

3304 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

munity action concept, Job Corps, New Careers, Day Care Programs, OIC, many novel vocational training programs, and so on.

The work of OEO is just beginning. Its administration, as well as every program, can be improved. The chamber can help, with its research and constructive suggestions. But don't recommend that this new organization, OEO, have less influence in poverty programs when its work is just beginning and when it can be such a valuable tool to the business community.

Let me give you a simple business analogy of the work that OEO has done for the disadvantaged poverty families. If our company, in the shoe business, had developed a shoe program for a group of natives in an under-developed country who never before had worn shoes, we would have had many supply problems, but primarily a motivational program in convincing these people that they should wear shoes. After two years of this program, suppose that we knew we had been successful, to some extent, were making progress and were making a profit. This does not say that we had made the maximum profit or that our program could not improve or that perhaps some other shoe company could even have done a better job. But with the two years experience, it is unlikely that another shoe company without any experience in this new shoe program could do any better job. In fact, the odds would be that they would start two years behind, having to learn everything that we had learned in the two year period. A more positive way to accelerate this worthwhile endeavor would be to make every suggestion possible to our company for improving our work, but not relieve us of the responsibility for any part of it. In fact, make us totally responsible for all phases of it.

In an effort to be precise and constructive, I have attached a point-by-point comment on your summary of recommendations (page 1) in your "Youth and the War on Poverty" pamphlet.

I invite you, any of your staff and members to visit us in the Roanoke Valley and see for yourself what is being done here. Too often, research work is done without the benefit of firsthand field experience. In addition, I would be happy to participate with you in any discussions on this subject, particularly between now and your next testimony before Congress.

Sincerely,

CABELL BRAND,
President.

COMMENTS ON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PUBLICATION,
"YOUTH AND THE WAR ON POVERTY"

(Refer to Page 3, *Summary of Recommendations*)

The Job Corps

1. Evidence suggests that the Job Corps is failing to lead to jobs for which it has trained youth—one of its major purposes.

2. Although 76% of formerly unemployed, or unemployed youths have attained employment since leaving the Job Corps.

3. Only 28% of the graduates are working at jobs for which they were trained.

4. 74% of the enrollees are no longer employed in the job in which the Job Corps indicated they were placed.

The fact that the Job Corps is failing to lead to jobs for which it is training its youth is of relative unimportance. The same is true of nearly all educational institutions. In our industrial society, most workers are retrained every five years. What is important is that 76% of Job Corps enrollees have obtained employment after leaving Job Corps and these are the youngsters who have failed in or have been failed by all other institutions of our society.

5. Employers rate the majority of the graduates' training, skill level and work habits as only "poor" or "satisfactory".

It is not surprising, nor alarming, that employers rate the majority of the graduates performance as only "poor" or "satisfactory". Nine months, the average length of stay of an enrollee, is a very short period of time in which to redirect and retrain heretofore unemployable or unemployed persons. Only long range training programs will produce "excellent" work habits. This is an area in which business and industry might work with Job Corps and produce a really dynamic follow-up.

6. OEO can supply gross statistics about programs, but detailed statistics and information regarding cost, educational increment and enrollee placement are imprecise, or non-existent.

This is, I am fairly certain, a just criticism. The cost of quantitative and qualitative analysis and evaluation is extremely high. TAP has been pushing