

In stressing local involvement, including involvement of the poor, OEO must take every precaution to assure that political involvement is not substituted. There are far too many disturbing stories of the prostitution of community action for partisan purposes. To be effective, community action must be removed from the arena of partisan politics. This is an important condition for our recommendation to keep title II(a) under OEO auspices.

We would hope that if OEO can concentrate on the important community action programs in the coming year, these programs can be improved and made more effective. We plan to give these programs a careful evaluation in the coming year.

Chairman PERKINS. Let me compliment you, Mr. Burkhardt. I always enjoy hearing the chamber of commerce and to know that we seldom agree on viewpoints.

I take it that you are against the Job Corps, lock, stock and barrel.

Mr. BURKHART. That is not what our testimony was.

Our testimony was that we do feel that it has a very important new concept that has been added to our general programs and that it should be kept alive.

Chairman PERKINS. Kept alive?

Mr. BURKHART. We feel that it could be better handled under a different agency.

Chairman PERKINS. In other words, you are strongly supporting the so-called Opportunity Crusade?

Mr. BURKHART. As a matter of fact, we took this position before the Opportunity Crusade was ever announced.

Chairman PERKINS. Do you realize we are reaching a type of youngster in the Job Corps that has not been reached in our vocational educational institutions today?

Mr. BURKHART. I think that is the reason we feel that the identity or the concept should be continued.

Chairman PERKINS. In other words, the concept of the know-how and the training experience that we are obtaining from the Job Corps at the present time you feel should be continued.

Mr. BURKHART. That is right, sir.

Chairman PERKINS. Now, I think you will agree with me that through the continuation that our school system, all of it, including vocational schools and residential centers will tremendously benefit from the standpoint of knowing how to train and give basic education to the youngster that is dropped from the Job Corps today, that is it from the bottom of the ladder. Do you agree with that statement?

Mr. BURKHART. If I understood it correctly, yes. We certainly think that that youngster deserves the best training we can give him. I don't think we necessarily agree that he is getting that now.

Chairman PERKINS. Don't you think that these centers then should continue for a few years, at least, maybe several years, before the change takes place?

Mr. BURKHART. We feel that the center can be integrated into one unified program under the Office of Education. We feel these things are all related.

Chairman PERKINS. Do you feel that subsequently IBM and Graflex are not doing as good a job as the vocational educators will do today?