

SEPTEMBER 3, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 1871 -- Youth Conservation Corps which amends the Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1972 to place the existing pilot State grant program on a permanent basis and to provide an authorization appropriation of \$60 million for each fiscal year.

S. 1871 establishes authorization appropriation of \$60 million for each fiscal year for the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. It makes permanent a pilot program of grants to the States for employment of young men and women to develop, preserve and maintain non-Federal lands and waters within the States. It permits the two Departments to use Corps members on projects on public lands under the jurisdiction of other Federal agencies in cooperation with the latter.

The YCC program was established in 1970 as a 3-year pilot program with an annual authorization of \$3.5 million. In 1972, the law provided permanent basic authority, authorized appropriations of \$30 million for fiscal year 1973 and \$60 million for fiscal year 1974, and established a new pilot program of grants to States. Thirty percent of the amounts appropriated annually for the program was earmarked for grants to the States to provide up to 80 percent of the cost of State-sponsored, YCC projects on non-Federal lands. In 1974 the State grant program was administered on a 50-50 cost sharing basis.

The basic purpose of the YCC is to further the development and maintenance of natural resources by America's youth, and in so doing to prepare them for the ultimate responsibility of maintaining and managing these resources for the American people.

The 1974 summer participation in the program was about 5,700 in Federal projects. The Departments of the Interior and Agriculture estimate that the value of work done by Corps members exceeds 70 percent of the costs of the program.

This summer was the first year that States have participated under the pilot State grant program with about 4,000 participants in programs in 45 States plus the District of Columbia and several territories.

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