

# CCC at Crossroads on 6th Birthday; Alternatives: Militarization or Death

**Least Criticized of All  
New Deal Units, Camps  
Have Good Record**

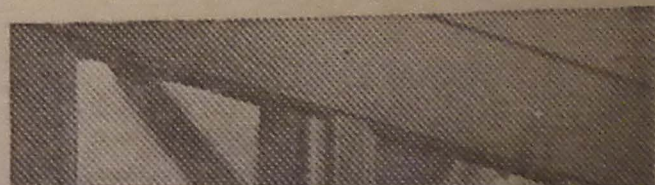
By **JOSEPH W. LaBINE**

Franklin Roosevelt had been President only five days before he called a select group of youth leaders into his office. By April 6, 1933—exactly six years ago—the Civilian Conservation Corps was created as one of the first New Deal agencies.

Today, as some 250,000 youths in almost 1,500 camps celebrate the sixth anniversary of their benefaction, CCC has hit rough waters. By the time congress adjourns this least criticized of all Roosevelt agencies may either be sentenced to death or changed into a semi-military army of unemployed youth.



**ABOVE**—Silhouettes of service, two CCC youths fighting a forest fire. **RIGHT**—New enrollees leaving for camp. There



CCC has done such a good job



has hit rough waters. This time congress adjourns this least criticized of all Roosevelt agencies may either be sentenced to death or changed into a semi-military army of unemployed youth.

CCC has done such a good job that strong New Deal critics like Henry Link, New York psychologist, praises it in his "Return to Religion" and "Rediscovery of Man." In six years some 2,000,000 boys have gone through its routine, one-fourth of them emerging to take permanent private jobs. Some of the rest re-enrolled.

### Most Recruits Needy.

Here's how CCC works: Its membership comes almost exclusively from underprivileged homes—boys who have left school, can't get jobs and need both moral and physical training. They enroll and leave the group every three months, so there is a constant turnover. Last October, for example, 59,000 new enrollees were accepted, averaging 18.6 years of age. (They must be between 17 and 23).

CCC places these boys in camps, gives them \$30 a month of which \$22 must be sent home to needy parents, and teaches them not only the rudiments of hard work but a lot of "extra-curricular" activities as well. Reveille sounds at 6 a. m. Breakfast comes at 6:20 and inspection at 7:15. By 7:30 they are on

**ABOVE**—*Silhouettes of service, two CCC youths fighting a forest fire.* **RIGHT**—*New enrollees leaving for camp. There were 59,000 of these young men accepted last October but the current enrollment will be smaller because CCC is being forced to retrench.*

invention. In 1930 California tried the scheme, doubtless getting the idea from the English "hinksey diggers" of whom Philosopher John Ruskin said their two-mile road was "the worst in three kingdoms." By 1933 work camps had existed in at least six European countries for an average of 10 years; contrary to popular belief, Germany had them long before Hitler came to power.

### Set Enviably Work Record.

What have they done constructively? As a sample of what CCC costs, the current fiscal year's appropriation is \$350,000,000, and the nation should expect to get something tangible in return. It has. CCC has planted some 1,800,000,000 trees and built 4,000 fire towers to protect them. It has strung 75,000 miles of telephone from lookout post to watch tower. The country has 132,000 miles of new roadway and 5,000,000 dams to check erosion. There are count-



what are jokingly referred to as the "tabbies"—pacifists.

You can paint a horrible picture of this militarized CCC's potentialities, if you let your imagination run away. You can see several million unemployed youths saved from hunger and privation, who would rally 'round the banner of the man who's responsible for it. You can see a political army, if you wish, armed,



rollees were accepted, averaging 18.6 years of age. (They must be between 17 and 23).

CCC places these boys in camps, gives them \$30 a month of which \$22 must be sent home to needy parents, and teaches them not only the rudiments of hard work but a lot of "extra-curricular" activities as well. Reveille sounds at 6 a. m. Breakfast comes at 6:20 and inspection at 7:15. By 7:30 they are on the job, remaining until 4 p. m. with the exception of an hour off for lunch. From then until 10 p. m. there is time for dinner, amusements and recreation. It isn't a hard life, nor is there very strict supervision; certainly CCC enrollees aren't nigh well ready for active army duty, as Civilian Chief Robert Fechner would have us believe.

The lads get vocational training during evening hours. They learn crafts like photography, radio, cabinetmaking, leather work, blue printing and landscaping. But the training apparently is not very efficient because American labor unions object to having craftsmen turned out by CCC to the detriment of their apprentice system. Mr. Fechner is an old-time American Federation of Labor official.

