and churches, to address specific problems to which the agency will allocate or augment its resources.

The new director envisions initiatives to help troubled youth, using volunteers to deal with the problems of runaways, drug and alcohol abuse, dropout, victims of child abuse, illiteracy and child pornography. "It is the proper role of

ACTION to be a catalyst in reaching these young people and involving them in the creation of their own futures," he said, adding that the resources of VISTA would be used to meet these goals.

VISTA, which is slated to be phased out by the end of FY 1983, will give way to these new programs. "It is time," said Pauken, "to take what we have learned, assess it, and focus on those areas where we can be most successful."

Pauken reaffirmed the policy of the administration to continue the current relationship between ACTION and Peace Corps. "It is clear that the Peace Corps director has the responsibility for Peace Corps policy and planning, as well as for selection of staff and volunteers," said Pauken. He indicated that ACTION's Deputy Director-designate Winifred Ann Pizzano, will represent ACTION in its day-to-day activities with the Peace Corps.

Some 500 staff members were on hand to greet the new director on the afternoon of his confirmation at a reception in his office. With Pauken were his wife, Ida, and their five children.

# FGP Testifies at Child Abuse Conference

Some 54,000 mentally and physically disabled children are served by the nearly 18,000 Americans serving in ACTION's Foster Grandparent Program... and many of those children have suffered severe abuse and neglect at home.

Much of FGP's work with those abused and neglected youngsters has been enhanced by the work of the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) created in 1974, under the Child Abuse and Treatment Act, and signed by President Nixon.

Since its creation, the center has acted as a basis for the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect in 46 states, offering technical assistance, consultation, resource development, education, curriculum development and training to a variety of interested agencies and organizations.

The center has provided FGP with technical manuals, lists of regional centers and with information specifically tailored to assisting volunteers working in child abuse and neglect in FGP settings nationwide.

At the recently held Fifth National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, sponsored by the Region V Center in Milwaukee, Wisc., representatives from over 100 groups discussed the availability of new resources in the face of federal budget cuts, and staff and policy development. ACTION/FGP was one of the groups represented, and FGP Program Specialist Laurie Sand was among those

providing testimony on how NCCAN had benefited her organization. Testifying with Sand was Foster Grandparent Lucille Boland, a volunteer who works at a center for abused children in Marshall, Mo.

Calling the center's support "a source of nationwide strategy for providing technical assistance to local Foster Grandparent projects in child abuse and neglect," Sand added that its assistance was also designed to encourage more program development in this area.

"Because of them (the center), we now have increased accessibility to a variety of technical assistance resources which have allowed FGP to get more involved in the area of child abuse and neglect," Sand said. "Our continued growth in this area is in great part dependent on support from the center, a support we do not want to lose."

Following Sand's testimony Boland spoke of her work with abused and neglected children. "It is important to have a program like this one," she said, "because it gives us a chance to do more for the parent and child and it gives us a chance to help break the violence at home."

Conference testimony has been provided to Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Richard Schweiker and to other public officials for review.



*Lucille Boland and Laurie Sand*

## JACS Volunteer of the Year



Marilyn Griesedieck, recently selected as the Joint Action in Community Service (JACS) National Volunteer of the year, is congratulated by ACTION Director Thomas Pauken during National Volunteer Week, April 27-May 2. Greisedieck was recognized by Department of Labor officials and congressional leaders for her work with JACS, a not-for-profit volunteer organization which helps Job Corps youth make the transition from Job Corps training to employment and responsible

citizenship. A widow and mother of five grown children, Greisedieck has been a JACS volunteer for over eight years, serving as a coordinator at Washington University of St. Louis, where she enlists student help in tutoring and counseling Job Corpsmen

Congratulating Griesedieck, Pauken said, "your dedication and generous spirit is an embodiment of what volunteerism is all about."



# Agency to Address Youth Problems

Prior to his confirmation by Congress, ACTION Director Thomas Pauken stated that he wanted the agency to "apply to the problems of youth, the same effectiveness and thoughtful program development that has made our Older American programs so successful and popular."

