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Henderson Broadcasting Company, Inc.

HECHT S. LACKEY
PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER

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

March 23, 1967

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you very much for your recent letter, asking for a frank opinion of the Job Corps. I'll be happy to give you my personal opinion, which does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the firm for which I work. Naturally, my only knowledge of the Job Corps is based on my contacts with the Breckinridge Job Corps Center and its personnel.

In answer to the specific points raised in your letter, there are few ways in which the Job Corps has benefitted our community, in my opinion. Some of their young people have assisted with charity drives here, and employees have contributed to the community. But Breckinridge has undoubtedly been of more benefit to the town of Morganfield, since it is closer to that town. The center's young people have presented programs to church groups and civic clubs, and have helped with some community projects, such as the Salvation Army Christmas Drive. The center was a good neighbor to Morganfield when that town's police department needed assistance because of sickness and injury.

Many people feel that the objective of the Job Corps is well worth working toward, but they do not agree with many policies of the Job Corps. If I may inject my personal opinion (which is shared by a number of people I know), the Job Corps should be conducted more like an army base, particularly in the area of discipline, financial rewards, and benefits for the student. A young man entering the Job Corps should have to make a definite commitment and not be able to leave if he doesn't like it, particularly before he has had a chance to adjust to his new environment. These views, incidentally, are shared by some of the personnel I know employed at the Job Corps. Students at the Job Corps shouldn't be given more money, more freedom, or more benefits than a man serving his country in one of the branches of the service, in my opinion. On the contrary, they will benefit in the long run if they are taught discipline and respect for others, and if they must pay for their misdeeds (like anyone else). I think that part of their training and education should be in the field of human relations and personal relations with others (such as the human relations ideals taught in the Dale Carnegie Course).

Since the Graflex Corporation has taken over operation of the Breckinridge Job Corps, the operation here has improved immensely. From remarks I have heard in the past, some problems have resulted from having to rely too much on advice and directives from officials in Washington (who too often are not familiar with the actual operation).

Thank you, Mr. Kelly, for the opportunity to express my opinion. From the beginning I have felt that the concept of the Job Corps was admirable, even though my thinking is usually conservative. I know it can make productive citizens out of men who have not had enough opportunities in life. Good luck in your efforts to make the program a success.

Sincerely,


Art Grunewald
Station Manager