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[Proposal - Teach English as a Second Language] [loose]

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One Clark Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201
July 5, 1993

Jim Kreidler, Special Assistant to the Director
White Office of National Service
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue--room 145 OE0B
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Jim:

Thanks for sending me the materials on the National Service Organization.

I look forward to further discussion on my proposal in the fall. Enclosed is a one page outline of what I think will have a positive impact on a troublesome issue.

I have begun some efforts to flesh out the idea and hope that they will bear some fruit (pardon the mixed metaphors--too many fireworks!). Also enclosed is an article from The Times which provides some startling data about language need. I am sure this is true in other areas of the country.

Again, I appreciate your keeping me informed of the status of the legislation regarding the National Service Organization.

Sincerely yours,



Gwen Fischman

PROPOSAL

To train and utilize National Service Organization volunteers in teaching English as a Second Language at small businesses and manufacturing companies.

TRAINING FACILITIES

Most universities, especially urban ones, have the capacity to train teachers through existing programs. New York City has at least four colleges or universities that I know of. The New School has already expressed an interest in developing a model program.

VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS

State Labor Departments would be the focal point for deploying volunteers to requesting companies. They have trained interviewers and computerized systems for storing data and linking employees and employers.

RATIONALE

The United States has five percent of the world's population and fifty percent of the world's immigrant population. The highly skilled are underutilized because of language deficiencies and the low skilled are locked into a cycle of dependency.

Small businesses, where employment growth is evident, do not have the economic capacity for elaborate training and development strategies, as do large corporations which do provide basic skills training. Business growth and expansion result from skilled workers, which this program could provide.

BENEFITS

This is a very simple concept which meets a very urgent need for a more trained and English speaking workforce. This would provide a language skill of permanent value to the workers and to employers. It would enhance more participative democracy nationwide. Volunteers would acquire a teaching skill usable to them when their service is complete.

rk City Shows Stark Contrast

AT A GLANCE

A Decade's Change in New York City

	1990	% of '90 population	Change since '80	% change since '80
FOREIGN-BORN				
New York City	2,082,931	28.4%	412,732	24.7%
Bronx	274,793	22.8	59,480	27.6
Brooklyn	672,569	29.2	141,596	26.7
Manhattan	383,866	25.8	35,285	10.1
Queens	707,153	36.2	166,335	30.8
Staten Island	44,550	11.8	10,036	29.1

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME

New York City				
Other than English	2,793,773	41.0	451,474	19.3
English not spoken well	1,361,746	20.0	166,148	13.9
Bronx				
Other than English	526,910	47.8	71,387	15.7
English not spoken well	251,753	22.8	17,243	7.4
Brooklyn				
Other than English	844,374	39.7	120,938	16.7
English not spoken well	410,338	19.3	43,024	11.7
Manhattan				
Other than English	549,149	39.0	52,872	10.7
English not spoken well	271,394	19.3	5,422	2.0
Queens				
Other than English	805,411	43.9	189,126	30.7
English not spoken well	404,669	22.1	95,431	30.9
Staten Island				
Other than English	67,929	19.4	17,151	33.8
English not spoken well	23,592	6.7	5,028	27.1

COLLEGE GRADUATES Among population 25 or older

New York City	1,122,328	23.0	345,771	44.5
Bronx	89,761	12.2	27,976	45.3
Brooklyn	241,299	16.6	86,891	56.3
Manhattan	462,289	42.2	125,919	37.4
Queens	278,026	20.6	85,057	44.1
Staten Island	50,953	20.7	19,928	64.2

HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

New York City	369,513	13.1	-34,353	- 8.5
Bronx	97,299	23.0	- 3,177	- 3.2
Brooklyn	131,669	15.9	-14,958	-10.2
Manhattan	78,430	10.9	- 9,637	-10.9
Queens	53,726	7.5	- 6,713	-11.1
Staten Island	8,389	6.4	132	1.6

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME 1989 dollars

New York City	\$29,823	\$6,602	28.4
Bronx	21,944	3,597	19.6
Brooklyn	25,684	5,708	28.6
Manhattan	32,262	8,957	38.4
Queens	34,186	5,647	19.8
Staten Island	43,861	8,323	23.4