

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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THUNDER OVER NYA

There is thunder on the Congressional Front It is rolling over the head of another emergency agency created 8 years ago. The lines are forming It remains to be seen whether the National Youth Administration will survive or be abolished and its functions taken over by the Office of Education. The issue has provoked much mail and many petitions both for and against its abolition But here's the story.

THE PRESIDENT CREATES NYA.

On June 26, 1935, the President issued an Executive Order creating the National Youth Administration Its function was to administer a relief, work relief, and employment program for persons between 16 and 25 who were no longer in attendance at school where full time is required and who were not regularly employed in remunerative employment Later, the program was broadened to include employment of needy students on school work projects In its initial years, NYA was carried on with relief funds appropriated to the President. In 1938, NYA was administered from ~~NYA was administered from~~ WPA funds In 1939, it was transferred to the Federal Security Agency and thus became a security program.

PRE-WAR WORK

In pre-war days, NYA carried on a varied program. Under its Out Of-School Program, young men and young women under NYA were employed on production work in factories, on construction work such as road building, on clerical work, manufacture and repair of furniture and household goods canning, clothing renovation, soil erosion control etc In its student aid program, NYA had 1714 participating educational institutions which in 1940, rendered employment to a monthly average of 438,000 students

WAR WORK

Came Pearl Harbor Came the demand for industrial and vocational training to meet the problem of industrial skills, especially where skilled mechanics and technicians were taken into the military or naval services. NYA reshaped its programs accordingly It at once set up courses of training in and out of industry for war production workers, rural war production workers and similar lines of work It also encouraged various industries to set up their own training programs and make contributions of public funds to such industries for that work.

PUBLIC FUNDS EXPENDED FOR NYA

Since 1935, when NYA was created, it has expended more than 771,000,000 million dollars for its programs This includes \$61,000,000 for the fiscal year 1943 which ends on June 30th next. For the next fiscal year ending on June 30, 1944, it is asking for a little over \$59,000,000 for its work This request for 59 million is accompanied with two suggested changes in the general NYA program The first is that it does not include school-work programs so that student aid would be terminated. The second is that the original age limits of 16 to 24 could be changed by order of the War Manpower Commission. This of course would no longer make it a youth program since young man have gone to war and age limit would be extended upward

COMES THE BYRD COMMITTEE

Now comes the Joint Committee on Reduction of Non-essential Expenditures, commonly known as the Byrd Committee with an elaborate report dated May 24, 1943, recommending the abolition of NYA on June 30, 1943 Among other findings made by the Committee is that NYA merely duplicates the work already being done by the Office of Education in the Federal Security Agency which also carries on a war production training program for workers. It points out that for the present fiscal year, 80% of the 61 million provided for NYA goes to the war production training program while 109 million of the 141 million provided for the training program of the Office of Education goes to the same purpose It points out that the monthly training cost per person in the Office of Education is \$29.12 compared with a cost ranging from \$59.34 to \$77.80 per person in NYA The latter figure of course reflects youth wages and subsistence The report points out that as of October 28, 1942, the NYA had 11,806 paid employes to train 53,000 youths or one paid employee for every 4 1/2 trainees It points out that due to military service and available jobs in defense industries, the available number of trainees has declined materially The report also points out that NYA is having to depend on boys under the draft age of 18 for male trainees and that the number of female trainees is rapidly overtaking the number of male trainees The report indicates that only 50% of the youth trained by NYA utilize their training in war industries and that through NYA, the nation's educators fear a complete centralization of educational control in this country So the thunder rolls over NYA and the result will soon be known.