

conservation camps, especially when they want to go away from home, to give them some special training?

Mayor WAGNER. Congressman, I only wish that all of them would like to be at home, but I think in so many instances the home environment is so bad that they are not anxious to be there and that is one of the reasons that they do get into trouble. They just don't want to go home and associate with others and form the gangs which we have been rather successful in working with through our youth board. But I think that many of them would find a better environment in some of these camps under some supervision where they don't have some supervision at home.

Mr. PERKINS. We are going to be under the 5-minute rule, I understand, this morning.

Do you feel that a work study program for the high school youngster in addition to the work training program, as provided for in the legislation, would be advisable?

Mayor WAGNER. I know from our experience, Congressman, we have initiated with our board of education and our civil service commission a program—I think we have about 600 or 700 youngsters involved in it at this point who were potential dropouts in high school. The board of education, their teachers, and principals, selected these young people as ones about to drop out. We then initiated this program where they worked part time for the city and also go to school at the same time.

It is interesting when they say the average dropouts in some of the schools in the lower economic level runs as high as over 50 percent, with these youngsters who got an opportunity to work and supplemental income and finding out that work has a certain amount of dignity to it in getting their school training, I think our dropout percentage was about 3 percent.

Mr. PERKINS. Thank you very much.

Chairman POWELL. The gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to join in welcoming Mayor Wagner to this committee and express my sympathy for the problems he faces as mayor of that city. I am sure we all share your concern.

As the gentleman from Kentucky has pointed out, we operate under this inhuman rule of no more than 5 minutes of questions. I have about eight of them, mayor. I will make mine brief.

Mayor WAGNER. I will try to make my answers short.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. You indicated that local initiative in New York City has been characteristic even without Federal and State help. You did not mean to imply you did not receive Federal or State help?

Mayor WAGNER. I don't know whether I said it was characteristic. I said in some areas we have found that and we can find that in most areas.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Well, in your own city, local initiative surely has a major role?

You are not suggesting that there is not Federal and State help?

Mayor WAGNER. No, I emphasized that we need that Federal and State help but we need the local initiative and we can't ask the people—maybe I didn't understand you.