

Mrs. GREEN. Is this true in most places in New York?

Mayor WALSH. As far as I know, it is.

Mrs. GREEN. We have what I think is a most disgraceful and most shocking situation in the District of Columbia, and I understand in some other places in the United States, where we actually have the kind of program which encourages fathers to desert in order that hungry children can be fed. Can the mayors do anything to bring some action to eliminate that?

Mayor WALSH. I think you should have asked the question of the previous mayor who is president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Mrs. GREEN. I am sure that you have a strong voice in the conference of mayors.

Mayor WALSH. Unfortunately I don't. I am not a member of any committee.

Mrs. GREEN. Has that question ever been discussed?

Mayor WALSH. Not to my knowledge.

Mrs. GREEN. Isn't this something that would be worthwhile looking into?

Mayor WALSH. Yes. I might say that I never got any place with the commissioners, my fellow commissioners when I tried to get them to take action on this desertion bill, either. So maybe I am barking up the wrong tree, I don't know but I still feel strongly about it.

Mrs. GREEN. I am very sympathetic to the father and husband being held financially responsible, but I must say that as I read the studies that are now being made of child abuse, of the youngsters, the babies and small children who are brought to the hospitals, some of them beaten, or chained to beds or tables, I am coming to the conclusion that the father or mother who does not want his or her child ought to be able to leave it in some institution where it would be properly cared for.

Mayor WALSH. I think wise counseling would determine which families are worth working with and which are not worth working with.

Mrs. GREEN. I think wise marriage counseling would help. But since some fathers and mothers don't want their children, I think the children ought to have a home where they will be treated decently.

Let me also pursue the point that Congressman Goodell raised in regard to the Urban Service Corps. I am sure that Congressman Goodell will recall the visit we made to New York City when we went into the slum areas. Then we had a group of youngsters on a panel program. These were gang leaders. To each one of these youngsters on the program we said: If you were given the chance to join a Youth Conservation Corps out in one of our beautiful parks or forest lands and go there for 6 months or maybe 2 years, would you want to do it?

In every single case the answer was "No."

Now here are youngsters who grew up in New York City in the slum areas, this was all they knew, and they had no desire to join such a Conservation Corps.

So I am particularly pleased with your emphasis on the Urban Service Corps.

I am in favor of a Job Corps and a conservation camp. I think this is good for some youngsters. But I think far more important would