



Office of the Mayor / City of Saint Louis, Missouri

ALFONSO J. CERVANTES, Mayor

March 11, 1967

Mr. W. P. Kelly
Director, Job Corps
Office of Economic Opportunity
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 8, 1967, in which you ask how I as the Mayor of Saint Louis feel about the Job Corps Center which is situated here in Saint Louis.

It is entirely too early to give any type of an evaluation. Since the Center has not even reached its capacity and cannot be said to have been fully activated as yet, it would be little less than presumptuous of anyone to try to give an appraisal of the Center.

But less you feel that your form letter that I received might have been in vain, let me make a few comments:

The Center has benefitted our community in a physical and financial level by taking an abandoned hospital and making it into a habitable Center. It has benefitted our community by keeping before the mind's-eye of the community the altruistic star of assistance to the disadvantaged.

It has been a disadvantage to our community by being the precipitating agent of a headlined negative article that featured homosexuality in the Center. I felt that the article was unconscionable and within the traditions of yellow journalism, but the article was dysfunctional to the community and was precipitated by the Center. The Center has been dysfunctional further in that the cost per enrollee seems to be in the area of \$8,000 per year, and many individuals wonder whether a more economic way for the upgrading of disadvantaged youth might not be obtained. Most people would rather have On-Job Training or non residential work experience programs that would take care of many more youths at a less expensive figure. The national average for On-Job Training, for instance, is \$455 per person. Granted that