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Friday, March 10

Mr. W. P. Kelly,
Acting Director
Job Corps

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Today I received a letter from you requesting information about the community acceptance and cooperation from the local job corps center.

This is a rough draft which I don't have time to re-organize and re-type. Under the direction of Messrs. Davis and Nelson I feel that the local center has done a pretty good job of community service. Some of these things include: cleaning of the swimming pool, timber thinning and other natural resource projects.

Four of the boys at the center are currently enrolled on a trial basis at White Swan High School. The center has hosted many of the community civic and women's organization for tours and programs at the center. Boys have attended our local Chamber of Commerce meeting. The Job Corps Center has a basketball team which participates in a non-school area league.

The local center has neither benefitted nor handicapped the city of Wapato. The vast majority of the Job Corps enrollees at the Port Simcoe Center (which is located in barren country out in the middle of nowhere—25 miles from here) are negroes. Furthermore, the majority come from urban areas with the anticipation of their being taught agricultural and natural resource skills. (A few are doing hospital training about 23 miles from the center)

If anything, the nation is becoming more urbanized and I fail to see any benefit in bringing boys out here from Birmingham, Atlanta, Chicago and New York City to learn agricultural skills.

Most of the boys here are negroes. We don't have very many negro girls for them to hustle in Wapato. The center does bus the boys a distance of 100 miles to East Pasco for their social contacts and water skiing behind the Job Corps boats. Furthermore, a section of a Yakima hotel is contracted for the boys each week.

I would appreciate knowing why you feel that urban negroes

should be sent to rural training areas. Such a plan is contrary to all historical record in this country. Do you have information that the nations sociologists and historians don't?

John W. Hansen