

United States Senate

*Boots*

MEMORANDUM

8/22/67  
5:20

SENATOR HARRIS,

Elliot Stanley telephoned and left the following message for you:

Said he had talked with Boots Taliaferro and Elliot would like to urge that you consider televising some of all of your hearings. In a letter to Boots, Elliot spelled out what he thought were some good reasons for having these hearings televised. Thinks they would have as much of an impact as Fulbright's hearings had. This is now very much in the public mind and would certainly be an opportunity to show the complexities of the urban crisis. Said he hoped you would give some consideration to this. Said it couldn't be more timely.

RM

Elliot is with Congressman Holifield, Ext. 3976.

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August 14, 1967

TO: Senator Fred R. Harris

FROM: Steven Ebbin

SUBJECT: Some suggestions for action programs to be recommended to President's Commission on Civil Disorders.

I. Graduated School Attendance Allowance --

A system of payments to low income families for each child in regular school attendance, which increase annually as child is promoted from grade to grade. The highest allowance to fourth year high school students. Eligibility to expire upon completion of secondary school. This would induce completion of schooling to 12th grade, giving each family included an immediate financial state in regular attendance and completion of proscribed course. It would also have an effect on comportment, as suspension for rule infractions would also have an effect on the amount of the allowance received. This could be justified on basis of dealing with drop-out problems, the increased tax base of people whose earning capacities are enhanced by education, etc.

II. Reconstitution of school year, particularly in urban metropolitan areas.

The historical basis for summer vacations; i. e., availability of children to help bring in crops, is for the most part, outmoded, since the population shift from rural to urban areas. With air conditioning a basic item in school construction it seems foolish to continue holding to the concept of 2-1/2 month summer vacations for school children which turns children out onto the streets with little to do for periods in excess of two months a year. Rather short vacation periods spread throughout the year would be preferable particularly with no single period extending for more than two weeks and, perhaps even at that a staggered schedule would have an even greater effect on the problem. Such a program, would, as well, have the effect of relieving pressure of ~~members~~ **NUMBERS** on the already short supply of recreational facilities.

III Establishment of a National Police Training Institute.--

It would be desirable to establish national procedures for dealing with increased rates of crime in that crime has become a national problem. This could be done on a voluntary basis, with

states designating participants. Such an institute, or academy, could, as well, recruit personnel, train them and make them available on a request basis to states in need of such personnel. This would have particular merit for specialists in various areas of crime, including laboratory, identification, data retrieval, community relations personnel, etc. Riot procedures on a ~~human~~ <sup>HUMAN</sup> basis, might, as well, be developed, including tactics for immobilizing rioters without physical harm.

IV. Nationally Assisted Programs for (a) school feeding; (b) school health and dental care; (c) recreation and cultural enrichment.

Adequate diets, health care and recreation are essential factors in stimulating deprived children to aspire to self improvement. Hungry, unhealthy children cannot look to the future if they are pre-occupied with the present. We have instituted such programs in underdeveloped countries abroad. There is no reason why the same reasoning should not apply in the underdeveloped parts of our country, as well.

V. National Scholarship Program --

(A) A program to induce the deprived children of promise who complete secondary education requirements, particularly if Suggestion I were adopted, to seek advanced education. College loan programs already in existence under the NDEA are inoperative in slum areas. Bankers, on whom this program depends, are unwilling to make funds available for high-risk students. In the District of Columbia, for example, there simply are not loans available to negro children for college. The program is inoperable.

(B) A program of national scholarship assistance to college students who work on a part-time basis as teacher's aids for ghetto schools, as tutors for deprived children, as recreation instructors, as college preparatory aides, etc.

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