

THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

August 20, 1969 Salah

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OPEN LETTER TO MAYORS

As Chairman of the <u>President's Council</u> on Youth <u>Opportunity</u>, <u>I</u> ask your assistance in encouraging the young people in your community to return to school this fall.

Last year, more than 675,000 youths chose not to stay in school. They joined another two million dropouts already in the youth population, nearly half of whom were unemployed.

One mayor of a large city is mailing personal letters to 3,000 dropouts or potential dropouts in his community this summer, urging them to return to school. The letter is being followed by an advertising campaign and personal visits to the young people by community volunteers.

You can help by focusing community attention on the subject, whether through proclamation, press release, personal letter, or other means. Employers should be encouraged to offer part-time employment to those youth who need it to stay in school. You may wish to formulate special community efforts to locate part-time work in city agencies.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Zpiso J. Byms