Dear . . .

I appreciate your comments in support of the Mutual Security program and assure you that I am supporting the President in his efforts to secure the full amount of funds requested for fiscal year 1961.

This is having good attention.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
To: Edna C. Olson
From: W. A. Stevens
Re: "POINT FOUR YOUTH CORPS FOR U. S."

Congressman Reuss (D., Wisc.) sponsored the innovation in the recently signed mutual security law. A corps of several thousand young American is envisioned to serve voluntarily at soldier's pay in public and private technical aid missions in the underdeveloped countries. The President is to select a university or non-governmental research group to make specific recommendations for the formation of the Youth Corps. Most of the funds for this study will come from private foundations, with $10,000 from the Government, if and when Congress appropriates the funds.

The plan for the new Youth Corps is to attract college students for a two-year tour of duty. There is a remote possibility that these volunteers would be credited with the usual period of military service, as has been done for those participating in the International Voluntary Services program. At first, the aim would be to recruit about 1,000 in the next two years or so, with a goal perhaps 10 times that number later on.

There are now 6,000 Americans abroad engaged in the Foreign Aid program under ICA. It is estimated that $50 million annually would send 10,000 Youth Corps members into the world.

The Department of State has been skeptical about the practicality of the plan, largely because it may involve new administrative problems. However, foreign aid officials believe that a Youth Corps could be integrated into the existing operation, possibly by placing it under semi-private control.

The prospects of the plan materializing are dim at this time.

At this time there are no publications on the subject which we could send you.