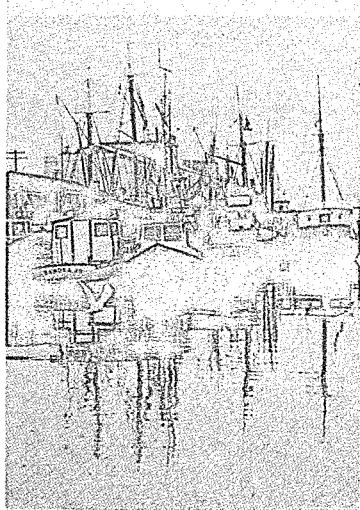


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"To all the citizens of New Bedford whose hospitality,

good counsel and hard work
have helped hundreds
of disadvantaged young men
become successful and
productive citizens."



So reads a plaque presented to Mayor Edward F. Harrington at a banquet for about 200 friends of Rodman from the Greater New Bedford area last Tuesday night at Phillips Gymnasium. The plaque will be hung in city hall.

The occasion marked the Center's second anniversary in the city and was part of a Job Corps-wide salute to neighboring host communities.

In accepting the plaque, Mayor Harrington noted that, "Times have not always been too perfectly smooth here in the city, as everyone within the sound of my voice recognizes. But I think that in the end, reason, judgment, common decency, understanding and a certain moral commitment have smoothed away most of the rough spots that divided the community and the Rodman Job Corps Center."

Keynote speaker at the banquet was Dr. Franklyn A. Johnson, former national director of the Job Corps. Dr. Johnson spoke of the difficulties faced by the Job Corps when it began. "We have been pioneering, and the way of the pioneer is never easy." He added, "There were no real precedents, no real guidelines and almost no information about the needs of the disadvantaged."

The guests also heard from a recent graduate, Robert B. Buckley, now employed by the Harvard University Data Processing Laboratory at Cambridge. Mr. Buckley told about his work and said he had fond memories of Rodman and its staff. He also introduced his bride of one month, a native of nearby Martha's Vineyard, whom he met while working in Boston.

Toastmaster for the occasion was Jack Ward, general secretary of the New Bedford YMCA and chairman of the Rodman Community Relations Council.

In presenting the plaque to Mayor Harrington, Center Director Theodore E. Nelson acknowledged a "great debt" to hundreds of citizens. He also read congratulatory telegrams from Vice-President Hubert Humphrey and Senator Edward Kennedy.

The dinner was the highpoint of the anniversary observance which also included a resolution submitted by Student Government President Sam Owens and adopted by the New Bedford City Council, a dance for students and an afternoon talk to the staff by Dr. Johnson.