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Don't forget the CCC Camps were thrown up rapidly with what's called "balloon" construction. That's the quick type of construction that enabled the "Cow Towns" of the Great Plains and the "Mining Towns" of the Black Hills to spring up like mushrooms practically over night. Many in less than a fortnight. Hotels, rooming-boarding houses, residences, stores, saloons, barns, livery stables, blacksmith shops etc.

But these VSC Company Camps are for untold generations of American and Canadian citizens. Hundreds of millions as yet unborn. They will be our Legacy to them. The "Boom" towns sprang up to make a "fast buck" selling "board and room" and other necessities and pleasures, some doubtful, to toil-worn, End-of-the-Trail cow punchers and back from the claim miners.

Just the six work or utility trucks and six buses alone per Standard VSC Company Camp for 2,000 Camps is 6,000 utility trucks and 6,000 buses. All One-Design trucks and buses to the VSC's Specifications. One huge Fleet.

Let's say \$10,000 1993 dollars each delivered on site. Or $\$10,000 \times 12,000 = \$120,000,000$. The total cost of these first 1,000 Area's 2,000 HQ Company Camps for 200 volunteers each or 40,000 volunteers, 20,000 women and 20,000 men by the ten contractors could be many billions of 1993 dollars.

But can you or any one think of a finer, a better way of our spending a few billion dollars to pump prime our presently depressed economy for the lasting good of all of us? All Americans? All Canadians?

Well, enough of my "commercial" for a modern-permanent VSC right away for all the 17 and 18 year-old Americans and Canadians.

Since this is all about human Friendship (What other kind is there?), let's talk about it.

Every human being knows that one's good friend is one's good friend for Life. All one's good friends are one's good friends for Life.

All friends are good friends since a "bad" friend is a contradiction in terms. An Impossibility. We have no enemies.

We do have people we don't know as yet. We call them Strangers. Strangers are not strange people. They may seem strange at first. But once we get to know some of them, we find that they're pretty much the same as you or I. Or, as the old Quaker said to his wife. But then added, "But even thee sometimes seems a bit strange to me."

What I'm leading up to is that by the time a young woman and her best friend or a young man and his best friend have their two years together all over the US and Canada with all their other best friends in their Squad, their Barracks, they Shift, their Camp, all from the same town, the same city, the same metropolitan area, they're going to have a lot of good friends, a lot of Life-long friends when they get back home.

Every one in their Squad, Barracks, Shift and Camp. Not merely passing acquaintances. Not merely strangers. No enemies. All guys or all gals who've "worked" together, played together, lived together, adventured together all over the United States and Canada every day and every night for two solid years of pure, wholesome, good-natured, good-humored "work," fun and games and sports and exciting adventures. Pure delight!

These gals and guys who've shared all this together are not going to go back home and forget about their good friends. They are going to have re-union parties probably once a month with all their good friends in one's Squad or Barracks. Once a year with one's good friends in the Company who are still in the area.

They'll form an informal Club of VSC Company No. _____ of 1994-5. Shortened to Class of '95. The Club is so that they can all keep in touch with one another thru a Newsletter by the Club's member who volunteers to be its editor for the next year only.

As every human being knows, one's good friend is one's most priceless possession after one's Life and Good Health. It's only the very few, the very lucky that have more than one or a few very good life-long friends all living where one can keep in touch with all of them and get together with all of them once a month. Oftener with one's closest good friends among them. Gals with gals. Guys with guys. Until there's only one left of the old gang of '95 still around to talk over old times with.

I like to think that these ex-VSC Clubs will be considered by the members as if they were philanthropic Sorority Sisters or Fraternity Brothers. One of their philanthropies being "Big Sisters" or "Big Brothers" to all handicapped or Shut-In youngsters, adolescents, orphans, widows, the aged and the infirm and the severely sight-impaired or the blind, in their Community in the state of the U.S. or the province of Canada.

They could sponsor organized groups of the needy for two weeks in the Women's or Men's VSC Camp in the closest Camp to their Community. Making advance reservations for their group with the National HQ of the VSC and providing their

group's transportation to and from the Camp. These guest Barrack-Dormitory Camps will be free to all guests of the Camp.

The VSC Women's Company will provide all the services for all their handicapped female guests of their Company in the guest Barrack-Dormitory in their Camp that they built themselves in their spare or leisure time in accordance with the VSC's Standard plans and specifications for a Barracks-Dormitory for handicapped girls and lady guests of a Women's Company. (You gals can build any thing that we guys can build and as well-built if not better built since you'll take more pains with it.)

As I think I mentioned before, the more one thinks about this VSC and the principles behind it, the more good things keep coming to mind that the millions of volunteers in the VSC could be happy to do for the American and Canadian people.

I've just now thought of a brand-new, never-been-tried-before very exciting addition. It boggles the mind.

But since this is far too over-long, too wordy, I think it would be better if I told it to your ad hoc Committee of experts for the setting up of a VSC.

Can there be a finer legacy that we can give now to all our generations yet to be born, grow to young adulthood, middle-aged adulthood, elderly adulthood and old adulthood?

We Americans and Canadians will have the finest citizenry in the world or that the world has ever known, bar none.

Actually, forgive my impassioned Rhetoric. But the more I think about what a VSC would do for all of us the more things I think of that it could and would do for all of us. It stirs the imagination. It begins to "boggle" one's mind. Any one's mind, any one's imagination. Hasn't it yours as you've been reading this exposition?

And I haven't even mentioned what these tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, millions of VSC volunteers would be doing together. On Shift and Off-Shift in Camp and out-of-Camp every day, every 24 hours for two years for themselves and for all the rest of us? All I've talked about has been "Organization."

If I started writing now just about what sports, what games they'd play, what adventures they'd have out-of-doors in clement weather, and indoors in inclement weather, I wouldn't finish writing on this subject until I'd written about as much as I've mentioned so far in this open letter

to you. You'd be in your second term before I was thru writing all of this.

As I said, the more one thinks about this VSC the more good one discovers that it could do.

For instance, I haven't mentioned that the volunteers in every VSC Camp could build a lot of things after they'd "finished" the work of the "bare bones" work of the general contractor's and one's sub-contractors' work forces: Paving the walkways, all-purpose courts, tennis, hand-ball, racquet-ball courts, the playing fields for soft ball, slow pitch, soccer, touch football, bocci, for evenly mixed doubles in tennis and other sports for the equally exciting suspense of all players, all participants, all interested spectators as well as the contestants.

