A. Support for program

YOU CAN PUT YOUR CONFIDENCE IN ..

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Guthrie, Oklahoma

March 22, 1967

Mr. W. P. Kelly Director Job Corps Executive Office of the President Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kelly:

It is only recently that I have been actively working with the Job Corps Center here in Guthrie, but I have followed its progress with great interest since the Center first got underway in May of 1966.

The general attitude of this community towards the Job Corps Center may be summed up in the statement that we feel it is "our" Center. Most Guthrie citizens are proud of the Center, most realize that the city actually owns the property, and most folks cooperate and help in every manner possible.

In reply to your specific questions let me say this: some of the most significant benefits to our community are those that are the most difficult to measure.

For instance, how does one measure the educational and social stimulous afforded our town by the presence of 80 or 90 highly intelligent, well-travelled new residents? We've heard more good, fact-filled speeches in the past six months, in our civic organizations, than we did in the previous six years. And these are Job Corps speakers!

We've never measured it, but most of the town's merchants have felt the impact of Job Corps dollars. The October, November, December, 1966 period was a difficult time, financially, for the businessmen in most small Oklahoma towns. Not so, Guthrie! Here we enjoyed a 20 percent increase in retail sales over the same period a year earlier, and most of us credit this increase to Job Corps staff and to the young Corpswomen who are, by the way, some of the politest and neatest customers we have.

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