

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAINE
GOVERNOR'S YOUTH
TASK FORCE

REPORT

*“If We Make Peaceful Revolution
Impossible, We Make Violent
Revolution Inevitable.”*

John F. Kennedy.....

TO HIS EXCELLENCY,
THE HONORABLE KENNETH M. CURTIS
Governor of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Governor Curtis:

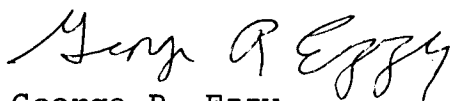
On February 13, 1970 you charged the Youth Task Force with "presenting your views on what corrective measures should be taken to improve the climate for youth in our state and how these improvements could be made."

Composed of Maine youth from varied socio-economic background, between the ages of fifteen through twenty-four, the Task Force has worked for fourteen months addressing youth concerns. Meetings were held approximately every five weeks, and the following recommendations reflect far-reaching discussion with various Maine youth and Maine professionals.

Members have taken their responsibility seriously and have unanimously expressed the hope that some form of "ongoing youth expression medium may be established, i.e. through a Youth Commission or permanent Youth Task Force.

In accordance with your charge this report is presented.

Respectfully submitted,



George R. Ezzy
State Youth Coordinator



Joseph J. Pietroski, Jr.
Task Force Chairman

MEMBERS

G O V E R N O R ' S Y O U T H T A S K F O R C E

Joseph J. Pietroski, Jr.
Chairman
Age: 23
Old Town, Maine

Hugh Follensbee
Age: 17
Portland, Maine

Maidli Perrin
Age: 17
Windham, Maine

Cynthia Albert
Age: 18
Augusta, Maine

Pearl E. Follett
Age: 18
Winter Harbor, Maine

Joel Plaice
Age: 18
Naples, Maine

Peter Baldacci
Age: 17
Bangor, Maine

Harland C. Goodwin, Jr.
Age: 22
Berwick, Maine

Marc S. Plourde
Age: 20
Eagle Lake, Maine

Bradbury D. Blake
Age: 21
Lincoln, Maine

Claire H. Gosselin
Age: 17
Biddeford, Maine

Michael J. Ranco
Age: 23
Old Town, Maine

Bonnie Boody
Age: 16
Skowhegan, Maine

Chris Hastedt
Age: 23
Freeport, Maine

Richard Simcock
Age: 23
Farmington, Maine

Michael R. Charette
Age: 22
Brewer, Maine

Jeff Hollingsworth
Age: 18
Belfast, Maine

Douglas M. Smith
Age: 24
Dover-Foxcroft, Maine

Michael J. Donahue
Age: 18
Calais, Maine

Pamela L. Jabar
Age: 16
Waterville, Maine

Louis L. Smith
Age: 19
Bangor, Maine

Cindy Dublin
Age: 21
Belfast, Maine

John LaDouceur
Age: 18
Lewiston, Maine

William A. Smythe
Age: 17
Calais, Maine

Aime E. Duclos
Age: 23
Bucksport, Maine

Kathy LaPointe
Age: 16
Auburn, Maine

Pamela Sperry
Age: 15
Newcastle, Maine

Carol A. Duclos
Age: 18
Bucksport, Maine

Susan T. Marshall
Age: 20
Norway, Maine

Robert Strickland
Age: 16
S. Portland, Maine

Clayton Estabrook
Age: 24
Wells, Maine

Rodney Nelson
Age: 17
Winthrop, Maine

Deborah E. Whittemore
Age: 17
Canton, Maine

E D U C A T I O N

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. The University of Maine :

- a) eliminate tuition for Maine students.
- b) undertake a thorough reform of admission requirements and that new admission requirements be made by a joint university-community board to be composed of equal numbers of students, minority groups, low-income people and university officials.
- c) increase facility effectiveness by adopting a quarterly calendar year at all campuses.
- d) adopt more independent study programs in lieu of on-campus courses.

2. All schools make available an explanation of student rights and a complete set of rules and regulations of the school and, further:

- a) students have the right to express their own views in their own publications and the right to distribute those publications in their schools.
- b) students have the right to control intra-school extracurricular activities (i.e. radio club, ski club, editorial control of the newspaper) and, further, that they have their choice of an advisor.
- c) students have the right to initiate and organize activities that reflect their own interests (i.e. Earth Day, social and political clubs).
- d) students have the right to elect student members who would have full voting rights to the school board.
- e) schools recognize the students' legal right to dress and groom as he wishes regulated only by health and safety.

- f) schools recognize the legal right of pregnant women to remain in school.
 - g) students, 16 years of age or over, be allowed to smoke in school.
3. Primary and secondary education costs be funded on an average per pupil basis, at the state level through the state income tax in order to provide a more equal educational opportunity to all the youth of Maine.
 4. A student-faculty administration board be established to govern in-school academic and social activities in each secondary educational institution in the state; the board to have equal student-faculty-administration representation with student members to be chosen at local school option.
 5. Students have access to a grievance committee composed of an equal number of students and faculty-administration members.
 6. Each secondary educational institution have a curriculum committee on which students would have equal representation.
 7. No school exercise policies which are contrary to local, state or federal law.
 8. All public schools provide, or make available to its student body, legal counsel, i.e. Pine Tree Legal Aide, on any and all matters.
 9. Schools inform students of, and encourage participation in civic and community affairs.
 10. Full student privileges be accorded married students.
 11. All school systems initiate a comprehensive program of family life and birth control education, beginning at the grade school level and continuing through high school.
 12. Full-time guidance counsellors be provided through all grade levels beginning at the elementary level.
 13. The State Vocational Education schools establish a new

program to accept students on an open admissions basis.

