

Hyde Takes 'America's Spirit' To Job Corps

By TIM ELLEDGE
District Reporter

BATH — Federal Job Corps officials are gambling \$73,000 that Hyde School teachers can work the same wonders with unemployed city youths that the school says it does with its regular students.

Hyde has been awarded a contract to take its "America's Spirit" musical production to five Job Corps centers, talk to the staff and students, then choose some of them to come to Bath to participate in a training program.

The training — for 25 students and five faculty members — would be Phase Two of the plan and would mean another contract for more money. Once the Job Corps people are trained, Phase Three begins. It includes a national tour by both Job Corps and "America's Spirit"

people to perform together at centers across the country.

The idea, Hyde headmaster Edward Legg explained, is to do something more for Job Corps youths than send them through a job training program and expect them to learn enough to find and hold a job.

"They also need the confidence to get the job, contribute to an employer and to himself. Most of these kids," he said, "are almost entirely non-productive. Not just economically non-productive, but personally non-productive as well. The Job Corps people recognize that just giving them technical training isn't enough. They're not satisfied with their program now and that's why we're getting involved."

Legg said the first phase of the program — the one involving the tour of five centers — is the only part for which a contract has been awarded.

"But if it goes well, we fully expect to

go on with phases two and three," he said.

The "America's Spirit" program that will be taught to Job Corps youths, he said, is the same curriculum used at Hyde — "learning by doing rather than just talking about it. Bringing students and faculty together to work out a creative expression of America's spirit. They research it, write it and bring it all together in a musical production — rather than just taking a script and playing roles.

"Mostly," he added, "it's developing confidence and self esteem — the attitude that a task, a job, an idea can be accomplished."

The first phase of the Job Corps program has already begun, he said. Several Hyde representatives are at the centers talking to people and preparing for the five productions in New York, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Indiana and Kentucky.

Phase Two is expected to start in the spring when the Job Corps students and faculty come to Bath for the leadership training program.

Phase Three is scheduled to begin in September with the national tour and expansion of the program into other centers.

The Job Corps began in 1965, an outgrowth of former President Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty." It's directed at 16-to-21-year-olds who have quit school and are from low-income families. They live at Job Corps centers, are given clothes and an allowance and participate in vocational training and classes preparing them for high school equivalency certificates.

Performances of "America's Spirit" have been presented at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and at Broadway's Circle-in-the-Square Theater.

HYDE SCHOOL. BATH.

Federal Job Corps officials provide
\$73,000 contract to the Bath's
Hyde School teachers to use
America's Spirit to train Job
Corps youths.

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