

Mr. BELL. Let me ask you a question there. Would it be likely that the ones you are talking about would be the ones who would enlist in the Job Corps or would they be the ones who might not go into that project? They might choose some type of basic education somewhere else or something else.

Mr. SCHIFTER. Yes; the Association on American Indian Affairs discussed that for a number of years. After all, this program has been under consideration since 1958, or so. As a matter of fact, even before then the Indians would tell me, "If you could only bring the CCC back, this is what really got our boys going."

I think the answer perhaps is that they themselves feel that this is what helped a great deal in getting things going.

Mr. BELL. But the problem still remains, though, that that does not necessarily equip them immediately for another job.

Mr. SCHIFTER. There is no doubt about that, Congressman.

What a CCC-type program does, though, is help some people to get the basic skills that perhaps you need before you even develop a technical skill, and that is simply the ability just to fit into our economy in terms of actually getting going and looking for a job and being interested in working and being able to adhere to a work schedule.

There are some people, particularly among Indians, who have not picked that up at home. Most of us pick it up at home; many Indians have not. This goes back to historical cultural problems that I don't want to take up here.

One point I also want to make in that connection, and I notice that the Farmers Union and the National Grange people this morning touched on it, is the problem of relocation. There is no doubt that as far as many Indian young people are concerned a good many of them would be better off finding their way into communities off the Indian reservations. But if you take people without skills, without adequate preparation and background and move them from one community to another, particularly from these rural Indian reservation areas into the big cities, you are just transferring the problem from one geographic location to another and the comments that were made this morning with regard to rural people generally, certainly apply to Indians.

The Indian relocation program conducted by the Federal Government during the 1950's was limited in its success by that very fact. A good many Indian people could not make it in Chicago and Los Angeles and came back to the reservations, sometimes at substantial expense to the Federal Government.

Now, what this bill could do is make it possible for Indian communities to initiate programs, first of all, for the young, under titles I and II.

I believe reference was made before to what you can do in the way of preparing youngsters for school through a preschool program. This would be extremely valuable in the Indian country. When the kids get to school at age 6, they have to spend a number of years just getting used to the school surroundings and perhaps even perfecting their knowledge of the English language. If you can initiate programs that make it possible for children to participate earlier in some form of preschool activity, you can make the educational process later on much easier. You can step up, of course, the quality of education generally.