

do not think alternative efforts to solve these problems are as effective as a combination of relatively small units in outdoor settings that constitute most conservation centers.

It is not our suggestion that all Job Corps enrollees be sent to conservation centers and by the same token it is not our suggestion that all the enrollees of the conservation center be sent elsewhere to other programs. The attack on the problems of these young people who terminate their education but do not qualify for a productive role in our society, is a challenge that is not going to be met by one program or one part of any program. The problem is multifaceted and solutions will have to be varied and experimental.

Former President Truman said, "I hope all the mistakes of my administration will be those of commission and not of omission". Such an admonition should serve us well in this instance and we hope sincerely that it will be the judgment of this Committee to give a strong endorsement to the Job Corps Conservation Centers.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION,
Washington, D.C., July 18, 1967.

HON. CARL D. PERKINS,
Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The National Wildlife Federation welcomes the invitation to comment upon H.R. 8311, "to provide an improved charter for Economic Opportunity Act programs, to authorize funds for their continued operation, to expand summer camp opportunities for disadvantaged children, and for other purposes."

The National Wildlife Federation is a private non-profit organization which seeks to attain conservation objectives through educational means. The Federation has affiliates in 49 States. These affiliates, in turn, are composed of local clubs and individuals who, when combined with associate members and other supporters of the Federation, number an estimated 2,000,000 persons.

Our organization long has appreciated the many values of conservation camp programs. Many of the State forests, State parks, State lakes, and other valuable properties first were established by the old Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Like the Job Corps of today, the CCC was the butt of derision and jokes in its day. Yet, the value of these conservation efforts are becoming more and more apparent each year. Other contributions of the Corps were highlighted by the outstanding military and civilian records of its members during and after World War II.

There is ample reason to believe the Job Corps conservation camps will make comparable contributions. Quite naturally, some time was necessary to get the program started. For example, the National Wildlife Federation served in a role to bring conservation educators together for the purpose of developing basic "learn-to-read" materials, something heretofore unknown for young people in the Job Corps age groups.

In short, the camps just now are reaching their peaks of effectiveness, both in rehabilitating young people and in giving them basic skills and knowledge for a better future, and in performing valuable conservation functions. Our people have visited many of the camps and are enthused over their quality and effectiveness.

Of course, the program has not been without some difficulties. However, when disadvantaged young people of varying races and backgrounds are brought together under unfamiliar circumstances and surroundings, some friction and problems might be expected. On the whole, though, we think the program is off to a splendid start. We would regret it if the program is curtailed or eliminated, as apparently would be the case under the program envisioned by H.R. 10682.

Thank you for the opportunity of expressing these views.

Sincerely,

LOUIS S. CLAPPER,
Chief, Division of Conservation Education.

Mr. HAWKINS. You may proceed as you see fit, either to summarize the statement or to read the statement.

Dr. SMITH. I shall try and be brief. If it serves the convenience of the committee, I will be very pleased to summarize my statement, Mr. Chairman.