

3534 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

1. The job he is doing, or is qualified for, is classified as "unskilled" and regardless of how long it has been since he worked full-time.

2. The job he is doing, or is qualified for, is classified as "semi-skilled," providing it has been at least 27 weeks since he has been employed full-time.

A youth who is working part-time or seasonally is not eligible if the job he is doing, or is qualified for, is classified as "skilled."

A youth who is working or qualified for a job classified as "skilled" is not eligible unless he is now unemployed and never worked full-time, or has been out of full-time work 53 weeks or more.

Under exceptional circumstances, the screener may request a waiver of this requirement. Very few such waivers have been granted. An example of a circumstance under which a waiver may be granted is a case where a youth working part-time at a job classified as "semi-skilled" has no prospects for a full-time job.

Job Corps has carefully examined the pre-employment characteristics of Job Corps youth. The most meaningful measure of pre-Job Corps employment is analyses we have made from reported Social Security earnings. These indicate the highly unsatisfactory work experience of Job Corps trainees prior to their entry. While six out of ten have worked at one time or another, their average annual income is \$639 and they are employed slightly more than one-half time at average wages of \$1.15 to \$1.20 an hour.

Other information developed by survey shows that at the moment new enrollees enter Job Corps, only 49% are employed and most of these jobs appear to be temporary or holding jobs while the youth is awaiting assignment. We are not aware of any instances in which youth holding meaningful jobs at reasonable wages were admitted into Job Corps. Any such instance, unless there were extenuating circumstances, would indeed be an error on the part of the screener or vocational counselor.

I hope this information will be of help to you. If I can provide you with any further information, please let me know.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

W. P. KELLY, *Director, Job Corps.*

Mr. PERKINS. This afternoon session will conclude the hearings on H.R. 8311 and H.R. 1068 and other measures relating to the extension of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

I have pursued a policy of giving all the members all the way along an opportunity to bring in any witnesses that they so desire.

I likewise have ordered the opportunity especially to the minority and I want to state at the insistence of Mr. Quie, Mr. Goodell, and Mr. Gardner, that they could have the opportunity this afternoon to bring in witnesses they wanted to bring before the committee with the understanding that we conclude the hearings some time today or tonight.

I have likewise called the Office of Economic Opportunity to tell them if they wanted an opportunity to rebut any statements they would have the opportunity to do so immediately at the conclusion of the statements of the witnesses before the committee.

I think without exception almost all of the witnesses have acclaimed their positiveness in getting results under the Economic Opportunity Act.

All of them have expressed the fact that the act should be continued and all have stated that additional funds should be provided to strengthen ongoing programs.

I look forward to the contribution that the witnesses have provided to enable this committee to write legislation which I hope will clear this committee in the very near future.

Let me welcome all of you gentlemen before the committee.

I will yield to Mr. Ayres.