

53.

"Learning a trade", "getting an education" and "meeting new people" top the list of likes, with graduates mentioning each of these items more often than dropouts or discharges.

Observation: It is interesting that the only major items in which the dropouts and discharges lead the graduates are "dances, recreation" and sports activities". This is a measure of both their disenchantment with Job Corps training and of their somewhat weaker motivation.

The major dislike was "fights, stealing, and trouble". Each type of termination mentioned this first, but for the dropouts it was clearly the dominant concern.

The second most important dislike is the feeling that the rules are too strict and that there is too much discipline. Racial hostility is next - over one in five of the whites said there were "too many Negroes" in the center, that they felt outnumbered.

Only one in ten volunteered that they were not being taught what they wanted to learn.

Observation: A point that was made in a previous study of dropouts is worth repeating here: one of the major problems most of the Corpsmen face in the centers is that of fighting and trouble with other Corpsmen. This problem is compounded by a strong feeling of racial hostility. This hostility may be felt by both Negroes and whites but has been expressed in our surveys almost exclusively by the whites. The fights and the racial hostility are the major factors in the dropout's decision to leave.

The difficulty that the Job Corps faces in dealing with these problems is compounded by the fact that even while this trouble exists in the centers, another major complaint of the Corpsmen is that the rules are too strict and that there is too much discipline.