- a) High school vocational education be emphasized and expanded in a manner consistent with students' interests.

14. The legislature appropriate more funds to expand the continuing education programs:

- a) with emphasis on the availability to the working men and women of Maine.
- b) to include more vocational education programs.
- c) to utilize effectively current available facilities (including high schools, etc.)

15. The legislature appropriate additional funds for the education of retarded children of Maine (i.e. Camp Waban, etc.).

16. The state appropriate additional funds for the education of emotionally disturbed children and those children with learning disabilities.

17. The Tracking System be discontinued in all school systems and further that it be replaced by a system that encourages the individual abilities of each student.

ENVIRONMENT

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. The effectiveness of the Environmental Improvement Commission be increased by:
 - a) additional state funding
 - b) additional staff
2. The sale of nonreturnable bottles be banned in Maine, and further:
 - a) that a study be made to determine what steps should be taken to eliminate the use of non-biodegradable material in the packaging of food products.
 - b) recycling of waste products be implemented immediately.
3. Zoning be utilized to protect Maine's wildland areas from commercial and residential development.
 - a) Building permits contain information regarding the soil condition on which any structure is to be built.
 - b) If a contractor is planning a project of more than one home on land that the contractor owns, the Environmental Improvement Commission must judge the suitability of the soil for such construction.
4. Aquaculture be developed on the Maine coast to provide jobs and help stem the outmigration of Maine's youth.
5. The construction of regional sewage treatment plants be implemented.
6. Log driving in all Maine waterways cease immediately and, further:
 - a) all waterways in Maine be opened for the use of the people of Maine.
 - b) no industry use of a waterway will preclude the usefulness of the waterway by the public.

- c) that debarking of pulp in Maine waterways cease immediately.
 - d) that paper companies be required to clean up the river basins of all wood products returning the basins to their natural state.
- 7. The Governor and State Legislature declare a public school day to coincide with Earth Day observed nationally for the promotion of bettering our environment and, further:
 - a) the state assist, through its various departments and agencies, in bringing this observance to the awareness of all Maine citizens.
- 8. The Department of Economic Development continue the "Mark Maine" program that utilizes Maine businessmen in solicitation of non-polluting industries from out of state.
- 9. A study be made, at the state level, of the long-term effects of pesticides, the results to be made known to the general public.

H E A L T H

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. The State of Maine:
 - a) subsidize medical, dental and paramedical students who will locate and practice in Maine for a specified period of time;
 - b) increase and expand its programs to train paramedical personnel (i.e. physician's assistants, ambulance attendants);
 - c) fund and support mobile medical clinics to serve rural areas;
 - d) continue to support and expand the State Drug Education Team.
2. Physician immunity be granted in the dispensing of contraceptives to minors.
3. A comprehensive program of family life and birth control education be instituted, beginning at the grade school level and continuing through high school.
4. Family planning programs be expanded, and new programs be initiated throughout the state.
5. Persons, who express the desire to have sterilizations, and who cannot afford them, be allowed to have the operation performed at no cost.
6. Abortion be removed from the legal field and placed in the medical sphere whereby a woman and her physician would decide on the termination of a pregnancy.

TREATMENT OF JUVENILES BY MAINE'S JUDICIAL SYSTEM

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. The probation and parole system be reformed, doing away with the bi-weekly reporting sessions and replacing them with weekly group discussions of 8 to 10 probationers or parolees. Person-to-person exchanges with the probation officer would still be a factor but no longer the only aspect of the rehabilitative process.
2. The number of probation officers in Maine be increased to handle more adequately the increasing caseloads and insure a productive relationship between youthful offender and probation officer.
3. Concerned citizens who report suspected child abuse cases be granted immunity from a lawsuit if their report should be proven erroneous.
4. Judges and civil authorities be barred from committing a child, 14 or under, to an institution which houses older youth convicted of serious crimes.
5. No child, whatever the offense, be placed in a detention home or other institution until all court proceedings have been completed.
6. The standards for legal representation of children in a court be as stringent as those for adults.
 - a) Juveniles on parole or entrustment be accorded due process of law.
7. The feasibility of a family court system be investigated and implemented if possible.
8. Pregnant girls, under no circumstances, be forced to bear their child in any correctional institution.
9. Adequate professional psychological services be provided to all youth in correctional institutions.
 - a) Salaries of the institution's personnel (psychiatrists, social workers, etc.) be increased to a competitive level with the private sector.

- b) All correctional institutions provide access to news media for all juveniles.
 - c) Programs be developed to help those in the community and correctional institutions become aware and sensitive to each other.
 - d) The state increase the number of after-care workers and fully utilize the volunteer parole system.
10. A Halfway House be made available to the young men of the Boys' Training Center in South Portland and that the present system for girls be expanded. This item is strongly recommended.

S O C I A L C O N C E R N S

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. The minimum wage:
 - a) be increased to \$2.00 per hour.
 - b) be extended to cover part-time and seasonal employees.
2. The State Income Tax be retained. This item is strongly recommended, and:
 - a) that the State Sales Tax be repealed.
 - b) that the State Income Tax be increased to replace the funds that are lost by the repeal of the State Sales Tax.
3. Funds continue to be allotted to community-based organizations for the specific purpose of dealing with poverty and unemployment.
4. The state increase its allotment for foster homes and orphanages so that they may be improved and expanded.
5. The Maine Employment Security Commission's Job Bank be continued and expanded.
6. Welfare families whose allotment is revoked for any reason be advised of their right of appeal in the courts. Further, that counsel be provided and that they continue to receive funds until a decision is reached by the court.
7. The United States withdraw its troops from South East Asia immediately.
8. The voting age be lowered to 18 years for all elections.