

Mr. ERLBORN. In your opinion, even in the school system would it be good to start, let us say, at the junior or senior level in high school? If that change is to be made, should it be made gradually, starting with the lower grades?

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. The sooner, the better. I am for school consolidation, because it forces this joining, whereas now it is on a mutually exclusive basis too much.

Mr. ERLBORN. Thank you for yielding.

Chairman PERKINS. Congressman Erlenborn has witnessed some of the similar schools that we have in Kentucky. I know you have observed that the school systems cannot handle these youngsters for several reasons. Of course, we need more adequate funding and better school facilities. I hope to see that day come about. It will take millions of dollars. I think you will agree with me that in our neck of the woods and in several areas of the country that the schools are just not presently set up to handle this problem child, the type of youngster that we are talking about.

From the experience that we are having in the Job Corps and the know-how that we are applying, that period lies ahead and it would not do to weaken the Job Corps at this time. Would you agree with that, sir?

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Yes, sir. I would never make the statement that, I am sure none here would, that the Job Corps is without its problems, and it will continue to have its problems. I believe very, very fundamentally that the boys and girls that I have been working with, there is no other way for them to receive training and to receive the sort of social orientation, unless it comes through something like the Job Corps.

I am personally satisfied and highly satisfied with what the Job Corps is doing in West Virginia, in Charleston. I am not acquainted with it widely. From my experience, I think it does an excellent job.

Chairman PERKINS. All those vocational schools have a long waiting list. Because of the great demand on the vocational schools, they are presently taking the cream of the crop. Only recently they commenced to take in some of the hard core adults. Is that your experience in the area? Until the Job Corps came along, these youngsters were just not being salvaged. Is that correct?

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Yes, sir. I would not say that now the Job Corps is here the problem is solved. As I said, there is a tremendous amount.

Chairman PERKINS. The value of the know-how that they are receiving from the Job Corps operation will be fed into the school systems, vocational educational school systems, and everybody is going to benefit. Industry is going to benefit. Do you agree with that?

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Yes, sir; I would. Let me put it this way. Industry in West Virginia, when it looks to technical skills, has to too often look outside the State. They have to hire their technically able people from other places. Yet back through the hills of these thousands of communities where there are able, good young people who could be trained. And it bothers me enormously, a West Virginian, to see industry having to go outside the State, when there remains this enormous pool of people who are available.

The bringing together of the jobs which are available and the people who are available to be trained for those jobs, to me, is a paramount problem for that State.