All Companies, all Camps, all Shifts, all Barracks, all Squads will be trying at all times to have the best Safety Record of all the other Squads, all the other Barracks, all the other Shifts, all the other Companies in the Area.

These are all volunteers. No one's pushing. No deadlines. If there's any danger, nothing's done until it's safe. If the weather's bad, every one stays inside in Camp. In the Clubhouse. No "hard body contact" sports or games. "OSHA" will be ecstatic. Parents relieved.

But my idea has always been that all Camp sites will be planned for the addition by the Camp's volunteer work parties of a "barracks-dormitory" slightly separated from the other four Barracks but still convenient to the Camp's big Clubhouse.

The Area's "bare bones" Gen. Contractor and one's sub-contractors will do it for the other four Women's Company Camp sites and the other four Men's Company Camp sites as soon as they are thru with one's part of the "bare bones" Contract for the Women's or the Men's Area HQ's Company Camps.

Now, to start with, we're going to have 1,000 VSC Areas with one Women's and one Men's HQ's Company Camps completely finished in each of the 1,000 Areas all over this country and Canada including the Alaskan peninsula, Vancouver, Newfoundland and many of the other close off-shore islands of our two huge countries.

According to my "World Book Atlas" (1979) the area of the United States is 3.6 million sq. mi. The area of Canada is 3.9 million sq. mi. or the combined total area of 7.5 million sq. miles.

There's no indication whether the area of Alaska, 586,000 sq. mi. was included or not in the area of the "Lower 48." Note that the area of Alaska is nearly twice that of Texas (867,000 sq. miles). Texas is no Rhode Island. Note that only the former Soviet Union, nee, the Russian Empire of Czar Nicholas II, was larger at 8.6 million sq. miles than our combined areas of 7.5 million square miles.

Still most of the Soviet Union's area like Canada's is north of the 49th Parallel of North Latitude or the U.S.-Canadian border. All of Alaska is north of it. Canada, Alaska and Russia all border the Arctic Ocean. Every year we see the Flights of the Canadian Geese and human "Snow Birds" south in the Fall and north in the Spring.

The Gen. Contractor will build the two Area HQ Company Camps complete on public lands not more than say a half hour's commute by Company bus for the four shifts to the Area's Freight and Fuel warehouses and fuel tanks loading and unloading dock for big semi-tractor-trailers, tankers, flat beds, "reefers," and RR freight cars on the VSC's Railroad freight sidings for storage loading and unloading of containerized freight, huge, heavy, self-propelled and portable construction equipment, grading, earth-moving machines, paving machines, portable plants, concrete or asphalt, rock crushers, transit mix trucks, dump trucks, loaders, dozers, sand, aggregate, Portland cement, reinforcing steel bars, lumber, sheet insulation, roofing etc. etc. etc.

The country's outstanding experts on your ad hoc VSC Task Force Committee design and prepare the plans and specifications for all the buildings, all the facilities for the entire VSC of the American and Canadian people.

Not down to the smallest "nut and bolt", of course. That will be up to the Engineering firm, its designers, architects, consultants, and one's subs. They will also prepare all the site plans, the project plans specs, Bills-of-Material, the Engineer's estimates, the Standard Conditions, the Special Conditions and the rest of the necessary contract documents before the VSC can advertise for sealed bids all over the US and Canada for each VSC Area of ten Camps.

Note that the 2,000 HQ Camps at 200 volunteers each for the 1,000 VSC Areas means 400,000 volunteers, 200,000 women and 200,000 men can be enrolled and in one of these two HQ Company Camps as soon as their Camp's part of the General Contractor's "bare bones" Contract is complete. Some Camps in some Areas will take longer to complete than others.

But in construction of this kind, both for the On (building) Site work and the OFF-Site (Access road, haul road work) some of it has to be done in stages. Even when it still had

to be done by the puny power of human muscle and the tractive power of large, heavy herbivores, horses, mules, oxen.

Remember the internal combustion engine and electric generator-motors were only invented and developed less than a century ago. And since these Camps will be on undeveloped public lands, the first thing that has to be done is that the Gen. Contractor or one's sub-contractor has to mobilize his forces to build the haul road into the site from the nearest paved road capable of heavy truck traffic.

That means that the Right of Way first has to be "cleared and grubbed." That means that the survey parties have to make a location survey of it. Then construction Stake it from the final approved contract plans.

Now, all ten Camps in the Area should be separated by at least half a mile. Preferably, more than half a mile and every Camp should be connected to every other Camp in the Area by a paved road of two 12' wide lanes with unpaved 10' wide shoulders with a 6' wide divider strip between the running lanes. (These roads will not be open to the public after they've been taken over from the Contractor by the VSC.)

Well, I don't need to tell other engineers and contractors their business. I've just brought it up here to show you or any reader that all construction takes time. Takes planning. Takes planning of the successive stages with cognizance of the "Critical Path" of the flow of materials, equipment, "manpower." Coordination and scheduling must be done every step, every phase, every stage of the project until all ten of the VSC Camps in all 1,000 VSC Areas are complete and occupied and operating. That's until the last Area's ten Camps are completed and ready for occupancy.

There's no reason that a big General Contractor for all ten VSC Area Camps in an Area couldn't and wouldn't plan the project so that the "bare bones" construction work is proceeding on the haul road(s) to the next pair of Camps after the HQ pair of Camp's "bare bones" haul road is complete for hauling (unpaved) and so on and on until all the haul roads are complete. Their paving is always done later, for good reasons. As soon as the "bare bones" On-Site heavy construction is done for the next "pair" of Camps, the 200 women volunteers and 200 men volunteers move in and start finishing their assigned Camps.

Once all the haul roads are in, the Gen. Contractor can do a pair at a time or he can do it by his putting four crews all working simultaneously and on all four pair as required by his contract documents or the time limits. Penalties for unapproved (by Change Order) delays. Bonuses for days of

completion before the contract completion date for his entire contract.

