

Although these Indians had a certain feeling of unity through their common race, their chief characteristic was apathy and complete hopelessness. Their isolation seemed complete. With the establishment of the Community Center, and the assignment of the VISTAs, a self-pride, a feeling of purpose and unity became possible. They elected a board of directors, 9 of whom were Indians. They held pot luck suppers. One sent in news to our county newspaper, a sort of society column. Large gifts of clothing were sent them through various news media, and they held sales in the summer to migrants. They had a booth in the Northwestern Michigan Fair, at which they sold Indian handicrafts. Of enormous help were the evening tutoring sessions for the school children. The great ability and devotion of the art teacher made these creative activities broaden the cultural life of the children.

Adolescents were given sewing lessons by the VISTAs, and the boys used the Center for games, such as pool, skittles, record-playing, etc. The skill of the director in keeping strict control of the behavior of the children has kept the place from getting a bad reputation among the white community.

The League of Women Voters from the first, giving strong citizen support to this CAP program, made possible a voter registration evening at the Center, to which the township clerk came, and some very old Indians were registered for the first time. An AA group, begun by Fr. Dondzila, faded out, but will make a fresh start later.

The joy which the League of Women Voters and others have felt at the first two years of this CAP project is now decreased because of a down-grading of the financial support by OEO. *First*, the very necessary staffing by VISTAs has not been continued. For approximately four months, the Center has expected new assignments but none has arrived. *Second*, the funds for maintenance, rental, and program have decreased so that the art teacher has had to use her own money to buy clay and other art supplies. *Third*, the support by OEO was discontinued in August of 1966, and after applying without success for a small grant from two Michigan charitable foundations to keep the Center open until funds from OEO would be forthcoming, the day was saved by the Michigan Migrant Opportunity Agency, who granted minimum, but very necessary support. But this Agency and its funds, will be discontinued permanently May 31, 1967.

What has been the effect of these deprivations on the Indians themselves? Not becoming in a short two years as responsible, self-directing, citizens, they have, without the support of the VISTAs, and with uncertainty as to their future, gone back somewhat to their usual apathy, whose symptoms are fewer community suppers, less attendance on the part of the children, no more society news in the paper, no board meetings and losing what contact they had made with the outside world (the whites) and through the League, the VISTAs, and the school (through the ESEA). Such brave starts as were made by OEO and our county CAP for the benefit of these citizens will be just another demonstration to them of the hopelessness of their situation, if it is decreased—a real tragedy, even for a relatively small segment of our deprived poor.

This project needs to be increased in CAP funds. The art teacher, for example, has served for two years, has given both day and night service, has taken an Indian boy into her home, when he needed to be sheltered, and has kept the community in touch with needs. She earns only \$2.50 an hour, for 18 hours of scheduled duties, but works actually about 40. She needs a raise. The Center should have a full-time group or community organization leader, if no VISTAs are available. CAP has been important to these people. They will need it for years to come.

Mr. HAWKINS. Is Dr. Smith here?

Dr. SMITH. Yes.

Mr. HAWKINS. Dr. Spencer Smith, Citizens Committee on National Resources. Dr. Smith, would you kindly come to the witness stand.

STATEMENT OF DR. SPENCER M. SMITH, JR., SECRETARY, CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dr. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HAWKINS. Do you have a prepared statement, Dr. Smith?

Dr. SMITH. Yes, I have it distributed, I think.