

Dr. SMITH. I will repeat it briefly. I read a story in the Washington Star about a year ago, regarding the Catoctin Job Corps Camp in Maryland which stated that 40 percent of the enrollees came directly from schools, and 32 percent directly from jobs. The story's conclusion asked, "What on earth are we doing putting up all this money? Taking boys away from a situation where they are already in adjustment and for the small number remaining the cost was exorbitant."

This upset me since I knew that camp pretty well and was not aware of such conditions.

Chairman PERKINS. Did you check that?

Dr. SMITH. I went up there and I interviewed 119 kids, and I took four and a half days to do it.

Chairman PERKINS. That is wonderful.

Dr. SMITH. And out of the 119, here are some of the statistics. They are already in the record but I want you to hear them; 104 had been out of school for more than two terms, seven for one term, and eight had truancy records and couldn't return. Now that is 119. There wasn't one child of the group enrolled directly from school.

Chairman PERKINS. I would hope that you picked up that propaganda that was put into print, because that is the type of propaganda that is taking place today, to try to do damage to a most worthy program.

Dr. SMITH. Again, in the Schenck Job Corps Center in North Carolina, received a variety of criticism both in the press and word of mouth. When accomplishments were evident the critics said, "Well, you have a unique group down there, of course, everything just went just fine."

As a matter of fact, Schenck didn't have a unique group at all. The myth indicated that a great number of them had come directly from school so the administrators could make a real case for the Job Corps Center. This was complete tommyrot. Absolutely ridiculous. There wasn't a child, not a boy enrolled in that camp that had come direct from school. There hadn't been one in there that hadn't been out of school for 6 months to a year.

Now those are the two stories, and two accounts, which I ran down. We don't have the money to start any aggrandized survey, but I did go out in these two cases, I ran the one down in Catoctin, a great deal, boy by boy; the other one I ran down by record and not by interview. If some of the right information could be published it would be helpful. Because we have more people willing to believe the worst of these situations rather than attempting to understand, the situation would be helped.

Chairman PERKINS. Now the quality of training that is taking place in the camps operated by the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and the training aspects, how does it differ? You are old enough, I believe, to know something about the old Civilian Conservation Corps.

Dr. SMITH. Well, in the first place, Mr. Chairman, the composition of the boys of the present Job Corps conservation center are quite different from the old CCC.

Chairman PERKINS. Yes, quite different.