As planned, these initiatives – including illiteracy, runaway youth, drug abuse and the formation of a young American volunteers program – will tap the energies of private citizens, including the youth themselves, and encourage financial and technical support from the private sector – small businesses, churches, unions and corporations.

Working on these efforts is Connie Horner, of the Office of Policy and Planning, who along with other staff, is exploring ways of involving a number of agency offices in these programs. A former high-school and college teacher, Horner has authored articles on public policy issues affecting children, youth and families.

"An estimated one-million youth run away from home each year," Horner says. "We are looking for ways to increase the capacity of hotlines systems through which runaway youth can call in, toll-free, and volunteers can put them in touch with families, and provide referrals to housing and medical care."

According to Horner, OPP plans to lend support, in the form of technical assistance, to hotline systems and to "safe houses" which offer food, shelter, emergency medical aid, counseling and the opportunity for family reconciliation.

"In the area of drug abuse," Horner says, "We want to mobilize teenage youth as educators and

guides to help their younger peers...Peer culture is very strong, and we want to take advantage of that strength in a positive way. We feel that youth will listen to each other, and we want to encourage that.

"We also want to organize and educate parents in an effort to eradicate drug abuse in their own communities," she continues. "Since no parent can tackle that problem alone, hundreds of parent groups are springing up to deal with these issues. We want to provide technical assistance to these groups and help put groups in touch with each other."

"The agency is also examining ways in which parents can work with the schools – a frequent locale of drug dealing – in an effort to slow or stop the spread of drugs," she says.

"Like older Americans, youth must be viewed, not as a problem, but as a source of solution," Horner says, "and we must find additional ways in which youth and older Americans can help each other. Just as the Foster Grandparent Program involves older volunteers caring for the sick and disabled young, I would like to see programs in which younger volunteers care for the frail and disabled elderly."

"The hostility among the generations that existed during the 60s and 70s has now dissipated," she continues. "It is time to reintroduce the generations to one another, particularly now, when the support offered by the extended family is not what it once was. Each generation has so much to give the other. Our programs will encourage that giving."

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## Pauken Voices Administration Support at RSVP Parley

"ACTION's Older Americans programs have the support of the Reagan Administration straight from the top," ACTION Director Tom Pauken told the Region III RSVP training conference at Virginia Beach, Va., last week.

"Support for Older Americans programs is the cornerstone of ACTION, and with First Lady Nancy Reagan on our side that cornerstone is as solid a base as we've ever had," Pauken told 70 RSVP project directors from Region III.

The RSVP conference was Pauken's first trip outside of Washington after he was confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

"RSVP will play a key role in a number of new

initiatives ACTION will take," Pauken said. "RSVP has lots of experience working with children and youth. RSVP is a prime resource for new programs to aid troubled youth," Pauken said.

In a question-and-answer session, Pauken discussed the agency's future with the RSVP project directors and received strong support from RSVP representatives for the Administration's posture that Peace Corps remain in ACTION.

The regional meeting was termed "very successful" by project directors. Workshops on rural transportation, motivation and working with youth highlighted the four-day session.



*"Chef" Elton King, PC Office of Personnel and Management, and Loret Ruppe, at her reception.*

## Senate Confirms Ruppe as PC Director

Loret Ruppe, President Reagan's nominee for Peace Corps director, was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on May 7. Of her new job, Ruppe said, "I think I have the best job in Washington. The purpose of The Peace Corps is so clear-cut — to foster world peace and friendship and to help the developing world. I feel it's the greatest work I could be doing."

"Our primary responsibility," she continued, "is to provide good support to volunteers overseas. We are trying to work out a reorganization in Washington to take most of the cuts here." (The FY 1982 budget is \$95 million, \$10 million down from FY 1981).

The new director, who left after her confirmation for a three-week tour of the Peace Corps countries of Honduras, Guatemala and Ecuador, said her plans for Peace Corps include a country-by-country review of volunteer programs "to make sure we are making the best possible choices for our individual host countries."

