

Mr. HAWKINS. Dr. Smith, it is a pleasure to welcome you as a witness before the committee, and I see that you have a prepared statement. This will be written into the record.

(Dr. Smith's prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT BY DR. SPENCER M. SMITH, JR., SECRETARY, CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Dr. Spencer M. Smith Jr. Secretary of the Citizens Committee on Natural Resources, a national conservation organization with offices in Washington D.C. It is a dual privilege for me to represent many of our country's outstanding conservationists, who comprise our Board of Directors, before this distinguished Committee.

Our concern regarding the Conservation Job Corps is the culmination of over a decade of interest. We supported strongly the very early efforts of the distinguished Chairman of this Committee, Congressman Blatnik, and, Vice President but then Senator, Hubert Humphrey. As members of this Committee are aware, the earlier proposals took a variety of forms. The first was the creation of a Youth Conservation Corps, the second was Title I in the Youth Employment Act, and finally the present Job Corps Conservation Centers.

We desire to make it clear at the outset that it is not within our full field of competence to comment on all of the extensive and varied programs, which are the responsibility of the Office of Economic Opportunity. This is not to say that our general attitude is adverse but rather to suggest that our investigations, observations and professional backgrounds relate primarily to the conservation centers of the Job Corps.

If I may be pardoned a personal commentary to the effect that for 20 years I was involved in classroom teaching at the University level. I would not suggest that this experience qualifies me as a professional educator with knowledge of the detailed techniques of educational methods. By the same token it would be impossible for one to serve as a teacher in any capacity or level without developing some sensitivity to educational procedures.

Many professional conservationists, serving the large national organizations, as well as some at state and local levels, have observed the Job Corps Conservation Centers from their inception. Almost all of these organizations and individuals supported the concept because of the outstanding record made by the Civil Conservation Corps in the 1930's. We realized that neither the conditions nor composition of youth to be served, were the same in the late 50's and 60's as existed in the 30's. There were, however, certain basic similarities. The conservation work that needed to be done in regard to our national resources was far greater than existed in the 30's. There was also a considerable number of youth without meaningful and productive activity and without educational accomplishment. It appeared to us at the time that two important social purposes could be achieved. First the training and partial employment of youth and second, the improvement of our natural resource base.

It is impossible for anyone to say that all of the objectives of the program have been realized. There have been problems, many of which have been overcome and some of which have yet to be dealt with effectively. Statistical studies abound and in evaluating the program to date, are used by protagonist and critic alike. In terms of the volume of testimony taken by this Committee on the sample and statistics gleaned, it is doubtful if any additional observations I might make can be too useful. My own commentary will not deal primarily with this material, both for the reasons just mentioned and for the reason that the problems found and the solutions applied that are most crucial in evaluating such a program, are not amenable to such quantification.

The most heartening and important argument for the continuation of the Job Corps Conservation Centers and hopefully their expansion, is to me, the change of attitude of the individual volunteer. The desire to learn is the most important change of attitude. I am not going to suggest that it is possible to read such a generalized conclusion by the observation of a few cases. Despite our efforts to spend as much time as possible with the individual enrollees in a number of different camps, such experience by necessity had to be limited. But when one's own observation is confirmed again and again by colleagues, such experiences began to have meaning. Also, one cannot spend very much time in these Conservation Centers without being aware of the spirit among the Job Corps volunteers.