As you can see, if the Area Contract states that as soon as each pair of Camps' "bare bones" construction is complete the contractor will permit the VSC to occupy, maintain and finish the pair of Camps, and all four remaining pairs of the Area Camps will be finished about the same time for occupancy by the 800 women and the 800 men VSC volunteers who'll finish their Camp.

When all the pairs of Camps in the last VSC Area of the 1,000 VSC Areas are occupied, that would be 200 volunteers per Camp, 10 Camps per Area and 1,000 Areas or $200 \times 10 \times 1,000 = 2,000,000$ or 2 million volunteers in Camp. One Million young women. One million young men.

Note that all Co-leaders above the rotating Leadership of a Squad is by lot among the graduating Seniors after one and one's best friend have served their post-graduate year as Co-Leaders of their Barracks by lot, after that year as Co-Leaders of their Shift, after that year as Co-Captains of their Camp, after that year as Co-Directors of their Area. After that as Co-Directors of their District, after that as Co-Directors of their Zone or Region. After that as Co-Directors of the U.S.-Can. VSC HQ Camps in Washington, D.C. Every fifth year in Ottawa, Canada.

The Co-Directors of the Districts, the Regions or Zones and the National Co-Directors have as their Staff a Woman's Company Camp and a Men's Company Camp. Standard Camps.

Now all these numbers have been predicated on my assuming that this year there will be about a million Juniors and a million Seniors in our nation's High Schools out of a present population according to the 1990 Census of 240+ millions (?). I assume that the Canadian population at present is about a tenth of ours, whatever ours actually is now.

But, no matter, we want to have enough pairs of VSC Camps so that no graduating High School Sophomore or Junior this year in June or rather mid-June-of '94 will be turned away with one's best friend for lack of Camps in the first 1,000 or more VSC Areas all over the U.S. and Canada.

When a more realistic figure is provided your Task Force by the demographers, they can add the required number of Areas to the 1,000 Areas with the 10,000 Camps that I have assumed for talking purposes. Let's say that the first 10,000 Camps cost in round figures one million dollars each on the average, some more, some less, on the "bare bones" contracts. Labor, materials, taxes, overhead and profit to the bare bones contractors would be $\$1,000,000 \times 10,000 = \$10,000,000,000$, or 10 billion 1993-4 dollars for pump

priming our economy right now for the construct of these 10,000 permanent VSC Camps for the great good of every new generation of Americans and Canadians for all the generations yet to come, forever.

What other 10 billion dollars in our 1,000 billion dollar annual federal budget has been or will be spent so worthwhile for every one of us from our youngsters to our octogenarians? And for "jump starting" our economy right away?

I rather suspect that my assumed numbers of HS Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors, is low. That means the number of Areas are correspondingly low, the number of pairs of Camps low. And I doubt that the average cost of all these modern VSC Camps complete, or bare bones complete and all finished, furnished and equipped by the volunteers' free labor in them will be only one million 1993-4 dollars. I suspect that it will be closer to two or more millions of dollars. One might imagine what it would be if the contracts were let for bids for the Area Contractor to do all the bare bones work and all the finish work including the final painting before the VSC would accept the contract and pay him his 10% of the contract retention and release his performance bonding company.

There's no need to guess. Simply have a few of the 1000 Area contracts asking all bidders to submit one's bid both ways, Bare-Bones or "Turn Key" and when the sealed performance bonded bids are opened at the Bid Opening, the exact difference of the apparent low bidders can be published in all the newspapers of this country and Canada.

Interesting as these rough figures may be, it's long past due time I got on to explaining what the 200 volunteers in each of these first 10,000 Camps in the first 1,000 VSC Areas all over the U.S. and Canada including the Alaskan peninsula and the close Off-shore islands of both countries with public lands on all or on part of the island will be doing.

This Off-Shore Island bit just occurred to me after I thought how much better it would be if we included Canada and the Canadian people in the VSC.

We used to visit with and talk to "Snow-Birding" couples in the same RV Park that we were in here in San Diego County with the North County RV Club in the winter time. Retired Canadian couples who traveled South in the Fall and headed North back home in the Spring. In our RV Park in Mazatlan 1/3 of the couples were Canadians with Provincial license plates on their RVs. Regulars who came back every winter. The other 2/3 of us were all Americans. Norte Americanos.

If one in Canada or in our northern States can get away and can afford to get away from home in the bitter cold, snow and ice of a northern winter and live in the southern States or northern Mexico and Baja California one can. And go back home when it's warm in the Spring.

Unfortunately, one has to be retired with a more than barely adequate assured pension or income. But by the time one has that or a couple has that he or she or they are well along in years and one or both can have sudden and serious health problems. Or have had or are having serious health problems.

So many, if not most, stay home all year round year after year until it's too late to ever leave one's home volitionally. That's why I started to think a few days ago about the millions of VSC Alumni we will have in this country and Canada in a few years with many millions more graduating every year from now on.

What wonders they could do for our handicapped youngsters and adolescents and the youngsters and adolescents of poor, very poor and poverty-stricken parents if they were organized in any Area or District with the help and aid of those in the VSC from the Area or the District!

But the VSC Alumni Area and District Social and Philanthropic organizations needn't limit themselves to just our youngsters and adolescents. Why not also give the elderly, the widows or the "Shut-Ins," the handicapped, the infirm, the sight-impaired, the indigent among all our elderly and old adults in the Area, or the District, a fun-filled outing together with one's or their best friends for a week or two?

As you can see if we have a VSC or we have a VSC together with the Canadian people, more and more women and men are going to be Alumni of the VSC until ultimately every adult will be in the VSC or be a Graduate, an Alumnus of the VSC.

Since a VSC is such a brand-new, never-been-tried-before idea or concept, the more one thinks about it, the more wonderful things one discovers that it can and would do for every one in this country or for every one in both countries.

It soon boggles one's mind, stirs one's imagination. That's why the more I write on this subject in this open letter to you, the more I think of new ideas to add to it. (The more problems too)

For instance, how can we start the VSC with two million 17 year-old High School Juniors the first year in Camp and then as Seniors for their second and last year in Camp so the graduating Seniors will make room for the Juniors to be

promoted to Seniors to make room for a million new Juniors? Tricky wot?

It's the same problem the High School Administrators had when it was decided that compulsory public school attendance would be extended another six years.

