

18-Year-Olds Should Vote...

NOTE: The following has been extracted from a correspondence from Mr. Milton Shapp.

Three times within the past three decades America has called upon its youth to fight and die in far away lands. Today, American youth fight in the jungles and rice paddies of Viet Nam where thousands have already died or suffered serious disability. As always, youth is called upon to sacrifice precious formative years when careers and life-styles are shaped. Most of those called upon to carry the grim burden of battle are not yet 21 years of age.

These youth and the millions here at home are frequently treated like second class citizens, denied the right to vote on the issues that shape their lives. Most have better formal education than their parents. Many have demonstrated in recent political campaigns that they are deeply concerned with the welfare of the nation and the shape of the world in which they live.

Today's youth calls out for participation in our society. Much of the so-called generation gap appears to result from society's denial of their right to full citizenship. There is no question that much of youthful resentment flows from the belief that youth is old enough to fight, but too young to vote.

Under the Constitution of the United States, the states have the responsibility to determine voting qualifications of their citizenship. This places the responsibility for lowering the voting age squarely with the political leadership of Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Democratic

Study Committee has great faith in the youth of the Commonwealth. It firmly believes that the Commonwealth will benefit from a lowering of the voting age from 21 to 18 years so that youth may be granted full voice and vote within the political process.

PDSOC, therefore, calls upon the legislature to enact legislation making 18 the minimum legal voting age.

UNIVERSITY OK'S PLANS FOR REACH-OUT

The University has OK'd the first two major steps of Project Reachout, the program which the Behrend Campus is piloting for the OSGA Special Projects Committee to enable more underprivileged black students into Penn State.

Permission was granted to invite black H.S. students a tour of Behrend's physical facilities on April 12th and a College Day on May 2nd. School Board officials will permit these students to leave school at 12:00 pm on the latter date to visit Behrend.

Between the two above dates, current plans call for the steering committee and other volunteers to visit other black centers in the area for informal talks with black students about college life.

Mr. Kochel has stated that no student induced by this program to apply to Penn State will be turned away due to lack of money.

This summer a tutoring program may enable the black students to obtain academic credit, but permission has not yet been secured from the University for such a program. Also, the future may indicate a need to mail all Erie

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