"We have also agreed to coordinate our efforts more closely with the U.S. Agency for International Development," Ruppe said, noting that "Peace Corps is a people-to-people organization, and that AID has money and technical resources. We have cabled every country where there is both an AID administrator and a Peace Corps country director, asking them to sit down and review programs and ideas to see where greater mixes are possible."

Ruppe says the PC 20th anniversary celebration is "a time to evaluate where we are and where we need to go. I am very hopeful that the more than

80,000 returned volunteers will educate the American public about the importance of the developing world. The taxpayer needs to know that foreign assistance programs, like the Peace Corps, are investments in the national interest and not mere give-away schemes."

At a reception at PC headquarters following her confirmation, Ruppe addressed her staff, thanking them for their assistance during the transition period and expressing her hope to "build, together, a better Peace Corps."

### Attention Staffers!

ACTION Update is about to change — with a new look, fresh features and standing departments to serve all of us and our interests. ACTION and Peace Corps are special agencies filled with special people. The new ACTION Update will reflect these characteristics in fast-paced copy designed to inform, inspire and amuse.

If you have ideas for the new ACTION Update you'd like to share, please let us know as soon as possible. ACTION Update is our publication. Let's work to make it everything we'd like it to be.

Call me on FTS 254-7595 — Judy Kusheloff, Editor

# New Staffers Join ACTION/PC

The following people have been named to key positions in the agency

**Everett Alvarez**, deputy director-designate, Peace Corps

**Mark Blitz**, assistant director for policy and planning, Office of Policy and Planning

**James Burnely**, director, VISTA/Service Learning Programs

**Ted Cormaney**, special assistant for public affairs to the director (ACTION)

**Lawrence Davenport**, associate director-designate, Domestic Operations

**Arthur Fergenson**, General Counsel

**Jackie Harker**, deputy director, Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation

**Tom Lias**, director, Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation

**Terry Landolt**, director of communications, Office of Recruitment and Communications

**Tom Moore**, director-designate for Recruitment, Office of Recruitment and Communications

**Winifred Anne Pizzano**, deputy director-designate, ACTION

**Sam Schulhof**, director, Office of Recruitment and Communications

**Dory Teipel**, director of public affairs, Peace Corps



**KUDOS TO:**

June Carter Perry, director, Office of Public Affairs, who received a Distinguished Alumna Award from Mundelein College in Chicago. She was one of 12 alumnae selected for this award during the college's 50th Jubilee Year. The award was given "in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to those who are lost or forgotten within the system, and on whose behalf she has intervened as creator, communicator, diplomat and humanist." Perry was also inducted into Phi Alpha Theta, the National Honor Society in history.

Edward Dela Rosa, Peace Corps Latin America director, who was selected by the National Urban Coalition as a recipient of the Coalition's Distinguished Achievement in International Development Award. Dela Rosa, who received his award at the Coalition's annual awards ceremony dinner on May 15, was recognized as an American "whose career has linked the United States and foreign countries," and who recognizes "the vital interconnections between what happens economically, socially and politically, in urban and non-urban areas in this country and in other nations which share with us a rapidly shrinking world."

## Dominican PCD Notes US/Third World Similarities



On a recent tour of rural cooperatives in the deep South, Stephen Honore, Peace Corps country director in the Dominican Republic, noted the similarities between the Third World and the United States. "...If they were speaking Spanish, I would swear I was back in the Dominican Republic," exclaimed Honore, as he listened to a group of farmers at an agricultural training program in the Mississippi Delta region.

He is shown at right in the above photo, learning about the feeder pig project being promoted by the Beat-4 Cooperative in Mashulaville, Miss. With Honore are (l. to r.) Melbah McAfee, of the Association of Cooperatives; Mrs. Homer Walker, a town resident; VISTA volunteer Clarence Dailey, and Homer Walker.

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### ACTION UPDATE

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