

NEWARK JUNIOR COLLEGE

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

November 18, 1940

President Harry D. Gideonse
Brooklyn College
Brooklyn, N.Y.

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear President Gideonse:

I have read with keen interest your proposal for the establishment of camps for college men in which the emphasis would be placed upon vocational training. Many of us know the major criticism of our American colleges and universities. This criticism is indeed justified when statistics show unemployment of college students and graduates to be a current problem. One of the vital causes of this condition is the lack of adequate training of our students for specific jobs.

Many of us agree that a general education in a college implies vocational training as well as a cultural and an intellectual training of our students. A camp for college students would meet these needs. Students would enrich their cultural and vocational background in such an environment. It is most unfortunate for the thousands of college graduates of the largest city in the world who have no opportunity of going to the country, where a challenging education awaits them. In the May, 1940 issue of SCHOOL ACTIVITIES and elsewhere, I have listed the numerous advantages and benefits to be derived from extending "school house" education into the open, "airy-type" of education.

Camp education under good leadership and guidance can re-enforce our present aims in education. Our colleges in metropolitan communities are limited in their appreciation for rural life. No provisions are made for experiencing the life in a rural community and vice versa. Thus, we find a lack of appreciation for typical American living. "City-slickers," farmers, or hicks, northerners, southerners, cowboys, easterners and many other prejudices would be greatly minimized should your proposal be instituted.

Occupational prejudices are due largely to the over-emphasis of professional and white collared jobs in our colleges and universities. A college camp could create respect for skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled labor. In addition to anticipating desirable educational outcomes, a stepping stone towards a greater national defense program would be reached if your college labor camp is established.

Sincerely yours,

Nathan S. Washton

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Director, Guidance Bureau