

002594 AUG 17 93

[REDACTED]
Greenville, South Carolina
29604

August 7, 1993

To: Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and
Brian Lamb of C-SPAN

Brian, I last wrote you a month ago, suggesting as guest Secretary Dick Riley-- and lo! within days he did appear as your guest. My prompting? Or merely post hoc ergo propter hoc? Now I suggest as your guest Pat Moynihan, and a subject I feel would move him... a subject urgent and inevitable... namely, substantial public works-- and let the deficit subside offstage.

Pat, I'm another Southwesterner who grew up in New York; and as a [REDACTED] preceded you at Harvard by some years.

Who recalls the WeePeeAy-- Works Progress Administration-- and the PeeWeeAy-- Public Works Administration? It's 1936, and a vigorous New Deal debate: spend to put men and women to work right now, just to get money into their hands-- WPA? Or design an elaborate program of public works, so that the paid laborers leave behind something substantial-- PWA? For example: Pay 100 men to root up the bricks paving Farwell Avenue in Chicago; turn them over; scrape off the mortar; spread new sand; repave with the turned-over bricks; that's WPA. Or take the time to work out the details of to-be-constructed dams, bridges, railways, tunnels, highways, Missouri Valley Authorities; that's PWA.

A parallel for right now. Pay to put 100,000 kids in a new Service Corps? Or wait till the rivers subside, and declare an emergency public works program to alleviate the suffering, help bail out businesses, rebuild what washed away; reconstruct what wasn't right in the first place. Pat, I'm betting we'll do all of the above; and that the flood toll will be a lot closer to 30 billion than to 20 billion. I do remember 1937, et seq.

Fans of WeePeeAy want to get dough into people's hands now, even if the works are nonsense. Fans of PeeWeeAy want to spend money on something that matters. In fact, though, we didn't lick the Great Depression until the massive mobilization for WWII; ** for sure, then, everybody had jobs! Maybe this stagnation won't be cured without something comparably mammoth. No; not another venture into our WWII brand of U.S.-made national socialism. Please, not a remobilization to resume the Crusades. Our neglected infrastructure, hyped by the floods to universal attention, ought to be challenge enough.

Cordially,
[REDACTED]

**One of my associates in the WWII
Navy history operation called
mobilization "PWA in uniform".