At 16 years of age, one could get a work permit with one's parents' consent. Usually the parents needed one's son's or daughter's contribution to the support of the family and not to continue to go on to "Latin School" as they were called in those days.

More than half of the American families were farming families a century ago. That was the reason for the long summer vacations.

They were needed on the farm all day, every day. No five day week, 8 hrs. a day, 40 hours a week with "time and a half" pay for every hour of overtime. Or double time on weekends or holidays. No paid vacations, sick leave, maternity leave. In fact, no pay, no wages, no hourly rates, no pay scales, no union rates, no Civil Service classified pay rates, no salaries, no time clocks to punch, no bosses, no supervisors, no superintendents, no office staff. No pay at all and if one's "cash" crop or crops were to fail for any reason, that meant no or scant income for the whole year's work and drudgery by the entrepreneurial equal Partnership of the farmer's wife and the farmer.

The farmer's wife works longer and harder than the farmer nearly all of the days and nights of the year.

Perhaps, it's well that we in non-farming families don't dwell on that fact any longer than one cares to.

Fortunately, in this country today a very few heavily mechanized and industrialized farms and ranches provide not only all the food, animal and plant fiber we buy, but huge surpluses every year.

So our U.S. Government bureaucrats have to use federal taxes to "support" farm and ranch products' prices to American consumers or restrict acreage or both. Sec. of Agriculture Wallace under FDR had American farming families destroying crops and killing livestock while millions of Americans in our towns and cities had little to eat on Relief or not on Relief because of their pride in their ability to support themselves.

That was why I thought FDR should lease big areas of contiguous crop lands suitable for highly mechanized farming from the farm families who owned them or rather they were mortgaged to the local bank to the hilt for past loans.

Lease or buy for the VSC the big tractors, trucks, gang plows, harrows, drills, cultivators, pickers, reapers, combines, harvesters, etc. etc. that the farming families of the individual small farms couldn't afford to have and let us volunteers in the CCCs do the plowing, planting, cultivating, harvesting, transporting, processing, storing and distributing for all the families, all the individuals in the country whose food is provided by federal taxes and taxation including all the guys in our peacetime Army, Navy, Marine Corps.

You probably know how many young men without dependents who volunteered their services for four years as enlisted men in the U.S. Army before Pres. Lincoln's first draft laws. Before Pres. Wilson's second U.S. Draft in 1917, before Pres. Roosevelt's Draft in 1940. Truman's in '46.

Of course, after the U.S. Draftees spent a hitch or part of one in an Asian Civil war, the U.S. Army resorted to bribing U.S. High School graduates with a free college education if one would enlist for a four-year hitch. Guess who's providing the bribes?

All we need a big army for is to invade some foreign peoples' home lands. That's all any country needs a big army for since the Roman King, later Senators, set up their Roman Legions several centuries B.C. to take over every one on the Italian peninsula.

As Lord Acton said, Power over people corrupts. Absolute power over all one's people corrupts absolutely. Of course, that's hearsay since I wasn't there when he's reputed to have said it.

And, of course, only a small army of an "occupational force" is needed after the conquered Head-of-State and his top warlords have fled to keep him or some one else from coming back into power as before. What a grisly farce.

Pres. Truman was bright enough to make Gen. MacArthur Governor-General of Japan. Too bad Pres. Bush didn't do the same thing for one of his two top warlords of his easy victory in the so-called "Gulf War." "Desert Storm" sounds more like a bad meteorological disturbance than a killing ground. But again I digress.

As I was saying, I've been trying to think of a good way to fill all the Squads in these first 2,000 Area HQ Camps with 20,000 17 year-old women and 17 year-old men or Juniors and 20,000 18 year-old women and men called Seniors.

And in a year at Mid-June graduate all the Seniors and promote all the Juniors to Seniors and bring in the same number of new Juniors as the graduated Juniors.

The best I can come up with for this first enrollment might be to select the required number of Juniors from the list of Sophomores in High School who have passed their tests and their medical examinations and are ready for enrollment as Juniors for two years. Lists are arranged in order of one's and one's best friend's passing their last test.

Now Juniors in High School can apply for enrollment as Seniors in the VSC with only one year of Service in the VSC after one and one's best friend have passed their last test.

Incidentally, I think the severely handicapped should be given the highest priority. Especially, those whose sight, disability or handicap is or may worsen as one grows older.

I know that this isn't fair to the 18 year-olds or the Seniors in High School this first time. Fortunately, after the first year every Class will always be in their proper Sophomore to Junior to Senior year's normal order or sequence.

Now my latest about the VSC Alumni is about my thinking about what the thousands of permanent Social and Philanthropic VSC Alumni organizations could be doing and do for all the rest of us generation after generation. But I know that you or any reader of this much, much too long exposition (I assume you or some reader is still reading this interminable missive) would like me to wrap up one subject before I take off on another. I would too. So I will.

First, I should give you some of the things the volunteers on the VSC could and would be doing for all the people in one's Area, one's District, one's Region or Zone.

Every Camp will be connected by fibre optic phone lines to the Area's HQ Camps and each other. Every Area HQ with the District HQ and each other. Every District HQ with the Regional HQ and each other. Every Regional HQ with the National HQ and the National HQ with the Office of the U.S. President or the U.S. President and the Canadian Prime Minister or one's delegate's office, and all these VSC HQs all VSC Camps have round-the-clock, round-the-calendar monitoring of their "Hot Lines." Also they monitor their assigned "Hot Channels" on the Amateur (Home) bands along with all Area Camps.

Each Camp's Para-Medic ambulance "manned" by the Shift's top Senior Paramedics is always ready to respond at the word "Go" from its Area HQ. The Area HQ is tied into the local telephone system fire, police, sheriff's hospitals, public utilities State, County, Municipal Public Works and road and Highway Departments. All ready for instant response for any call for assistance in any emergency as disaster small or

large from a heart attack in an isolated farm or ranch house to help the victims of a natural disaster. A fire, a flood, a tornado, an earthquake, cyclone, Hurricane, an explosion, a plane wreck, a ship wreck, a riot, a tidal wave, a mud slide or whatever is needed in one's Area or District. All trucks, all buses, all crews, all gear, all equipment, all personnel are ready or can be ready in minutes to roll out to any emergency or Search & Rescue missions any disaster area.

