

Mr. ROBIE. Yes, if you will accept our standards which you could have as many standards as people looking. Also, if you accept or appreciate the qualification that we have dealt with very few kids and the part of the program that seems to me now to be working best has been going a very short time.

With all of those qualifications, I guess we should show we are showing encouraging signs that what we are doing will work out sufficiently well to be worth the money and that it has implications which if tried through the medium of something like an Industry Youth Corps might be quite helpful.

I qualified it all over the place, I realize, but I think it is necessary. We started out with 17 kids. We tried to get 20, but it turned out to be 17. We have 11 kids still going and we think all of those kids are going to make it as far as the equivalency examination is concerned.

When you look at those who dropped out, many dropped out for behavior reasons—two went into the service, two moved away, and so on, and I think we just had two we couldn't do anything with. They couldn't come in on time continuously and they couldn't develop work habits.

Mr. DELLENBACK. I think that is an excellent record. In the selection of the 17, how selective were you?

Mr. ROBIE. We were reasonably selective and I can only tell you in general the criteria. These youngsters had to have a motivation, a positive motivation about working for us. We had to be reasonably assured that the kids were coming with a positive notion and were not being bopped on the head to come.

Secondly, they had to have a minimum educational level. We did not accept complete illiterates. This involved certain test scores and so on.

I believe, and I should know the answer more accurately, it was roughly the eighth grade level that we were looking for. Of course, eighth grade level is different to different people, but there were the educational people we were working with did apply some minimal educational standards. Part of the problem was we could not work both with the same group of kids some of whom were complete illiterates and some who had some literacy.

The scope had to be within minimal levels.

The others had to do with narcotic offenses and sex offenses. We did eliminate those who had narcotic or sex problems or particular emotional problems, particularly those that might threaten our young girls.

Mr. DELLENBACK. So there must be screening and I think it is important that we realize that you are not here talking about a program which goes down to the complete illiterate. You are not talking about taking the young person who is at the bottom of the educational ladder, the really lowest level and starting from scratch. You were selective in what you did.

Mr. ROBIE. That is correct, although the educational people and the professionals who have done the educational piece started out, as I understand it, developing techniques and are still using these techniques on complete adult illiterates. They started their programs in the prisons dealing with people who couldn't read or write and developed the techniques there and more recently they have three levels. Level 1 is grade 1 to 5, level 2 is 5 to 8, and level 3 is 8 to 12. We were