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

By ROBERT L. BIONO
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 stopped into the controversy earlier this week, flew to Marquette Tuesday morning for an afternoon and evening meeting with officials, faculty representatives and black students of Northern Michigan University and with Job Corps Center officials and trainees.

Interview At Base

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

Although expressing praise for his reception here and a more moderate view on the Job Corps controversy, Diggs also stated there are racial overtones involved in the controversy. "There's a question in my mind about this," he said.

Diggs said the acceptance of the Job Corps by the black airmen and their visitors (meaning the Negro servicemen from Sawyer Air Force Base) is a part of the controversy in which the elements on the campus and certain elements in the community is different from the acceptable view of the Community on the air base.

Pleased With Jamrich

But the Detroit congressman said he was pleased with the attitude of John X. Jamrich, director of the Job Corps.

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

Jammed commented: "We were honored and privileged to have the congressman visit us and to have the opportunity to discuss with him the program of the Women's Job Corps and its effects on the Airmen and Omar Students affecting the center and the black students on campus."

Travel Show Meet Here

On Thursday

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

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In Detroit

Complaints On Housing

Diggs said complaints by blacks in the town talked to included some specifically on housing. The Negro students would respond to advertisement 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 extra deposits, such as $500, and even were partly-blank told the house was not available to Negroes.

But he concluded by saying he felt they had met with more city and civic officials, and that he would communicate with them.

Diggs By Ruppe

Asked if he had contacted Rep. Philip E. Ruppe (R-11th District) of Bouton, the congressman for this city, Diggs said he had, and display 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 conference."

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

Gross, who also is a Negro, and who serves as director of the Job Corps on Page 8.

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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 administered the Women's Job Corps were explained to Diggs.

Preliminary negotiations included the proposed contract negotiations, which extended from May until August; the fact that payments for the February, March, April and June Job Corps programs 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 $23 million, the second year's $18 million and this year's $15 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. Bart 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, 62.9 per cent (23,319) are Negro; 22.6 per cent (8,250) are Caucasian; 10.6 per cent (3,755) are American Indian and .9 per cent (34) 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 (typing, social

Ex-NMU Board Member
Chairman Of Michigan PSC

Wills 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, 58, a member of the psychiatric, community living (practical civics) and home and family living (a separate course), vocational enrollment.

The breakdown of those in the vocational enrollment follows: Practical nursing, 37; tailoring, 41; basic business (record keeping or typing), 86; clerk typist, 168; data processing, 20 and sales, 84.

The program was inaugurated June 22, 1966. There have been 29 class graduates here who have enrolled in college. The Job Corps Center here now has a staff of 92 persons.

Diggs' charter flight was arranged by Northern."

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