

3670 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

WOMBLE MOUNTAIN AREA AGENCY, HARRISBURG, ILLINOIS

APRIL 24, 1967 . . . "I just thought you might be interested in learning about a golden opportunity which has been offered and accepted by two N.Y.C. Out-of-School Enrollees here in Harrisburg.

"Mr. M. C. Nelson, business administrator for the Shawnee National Forest Service asked about two months ago for two N.Y.C. Enrollees to work at the Forest Service Office. Mr. Nelson had in mind, however, more than just someone to do some odd jobs. He wanted to set up an intensive training program in which the enrollees would receive the knowledge and practical experience which would qualify them to take a Federal Civil Service Exam. This would be done with the expectation that they would pass the exam and the Forest Service could hire them permanently.

"I referred to them a young lady, Mary Ann White and a young man, Vernie Cowan, both of whom have been working on the N.Y.C. since September 1966. It has been about six weeks since they started with the Forest Service. I have checked with Mary Ann and Vernie and Mr. Nelson several times since they started and everything is working out beautifully.

"The first Civil Service Exam which they will take is scheduled for June of this year. Mr. Nelson doubts that they have enough training to pass the test but he feels that just the experience of taking the test will better prepare them for passing it next time.

"Because of the N.Y.C. these two youths have been given a real chance; one they probably would not have had otherwise. I am very encouraged by this case and hope it can be duplicated many more times. Allow me to express thanks from these youths to you for your help in making this opportunity available.

"Yours truly,

"DAVID A. KNIGHT.

"MARIAN EPPERHEIMER."

JERSEYVILLE PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, JERSEYVILLE, ILLINOIS

APRIL 29, 1967 . . . "The Illinois Farmers Union Youth Corps has been of great value to the youth of Jersey County. It has been my privilege to observe the physical, mental and social maturity of nine boys and girls earning enough money to help them remain in school for perhaps the first time.

"A notable change occurred in the appearance and behavior patterns of these young people as they were able to handle responsibilities in supervising recreational games, hikes, nature and craft sessions of children in our local recreation program.

"This winter, Jim Powers, a fine young N.Y.C. worker has gained much maturity as he assisted our department in organizing and operating an adult recreation program. In addition, he was able to lend service to grade school boys in the department's basketball school conducted on Saturdays.

"One of the true values of your program, Mr. Watson, is the effect it has had on the entire community. The local recreation department, for example, has been able to offer and provide children as well as adults a better and more complete recreation program for leisure time activities because of the assistance of the N.Y.C.

"Sincerely,

"PAUL MCGARVEY."

MT. VERNON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL, MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS

MAY 2, 1967 . . . "We have eight people on this program and have been well pleased with the results. They have learned to work, get their hair cut regularly, wear clean clothes and have become better students and better citizens. One boy, David Michael Flint, had quit school and was in jail on a fairly serious charge. The judge released him on a condition that he get back in school. I got him on this program and arranged for some other help for him. He has never missed a day of school or a work assignment, is carrying five subjects, among them Algebra 2, Chemistry and Physics. His last grade card showed three A's and two B's and he has been invited to attend Engineering Day at the University of Illinois. He is going to receive an Engineering Scholarship and being an engineer myself I know that there are far too few of us and we are too old.

"This boy from a broken, impoverished, home will be a good engineer and have a good life.