

to open up for these young people, once they have been given help in overcoming the handicaps of inexperience, lack of education, and lack of skills.

Probably the most dramatic example of the effectiveness of this program is the one in Watts, which is under the sponsorship of the Watts Labor Community Action Committee. The Watts Labor Community Action Committee is a non-profit organization made up of 11 unions including the Machinists, the Building Service Employees, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the United Rubber Workers, and the United Auto Workers, among others.

The WLCAC developed a project that includes programs for young people from various age groups. A program for youngsters aged 7 through 13 was called the Cadet Corps, another called the Community Conservation Corps included the 14- and 15-year-olds. The Neighborhood Youth Corps addressed itself to youths 16 through 21 years of age. The program is funded by the Department of Labor, by the Neighborhood Youth Corps, and by funds from the unions.

From a report evaluating the work of the WLCAC comes the following quotation:

The observation of crew chiefs who have worked with the Watts area youths in the project since its inception in summer of 1966 is that "there has been a tremendous change in these young people. Their attitude toward themselves and, consequently, toward the staff and also visitors to the program are markedly outgoing, and the cussing and fighting which were common occurrences eight months ago are an exception now."

Further on in the same report, we find this paragraph:

A majority of the N.Y.C.'s have indicated an interest in receiving more than a salary—in being trained for (1) jobs, and (2) "leadership."

Ted Watkins, formerly an active trade unionist, a resident of Watts and the director of the project, said recently:

We want to make these young guys feel they've got a role to play as men. It's amazing to see the change in them—and amazing to see the change in the adults of the community, too—they used to be afraid of these kids.

Some of these kids were the looters, they were the burners, they were the ones who started the riot. Now, they say to me, "we don't want to do anything in this community to mess it up no more." Now, they're saying this is *our* community, this is *our* program.

On Wednesday, July 12, 1967, the Los Angeles Times, a newspaper that cannot be accused of being pro-labor, ran an editorial commending the WLCAC as "one of the most useful antipoverty programs to be inaugurated for the Watts area in recent years."

The Central Labor Council of Alameda County, AFL-CIO (Oakland, Calif.), is the sponsor of another Neighborhood Youth Corps project. A three-phased project, it is intended to give 400 youths good work habits and experience, then to train them in marketable skills and finally to place them in jobs at decent wages.

The East Bay Labor Journal, labor's official newspaper in Alameda County, gives the union's reasons for sponsoring this project: "The CLC leaders are determined to make the Labor Council's program an effective contribution to lowering Oakland's unemployment rate among teenagers and easing racial tension by helping youths help themselves. A large proportion of the youths in the program are members of minority groups.