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ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AMENDMENTS OF 1971

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HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
YMENT, MANPOWER, AND POVERTY

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
BOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-SECOND CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

S. 1290

TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1964 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

S. 397

TO EXTEND FOR TWO ADDITIONAL YEARS THE AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS CONTAINED IN THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1964

S. 1305

TO AMEND THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1964 TO AUTHORIZE A LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM BY ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

S. 2007

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APRIL 29, 1971

PART 3

Printed for the use of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AMENDMENTS OF 1971

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1971

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT,
MANPOWER, AND POVERTY OF THE COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to call, in room 4232, New Senate Office Building, Senator Gaylord Nelson (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Senator Nelson.

Committee staff members present: William R. Bechtel, professional staff member; Richard E. Johnson, counsel to the subcommittee; Robert R. Humphreys, special counsel; and John K. Scales, minority counsel.

Senator NELSON. The subcommittee will continue its hearings in connection with bills, S. 397 and S. 1290, to extend the Economic Opportunity Act.

These hearings have been scheduled to fit my schedule and convenience so that we could complete the hearings and act on the extension prior to the expiration at the end of June.

Therefore, these hearings schedules conflict with a number of other hearings that other members of the subcommittee are obligated to attend, so that those members of the subcommittee who are not here will be relying upon the hearing record when we get ready to go into executive session in a very short period of time.

I have to complete these hearings today by 12:30 because of the schedule I have. Therefore, everybody's statement will be printed in full in the record, but there are five groups appearing, so none of them will be allowed more than 30 minutes, and it may have to be somewhat less than 30 minutes, but all the material you have, including the statements, will be printed in full in the record and available for the committee members when we meet in executive session to mark up the bill.

Our first witness this morning is Mr. Gilbert Rohde, Chippewa Falls, Wis., president of the Wisconsin Farmers Union, sponsor of Operation Mainstream and Neighborhood Youth Corps programs; representing the National Farmers Union, and very successful programs, I might add. Mr. Rohde is appearing in behalf of the Wisconsin Farmers Union as well as in behalf of the National Farmers Union.

Mr. Rohde?

STATEMENT OF GILBERT ROHDE, CHIPPEWA FALLS, WIS., PRESIDENT, WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION (SPONSOR OF OPERATION MAINSTREAM AND NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS PROGRAMS), REPRESENTING THE NATIONAL FARMERS UNION; ACCOMPANIED BY WELDON BARTON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, LEGISLATIVE SERVICES, NATIONAL FARMERS UNION

Mr. ROHDE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator NELSON. Mr. Rohde is accompanied by Mr. Weldon Barton, assistant director, legislative services, of the National Farmers Union.

Mr. Rohde, your statement will be printed in full in the record. You may present your material however you wish.

Mr. ROHDE. Thank you, Senator. It is good to see you this morning, Senator, and we are delighted to be here in Washington, and it is a privilege to appear before your committee.

Senator NELSON. We are delighted to have you here.

Mr. ROHDE. I am pleased with the opportunity to testify today on legislation to extend the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and to authorize funds to carry on programs under this act.

The National Farmers Union is intensely interested in Economic Opportunity Act programs and the activities of the Office of Economic Opportunity. Two thousand four hundred elderly men and 275 elderly women in 17 States are earning $1,600 a year under the Green Thumb-Green Light programs sponsored by the Farmers Union.

During the past 12 months over 450 elderly persons have found full-time private employment through the Farmers Union on-the-job-training program. We also sponsor Neighborhood Youth Corps and Mainstream programs in several states, including Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Arkansas.

Our Neighborhood Youth Corps in these same States involved over 4,000 young people during the past year.

Mr. Chairman, about 3 weeks ago I invited school districts, other State and local agencies, State legislators, and certain other groups that have been involved with Farmers Union Neighborhood Youth Corps and Green Thumb-Green Light in Wisconsin to inform me or our State directors of their experience with this program. As of this date, we have received 129 letters on Green Thumb and Green Light and 79 letters on Neighborhood Youth Corps from across the State of Wisconsin. These letters, we think, are clear testimony to the success and effectiveness of these programs.

