

ROCHESTER, N.Y., July 26, 1967.

HON. CARL D. PERKINS,
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.:

In re telegram of 21st, based upon my experience in Treasury and Health, Education, and Welfare Departments and local experience, I am convinced that the separate independent agency, as now functioning, can be more effective in directing national effort against poverty than to distribute functions to regular departments. Individual program can be transferred as is already being done when experience indicates that functions can be carried on effectively in departments. Actual experience with War Production Board and Marshall plan clearly demonstrated the need for separate independent agency to obtain results in a major specific project which affects many different agencies whose prime concerns are in other fields.

MARION B. FOLSOM.

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL,
Boston, Mass., May 31, 1967.

LEE B. MACHT, M.D.,
Deputy Medical Director and Principal Psychiatrist, Job Corps, Office of Economic Opportunity, Washington, D.C.

DEAR DR. MACHT: I am writing to let you know the high opinion I have developed of the Mental Health Program in Job Corps which you direct under the supervision of Dr. Joseph T. English. As you know in my capacity as Senior Psychiatric Consultant to the Office of Economic Opportunity I have learned a great deal about your program in the Job Corps, and during the past year I have also had an opportunity to gain experience of the accomplishments and potentialities of this program at the grass roots level in my consultation to the Rodman Job Corps Camp in New Bedford. I believe that the work you are doing in the Job Corps is in direct line with the accomplishments of our mental health program in the Peace Corps over the past six years and represents a most important development in American psychiatry.

I have just returned from a conference in England on the training of young people for rescue, relief and service under the chairmanship of H.R.H. Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and at that meeting I reported on some of your achievements in the Job Corps. I particularly stressed the educational potential of your institution in fostering maturation and personality development of disadvantaged adolescents and emphasized the significance of this program for the entire field of promoting mental health and preventing mental disorder in the population. The leaders of British medicine and service organizations who were present at the conference were tremendously impressed with your achievements in the Job Corps, and felt that they can learn many lessons from it which might be utilized on their side of the Atlantic.

I am glad that as in the Peace Corps psychiatrists have been able to contribute to this educational and health promotional program. It is important that we psychiatrists expand our activities outside our strictly clinical domains to use our skills in fostering the development of personality strength in populations at special risk such as young people disadvantaged by reason of poverty, prejudice and social and educational deprivation, so that they will be better able to master the stresses and strains of life in healthy, socially acceptable ways rather than being forced to escape into mental disorder and abnormality.

As you know I am currently preoccupied with the major problem of changing the training of our young psychiatrists both in medical schools and in State and Veterans Administration mental hospitals in order to equip them to play a more effective part in the comprehensive community mental health programs which are being so actively fostered at present both by federal and state governments. I feel that the Mental Health Program of the Job Corps provides an unrivalled opportunity for field work both for the psychiatric residents and their supervisors in the enrichment of traditional training programs and in the development of new community oriented techniques to supplement our traditional clinical methods. It is important for psychiatrists to get outside their clinics and hospitals into community institutions and situations where they can deal with people who are having problems of adjustment which are not defined as yet in psychiatric terms, but which if not handled appropriately might easily lead to mental disorder. By providing such an opportunity spread out over the whole country and therefore potentially available as a practicum in many different