

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mr. Dan E. Sweat, Jr.  
Director, Governmental Liaison  
City of Atlanta

DATE: May 17, 1968

FROM: T. M. Parham *TM*  
Executive Administrator  
Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc.

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The Neighborhood Youth Corps (Out-of-School) program for EOA is being reduced by the U.S. Department of Labor beginning with a new budget year beginning July 7, 1968 from 440 slots to 330, a cut of 25%. For the past few weeks we have been under orders not to fill vacancies until we've reached 80% of our currently allotted 440 slots.

Conversations with Regional Labor Department officials, specifically Mr. Ludwin Branch, Director of the Bureau of Work Training Program and Mr. Sam Lubin, indicate that this is a result of a national reduction in funds for this program. Other information which has come to me from personal contacts indicate the possibility that money is being shifted from one region of the country to another in order to provide additional youth job opportunities in some of the larger cities. Mr. Bill Allison on a recent trip to Chicago was informed that that city received 15,000 additional NYC slots for the summer. I plan to check on this next week while in Chicago for another meeting.

It is my further understanding from the Regional Office that the Neighborhood Youth Corps (In-School Program) operated by the public school is expected to be cut 15-20% for the next school year, however, it is true that the Atlanta Public Schools have been awarded 300 extra slots for the summer. I assume that when

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the summer slots expire the 15-20% cut will be imposed and the schools will have fewer jobs opportunities for youth next school year than this school year.

As I indicated to you this is one of the most practical programs ever developed regarding employment opportunities for youth. It has not been as attractive to boys as to girls but it has enabled many youngsters to secure some well supervised work training experience, make some money, and move on to better jobs and/or advanced education.

In addition to these values, the work performed by these youngsters has been extremely valuable to the public agencies where they have been employed.

Unless there is some other program being developed which will accomplish these same aims, it is extremely unwise to further limit our potential for job opportunities for these young people between the ages of 16-21. As you well know the number of youngsters looking for such opportunities has increased far beyond the availability of jobs. I cannot understand, without further explanation, the line of reasoning which prompts this action from Washington. It would be appreciated if this could be called to the attention of Mayor Allen and that he be asked to inquire of National Administration officials why this is occurring.

TMP/gj