Plus every thing needed to set up a "tent city" for all victims, all families, all individuals made suddenly homeless by the disaster or emergency.

Every one in every squad of four seniors and four juniors is getting instruction and training hands-on, One-on-One Seniors to Juniors instruction, training and practice and constant experience in every thing that one's Squad's assigned to do in Camp and outside of Camp.

And by rotation that means every one in the Squad, in the Barracks, in the Shift in the Camp gets to do every thing many times in one's first year, in many Areas in many Districts, in many Regions, in one's Junior Year. Again in all Districts, all Regions, all Zones by the end of one's Senior Year of rotation, instructing the Juniors in one's Squad.

That's constant exciting Variety. Not just planting trees for reforesting public lands in our National and State Parks Forests and hiking trails in our public lands.

No need to worry about projects for the VSC, there'd be thousands of public organizations making requests for the services of these millions of volunteers to the Directors of the VCS every week, every month. They'll start pouring in before the first 1,000 preliminary engineering contracts have been opened, signed and awarded.

But there's one thing I'd like to explain before I conclude this. That is how all these 200 young women or young men in a VCS Camp could or would be able to feed themselves every day 365 1/4 days a year? All by themselves, no mothers, no professional cooks, bakers, waitresses, waiters, bus boys, "Pearl Divers," dishwashers-dryers, cashiers, cleaners and picker uppers, three times a day every day, breakfast, lunch and dinner? And at all times between for all four Shifts each day.

We all know how our mothers fed us at home once we were weaned. We who were in a Boy Scout or CCC Camp or a military Camp or aboard ship, a merchant freighter, war, cruise ship or air lines were fed individually and are fed en masse three times a day. (I remember my having to peel with a paring knife a "million" spuds (actually less than five dozen) for one CCC meal! Migod, what a lousy chore. But it

was my turn, so how could I kick. Now since I'm a widower I don't peel them. I simply put them in the microwave oven and eat them skins and all right in the micro-wave-safe container with salt, pepper and melted butter while I'm reading, writing, playing chess or seeing if there's any thing interesting on the Tube by my flicking my remote control.

Hey, I just thought of my most exciting idea yet for the VSC to do for all the "Senior Citizens," all men all women over 60 years of age in this country and Canada.

Note, that we are the only countries in the world, the only continent of the six continents that has a chain of Great Lakes from almost the center of the continent to the eastern end of Lake Ontario. Thousands of miles of shore lines. All flowing into the great St. Lawrence River and estuary that flows into the great Gulf of St. Lawrence and into the Atlantic Ocean thru the narrow straits of Belle Isle between Labrador and Newfoundland's big island. The southern shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence have Prince Edward Island & National Park, Cape Breton Highlands' National Park, the De Gaspe Peninsula, Nova Scotia.

Here's what I suggest you do, call up the Canadian Prime Minister. Explain to him what you're considering doing for the American people, but it's still in its planning stage by your ad hoc Committee of expert planners.

You ask him if he thinks the Canadian people would like to be included with the American people in a joint equal partnership in a common VSC with the costs shared in proportion to our respective populations?

If he thinks so, tell him that they can all listen in when you explain it to the American people in your series of Fireside Chats after your ad hoc Committee of planning experts has come up with the final Plan with all the graphics and scale models to show every one on their color TV screens.

Photographs and movies of the building and the finished proto types of a typical Standard VSC Camp external and interior views of the Barracks, the Club house, the Paramedic Station, Laundry, Shops, Playing Field, Courts, etc. etc. (FDR only had radio broadcasting.)

That reminds me of this in the Reader's Digest, "Mommy what did you and Daddy look at when you were listening to the radio?"

If you and he think that both our people are all going to be eager for it you and he could make and be signing a treaty

to that effect in a day with the "advice and consent of 2/3 of the Senators present concurring."

Here's what I would suggest, have the VSC Areas' Camps strung out along all the shore line of the five Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River, the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Say ten to twenty miles apart. Located where two big VSC Day Excursion Boats can tie up overnight debark and embark quests of the VSC. One Boat is Eastbound. One Westbound on both shores.

This means that the Shore-side Area's HQ Camps will need to be located where a pier with a "T" dock across the end can be built in deep enough water so that two big VSC Day Excursion boats for 400 passengers each can tie up for the night or all the next day in bad cruising conditions. Not only to land and embark one's passengers but also to refuel, re-supply and re-provision. All VSC Excursion Boat personnel (after the first) are VSC post Graduates who are Honor Roll Graduates of the U.S. or Canadian Coast Guard or Merchant Marine Academy who've volunteered their services for one year of service to the US-Can. VSC Fleets in any capacity. The Captain, the Mates, the Chief and Asst. Chief Engineers are selected by the leaving Captain one month after the new volunteers have been aboard. The VSC's Engineering firms and the U.S. Army Engineers and their Canadian equivalents will need to decide the best site for the HQ Camps and the docking facilities.

Then the Army Engineers should prepare the contract plans, specs and all contract documents to let contracts for the dredging, piling, and construction of these marine facilities to marine contractors to submit sealed and bonded Performance bids. There will be many hundreds of these big Day Excursion "boats" and the same number of docking facilities as pairs of Area HQ shore side Camps.

Only twice as many ships as docks can be in operation at one time. Since for any reason fog or bad weather keeps one or some ships from sailing until it's pleasant and safe, all ships in the VSC's Lakes' Fleet wait the "All Clear" at 9 AM the next day. The passengers stay in Camp.

Oh well, I could go on and on writing volumes of what these fleets of VSC Day Excursion Boats just on the Great Lakes alone from early Spring to late Fall can do for all Senior Citizens of the U.S. and Canada without hinting at what the fleets on the Mississippi-Ohio-Missouri-Tennessee Rivers or Tombigbee Canal and Intra Coastal Waterways and the Puget Sound-Inside Passage would be doing part of the year or all year-round for all the Senior Citizens 50 years and older and for the Shut-Ins or the severely handicapped of all ages now and for all our generations to come.

