

Job Corps Center Appears Over the Hump in McKinney

The Job Corps Center for townpeople that at 5 p.m. every day we weren't going to its first trainees early in March open the gates and let all the girls exit en masse. With the southern farming community's residents looking on with a hard eye. Stories about incidents at other such camps wrong place. If she doesn't and in some instances just plain change her attitude, she will be misinformed. Had caused released. We expect them to co-operate. Kadera and Griffin hit the bandwagon last summer, speaking to more than 50 luncheons. social group meetings, and church groups in an attempt to explain the program.

By DENNE H. FREEMAN

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McKINNEY, Tex. (AP)

When an outside institution comes to a Southern farming community, you can bet there will be some uplifted eyebrows.

The Job Corps Center for Women which moved into the old Veterans Administration Hospital in McKinney was no exception.

However, after almost a month of operation, the center has survived close scrutiny and appears to have won over townsfolk.

Dr. George S. Kadera, director of the center, said some people had funny notions about the center's function.

"My wife was at the grocery store one day when we first came here," Kadera said. "A boy was carrying her groceries to the car and saw a sticker on it."

"Oh, you work with the Job Corps. When are you gonna open that reform school?"

Kadera can laugh about it now, but at the time it made him realize there was a serious misinformation barrier to crack.

Kadera and Bill Griffin, community relations and public information director, started to work to close the misinformation gap.

"First of all we wanted to stress that the program was voluntary for girls 16 to 21 with poverty backgrounds," Kadera said. "We take students out of a poverty environment and attempt to bring their standard of living up. Some 20 per cent of the girls read below the third grade level."

"We wanted to assure the

year payroll," Kadera said. "There will also be many contracts let such as for cleaning, garbage, and laundry."

Griffin said the Job Corps hopes to have 600 girls in school by May, learning food services, retailing, cosmetology, fabric arts and other marketable vocations.

So far 265 have arrived.

Otho Nicholas, police chief, said "everything has been fine."

"There have been no incidents, just fine cooperation on both sides," Nicholas said. "We heard a lot of talk about how this might be, or that might be, but nothing has happened."

Pat Gibson, manager of the chamber, said at first there was a lack of enthusiasm from some members of the business com-

munity who visualized break-ins and hot checks.

"I think it has disappointed some of the citizens who haven't found anything wrong," Gibson said. "Also, when a businessman begins to make a few sales to employees at the center, he usually changes his mind. A few dollars in the pocket will do that."

"Some people actually thought it was going to be a reform school. Kadera and his staff did a fine job of educating people to the real facts."

Griffin said the girls at the center have traveled to Dallas each weekend on passes without incident.

The immediate concern of the center is whether the Office of Economic Opportunity will cut back the Job Corps program in

June.

Gibson said the community has set up a committee to help out in any way.

In other words, the Job Corps has not worn out its welcome in McKinney.

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