#### Educational Accomplishments.

But craft or no craft, CCC does good work. Last year 8,817 illiterates learned to read and write, 3,517 finished grammar grades, 634 finished high school and 12

ly? As a sample of what CCC costs, the current fiscal year's appropriation is \$350,000,000, and the nation should expect to get something tangible in return. It has. CCC has planted some 1,800,000,000 trees and built 4,000 fire towers to protect them. It has strung 75,000 miles of telephone from lookout post to watch tower. The country has 132,000 miles of new roadway and 5,000,000 dams to check erosion. There are countless new recreation centers and wild life habitat has been safeguarded to protect these innocents from the ravages of civilization.

CCC has also provided an emergency army. Its membership has done yeoman service in fighting forest fires, rescue work, flood relief and rehabilitation after disasters. The Red Cross recalls how, in the Mississippi-Ohio floods of January and February, 1937, more than 22,000 enrollees, hundreds of reserve officers and technical personnel were rushed to danger points.

Whither CCC? In his budget message last January the President recommended a slash of \$120,000,000 in the corps' budget (from \$350,000,000 to \$230,000,000). This means camps and personnel must be reduced, camps from 1,500 to 1,200 and men from 300,000 to 250,000. This reduction is already under way and the April enrollment will be smaller than usual. Worst of all, CCC will die naturally on June 30, 1940, unless extended.

what are jokingly referred to as the "tabbies"—pacifists.

You can paint a horrible picture of this militarized CCC's potentialities, if you let your imagination run away. You can see several million unemployed youths saved from hunger and privation, who would rally 'round the banner of the man who's responsible for it. You can see a political army, if you wish, armed, trained and disciplined but feeling greater loyalty to a political clique than to the nation itself. But CCC's militarization can be safeguarded against such evils.

Dangerous? Perhaps, but maybe it's even more dangerous to contemplate American youth's fate without some agency to keep idle minds out of mischief. CCC's 1936-39 budget of \$350,000,000 is far smaller than our annual national crime bill, which approximates \$15,000,000,000.

---

## Gossip Proves Boon to Nazi Propagandists

---

The highly efficient system that keeps Nazi Germany's hierarchy informed on public opinion is merely a magnification of over-the-fence



The lads get vocational training during evening hours. They learn crafts like photography, radio, cabinetmaking, leather work, blue printing and landscaping. But the training apparently is not very efficient because American labor unions object to having craftsmen turned out by CCC to the detriment of their apprentice system. Mr. Fechner is an old-time American Federation of Labor official.

### Educational Accomplishments.

But craft or no craft, CCC does good work. Last year 8,817 illiterates learned to read and write, 3,517 finished grammar grades, 634 finished high school and 13 got college diplomas. Almost all the youths take school work, either by correspondence or from part-time residence instructors.

If CCC enrollees range from 17 to 23 and come from underprivileged homes, they rise from the very stratum of youth responsible in 1937 for 13 per cent of our murders, 28 per cent of our robberies, 42 per cent of our burglaries, 51 per cent of our auto thieves and 21 per cent of our sex criminals.

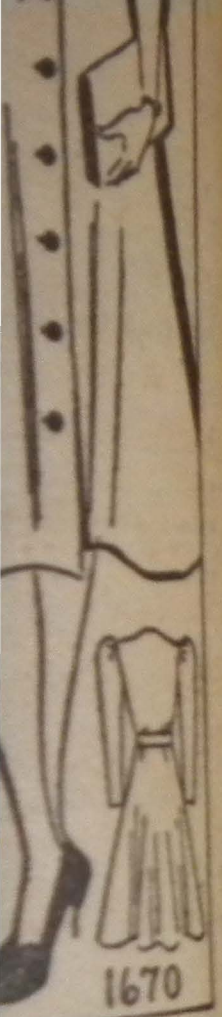
Youth camps are not a New Deal

Mississippi-Ohio floods of January and February, 1937, more than 22,000 enrollees, hundreds of reserve officers and technical personnel were rushed to danger points.

Whither CCC? In his budget message last January the President recommended a slash of \$120,000,000 in the corps' budget (from \$350,000,000 to \$230,000,000). This means camps and personnel must be reduced, camps from 1,500 to 1,200 and men from 300,000 to 250,000. This reduction is already under way and the April enrollment will be smaller than usual. Worst of all, CCC will die naturally on June 30, 1940, unless extended.

### Militarized Youth Camps?

Military minded congressmen are already thinking about this, wondering if CCC can't be retained and made an integral part of our defense program. This means adoption of the plan proposed by Kentucky's Rep. Andrew Jackson May, which would provide for not less than two, nor more than five hours of military training for CCC enrollees each week. The immediate result has been a protest, not only from anti-New Dealers but from



h material.  
neckline.  
for sizes 34,  
d 46. With  
requires 4 1/2  
erial. With  
s.  
attern Book.  
rbara Bell's  
ern Book!  
ks for street,  
with these

of mis  
of \$35  
our a  
which

Go  
E

The  
keeps  
forme  
a ma  
gossip  
Dr. J  
lowed  
first, t  
as acc  
lic opi  
gets fr  
It is  
this op

