

Chairman PERKINS. I want to find out how you are equipped to reach the problem or extremely disadvantaged youth that you are than say a vocational education center.

Mr. WHITAKER. Sir, may I go back to your original question?

Chairman PERKINS. Yes.

Mr. WHITAKER. The first third of the effort is on the academic side, the third third is on life adjustment aspects, how to meet people, taking instructions for getting up, reporting for your job, and things of that nature.

The last and perhaps the most important phase is the vocational. We teach 11 vocational clusters as we refer to them. One of them is the automotive cluster which is service station operator, body repair, motor repair.

Another group that we have is small motor repair dealing with outboard motors, lawnmowers. I might say parenthetically that we had a boy graduate last week who is now employed by Sears in Louisville, Ky., at \$2 an hour who has done so well they have let him set up his own lawnmower department within Sears.

We teach electronics which is broken down into radio, TV, oil burner repair, small electric motor repair. We teach culinary arts, we have a landscape gardening course. We teach photography. I am not doing this in as orderly a manner as I should but this is nicely listed in the fact sheet that is part of our folder.

Chairman PERKINS. I am trying to build a record here the best I know how in my feeble way, but going through your center at Breckinridge it was a real education to me. Naturally, I am quite mindful of all of the criticism and the fact that the community even though it is not in my district wanted to get that camp away from there and get those boys away at one time.

They wrote to me that it was a complete failure. I was completely surprised when I got down there and reviewed the center when I saw the 100 percent change in sentiment in the Morganfield community and surrounding communities, about the tremendous support, the 100 percent support.

I want to reiterate again, the support came from zero percent when you took this operation. We might as well admit here that mistakes had been made, but what impresses me so much is the fact that you people have profited by those errors and did something about it.

Now my real question is whether our present schools, vocational schools as presently constituted, are prepared to handle the type of youngster you are now assisting in Breckinridge, Ky.

Mr. WHITAKER. I don't feel, Mr. Chairman, that they are. This is a nuts and bolts operation. It is preparing a boy to become self-sufficient, self-reliant and to have a trade that he can put to work.

I don't want to overstate the vocational side. We have to recognize that these boys will have to be adjustable and flexible enough to change jobs as the economy changes in this respect, so you can't have the vocational only.

Chairman PERKINS. Many of these youngsters, perhaps the majority of them, have been juvenile offenders. Am I correct in that?

Mr. WHITAKER. Sixty-three percent have no adverse record but some of them are juvenile offenders.

Chairman PERKINS. The remaining percentage beyond 63 have had police records?