Land VSC guests in powered wheel chairs in the afternoon for Happy Hour, dining and dancing until "Lights Out." Then overnight in the men's and women's Guest Barracks-dormitories. Breakfast from seven to nine in the morning. Back aboard by 9.30 AM. Cruising the Lake or the great River or the great Gulf until 4 or 5, then landing. This for a seven day Excursion for all Seniors.

These excursionists will have their own overnight Camp for Senior Citizens separate but nearby the two Standard VSC HQ Camps. Two for Women, Two for Men. 400 women, 400 men VSC guests.

The voluntary services of the 200 young women and 200 young men will provide all the services for one's own Camp and for the Camps of one's Guests. Also all the services aboard the VSC's big excursion boats will be provided by rotating Squads from the Camps.

Since the Senior Citizen and handicapped excursionists will leave after breakfast in their Camp's Clubhouse and be landed back in another Camp for Happy Hour socializing, dining and dancing and into their separate dormitories at "Light's Out" for sleeping, the only need for cabins and a galley on the big shallow draft excursion boats would be for the few post graduate VSC young women or young men who are needed to operate the big Excursion Boat safely and efficiently for these short daylight cruises between Camps in the Spring, Summer and early Fall in the North. In fog or rain or high winds the boats remain tied up and the Senior Citizens stay in Camp.

Occasionally, another big (400 passenger each) Day Excursion boat might need to be tied up alongside another Excursion Boat at the Camp's docks in an emergency or for some other good reason.

Now these VSC Excursion boats for 800 Senior Citizen guests of the VSC should all be One-Design by the finest ship designers in this country or Canada. The final design from the shake down trials of the final design of the best prototypes under the severest actual conditions on the Great Lakes and the Gulf of the St. Lawrence and Inland Passage should be the design one's built to for that Fleet.

The goal is a perfect safety record for every Senior Citizen. Every one aboard every year, year after year forever. Not to make maximum profits for the stock holders of the corporations who own and operate them. They will all be owned by all the citizens of both countries and for the maximum pleasure and safety of the Senior Citizens of both countries while they are aboard any one of them.

The VSC would have one fleet circuiting each of the five Great Lakes. Lake Ontario to the first set of locks on the Great St. Lawrence Seaway, down river from Montreal to Quebec City there'd be another fleet of Lake-River VSC Day-Excursion boats. But from there on to the Strait of Belle Isle in the north and across it to Newfoundland. And in the south to Cape North in Nova Scotia, the fleets of Day Excursion boats should be designed and built as ocean-going ships for four hundred passengers with every modern means for the perfect safety of every one aboard plus every officer has a Master's License, All ships, all oceans. All crew members are experienced, competent veterans of one's specialty.

Don't forget one's daily (cruise, run) is only 10 to 20 miles along the coast and all these VSC Camps are in constant telephone and radio-telephone contact with each other and in radio-telephone contact with all VSC ships or lake or river Day Excursion boats. And the ships and boats with each other and the HQ Camps.

In case of fog or storm or high winds, seas, poor visibility, every one stays in port until the "All Clear" the next day at 9 AM. Well, your Committee of experts can work out the details.

Let's not forget all our other great inland waterways and rivers that we can have the VSC Camps strung along both sides as the ten Camps of an Area would be strung out up a valley in the foothills or the mountains on land with the two HQ Camps at the mouth of the valley.

Right off the bat, the VSC should have a fleet of river type day excursion boats for 400 passengers on the lower Mississippi River and its navigable tributaries. One on the Upper Mississippi. One on the Missouri. The Ohio. The Tombigbee Canal. One on the Intra-Coastal Waterway where it's protected from the open Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico.

How about the Inland Passage from South Puget Sound past the San Juan Islands to Bull Harbor at the north tip of Vancouver Island? Beautiful Day cruising all year.

Well, I won't go into explaining every thing about the one week-long excursions that the Volunteers in the VS Camps in cooperation with the VSC Alumni Associations can be giving all our Senior Citizens and all our severely handicapped and the permanently Shut-Ins for free.

That's right for free. Not at taxpayers' expense.

The American and Canadian taxpayers will only have their taxes pay for the capital goods, the food, clothing, the housing of the first two million men and women volunteers in

the VSC for the first two, three or perhaps four years at the most.

After that the VSC will not only be self-sustaining in every thing they all need and they all want but they will be saving the American and Canadian taxpayers many billions every year.

Every American, every Canadian is going to wonder why no one ever thought of it before? Why we didn't have such a VSC many years ago? Many decades ago? Why we hadn't had one when she or when he was a sophomore in High School. It was the same then as now in one's Junior and Senior years in High School.

My gosh, some Camps could be part time or year-round "dude ranch" Camps for the volunteers' six hours of day-time leisure time every day except every fourth Sunday or "Moving Day" for all Camps' moving simultaneously to a new Area in a new District.

Some Camps on the Coast would be Surfing Camps for the volunteers' six hours of afternoon or morning leisure time.

Any Camp near a body of open water would be great for sailboard sailing. Even a fleet of One-Design, two-person, small, light racing, center-board racing sailboats in each Camp in the Area.

All "Camps" in their spare time should build a big swimming pool of the standard uniform depth for Water Polo. (No diving. Too much danger of accidents)

Every Junior by the time one's a Senior should be an excellent swimmer and a trained Life guard and Para-Medic in all emergency life and health-saving emergency procedures.

Every Water Polo pool should have separate rest rooms, dressing rooms, showers for women and men at the opposite ends or sides of each pool. A separate smaller, shallower pool for their handicapped guests at the Camp's Guest Barracks-Dormitories.

Adult guests like to invite or be invited to come over to a guest Camp of the other sex for Happy Hour and for dining, dancing and socializing until the Lights Out five-minute warning signal is made by the one of host Camp's Co-Captains at 9:55 PM.

Every thing's self-service for all volunteers, for all able-bodied guests. Able-bodied volunteers and guests provide their free services for the severely handicapped.

There's no litter. There's nothing to clean up, or pick up, or sweep up, or wash up.

Well, I won't get into all that. Any reader can figure out all these details as well as I can.

Y'no once this VSC is in full operation all over the US and Canada to the delight of all Americans and all Canadians, it might be a good idea for you to invite the President of Mexico and his wife to be yours and Hillary's guests at the White House for a convenient weekend.

Perhaps a brief visit to some of the VSC Camps on the East side of Chesapeake Bay or down on the Intra-Coastal Waterway visiting both a Woman's and a Man's Camp.

