

Now I have heard this commentary time and time again; that is, that a competition exists with the school system. Hence, these people can be handled very simply in a school, or that jobs did exist for a number of Job Corps volunteers. Though we don't have a lot of funds to make surveys, I determined to try and make a personal one. I went up to Catoctin, and at that time there were 119 boys enrolled in this camp. I interviewed every one of them, and I made my own survey. One hundred and four of these boys had been out of school for more than two terms. At no time had they indicated that they were going to return to school. Seven had been out for one term, and eight could not return because of long periods of truancy, and in effect, were not to be allowed back in the school system. Had they not come to the Job Corps, they would have gone to a reformatory.

Now where the newspaper accounts got 40 percent coming directly from school to the Job Corps, I don't know. I can't run down each one of these stories, but this one, I did.

The allegation that 32 percent came from jobs, also was a part of my inquiry. I found that only eight of the 119 had any compensation from 6 months prior to the enlistments. Of the eight, one did work at a full-time job for which he got a return of \$6.40 a week, which constituted the maximum earnings of the eight that had any employment at all.

When a newspaper account is 100 percent wrong, you begin to wonder exactly the nature of the criticisms that have been leveled against these Job Corps conservation centers.

Another instance that I think is important, and part of the burden of my prepared remarks, is the statistics seeking to explain the Job Corps. Interestingly enough, having done some of my own statistical work, which has been better than some I have paid for, I find that apparently I didn't train my students in statistics any better than some of my colleagues. Many of the statistical analyses I have seen view the achievements as not having sufficient hard facts in order to make a determination. The same statistics are used repeatedly, however, as a basis of criticism that they are a failure.

The Harris study was based to a very great extent on the interview technique. I can tell you that I have been in touch with a number of these boys, it would be difficult to rely strongly upon their statements, especially when they first enter the program.

Second, there is an assumption, too, that every child or person that drops out of the Job Corps Center, shows a program failure. Statistics have not explained the dropouts. In Catoctin, 25 were separated because the counselors urged their return to school. No statistical study to my knowledge reflects their situation.

Another problem I don't feel is fully appreciated by critic or supporter alike is the tragic physical and mental state of some of the enrollees coming into Conservation Corps Centers. The complete nature of this problem is not quantifiable.

In the first place, while 63 percent of all of Job Corps enrollees do not have police or criminal records of any type, over 50 percent of those that come to the Conservation Centers do have such records. Also, fourth or fifth grade educational levels represent the Corps as a whole. Those coming to the Job Corps Conservation Centers are from 35 to