

It would be foolish to dump these youth back into the system which created them and which has pushed them out. These youth have already rejected its content and method and a prime challenge to Job Corps is to find another way to meet their needs. And I think without a doubt the 2 years or more that the Cleveland Job Corps has been in operation, and it is the oldest of the women's Job Corps, we have been able to influence the school system of Cleveland with the success that has been reached with their casualties, with the casualties of the school system.

I could name some of the ways now in which we have shown such evidence there, and I think we have only scratched the surface.

We have only got to the point where we can begin to make the kind of study that can be helpful to the public school system then so that they will not continue to produce the young people who need a Job Corps, and as I said before, one of the primary objectives of the Job Corps is to put itself out of business.

How do you go about devising a way to reach a youth with whom everybody has already failed: the home, the school, the church, temple, or synagogue, the community organizations? With no compulsory education, how do you make that learning experience so attractive and meaningful that she wants to stay? There is no other way to keep her there.

How do you help her establish a new value system and accept the controls, the rules and regulations without which you cannot hold the center together? In many cases she has not had anybody to tell her when she can come and go for some several years.

How do you select and schedule staff so that trained, skilled personnel is available at the hours and on all the days that she has real need for guidance and help to new, rewarding experiences?

Remember, the Job Corps is a 24-hour day, 7-days a week, 12-months a year responsibility and opportunity. How do you translate that "responsibility" to "opportunity" with your staff?

If this youth is culturally deprived and she is—how do you help her take advantage of meaningful cultural experiences? What are they? How do you tailor-make the program so that she will not leave also culturally deprived, and those are these things, this is the challenge that Job Corps has been facing and has been doing extremely well with, but is now ready to do the real job in partnership with government, business, with private, nonprofitsharing organization, and with the rest of the community.

Nobody is an expert in Job Corps and we certainly do not know all the answers, but I am happy to say that we at Cleveland say that we are ready to continue to work with all the available sources that you can make available to us and that the community provided for us in this program.

I am happy to be a part of the Cleveland Job Corps Center for Women for several reasons:

First, its prime contractor the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., is an international organization with a 59-year-old history of social service, education, community projects and health activities. It has a membership of 49,000 college trained women. Its supreme basileus is Dr. Larzette Hale and its national headquarters is located in Chicago, Ill.