

Women's Job Corps Issue Here Reviewed:

Diggs Pleased With Visit Here, But Charges Racial Overtones In Controversy

By **ROBERT L. BIOLO**
Of The Journal Staff

Rep. Charles C. Diggs Jr. (D-Mich.) of Detroit believes his fact-finding trip on the Women's Job Corps issue in Marquette Tuesday "will serve a very worthwhile purpose."

The congressman, who stepped into the controversy earlier this week, flew to Marquette Tuesday and spent the entire afternoon and evening meeting with officials, faculty representatives and black students of Northern Michigan University and with Job Corps Center officials and trainees.

Interviews At Base
Negro official in Michigan and dean of the Democratic congressional delegation to Washington, also visited K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base, where he interviewed over 100 black airmen.

Although expressing praise and gratitude for his reception here and a more moderate view on the Job Corps situation, Diggs asserted there are racial overtones involved in the controversy. "There's no question in my mind about this," he said.

Diggs said the acceptance of the black Job Corps enrollees and their visitors (meaning the Negro servicemen from Sawyer) on the part of certain elements on the campus and certain elements in the community is different than the acceptance of white Job Corps enrollees and their guests.

Pleased With Jamrich
But the Detroit congressman said he was pleased with the attitude of Dr. John X. Jamrich, president of NMU.

"I am impressed with the strong commitment of the president of the university in trying to resolve these problems in a fair fashion," Diggs stated.

Jamrich commented: "We were honored and privileged to have the congressman visit the university. We welcomed the opportunity to discuss with him the program of the Women's Job Corps and the various factors affecting the center and the black students on campus."

"We intend to continue our systematic effort to obtain recommendations (concerning the Job Corps) from other groups and we will discuss the matter in January with the Northern Board of Control, which will make the decision on the matter of the retention of the program."

Jamrich said the decision concerning the Job Corps will be made with no consideration to race.

"As we have pointed out before," Jamrich said, "there are four points which we will consider in this matter. These are (1) the philosophy of the program, (2) the success of the program in terms of achievements, (3) the use we've made of the program and (4) the financial and other considerations relative to the center."

Diggs was due in at 10:30 Tuesday morning, but the chartered plane didn't arrive until 12:15 p.m.

Other Board Members

He had lunch with Dr. Fred C. Sabin, Marquette; Joseph J. Gross, Detroit, and Walter C. Drevdahl, Sault Ste. Marie, all members of the NMU Board of Control, at Jamrich's residence.

After meeting with them, Diggs conferred with the NMU vice presidents, NMU Faculty Senate representatives, deans and other top officials of the university.

Later in the afternoon he went to Sawyer, after which he returned to Northern, having dinner at the Job Corps Center in Carey Hall on campus and meeting with various groups there.

Focused Attention

"My presence here has helped focus attention on the whole question of this project," Diggs said. "I think I have encouraged those who want to retain the Job Corps, including the enrollees, certain administrators of NMU and officials of the center."

Diggs said the recommendation by the NMU Faculty Senate (urging removal of the center from the campus or solving certain social problems associated with it or else not renewing the contract next year) is only one of a set of recommendations to be made to Jamrich. (This fact was pointed out several times in stories last week in The Mining Journal on

the Job Corps.)

Called 'Premature'

The Faculty Senate recommendation report was termed "premature" by Diggs. Other reports and evaluations on the Job Corps will be made to Jamrich by the NMU Human Relations Council and other groups.

Diggs said the airmen at Sawyer complained about certain problems they had within this community and on the campus.

"The Women's Job Corps enrollees were complimentary to the community," Diggs said, "but not to what they considered the difference in attitude on the campus. They feel they are more accepted within the community than on the campus itself. The (black) airmen, on the other hand, feel there is a difference in their acceptance in both areas."

mendous morale problem"

Diggs said there is a "treating of the Negro servicemen on the base, which he said was due to "the feeling of rejection and differential treatment."

Girls Like Program

"The (Job Corps) girls are very enthusiastic about the value of the program and of the living experiences they are being exposed to," he said.

Diggs said the servicemen he spoke to also said a lot of problems and incidents attributed to them are not true.

"I believe there are several areas in Marquette which need strengthening," he stated. "The Human Relations Council ought to be enlarged and strengthened, and should involve representation of the entire community."

Need Positive Program

"It ought to develop a positive program to change attitudes and give more objective evaluations of people. This human relations activity has not been sufficient, in view of the times and in view of the increased number of black people in the area (principally from the Job Corps and Sawyer Base)."

The Detroit congressman said there is a reputation among Negroes in urban areas that there never has been a feeling of acceptance of blacks in the area from Marquette to Sault Ste. Marie. This impression, he said, has come from servicemen, veterans and college students who are Negroes.

"I am reinforced in my belief that this is not a cultural gap, which has caused this controversy, as it is a racial gap," he said.

