

1276 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AMENDMENTS

IMPRESSIONS OF PROGRAM FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

A. *Reactions of the aides in group interview **

What the aides wanted to do was revealed in the interviews with them. It differed markedly from the picture gained in the classrooms. For one thing aides reported performing more functions than the study team observed. Both the Neighborhood Youth Corps trainees and the Title I trainees wanted changes made to allow them to take a more important role than planners or teachers had assigned them.

To make clear the similarities and differences between the reactions of Neighborhood Youth Corps and Title I trainees, their responses are put in parallel columns.

NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS—TITLE I

(2 of the female trainees of Title I were white, one male was white, the others were Negroes. All Neighborhood Youth Corps trainees were Negro.)

Answers to the question: What do you do that you enjoy?

"Working projectors, because I like working with machines."	"Helping with art work."
"Teaching small groups, drilling on words and sound."	"Making home visits."
"Working with slow pupils gets on my nerves."	"I took a child home."
"Working with slow groups. Helped one pupil move from 3rd to 2nd group."	"Bringing food for Thanksgiving."
"Succeeded in getting a boy to read."	"Teaching singing of 'School Days'."
"Grading papers before the principal said we couldn't do it."	"Helping children practice." Several helped one child.
"Reading stories: sitting and talking to children about the stories."	All: Making and running ditto stencils.
"Talking quietly when the teacher talks loud."	All: Having children show money.

Answers to the question: What in the program would you like to change?

"Extend time of aides on job so aides could get more pay."	"Make more home visits."
"Teachers would like us to have more time."	"Have a common car to make visits with."
"We want to do more things than we are allowed to now."	"Do learning games."
"Do home visits: have done none yet."	"Grade papers: 6th to 7th grade pupils do."
"Discuss how to approach parent on home visits."	"A course in modern math."
"Discuss how to act when teacher is down on one child."	"More preservice instruction." (many)
	"Preservice instruction on use of the bulletin board."

Answers to the question: Would you like a chance to work and continue studying part time?

Group divided: too hard to work and study at same time.

Answer to the question: Do you have enough time to talk to teachers on the job?

"Yes, at recess and lunch."

To summarize the answers of the aides, they all seemed to want to engage in a more diversified program of activities than had been assigned to them. Home visits were especially pleasing to the Title I group and were desired by the Neighborhood Youth Corps. Some members of both sections of the aides liked to work with groups and also individual pupils. Neighborhood Youth Corps trainees spoke more of tasks involved in the teaching process and desired to get preparation for them than did the Title I trainees. This may have been because they had more experience in that type of work. There was evidence in the remarks of a very few that they liked to try to "show up" the teacher.

*The group interviews were conducted by the chairman of the Visitation Team.