

## National Youth Conference Held In Washington DC.

By: Ed Anderson  
Kenneth South of Tamarack Community has just returned from the National Youth Conference on Natural Beauty and Conservation which was held in Washington, D. C., June 26-29.

Kenneth South was one of more than 500 delegates representing the nation's leading youth organizations with a total membership of over 20 million. They came from the 50 states, Canada and Puerto Rico.

Highlight of the conference was the opening ceremony on the White House Lawn, Monday morning June 27. Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson addressed the delegates and was joined by President Johnson, who made a surprise appearance. The First Lady urged the youths to "dream impossible dreams" particularly in

their determination to do something about conserving America's natural resources. She said they would be surprised to find out that their dreams may not be as impossible as they thought. The President and Mrs. Johnson joined in congratulating the young people for their enthusiasm and pledged to support their efforts.

There was sightseeing in the White House for the delegates before they returned to conference headquarters for a series of Workshops and various other activities which included visits to the National Arboretum where they were addressed by Mrs. Orville L. Freeman and were joined at lunch by Mr. Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture. During the three-day conference, the delegates breakfasted with their home state Senators and Representatives.

Before the workshop began, the delegates heard a speech by Secretary of the Interior Udall who told them they would have to answer the question: "Can we populate and enjoy our country without spoiling it?" Leaders from industry, conservation foundations, research and civic action groups acted as panelists within the workshops and advised the delegates and answered questions on specific conservation problems. Each workshop came up with recommendations for action which the youth plan to implement in their home communities.

The conferees formulated a variety of proposals, ranging from conservation education on the kindergarten level to the promotion of litter bags in every auto.

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Other recommendations called for screening junkyards from the motorist's view to contacting disc jock-

conference by the Girl Scouts of the U. S. A. to Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson ignited the idea.

The youth organizations involved in the conference

included: American National Red Cross — Youth Activities, Boys' Clubs of America, Future Homemakers of America, Girls' Clubs of America, Inc. Girl Scouts of the U. S. A., Office of Economic Opportunity — Job Corps, U. S. National Student Association, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association.

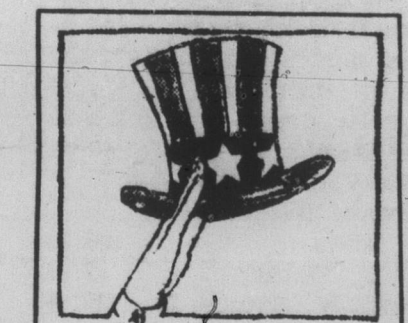
The cost of the conference was underwritten by some of the nation's major businesses. These were: American Conservation Association; the Coca-Cola Company; The Conservation

Foundation; Texaco, Inc.; Xerox Corporation. Such organizations as the American Petroleum Institute contributed personnel to help in publicizing the event.

Russell E. Train, President of The Conservation Foundation gave the final charge to the conference. He told the delegates to: "Tackle the big problems, both at home and across the nation. Many in your generation have not feared the big issues of our day such as: Freedom Now, In Our Time. I give you another challenge — Environmental Quality, In Our Time."

The entire event was planned and executed by the young people themselves after a suggestion for such a

conference by the Girl Scouts of the U. S. A. to Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson ignited the idea.



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