Afterwards, after dinner and cigars at the White House you might just have handy a large scale map of the 900 mile-long peninsula of Lower California or the states of Baja Sur and Baja Norte. One side of it the Pacific Ocean. The other side the Sea of Cortez.

Have every one look at it especially the ladies. Need I say more?

Better yet have the Canadian Prime Minister and his wife invited to the White House at the same time.

There's no reason the Mexican Government can't set up a VSC for all of its 17 and 18 year-old young women and young men along the same lines as ours and have a joint Mex-Am-Can VSC by treaty for the Baja peninsula from San Diego to the La Paz and La Cabo San Lucas for the mutual benefit of all our young people. All of all our people. Why not?

Don't forget that I'm going to tell you, or rather your committee, how the VSC can in short order be totally self-sustaining. That's not a dime from the American or Canadian taxpayers or a peso from the Mexican taxpayers ever afterwards.

Probably you or any thoughtful reader of this will have figured it out for himself or for herself long before this.

Just as every reader has said to one's self as one reads this from the beginning. I could have figured all this out myself had I been in the CCCs and thought about it.

It's true you could have. The key is, ". . . and thought about it."

Before the CCCs were terminated by FDR's getting the U.S. Congress to pass in 1940 the Selective Service Act, the first peacetime draft in all U.S. History well over two

million American young men were serving or had served a few months to a few years in a CCC Camp.

It wasn't my thinking about improving the CCCs of the 1930s to provide the food for the poor back in '34 as much as it was my thinking forty years later of how I could use the Principle of FDR's CCCs to rid the Human Race of all Poverty, all Caste, all Conflicts, all Conflicts-of-Interest, all Injustices, all Inequalities, all Monopolies, all Drudgery, all Monotony, all Boredom, all Loneliness almost over night for every one of the more than five billions of us in this world now. With hundreds of millions more every year in Eurasia, Africa, South and Central America, the East and West Indies.

But I won't bore you with the long, sad story of my fourteen years of failed attempts to get to talk to the Head-of-State of the Soviet Union. With the demise of the Soviet Union in August of 1991, my opportunity was gone forever.

If the Principle was valid in '34, it has the same validity in '94 or in any year before or since or any year in the future. A Principle is an Absolute. Or it never was a Principle. I was told that by my High School Physics teacher, Mr. Santee, if memory serves that far back.

I didn't think about this Principle until I was an old man forty years later. My intentions were not to resurrect the CCCs for just this country but a "VSC" for this country and perhaps some others. Maybe eventually all the other countries of this continent, this hemisphere and the other. Actually the whole Human Race forever. All practically overnight. No more Poverty!

I tried for almost twenty years. All in vain. So I lowered my sights since the Soviet Union broke up.

I decided recently to try to get you to set up this VSC for our country by a series of Fireside Chats to the American people.

It's a shame to let this Principle go to waste simply because I couldn't get through to Gorbachev before it was too late.

If you can't or don't set it up, it probably won't get set up. I doubt that I'll still be around to make my "sales pitch" to your successor in the Oval Office.

We octogenarians can't count on our being around forever. Who can?

So it's time, undoubtedly long past time, that I concluded this open letter to you of just a smattering of a few of the

suggestions I would like to make to your ad hoc Committee of top experts you may appoint to prepare the Overall Plan of a VSC for the American and Canadian people. A Plan that you might present to them in a series of Fireside Chats from your desk in the Oval Office with our First Lady by your side.

Mr. President, if you do appoint such a Committee of topmost experts in one's field of expertise, I would be delighted to get an invitation from the chairperson of your Committee to come to Washington at my own expense and tell the experts on the Committee all my other suggestions and answer all their questions that I can.

I'm no expert at any thing, but I have done a lot of thinking on this fascinating subject of a Voluntary Service Corps for the American people and for many other people. Thought about it for over a decade and a half.

As I think you will agree, just the thought of a VSC for us is instantly exciting. And the more that one thinks about it, the more exciting it becomes.

Just the mere Idea that there might be one soon for one's country makes one's Imagination soar into orbit.

Soar not just to all our 17 and 18 year-olds, but also to all our 14, 15 and 16 year-olds. To all our adolescents black, white, brown, yellow and red. And all their mothers, all their fathers.

Mothers and fathers know that many if not all of the problems they are having with their adolescent and young adult daughters and sons will suddenly be a forgotten thing of the past. That's young adults still living at home.

Problems of disrespect for the rights of another or of others in one's community. Of truancy, of vandalism, thievery, drugs, disturbances of the Peace, foul language, intimidation of the weaker, of criminal gangs, runaways, prostitution, sex, pregnancies, suicides, rebellions etc.

My deepest regret about my idea of a VSC is that I let forty years pass from the time I thought of how I thought FDR could have improved the CCCs to the time in 1974 that I finally realized what a world-wide VSC would do almost overnight for the entire Human Race from that time on forever.

I regret now that I didn't write FDR a personal letter of my suggestions for the improvement of the CCCs some years before the passage of the Selective Service Act of 1940.

Or to Pres. Truman in '46 to '53. Pres. Eisenhower. Or Pres. Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, or Bush.

I should have written at least the last four, this same open letter that I'm writing you. But to coin a phrase, There's no use crying, Gilson, over your past sins of omission and commission for the equal good of all of us human beings.

Would I were an American or Canadian 15 or 16 years old again for a few years. Don't we all? If only to see what happens after you finish reading this letter.

But, Mr. President, all these details are not the important thing. It is the Principle that is the important thing for you or for any Head-of-State of a Sovereign human population to think about. Think what he or she might do for all of one's people using this Universal Human Principle.

That's do for one's people of lasting great benefit for all of them forever.

In conclusion, Mr. President, the finest, the most enduring thing that a VSC will give to all our present and to all our future generations of young people is a host of life-long good friends.

That's life-long good friends of one's same age, one's same gender and who will all be going back to one's same home town or city when the end of one's and their two years of fun and adventure is over. Back home to find a means of supporting one's self or to continue to have one's parents support one while one continues one's schooling in some trade school or some community college or goes on for another four years at some nearby or far away college or university in hopes of one's getting a degree. Or one can enlist in the Army or Navy or Marines or Air Force.

