

league which has been asked to set up a series of discussions as to how government works. First, they went through a series of meetings with the people in the neighborhood that the Community Action Council had decided to provide this service for.

This was Springfield, Mass. These were so-called block groups. They decided what they wanted to learn about the Government and what the league learned what they wanted to know was how to be a part of it. They had the traditional feeling of the alienated voter that we have all heard so much about.

Over a couple of meetings, they planned out these courses, starting out with how the city council operates and the school board and I presume that is as far as they got in this report.

I presume they will go on to other levels of government in the same fashion.

Mr. STEIGER. Are you aware of any local leagues which have participated with local community action agencies in voter registration drives?

Mrs. BENSON. No. There may be some local leagues which have actually done voter registration drives. I know it has been talked about but I don't believe that I—at least not here with me today know anything I can put my finger on saying yes four, five, ten, or even one hundred have done this.

Mr. STEIGER. Would it be possible for you to go back and perhaps supply of the committee any information on that question you can locate?

Mrs. BENSON. I will see what we have. It may be a very small amount. Right at the moment I am not sure I can distinguish whether it has been voter registration drives they have worked on or whether it has been setting up elections for electing the council of the community action agencies, but I can certainly check into it and let you know.

Mr. STEIGER. I would certainly appreciate that.

I believe you have reviewed the Opportunity Crusade. While you obviously could not agree with the provisions of it that might spin off existing OEO agencies and place them in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, what kind of reaction do you have to the concept of the industry youth corps, for example, attempting to involve private industry to a larger extent in job training and job opportunities?

Mrs. BENSON. We think it sounds like a very good idea and would like to see some of these established, but not as a substitute for the Job Corps. We are supporting the continuation of the Job Corps but there isn't any reason at all why there couldn't be either in addition to the Job Corps or on an experimental basis to begin with something that could be called the Industry Youth Corps.

I think we would say the same thing about the residential skill centers, that is, tied in with the Vocational Education Act. This is another approach which sounds as if it would be very worthwhile to try. I don't think that any of us believe we have found the final answer to how to overcome the overwhelming effects of poverty and what causes this kind of overwhelming effect.

We do not feel it is time to give up the things that are presently being tried. We do not think there has been enough time but we also