

affiliate, Local No. 917, the center is set up to teach young men to handle and operate heavy equipment. At the end of last month, the first contingent of 52 enrollees completed their training. The union has agreed to place each one of these young men in an entry-level job, maintaining heavy equipment.

Their course of work at Jacob's Creek has prepared them to compete with other qualified applicants for a place in the registered apprenticeship programs in this industry. Upon completion of their apprenticeship, these boys will become full-fledged union journeymen in a highly skilled and well-paid trade.

The Job Corps provides educational programs, vocational training, work experience and counseling for those enrolled in this program. But it also has been able, to a large degree, to create an environment in which the enrollees can grow as human beings, gain self-confidence, develop an appreciation of their own potential.

This important element in the development of these young people can never be supplied by existing vocational education facilities such as technical institutes, area vocational schools, and community training centers.

These facilities can serve youngsters coming from families with greater stability, youngsters who have not known acute deprivation or suffered from social discrimination.

Job Corps enrollees, by the very process of their selection are young people who carry the scars of poverty and deprivation. We have ample proof that if given a chance these young men and women can "make it" regardless of their handicaps. But to ignore the fact that the needs of this group differs from those of more fortunate young people would be unwise.

For this reason, we urge that nothing be done by Congress that would impair the existing residential structure and program orientation of the Job Corps.

We feel that the Job Corps should be retained as an integral part of OEO and that it merits the continued support of Congress. We urge that it be expanded to offer even greater numbers of these severely disadvantaged young people an opportunity to make a place for themselves in the economic and social life of our country.

Another program which the AFL-CIO thinks is proving extremely useful in preparing young people for the world of work is the Neighborhood Youth Corps. The importance of the work experience obtained through NYC projects becomes clear when seen in the context of the lack of employment opportunities open to these youngsters.

The unemployment rate for youth 16 to 21 in 1966 was almost three times higher than the national average for the total labor force. But even this figure tells only part of the story. In the poverty areas of our major cities teenage boys had a jobless rate of 25 percent and teenage girls of 23 percent. However, for Negroes in the areas surveyed, unemployment rates in March 1966 were even higher. Teenage Negro girls had a jobless rate of 46 percent, and for teenage Negro boys it was 31 percent.

Organized labor has seen this program in operation. A number of unions have sponsored NYC programs. These unions have been greatly impressed by opportunities that this program has been able