

I suggest a modification of the Job Corps proposal that, for middle-size cities, funds earmarked for the Job Corps be utilized to establish an urban conservation corps. This proposal would encompass the purposes of the Job Corps—to prepare for the responsibilities of citizenship and to increase the employability of male youths aged 16 through 21 by providing them with education, vocational training, and useful work experience, including work directed toward the conservation of natural resources, and other appropriate activities—but it would do so at the local urban level.

The urban conservation corps would keep young men living at home and working in their own communities while they received their education and training. It would encourage, rather than discourage, an understanding and belief in the concept of family life. And it would provide manpower for the many public projects, such as park development and expanded recreational services, that our urban communities so desperately need.

I believe that the city of Syracuse would welcome the opportunity of establishing and administering a unit of an urban conservation corps. Our local education agencies would provide the education and vocational training and the city government would create the public projects needed to provide the work experience.

I also recommend that the young men enrolled in the urban conservation corps receive a monthly wage for their work so that we have an organized learn-and-earn program while we integrate the program into the family life and working life of the community.

I support the proposals under title I for community work-training programs and work-study programs, sections 111 and 122.

I believe the urban conservation corps can be correlated at the local level with both the work-training and work-study programs. And all three of these programs can be locally controlled, providing a better atmosphere for the training and education of young people and a more careful control over the expenditure of the public funds involved.

I generally support Title II—Urban and Rural Community Action Programs. However, I ask that Section 204, Financial Assistance for Conduct and Administration of Community Action Programs, paragraph (d)—Eligibility for Assistance—be broadened. The present criteria or incidence of poverty appear to possibly limit assistance only to communities which have severe existing poverty problems.

Communities such as Syracuse, which do not have severe poverty problems, nevertheless should be eligible to develop programs which would not only eliminate existing poverty problems but, equally important, eliminate the seeds of poverty, thus preventing poverty from taking root and growing anew in the community.

The purpose of the legislation should be to prevent the poverty of the future as well as to end the poverty of the present.

Under this same section, I ask that paragraph (e)—Special Consideration to Eventual Self-Supporting Community Action Programs—be strengthened. The sooner these programs become a complete local responsibility—both administratively and financially—the sooner Federal funds can be used to assist other needy communities, and local control can be completely guaranteed.