

Second, I think when we are looking for work; when the training is not adequate to prepare us for those jobs, the Congress has to, with an open mind, hear the pleas of people who want to work. The poor do not like welfare any more than you like it. We are simply here to say we want jobs but you cannot, it seems to us, say to them when they say, we come to look for work, we are not going to let you work. They are here as a last resort. They are desperate.

One of the things that is striking me a lot is the growing bitterness of the young people. I think I am finding, even in my old age, and I found that the SNCC kids in Mississippi found, that many people have illusions that riots cannot occur in the South. SNCC is already passé among the 13-, 14-, and 15-year-old kids. These are kids who have grown up in the civil rights movement, who have picketed, they have gone to jails, who have gone to schools despite the violence, who have seen their political candidates lose, who have heard us in the law area sort of say, we cannot change it legally and who have seen us fail year after year after year and see themselves worse off than they ever were. There is very little we can say to them now.

What is even worse to see, I think, is the perception of these children. I want to tell you very briefly the kind of things little kids in Mississippi are writing today which frighten me, but which I think reflect the hypocrisy in this country which I think has to be changed. I have told this story two or three times and I like it a lot, but I think it points up what is wrong with the way the country is working.

This was done in 1964 in a Freedom school by a little girl. It was a parody on Cinderella. She called it Cindy Lillie. Cindy Lillie said she lived in McComb, Miss. Every year in McComb, there was a great big ball in the armory. Somehow the little girl heard the ball was given. It was given by the Ku Klux Klan. Every year, she begged her mother to go to the ball because she saw all the people going all dressed up. Every year, her mother would say, maybe next year, Cindy Lillie, you're not old enough, or you don't have the clothes this year. Year after year, Cindy Lillie persisted and year after year, her mother had an excuse. Finally, when she was a little bit bigger, she was so persistent that her mother could not give any excuse in the world. So she thought and she said, you don't have any escort.

Cindy Lillie said, "Oh, yes; I do," and you must remember this was 1964, she said, "Prince Charming Bobby Kennedy is going to take me to the ball." Her mother said, "It is very doubtful," but Cindy Lillie said, "No, he promised me."

So comes the night of the ball and an hour before it was to start up, Cindy Lillie got a telegram from Prince Charming that he could not make it. Her mother said, "I told you so."

But Cindy Lillie said, "That is all right, I can go anyway." So off she went down to the armory in McComb, Miss., with her little invitation. She stuffed the 14th amendment in her purse and also the Civil Rights Act.

She came to the armory and heard all the laughter and the music inside and she knocked on the doors. They did not open it. She kept knocking and finally these other guests came by so Cindy Lillie went in with them. She saw the man at the door. He gruffly said, "What it it you want, little girl?"

She said, "I came to the ball, I was invited."