

mitted to continue this operation and feed back your valuable experiences to the industry, to our educational systems in America.

Is that your feeling at this time?

Mr. WHITAKER. Sir, you have said it very well. Just as we have on-the-job training for our corpsmen at Breckinridge, so also we have been learning as we go on the job training at Breckinridge, and I would be less than sincere if I did not admit that we found many things in this period of 1 year that we can do a better job as we go on and this would be a continuing process.

Chairman PERKINS. You conclude that there is much to be lost if we cut the operation of the Job Corps 1 dime at the present time?

Do you view cuts as a great disservice to America or do you feel we should expand the present Job Corps operation?

Mr. WHITAKER. I feel that the limit of 45,000 which is now in the new proposed legislation is small. I feel that by continuing this process we can reach more boys who will not be reached in any other way and I mean women when I say "boys" just as well, because this is a vital segment of the United States, men and women who will become our future citizens.

If we can develop them into self-reliant taxpayers, we have done something for the country and for ourselves.

Chairman PERKINS. I think you have had enough experience to know that one of our real problems in the vocational educational field is dealing with this hard-core youngster who needs special attention and basic education training before he can succeed in vocational education, and it is a great problem likewise insofar as the hard-core unemployed are concerned.

Am I correct about that?

Mr. WHITAKER. Absolutely. Incidentally, I didn't mention it in my written testimony, but from reading the Harris report last night, I gathered that there are some people who feel that the performance of the graduates has been only satisfactory.

I can speak from our own direct experience at Graflex that it has been preeminently satisfactory and some of the folks we have hired have left us to go to Kodak, for example, to improve their lot.

We have no special control over what we do with them. It is how well they operate.

Chairman PERKINS. I very seldom take this much time but since there has been so much controversy in my home State I feel bent more or less to go along here this morning and ask you several questions.

There have been many questions asked about so many of these youngsters being trained for special trades and vocations and have not been able to obtain a job for which they were trained in the Job Corps.

Do you care to comment on that?

Mr. WHITAKER. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

You have put your finger on a real problem. If a boy comes to us at age 16, and you know that 16 to 21 that they are eligible, and he graduates at age 17 and he is a welder, for example, he may not be able to find employment as a welder because that is a hazardous operation.

Therefore, he will take a job as materials handler or anything as a holdover until he can get the job for which he has been trained.

This I see is a misjudgment in the Harris report. At least I did not see this explained.