

school, and in desperate need of a skill that would break their "cycle of dependency."

In Indiana, for example, the statistics developed for the month of January 1964 listed 2,200 selective service rejectees of 5,700 youths examined. Of the rejectees, 702 were turned back for having failed the Armed Forces qualification test and for allied reasons.

In a nationwide study, in which Indiana participated, it was determined that 4 of 5 of the rejectees for mental or allied reasons were school dropouts. Of the total, 211 were rejected for lack of educational achievement.

Thus, it would appear that Indiana is in need of a program broad enough in scope to offer new hope to the impoverished and for the unemployed and unskilled, the out-of-work and out-of-school young person a return ticket to the threshold of opportunity.

I feel that H.R. 10440 is a great stride in that direction and I am here to give unequivocal support to the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

Indiana is particularly interested in the work-study programs for we have considerable experience in this area.

The Indiana program began in Harrison State Forest in which the work was directed toward conservation of natural resources. The study was designed to uplift the educational attainment age through the teaching of basic subjects.

Companion programs were initiated in other State parks and forests for youthful honor inmates of Indiana penal institutions. These camp projects proved successful in significantly improving the mental and physical health of these young men who were much in need of truly constructive rehabilitation.

Their good work in these camps provided the impetus for another program wherein the State offers to private organizations and civic groups sites on a token lease basis for sponsoring campouts for young persons.

In our first youth conservation work camp at Harrison State Forest we brought a group of unemployed high school dropouts (ages 17 to 22) the opportunity to learn skills that would better prepare them for gainful employment. At the same time they were doing useful work in improving our State forests and offering additional maintenance at State parks.

A rigorous 6-day schedule was set up. Five days a week the youths put in an 8-hour workday and then attended evening classes for 2 hours. One day a week was devoted to special classes and to individual conferences with job counselors.

In return for their efforts, the trainees received \$75 a month, their room and board, and a wealth of valuable experience.

Of the 70 boys who completed the training in November of 1963, 62 are now employed. They are now taxpaying members of their communities, no longer dependent.

In this pilot project we were disappointed that we were unable to provide the training necessary to impart the technical skills required to fill numerous job openings in Indiana and elsewhere. A study completed cooperatively by several departments of State government reach the conclusion that we should direct our efforts toward providing such training in selected fields.

Therefore, in response to the demonstrated needs of large numbers of our young persons, and with the confidence gained at Harrison State Forest, we began plans on a much larger youth education program. Our planning is in an advanced stage and we are especially pleased to note that our proposed youth training center would seem to fit easily into the framework described in H.R. 10440.

Our program—aimed at the school dropouts, the disadvantaged minorities, and military draft rejectees—is in fact the first skirmish in Indiana's war on poverty.

We have proposed that this center be located at Camp Atterbury, some 30 miles southeast of Indianapolis, an area that is within a 50-mile radius of nearly half of Indiana's population. The camp has been dormant since World War II except for a brief period during the Korean war.

With a reasonable expenditure for renovation, several of the buildings on the reservation could be prepared for housing, feeding, schooling, and providing recreation for a large number of trainees. With thousands of acres available, on-the-job training could be provided in numerous building and heavy equipment construction trades.

As we envision the youth training center, its trainees would be young persons who would not likely be successful in a regular program in the traditional school setting because of their limited formal education and lack of experience. While the program initially will be set up for men, programs for women will be created later.