

The EVANSVILLE COURIER

201 N. W. SECOND STREET
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA
(FOUNDED JANUARY 7TH, 1848)

WOODROW HALL, EDITOR

March 15, 1967

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

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Reference your letter of March 8 asking my views on the Job Corps Center at Camp Breckinridge, Ky.

The center has benefited the community financially because of its proximity and its expenditures here. In an intangible way, I believe it has brought to the people of this area a greater awareness of the need to do something about poverty and illiteracy. It has also maintained a close relationship with churches, civic groups, the press and other elements of the community.

Corpsmen from the center have been very active in community affairs and projects. I am enclosing a "Letter to the Editor" of The Courier, written by the director of the Mayor's Commission on Human Relations, that states specifically some of the positive things Corpsmen have been involved in here.

Officials at the Center realize that good relations with Evansville are vital to the success of the Center and have tried to be a good neighbor by policing Corpsmen who come here on weekends, setting up local Job Corps Headquarters so the young people will have a place to go, and cooperating with various elements in the community. Local groups are invited to the Center for tours and Center officials are receptive to requests for speeches here on the Center's activities.

Despite all this, I must point out that I believe the attitude of Evansville is one of tolerance more than acceptance. This is due to the rocky start the Center got when it practically opened with a riot. Following this, two Corpsmen in a stolen car -- and drinking -- crashed head-on into another car killing some members of a family. The Corpsmen were being chased by police at the time. One of them was awaiting action on another charge in another state.