Either way, a life-long good friend is every human being's most precious, most priceless possession. A precious possession that if ever lost, can never be replaced.

Every human would love to have as many life-long good friends close by one or living near one as it is possible for one to have.

But to have a good friend, one has to be a good friend. Quid pro Quo as the Latins said. Equal friend for equal friend.

Now in the VSC that I've suggested in the foregoing, every 16 year-old American and Canadian would apply for enrollment in it together with one's very best friend. When accepted into the Corps, they would serve together in the same Squad,

the same Barracks, the same Shift, and in the same Company with other 17 year-old young women or young men and with one's very best friend with one at all times.

Every one enters the Corps with one's very best life-long friend. Two years later, every one will still have one's oldest and best friend, plus a host of other life-long good friends from their Squad, their Barracks, their Shift, their Company. If one good friend is a priceless Treasure to every human being, how much more a Treasure are two good friends for the rest of one's life? Or four? Or fourteen? Or a score? Can any human being have too many good friends? Life-long good friends for the rest of her or of his life?

Unfortunately, as we all know, many human beings are going through and have gone through their entire lives without their ever possessing more than one good friend living near one during one's entire life. Many have not even one for all the rest of one's adult life.

We all know the fate that is in store for all of us when at last we have to leave the Nest and start earning our own living.

Boys can see it in the lives of one's father and the other men in the community are living and have lived since they were carefree boys and young men, as yet unmarried.

Girls can see it in the lives of one's mother and the other women in the community are living and have lived since they were carefree girls and young women, as yet unmarried.

Don't forget that they too thought that they of the New Generation would be different. And not go the same way, make the same mistakes of the older and old generations.

They thought that they'd all live happily ever after they married their very best friend of the other sex and most ardent Lover, raised a fine family and would then spend their Golden Years enjoying each other's loving companionship and that of their very best, oldest and dearest couples.

No one envisioned one's ever living the lonely life of a spinster, or a bachelor, or a widow, or a widower. Not until one is one's self. Then it doesn't take any imagination. It's Reality. Or envision one's life if one's spouse turns out to be not one's very best friend of the other sex after all.

Never in all human experience, all human history has any Head-of-State ever even proposed to one's people that he or she set up such as a permanent Voluntary Service Corps for all their present and all their future generations of their

young women and young men as yet unmarried and still being supported by their parents.

Wouldn't it be a marvelous thing for all of us if you would be the first!

What a fine example to set for all the other Heads-of-State of the Sovereign Governments of all other human populations on this continent, or the other continents and islands in this, the "New World" and in the "Old World."

I can say this because the Principles of a VSC are Universal for all human beings, all human populations or they wouldn't be principles.

Now, of course, other Heads-of-State can't propose to their people this same kind and number of VSC Camps that I've suggested, that you propose to the American people (10,000 Camps to begin with and probably well over a million U.S. dollars apiece even by the "bare bones" contractors.) All build equipped and furnished and operating with one million young women and one million young men volunteers in the 10,000 Camps. All that in not much more than a year's time!

Obviously, any VSC I would suggest to any other Head-of-State would have to be "tailored" to that country's special circumstances and resources.

For instance, the one I would suggest to the President of Mexico and his best advisors is a better one than I'm suggesting to you. Not that I think that he will or can do as I suggest. But it would be, if it were done as I suggest that it be done, immediately reverse the flow across the Rio Grande and the rest of the U.S.-Mexican border. All the 80 million people of Old Mexico would be excited and ecstatic.

I could do the same for the Heads-of-State of Brazil, Argentina, Costa Rica, Cuba, Jamaica, Columbia, Chile. Even Bolivia.

Also Australia, New Zealand, The Philippine Islands, China, India, the United Kingdom, Eire, South Africa, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Russia, Poland, Turkey, Egypt. Why not? One need but ask.

And so could you. So could any one who's thought about it as much as I have. Thought as much or as long about the Principles of a VSC, that is.

The only reason that I've thought about them so much is that my thinking about all of us human beings has been my favorite solitary pastime for many decades.

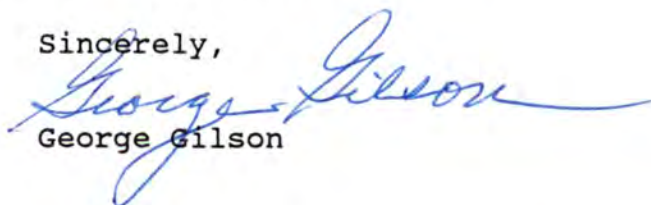
Actually, all thinking is a solitary pastime since it's impossible to think in concert with another mind or, with other minds. We can chant in concert with another or with others who know or who remember the words or sounds of the chant, but that's all.

I think that what I should do is mail a copy of this open letter to the Canadian and Mexican peoples' Heads-of-State. And some other people's Heads-of-State or one's Embassies or Consulates in Washington, D.C. and make them the same offer I've made you.

I would tell them to tell him that if he's interested in one's hearing my ideas and suggestions for a VSC for one's country alone, or together with one's best advisors in the privacy of one's office, I will be glad to come to one's Capital City at my own expense and talk to him or to all of them and try to answer all their questions about my ideas and suggestions.

I'm an old man, so, of necessity, it'll have to be first come, first served.

Sincerely,



George Gilson

P.S.

The most basic principle of all human friendship is that one thinks that all of one's good friends, all of one's best friends are the finest human beings in the world. The finest human beings that ever lived in this world.

And it is true. It has always been true. It was as true of the Neanderthals as it is of us Cro-Magnons. As true of me as it is of you. It is true of her as it is of him. As true of them as it is of us.

Never keeps a Good Thought
or a Good Idea to one's self.

Pass it on.

L.

Gagan

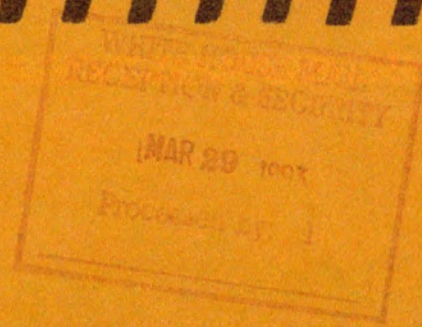
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