HHH boosts public servicecareer

By Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
Democrat, Minnesota

WASHINGTON — There was a time, only a few years ago, when many people feared that America's youth were going to turn their backs on government.

In their disillusionment over a foreign war, in their distrust of institutions, in their angry demands for human rights and social justice, it seemed possible that, for the first time in American history, an entire generation would be lost to public service.

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This possibility depressed me. For one thing, I knew the enormous intelligence, energy and commitment of that generation. And I knew how the country would suffer if it lost those talents.

More important, I knew what a loss it would be to the young people themselves. In my 25 years of government experience, from mayor of Minneapolis to senator to vice president of the United States, I had discovered the excitement and adventure of public service — the deep satisfaction of working for the public good.

I knew that the system worked: that despite its delays and its inevitable frustrations, government makes progress every year toward social justice and equality for all Americans.

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When our young people sensed that progress, that generation was not lost. In increasing numbers, the voices that had been raised for change became the voices of people working for change.

As the old barriers to race and sex began to fall, more and more young people began to apply their energies within the system.

They began to discover the wide range of possibilities in public service. On the national level, they organized and helped elect the 94th Congress — one of the youngest, most reform-minded groups of legislators the country has ever seen.

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But that is only the most visible part of government. For every congressman or cabinet officer, there are a host of aides and advisors who work to design legislation and to shape public policy — and a great number of them are young, creative individuals serving for the first time.

And backing up the legislators are the ranks of government agencies which administer social policy and enforce the law. As our departments and regulatory agencies become more concerned with safeguarding the consumer's interest, with broadening educational opportunity and providing for the public health, and with protecting the environment, more and more young people will find the chance for a meaningful career in the civil service.

Moreover, on the international front, there is a broad spectrum of positions in the foreign service where concerned young people can work to direct America's new role in the world of the future.

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But not all government is federal government. Young people are increasingly taking their rightful part in state and local government — working at the grass-roots level.

As increased voter registration and the new youth vote took effect, state and local governments have become more representative of all their citizens — and more responsive to them.

New opportunities to serve have arisen — opportunities to really serve the needs of the community, on a day-to-day basis.

America's youth has proved over the last decade that they are not content to accept the flaws in our society. And they have also proved that if you want to make government more responsive to your wishes, then you have to get involved.

The time has come for that generation to start taking over the reins of government — to do their part in fulfilling our obligation to freedom and the pursuit of happiness for all our citizens.

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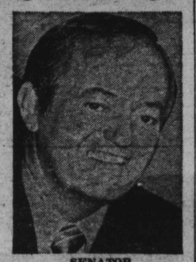

SENATOR
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Chemistry doctorate at AU

ATLANTA — Beginning in September 1975, a doctoral program in chemistry is being offered at Atlanta University.

The program, supported by a three-year grant of $311,075 from the National Science Foundation, is designed for teachers in small liberal arts colleges and community colleges as an alternative to the traditional doctoral program.

Dr. Thomas Cole, Callaway professor and chairman of the department of chemistry at the university, cited a recent survey that revealed the fact, that only 400 black chemists throughout the nation hold terminal degrees.

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