



Mr. W. P. Kelly
Acting Director
Job Corps
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D. C. 20506

March 21, 1967

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Please excuse the delay in answering your letter of March 8. Mr. James Tonkin, general manager, to whom your letter was addressed, just returned from vacation and turned the letter over to me.

Regarding the Job Corps Center, located at Fort Simcoe, about 25 miles from our city:

Because of its relative infancy, the center has had little opportunity to show any major impact on the communities nearby. Most of the corps' efforts so far have been devoted to preparing the center's grounds for the upcoming spring growing season, etc.

However, the center already has made plans to help a very deserving group of residents in Yakima's southeast section build a self-help Community Center which will be used for job training and recreation in that relatively low-income area.

Several Yakima Valley civic groups, including the Yakima Chamber of Commerce, have paid visits to the Job Corps Center and all have been impressed with what has been done in the short time since the center was established.

On my one visit to the center I was especially aware of the obvious success in the center's individual training process; the boys were polite, genuinely interested in the visitors and their various fields of work; they were quite evidently glad of the opportunity to be in such a camp, and most of them shared a contagious faith in what the center can be once grass starts to grow, trees begin to green out and the wild flowers in that area burst into bloom.

As a newspaper, we have been impressed with the candor of the camp director, Mr. George Davis, who has demonstrated an eagerness to deal frankly with whatever problems arise at the camp as far as publicity goes. I'm sure that generally the nearby smaller communities have changed their minds about the "dangers" of being near a Job Corps Center. I'm also confident that as time goes on, the corpsmen themselves will gain the cooperation of nearby townspeople in giving the center a real chance to succeed as a neighbor.

I've talked with many Yakima people who were enthusiastic in their praise of the boys from the center who were guests in homes here on several special occasions--Christmas, New Year's, etc.

As one who admittedly was skeptical about the final worth of the Job Corps venture at first, let me assure you that from what I've seen and learned of the Fort Simcoe achievements and those of other camps in Washington State, I'm personally certain that even partial success seems worth whatever the cost.

Sincerely,

THE YAKIMA DAILY REPUBLIC
YAKIMA MORNING HERALD

Tom Thomas:c
Executive Editor

Tom Thomas