

Job Corps Director Claims

Center Success Should Decide Future

In the face of the controversy over the Women's Job Corps Center, Dr. Bert Jones, director of the Center, stated this week he thought a decision on whether to renew the Job Corps contract should be made after determining if the Center has been successful in achieving its objectives.

"We feel that we are meeting our objectives," Dr. Jones said. The Center's objectives are to provide an education equivalent to a high school diploma and to improve the girl's social attitudes, he added.

Dr. Jones reported that since opening the Center here at Northern Michigan, 1,056 girls have been enrolled. Of the enrollees who completed training at the Center in the past, Dr. Jones noted that 58 percent have had placement in jobs.

Dr. Jones said that some of the girls are transferred to YWCAs for their placement.

He further reported that since the Center's opening two and one half years ago, 111 girls have obtained high school diplomas from the Center itself and 45 from Marquette High School.

Dr. Jones said of the Faculty Senate's recommendation that the Job Corps Center be removed from the campus or, if this were not feasible immediately, that NMU not seek renewal of the Job Corps contract, that the Senate "made an honest reaction to the President's request for an evaluation of the effects of the Job Corps Center on the University community." He took issue, though, with some of the statements made by the Faculty Senate.

Refuting the Senate's charge that the Job Corps enrollees are taking the University Center away from Northern students, Dr. Jones said, "I think that if a survey is made it will be found that there are very few Job Corps girls who use the University Center in relation to the total number who do use it."

Dr. Jones also stated that he felt it was the guests of NMU students and Job Corps enrollees who are causing the problems in the University Center and not the Job Corps girls. He said that out of two and one half years, there has been only one incident involving a Job Corps enrollee in the University Center and that the girl involved was suspended immediately.

"There have been practically no incidents between Job Corps enrollees and University

students and only a few incidents with the Security Police," Dr. Jones said. Only ten girls were involved in the black militant sit-in which forced cancellation of the NMU-Pan American basketball game last month.

Dr. Jones announced that an invitation has been extended by the Job Corps Center to NMU students to tour the Center. Tours began today and will be conducted next Monday and Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Students wishing to take the tour are to meet in the Carey Hall lounge, where bus transportation will be provided to the Birds-Eye Building.