-Career message

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structural unemployment. Our youth initiatives are top priority, because structural disparities are greater in this area than anywhere else.

* The Carter administration's proposal for a \$700 youth Employment and Demonstration Projects Act of 1977 would bring the magnitude of new youth programs to next fiscal year.

The Act creates nearly 200,000 work and training positions for young people - about 60 percent of them for minority youth. Its outlays, together with our other services to young people, represent the largest devotion of. resources ever to a longstanding problem area — but it is sobering to reflect that even if we achieve maximum success, we will have only halved the problem.

The Youth Act attacks the problem of many tronts. It includes the Young Adult Conservation Corps; projects to ease the school-to-work transition; projects to rehabilitate neighborhoods and natural resources; projects to supplement current youth activities in classroom and on-the-job training, work experience, supportive services and counseling; expansion of the Job Corps; and increases and improvements in our summer

The program of Youth Incentive Entitlement Pilot Projects, a key school-to-work initiative under the Act, is well underway.

jobs and training to economically disadvantaged young people who are willing to stay in school or complete

In January, 17 State or local government units were competitively selected to receive \$109 million in YIETP

These include large-scale projects to attempt "job saturation" of seven jurisdictions. They also include projects at 10 smaller sites to test specific program approaches.

Enrollment is expected to reach 18,000 by the end of this fiscal year and to peak at 27,700 next fiscal year.

The Youth Act authorizes a number of demonstration projects designed to address specific structural unemployment problems of youth.

These projects include the national youth service concept, educational entitlement vouchers for work ex-

perience, alternative education and career development approaches for drop-outs and "high risk" students, a variety of private sector subsidy methods, evaluation of the impact of employment on delinquency, and models for in-school programs.

ETA has, in addition to Youth Act programs, a number of other efforts on behalf of the young. Many young people learn marketable skills through public service employment, whether they weatherize houses, aid in

Many young people are benefiting from our Skill Training Improvement Program, which enhances our capacity to train for employer needs and to use employer trainers, and which would be a nucleus of our recently proposed, OJT-oriented, \$400 million effort to encourage businesses to hire young and disadvantaged Americans.

And as many as 400,000 young people will benefit from our initiatives to expand apprenticeship into such growth fields as health care and automotive repair and to create more apprenticeship opportunities for minorities

These initiatives include a project to place approximately 1,100 high school students in apprenticeship programs during their senior year.

I encourage you to consider the advantages of the apprenticeship system, through which hundreds of thousands of Americans have acquired their job skills and the dignity those skills have provided.

These advantages include systematic training, the These projects are testing the affect of guaranteeing flexibility to adjust to new industrial processes and. materials, employment security, decent starting wages, higher lifetime earnings and the foundation for individual advancement.

> Gaining job skills, whether through apprenticeship or any other way, is just like having money in the bank. Without them, a lot of things can mess you up.

> And one thing for sure: Nobody can wave a magic wand and lead you to instant security. You've got to fight for your piece of rock.

My agency will do everything it can to help you. Some of you will participate in our programs. Others of you will enter careers in the employment and training

All of you, I hope, will support our efforts to help those whose job search has hit a roadblock.

But whatever your future, each of you has my sincerest good wishes as you face tomorrow's challenges.

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