

The Labor Department administers two outstanding programs in our community—the manpower development program and the Neighborhood Youth Corps. The manpower development program is administered on a local level jointly by the division of economic security (unemployment office) and the Hazard Area Vocational School. This program was started in 1962. Currently, the Hazard Area Vocational School has enrolled 600 persons from a four-county area.

Various types of training courses have been offered—everything from a short order cook to a bulldozer operator. Eighty percent of all students are successful in attaining full-time, gainful employment. The mine repair training course had 100 percent placement, and we could have used more. This is a program where an unemployed, head of a household has regained his dignity by becoming a wage earner, and a taxpayer instead of a tax drain. You gentlemen, the members of this committee, are to be congratulated for being the authors of the enabling legislation.

Now, let me relate to you another success story. The Neighborhood Youth Corps is, as you well know, administered also by the Department of Labor, through the local community action council. We have 350 youths between ages of 16 and 21 who are dropouts or who have never attended school. They work 32 hours per week for \$1.25 an hour. Most enrollees are required to attend some form of educational class. There are four distinct categories. One is remedial education classes, for those who have not completed the ninth grade.

Second, we have commercial classes for typing and shorthand.

Third, we have G.E.D. classes to prepare enrollees for the G.E.D. high school equivalency test. Fourth, for those who can neither read nor write we have basic elementary classes. We also correct any physical defects found during a physical examination, the first such examination many of the youngsters have ever had.

The enrollment period is for 6 months. If a time extension is indicated, the enrollment is extended for an additional 6 months.

During a 12-month period we have about 800 enrollees. Of these, 10 percent or 80 young people get placed directly into jobs before their 6 months are up; 20 percent or 160 of them continue in some form of training, such as vocational school, nursing, or reenter school; 30 percent or 240 young persons obtain employment after being in the Neighborhood Youth Corps for 6 or 12 months. The remaining 40 percent, after their enrollment time expires, go to military service, get married, or for various personal reasons do not join the ranks of employed persons.

From the foregoing figures you can easily see that 60 percent of the 800 persons or 480 youths of this county have upgraded their living standards at a cost of about \$1,000 each to the Federal Government. This is a sum that will be repaid in a short time in the form of income taxes—a tax they never before paid.

The Neighborhood Youth Corps has a staff of 17 people. Nine of these staff workers were unemployed before the program started. From this it can be seen that we are reaching the target group—adults who were unemployed.

Gentlemen of this committee, I say to you, this is a program where the money is well spent. Multiply our success times the number of projects in the Nation and you have one large success story.