



# WASHINGTON REPORT

Prepared by *Education-Training Market Report*

JOB CORPS ON MOVE: Action to implement Nixon Job Corps program is under way. Corps, now in Labor Department, will establish some 30 inner-city centers to replace urban and conservation centers phased out last year.

William J. Haltigan, acting assistant director of Job Corps reports Job Corps budget of \$180 million for centers. Of this, \$175 million will be expended by Labor Department and \$5 million is reserved for OEO research and demonstration projects.

Five inner-city centers have already been funded, and are in operation. Centers are: Edison, N. J., \$1,710,000, New Jersey Department of Education, prime contractor; Honolulu, \$1,381,999, Hawaiian Department of Labor and Industry, prime contractor; Phoenix, Ariz., \$1,398,903, Packard-Bell Corp., prime contractor; Atlanta, Ga., \$1,685,004, Thiokol Corp., prime contractor; Portland, Ore., \$1,192,500, Multnomah School District #1, prime contractor. Job Corps will soon let contract in St. Louis, but details are not yet available.

Under past procedures, contractor was responsible for site discovery, subject to Job Corps approval. Job Corps now has directly undertaken this task and now is negotiating for several sites, and looking for others. Requests for proposals will be issued as soon as sites are obtained. Both profit and nonprofit organizations are eligible to operate centers.

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MOVES TO OEO: Marvin Feldman, special assistant to U. S. Education Commissioner Allen, leaves Office of Education to become director of Research and Development Division at OEO, as life of agency is extended for two years by Congress without major change in agency operation or authority. Feldman's background includes stint at Ford Foundation where he was in charge of educational innovation.

Meanwhile, OEO appears to be trying to find middle "non-boat-rocking" course. While Director Donald Rumsfeld fought hard and successfully to prevent turning over of OEO programs to states, he has also struck

out at "militant" anti-poverty fighters and could face conflicts with big city mayors since he has threatened to end flow of federal funds to Community Action Agencies and projects he feels are ineffective, super-militant or mismanaged.

On taking office, Rumsfeld promised to make OEO center of innovation in anti-poverty fight, but laboratory concept has yet to produce visible results. So far, at least, agency seems to lack direction. Feldman move into agency could spell attempt to step up innovative approaches, at least in education areas.

Research appears to have highest priority at OEO at this time. Agency is all but out of manpower, but can experiment in education for disadvantaged and possibly, in training methodology. Action experimental manpower projects, however, remain centered in Labor Department.

Research staff in OEO has been doubled to about 100 and go-ahead on innovation, including education, reportedly has been given. OEO funding will include usual contracts and grants, but agency is expected to experiment with voucher concept permitting disadvantaged individuals to purchase education and job training in open market.

Voucher concept--advocated by some social scientists as answer to public school failure in inner cities--could permit poor parents to "purchase" education from private schools. In this connection, Center for Study of Public Policy, Cambridge, Mass., is devising experiment for elementary schooling. Experiment would test worth of competition in education. Parents in experiment could buy education for their children from public schools, existing private schools or new kinds of schools devised and run by industry.

OEO is also expected to fund \$10 million day care experiment, stressing health, early childhood education and remedial and child development services of various kinds. Experiment is intended to find means of structuring day care services on massive scale. Day care is major element in Nixon welfare concept which stresses work for welfare mothers.

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POSTAL SERVICE INSTITUTE: Postal Service Management Institute, 7900 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, Md., is talking with private training corporations and consultants regarding curriculum development for management training. Report from source inside agency is that there are "significant" funds for this purpose.

Post Office has also announced it will open "store front" academies in six cities to train dropouts and other disadvantaged ghetto youth for jobs in postal service. Agency will also train present employees who cannot advance because of educational handicaps.

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