

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967 3671

"If this boy had been sent to the penal farm for just six months his cost of maintenance would have been several times the cost of the entire program here.

"I certainly believe the Youth Corps to be the best of the domestic programs and I think the Illinois Farmer's Union should be complimented for sponsoring it.

"CLARENCE PEARSON."

ELDORADO TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL, ELDORADO, ILL.

MAY 9, 1967 . . . "It becomes a difficult task to describe a young girl named Blanche Unsell. She has been reared in filth, poverty and ignorance. Her family history of drinking, illiteracy, brawling, unemployment and government aid is long and discouraging. However, she has raised herself from this to be the leader in the family situation.

"Blanche came to me as a hooky player early in the school year. She was a belligerent child with a temper and many angry words to match it. Her favorite past-time was quitting school. She began her work in my room when I requested her assistance as a plan to interest her in school. Fortunately, at this time, we found that I would be able to have her under my supervision for the work program. Along with encouragement from her teachers and many workers around school, the transformation began. She has emerged a person with a sense of responsibility, initiative, self-pride and determination. Because of this, she has made many new friends.

"Blanche now speaks of acquiring a vocation after high school. It is just short of a miracle for her to complete high school, as she will be the first in a family of nine children to do this."

FROM AN INDIANA STUDENT

SEPTEMBER 2, 1967 . . . "I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the benefit I received by being a member of the Neighborhood Youth Corps. By being on the program and working in the Dearborn County Clerk's office I obtained the knowledge of office procedure and the data concerning legal matters, and as a result I obtained a secretarial position with a local attorney, Richard Ewan.

"I wish to express my thanks to the Neighborhood Youth Corps and the Clerk's office in Lawrenceburg for the rewarding opportunity I received.

"Very truly yours,

"LINDA J. WILHELM."

EXAMPLES OF PRESS COOPERATION

NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS HAS 180 ENROLLED IN FOUR COUNTIES

One hundred and eighty high school students presently are enrolled under a special summer Neighborhood Youth Corps program sponsored by the Illinois Farmers Union through the Womble Mountain Area Agency for Economic Opportunity, it was reported today by W. H. Riggs, director of that area agency.

Designed to offer employment, training and counseling to young men and women 16-21 who will return to high school this fall, the NYC project is aimed at helping young people eligible for benefits under the Economic Opportunity Act.

A cooperative program, the local NYC projects were set up jointly through the Illinois Farmers Union, the Womble Mountain Agency and the Illinois State Employment Service with funds provided through the Department of Labor which administers NYC nationwide.

The 180 students are employed in projects in Saline, Gallatin, Pope and Hardin counties. They are employed in the offices in the court house and in city offices in Eldorado and Harrisburg, plus 17 villages in the four-county area. The work in the villages is generally clean-up and beautification programs.

Ray Watson, president of the Illinois Farmers Union, said: "The unselfish cooperation of local communities, volunteers and professionals is making possible 2,280 job opportunities for young men and women across the state this summer. There can be no doubt that the true benefits of this excellent program will be felt by many generations to come since all of the young people involved have displayed a willingness to work their way into better economic opportunities. For them, this program is a positive step in the right direction."