

Mr. SCHERLE. Have you made any comparisons between the success of those that live at the Job Corps centers and those that live at home?

Secretary WIRTZ. We can now put side by side the evaluations which have been made of the Job Corps experience alumni and the Neighborhood Youth Corps out-of-school alumni.

My impression is that those figures probably statistically come out in the same pattern now.

So that if statistics were any guide, my impression is that the Job Corps results parallel those to which I referred earlier.

But I should go on to say that I don't have confidence in the statistics available yet on a comparative basis between these two, for this reason, Mr. Scherle: There is no question about the fact that the Job Corps took right from the beginning the very hardest cases that there were to take, and the figures on their accomplishments are therefore going to be in some ways more discouraging than ours.

Of course, if you take the in-school Neighborhood Youth Corps, the number of in-the-neighborhood youths who have stayed in school is very high. But that is not a fair comparison.

On the out of school and the Job Corps, I think the recovery rate is probably somewhat higher for the Neighborhood Youth Corps, but I don't think those figures permit a comparison.

Mr. SCHERLE. Would you feel that the dropout rate would be about the same in both the Job Corps and the Neighborhood Youth Corps?

Secretary WIRTZ. I don't know, on that. I just don't know.

Mr. SCHERLE. Let me ask you this then: Do you feel maybe in another year you will be in a better position to make this comparable appraisal of dropouts?

Secretary WIRTZ. I am quite clear at this point, Mr. Scherle, that both programs are essential, and that there are young people in the country with respect to whom we can do more good with their living at home, and there are those others with respect to whom we can do more good if they are taken out of that environment and put at camp.

Mr. SCHERLE. Can you tell me why 45 percent of those in the Job Corps are military rejects?

Secretary WIRTZ. Well, it is really the part I referred to before. The military rejection results showed up, I believe, more graphically than any other figures the failure in this country with respect to that group.

That is the hardest—what we have called the hard-core group.

And the Job Corps did right from the beginning take that hard-core group.

Mr. SCHERLE. If my memory serves me correctly, even after Job Corps training this has only been heightened by about 10 percent.

Secretary WIRTZ. Their employability?

Mr. SCHERLE. No; their acceptance in the military service.

Secretary WIRTZ. Oh, their return and acceptance?

I don't know. I don't have that figure.

We have conducted several programs designed either directly or indirectly for exactly that group.

I should interrupt to say that we measure one of the gains, one of the improvements in our program, in terms of the number of those boys we pick up, because I think we all have the feeling that that is a very