

Job Corps Centers Train For Industry

Two major industries—automotive and petroleum—are looking to the Job Corps as a source of trained employees. Both are having difficulty in filling such occupations as automotive service and repairmen, motorcycle repairman, gas station attendants and operators.

Job Corps, a major youth program in the President's War on Poverty, is training young men for such occupations, as well as many others in various service industries. Job Corps training centers, which are being established throughout the country, are designed to make employable those young men and women 16 through 21 who come from impoverished homes, who dropped out of school and, because of lack of education and work skills, are unable to obtain worthwhile employment.

Eight men's training centers have been announced and five already are in operation; four women's training centers have been announced and two are in operation. These are being operated under contract for the Office of Economic Opportunity, which is coordinating the War on Poverty, by major corporations, leading colleges and universities, and government and private agencies.

Nearly all of the men's training centers are providing instruction in automotive service and repairs and in gas station operations. Hundreds of young men already are engaged in these training courses, and it is expected they may be ready for entry-level jobs and additional training by industry later this year.

The finest training methods are being used in these centers, employing qualified instructors and using the most modern equipment and tools. Major automotive and petroleum companies are assisting in this training effort by providing to the centers a great deal of training and instructional equipment.

Training centers where automotive and petroleum industry instruction is being given are:

Kilmer Center at Edison, New Jersey, operated by the Federal Electric Corporation.

Tongue Point Center at Astoria, Oregon, where the training is being provided by Ford Motor Company's Philco Corporation.

Gary Center at San Marcos, Texas, operated by the Texas Educational Foundation.

Atterbury Center at Edinburg, Indiana, where the training is being given by Adler Educational Systems.

Breckenridge Center at Morganfield, Kentucky, operated by Southern Illinois University.

Parks Center at Pleasanton, California, operated by Litton Industries.

Custer Center at Battle Creek, Michigan, operated by U.S. Industries...

Information on how industry can play an active role in the training effort and the placement of trained Job Corpsmen may be obtained either from the director of the above centers or from Mr. Paul R. Woods, Job Corps, Room 712, 1200 19th St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20506; Phone: 382-5716 (Area Code 202).

What type of young man is in the Job Corps? A study of the first 1,000 young men revealed that the average Corpsman is 17 years old, unemployed and looking for work. He has finished ninth grade and has been out of school 11 months. Although he has less than a sixth grade reading and arithmetic achievement level, the average Corpsman has an intelligence level comparable to most young men of that age. The average Corpsman comes from a family of six, which lives in crowded, substandard housing, and his parents are unemployed

or hold an unskilled job.

In the Job Corps training center, the Corpsman is receiving basic education to raise his reading and arithmetic level, as well as work training. He is being taught the principles of citizenship and proper work habits and attitudes. A voluntary program, Job Corps is accepting young men who give indication of being able to profit from training and who need and want it. More than 260,000 young men and women (80 percent of them young men) have indicated their interest in Job Corps).

Book Review

SAMUEL B. MAGILL, Editor

GETTING THROUGH TO PEOPLE

by Jesse S. Nirenberg

Prentice-Hall, Inc.

\$4.95

211 pp.

For insight into the ways of overcoming communications barriers this book may prove quite helpful. It stresses the problems of becoming a real person and of making others aware of oneself as an individual, which are necessary first steps towards getting through to people.

Another big difficulty, according to the author, is in the proper use of words to convey meanings. Words are tricky things, and easily misunderstood. A book about Africa becomes, in one person's mind, a tale of sports and safaris, while to another it recalls newspaper stories of the emergent nations.

Words are general. In order to make them mean specific things, we must use

more words. Yet these qualifying words in turn, are general. Think of the word "dog." To me this might be a black poodle; to you, a brown female dachshund.

Is it any wonder, then, that misunderstandings crop up in human relationships? This is the problem to which the book addresses itself—and it contains many useful ideas for overcoming these misunderstandings.

The author, an industrial psychologist, has lectured widely to business groups and knows the problems of businessmen. The core of his argument could have been told in fewer words, but this might have resulted in a less powerful impression. However, the easy, conversational style and the profusion of illustrative dialogues make this more of a narrative, to be read once and then placed on the shelf, than a reference work.

S.B.M.