

ROTARY GOLDEN ROUND TABLE

"Our Partner, Youth"
(Service to Youth)

ANNCR: The Rotary Club of (Name City) in cooperation with Radio Station _____ brings you a projection of the drama you have just heard--a discussion by local community leaders of the community problem dramatized on Rotary Golden Theatre.

Rotary Golden Round Table is a local contribution to the worldwide observance of Rotary International's Fiftieth Anniversary.

Working With Youth is the subject of our discussion today. Of all the important civic enterprises sponsored or aided by Rotary, the youth activities are among the most numerous and surely among the most important. So, for the next 15-minutes, let's discuss some of the youth programs here in (Name City) and some of the plans and ideas for expanding and improving these activities. Members of our panel to discuss this subject are:

Mr. A _____, _____ (Identification) _____;

Mr. B _____, _____ (Identification) _____;

and Mr. C _____, _____ (Identification) _____.

It is a pleasure to have you on this Round Table, gentlemen. Because you have had a great deal of first hand experience in youth activities, your discussion and observations should be both interesting and helpful to everyone listening. Mr. A, will you tell us what types of activities for youth you and your fine organization are concerned with in (Name City)?

MR. A: As you know, Mr. _____ Rotary contributes to two types of youth programs. One is an indirect contribution to established social agencies working with youth. Here the Rotary Club makes as generous a financial contribution as it can toward the agencies who administer the programs. In some cases Rotarians serve on the governing boards of those agencies and help to formulate their plans and policies. The second is a more direct contribution, in which a Rotarian or Rotary committee participates directly with the youth groups to help make their program a dynamic, going concern. (Local examples) These direct contributions require a lot more time and effort, and naturally are more rewarding in terms of personal satisfaction.

ANNCR: Mr. B, what can you tell us about these youth programs from your long experience?

MR. B: I find that it is a very challenging experience, Mr. _____. It is challenging because there is always so much more to be done than can be accomplished. You have to set your goals high and work toward them. But as A says, it is always rewarding. I know of no better way to stay young, than to work with young people and share in their activities.

MR. C: I'm glad to see both of you refer to working with youth and not for youth. I feel, as I'm sure you do that this is the most important factor in the success of any youth activity.

ANNCR: Why do you feel that it's so important, C?

MR. C: Well, I think you've heard people claim that we do too much for our children --- individually and collectively. There are those who say that youngsters today have everything handed to them on a platter, and that as a result they don't appreciate or even enjoy their advantages.

MR. A: Do you think that is true?

MR. C: In most cases, no. But there is a danger in doing things for and not with people. When it does occur, it's not good for the so-called beneficiaries-- whether they're young or old--individuals or groups.

MR. B: How do you think such situations come about?

MR. C: Usually from over-enthusiasm and lack of understanding on the part of an individual or a committee.

MR. A: I think such an attitude is more than over-enthusiasm, C. I call it downright egotism. It's based on the premise, that "I know best what you need so I'll step in and take over."

MR. B: Wouldn't you say that any person or group who tries to work with young people on that basis is likely to be disappointed?

MR. A: Yes, indeed! Young people have their own standards and their own leaders. If you have any doubt about that try to get a boy or girl to wear a type of clothing which doesn't happen to be in favor with the group at the moment. Believe me if the group approves of blue jeans, or sweaters or crew cuts that decision sticks.

MR. B: I've found that this group loyalty among young people---their willingness to follow their own leaders--can work wonders. There just isn't anything

MR. B: (CONT.) to equal the zest and enthusiasm of a group of youngsters who are launched on a project they believe in. When boys and girls buy an idea they go all out for it. It may be collecting newspapers and magazines to raise money for one of their projects or decorating the school gymnasium for a party. If its their program, they will work hard for it.

MR. C: Another thing which is often under-rated is the resourcefulness of young people in finding ways to accomplish an objective. I'll admit that they sometimes seem to go about it the hard way, and are not too well organized, but their confidence and persistence can more than make up for their inefficiency.

Have you ever seen a group of boys rebuild an old car in order to take a trip? They'll work 24 hours a day if need be. And if they make a blunder they'll re-do the entire job without a complaint.

MR. A: Remember, C, that sometimes we oldsters know too many reasons why something can't be done. Sometimes we anticipate problems and build up mental hazards which tend to make a job more difficult than it needs to be.

MR. B: I take it you feel that sometimes having only limited knowledge of a job can be an asset. Is that right?

MR. A: Well, I've seen it work out that way for young people.

ANNCR: It certainly is a pleasure to see the enthusiasm all three of you men have for working with young people. I feel that you're overly modest regarding the part you have played in some of the worth-while youth activities in (Name City). (Mention specific examples.) I'm sure that you have encountered problems that our audience should know about. Mr. A, what would you say is the biggest problem in working with youth groups?

MR. A: Certainly one problem is to choose the right project to begin with.

ANNCR: How do you do that?

MR. A: Of course, I would not do it alone. That would be the job for our Rotary Club youth activities committee. There are a number of important things that the committee would consider. They would include such questions as: Does the proposed activity benefit the greatest number of young people? Does it conflict or compete with any other activity? Will the whole community support it? And then the most important question of all. Do the youngsters themselves want it and will they work for it?

MR. B: It should be understood that our Rotary Club has a very modest amount of funds available for all its public service activities. And, unfortunately, they all cost quite a lot of money. We can lend organizing assistance and sometimes limited financial aid. As a matter of practical policy, however, we must limit our help to the groups who can, and will, help themselves.

ANNCR: Suppose a group of young people --- such as a school organization or agricultural club --- were looking for assistance and direction for some activity they feel is important. Could they come to you and talk it over?

MR. C: They certainly could, and our Rotary Youth Committee would do everything it could to assist them. Our doors and our minds are always open.

ANNCR: I have an idea that your offer may be accepted sooner than you think, gentlemen. If it is, I know that any youth group in (Name City) will find a good friend in the Youth Committee of the Rotary Club and in you gentlemen personally.

Thank you, gentlemen, for being with us today and for participating in this discussion.

Well, that just about winds up this session of Rotary Golden Round Table. Next week, Rotary Golden Theatre will present a drama built around another problem that affects all of us. And then, immediately following as a local observance of Rotary's Golden Anniversary, Rotary Golden Round Table will present a discussion of that problem as it applies to (Name City). Our panel next week will consist of: (NAMES AND IDENTIFICATIONS OF LOCAL PANEL MEMBERS) -- all well qualified to discuss the subject to be presented. Be sure to be with us next week for another program presented by the Rotary Club of (Name City) and Station _____ as a public service -- in your interest.