

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
FOR KANSAS

NEW ENGLAND BUILDING, TOPEKA, KANSAS

December 7, 1940

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Dear Doc:

Some time ago I wrote you a note and promised to follow with a lengthy letter. This happens to be that letter. When Miss Laughlin gave me a job she did just that. My job here consists of Senior Supervisor (title) with eight other supervisors Under me to keep in line. In addition to acting of superintendent of the Topeka project, it is my job to see that the building remains in good condition. There are two buildings, one that is used as a shop in one end of town and the dormitory in the other end of the city. Each morning the boys, whose ages range from 17-24 years, are given bus tokens to ride to and from the shop. In the course of a month the government has purchased 8 000 tokens. To be specific that is \$500.00 worth.

There are at the present time 115 boys living at the dormitory. I serve as the disciplinarian and general counciler for the boys. We have what we call our House of Representatives that serve as the governing body. They have several committees that are appointed such as: rules and regulation committee, ways and means committee, judicial committee, permits and privilege committee and several others of lesser nature. My job was to organize and formulate this self government. It was some job to formulate the work but appears to be some task in getting it to working on all four. However we have been accomplishing something.

A committee on recreation has been appointed to aid me in carrying out some form of physical education. The equipment is the hardest item to get. The government has the money but in order to get the articles I want, a larger amount of red tape has to be unwound. It is more work to get equipment than it is to actually set up the recreation program and supervise the play. Most of the games that we have at the present are games that the boys have made themselves under supervision. We have made all our checker boards and checkers, chinese checkers, box hockey, shuffle board, and horse shoe equipment.

One thing that I have been trying to establish here is for the boys to be sociable. It is being run much on the order of a fraternity. Some of the boys pick this up fairly easily but some of the boys who are from the poorer and less refined families are a little slower. However we are progressing which is not at all discouraging. For breakfast and dinner the boys wear their work clothes but remain standing until the lady food supervisor is seated. For the evening meal the boys are required