Complaints On Housing

Diggs said complaints by black students he talked to included some specifically on

housing. The Negro students would respond to advertisements for vacancies, he said, and be told there were none when they applied and it was learned the applicants were Negro.

He said they also, in some cases, would be asked to make outrageous deposits, such as \$500, and even were point-blank told the housing was not available to Negroes.

But he concluded by saying he felt his visit "was a fruitful one," although he would have liked to have met with more city and civic officials, and that he would communicate with them.

Welcomed By Ruppe

Asked if he had contacted Rep. Philip E. Ruppe (8-11th District) of Houghton, the congressman for this District, Diggs said he had, and displayed a copy of a message from Ruppe, which said:

"Welcome to Marquette. Regret doctor's orders due to flu keep me from joining you today. Would certainly appreciate being kept informed of results of your fact-finding conferences."

Diggs, beginning his eight term as a Detroit congressman, said he will report, within a week, on his trip to Dr. Bennetta Washington, director of the Women's Job Corps, in Washington, D. C., and that he also would make a report to the secretary of the Air Force concerning the relationship of the black servicemen with respect to their problems on the campus and in the area, especially with regard to recreational outlets.

Gross, who also is a Negro, and who serves as director of

(See JOB CORPS on Page 6)

Travel Show Meet Here On Thursday

The Upper Michigan Tourist Assn. is holding a special travel show meeting at 1 p.m. Thursday in the Marquette Chamber of Commerce Building according to Ken Dorman, sec-

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Conferring with Dr. John X. Jamrich (seated, left), president of Northern Michigan University, are Congressman Charles C. Diggs Jr., Detroit, and (standing) Walter C. Dreydahl (left), Sault Ste. Marie, and Joseph J. Gross, Detroit, both members of the NMU Board of Control. Photo was taken Tuesday afternoon during Diggs' fact-finding visit to NMU in regard to the Women's Job Corps issue. — (Mining Journal photo.)

Job Corps Issue At NMU Eyed

(Continued from Page 2)

community relations for the Detroit Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, participated in the afternoon meetings Diggs and Jamrich had on the campus, but left for Detroit at 6 p.m. Diggs didn't complete his business until after 9 Tuesday night and then flew back.

Reviewed Negro Programs

Jamrich said he reviewed, among other things, the Martin Luther King Scholarship program at NMU, the enlargement of the black history in the university's library and the provision for more and better jobs for Negroes on the campus.

Jamrich also reported that the problems involved with the federal finance officers who administer the Women's Job Corps were explained to Diggs.

Prolonged Negotiations

These included the prolonged contract negotiations, which extended from May until August; the fact that payments for the February, March, April and

June Job Corps program were not received until July and the increase in the indirect cost of the center.

Indirect costs include the administrative staff and matters not directly charged to the Job Corps.

Jamrich observed that the first year's contract for the Job Corps was for \$2.8 million, the second year's \$1.8 million and this year's \$1.8 million. However, the number of enrollees (now 319) has remained fairly constant, just over the 300 mark.

Tighter On Program

"The federal officials are getting tighter on the program," Jamrich said, "and this has forced the center to operate

with 27 fewer staffers this year.

Figures provided by Dr. Burt Jones, Women's Job Corps Center director here, show the age of enrollees range from 16 to 22, with the median being 18. Eighty-four per cent come from the Midwest.

Racial Composition

As to the racial composition, Jones said, 69.9 per cent (223) are Negro, 27.6 per cent (88) are Caucasian, 1.6 per cent (5) are American Indian and .9 per cent (3) are Spanish-Americans.

Half of the enrollees' time is spent on vocational training and half in general education content areas. The latter includes reading, mathematics, oral and written communications, life skills (charm, social

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Bids must be received by 2 P.M. Friday, December 27, 1968.

The BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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Ex-NMU Board Member Chairman Of Michigan PSC

Willis F. Ward of Detroit, a former member of Northern Michigan University's Board of Control, has been named by Gov. George Romney as chairman of the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Ward, 35, a member of the

commission since January of 1966, succeeds Peter B. Spivak, who resigned to accept appointment as a judge of the Common Pleas Court of Detroit.

Term Expires Next Year
The new chairman will continue to serve out his present term which expires July 2, 1969.

Coincidentally, the attorney for NMU, George E. Hill, is a former chairman of the Michigan Public Service Commission, having served in that post before becoming district attorney for the western district of Michigan, and later returning to Marquette.

Hill will leave his NMU post next month to become Marquette County district judge.

Senate confirmation is not required for Ward's promotion.

Ward, an attorney, is a graduate of the University of Michigan. He received his law degree at the Detroit College of Law in 1939.

He was an assistant prosecu-

tor for Wayne County during 1947-48 and was an assistant U. S. attorney for Eastern Michigan from 1953-61.

Ward, a Negro, was a charter member of NMU's Board of Control, serving from 1964 until 1966.

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