



MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
CITY OF EVANSVILLE

FRANK F. McDONALD, MAYOR
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA 47708

JANET R. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 29, 1967

PHONE 424-6461
EXTENSION 228

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

Dear Mr. Kelly,

Your letter to Mayor Frank McDonald of this city has been shared with me, as it is this office that has been most closely associated with the community relations aspects of the Breckinridge Job Corps.

Mayor McDonald has been in close touch with me and a co-operative, active participant in our contact with Breckinridge.

Specifically, for the honest appraisal you request. It is difficult to assess the benefit to the community. We know that some corpsmen have been employed in the community upon their graduation, and in our short labor market this could be an asset. Quite honestly, there have been many headaches beginning with the disturbance, or so called riot, in August 1965, and sporadically on a minor scale since. It is unrealistic, we know, to have the number of boys involved here without these minor incidents and do not feel it is too serious at this point. It does, however, handicap good community relations with some of our more conservative or negative citizens.

There has been some reluctance on the part of corpsmen, sociologically understandable, to participate in community affairs, yet there has been increasing improvement seen during the past year as the boys progress with their training.

They have engaged to a remarkable degree in community projects, cleaning play grounds, etc., and co-operated with our Human Relations Commission. Never have the corpsmen been involved in a planned community activity that they have failed to sell themselves. This has on several occasions been pointed out to the community via speech, discussion, letters to the editor, etc. and has done much to further good relations. In the past two years there has definitely been a more positive attitude displayed toward the job corps in our community and much credit is due to Graflex, Incorporated and the current staff at Breckinridge.