

Dr. SMITH. So we have to start from there. I do say, though, that——

Chairman PERKINS. We stressed work program back in those days.

Dr. SMITH. That is right.

Chairman PERKINS. To a degree, but the emphasis has entirely shifted.

Dr. SMITH. That is right. These boys, I can name you five by name that literally were challenged enough to get through elementary arithmetic because of some of their activities in the field. Tree planting, watershed control, and the like. They have made great contributions. The results of their work are valued between \$20 and \$30 million. More important than the work is convincing a boy that this is important work to do, and after he does it, to help him find a sense of pride in the accomplishment. Also, the Forest Service hadn't started out with the intention of using these boys as firefighters at all. They are very willing to respond, however, and were most helpful in protecting forests from fire. Literally, the Forest Service has had to restrain these young men for their own protection. The experiences I have had, you can't write it down, and you can't communicate the full aspects of it. The thrill comes when some kid comes up to you and takes you by the hand, and can hardly wait until you go out and look at a particular project that he has accomplished. When you have that kind of enthusiasm from some boy working in the woods, whether it is a watershed project, or the construction of habitat for wildlife, or planting trees, the real importance is what it means to the boy.

Chairman PERKINS. Have you been able to follow through on it or make any study of the youngsters that have been able to obtain employment when they have completed their course of training in a job in Conservation Job Corps.

Dr. SMITH. Once again, we do not have hard figures. I am sure that you may be aware of the fact that these Job Corps conservation centers have been utilized in some instances as starters to further vocational education. With an improved attitude and rudimentary skills to put them on their feet, quite often, they are sent to other vocational centers for more extensive training in a vocation of their choice. This has complicated our picture, to try and really find out what happens to these young men, but I can say those that have graduated often have done well. The statistics are not definitive in all respects. This is a dynamic program and statistical studies reason from a particular point of time.

Chairman PERKINS. This point of view is not too pertinent, inasmuch as the emphasis at this day and time is on the training, and not on the work, but the value of the work alone in the conservative camps, the national parks, the national forests, would the value of that work exceed the cost of the operation of those camps?

Dr. SMITH. Yes. Yes, I would think so. In most instances. I could, once again, I will try and detail that for you, as I go along, but I am sure that in most instances, this is true.

Chairman PERKINS. And you are getting work that otherwise would not be performed.

Dr. SMITH. That is right. I don't think a lot of people realize how very difficult it is to obtain appropriations for the creation of certain recreation centers.