I would like to turn over copies of these 208 letters to the subcommittee at this time, for use in the record in any manner that you find appropriate. I am confident that similar testimonials could be secured from other States in which Farmers Union NYC and Green Thumb-Green Light operate.

Beyond the programs sponsored by the Farmers Union, we look upon the Economic Opportunity Act as the basic framework for the alleviation and eventual elimination of poverty in America. We look upon the OEO as the primary spokesman for poor people in Government.

If I might depart from the script a little bit, let's talk about the letters and how we have them here this morning. After it was determined by our national officers that I was to represent our national organization here in the light of the experience we have had in Wisconsin in sponsoring and implementing these programs, I wrote a letter to the director of our Neighborhood Youth Corps in Wisconsin and to the director of our Green Thumb in Wisconsin and indicated that we were making an assumption, that we were asked to be a witness this morning as a result of experience from operating our programs in a broad area of Wisconsin.

I indicated in this letter, "In view of this request, I am asking that you provide me with certain specific and detailed background information. I am interested in knowing the value attached by participating agencies to the Neighborhood Youth Corps programs we operate in the various communities. Do school boards, school administrators, municipal officers feel that the program is beneficial to the community in addition to providing work experience and financial aid to the enrollees?

"If the program terminated, is there a way for the local communities to step in and to provide the kind of help that the Neighborhood Youth Corps program have pioneered? Any other information that you might have available would be most helpful."

To my amazement, in just a week's time, I have here letters from school administrators, guidance counselors, mayors, city officials, some 127, in their own writing, that responded spontaneously when they became aware of the fact that these programs might be terminated.

Senator NELSON. The committee will receive the letters and appropriate excerpts from them will be printed in the record.

Mr. ROHDE. The thing I think we need to make perfectly clear to you, Senator, is that these letters represent the political leadership in these communities, in the counties, and likewise, we have some 129 letters from county board chairmen, county agents, county clerks, private agencies who have been participating in our Green Thumb-Green Light programs, commonly known as Mainstream programs, who have indicated that the programs have been very, very beneficial, and I would just like to read to you a couple of paragraphs from one letter that I received from the Marathon County Park Commission, the superintendent.

He said, "We here in Marathon, the Wausau-Marathon Park Department have a program of 14 Green Thumb workers helping us at present. As you know, this area of Wisconsin was one of the first to support the program and use these people for the benefit of outdoor recreation and beautification. Green Thumb people do the type of work for us that is far too excessive to do by any other means. Planting, bushing, and other tasks, require handwork with attention to detail which we cannot lavish on our parks with limited crew and budget.

"With the need for providing needs of swelling crowds of outdoor people, we are fortunate if we can build the roads, parking lots, and rest facilities needed to satisfy the basic park department.

"Care of earth and attention to ecological values and preservation of natural beauty must come last in our scale of priorities, no matter how much we regret it. The Green Thumb program seems to employ

elderly gentlemen with a multitude of skills, pride of workmanship, and a determination to do a full day's work, and unlike most Government programs there is a minimum of paperwork required of the sponsoring employer.

"We highly recommend, or rather insist that this program be continued and funded at levels necessary to preserve at least the present quantity and quality."

This is a representative letter that runs through this group of letters. Additionally, we did a little survey in our Neighborhood Youth Corps just among the students for those young people who were on our program, and let me read a representative reply to a questionnaire we sent out to these young people:

The questionnaire indicated, "What does the employment on the NYC program mean to you?" This young man replied, "To me, it meant the difference between graduating or failing."

"What did you do with the money you earned on NYC?" The money was spent on school needs such as clothes, supplies, graduation cap and gown.

I think even more significant, Senator, is that I have asked our director to make a followup on those first employees in the Neighborhood Youth Corps program when we implemented it in 1967.

I would like to introduce this into the record, and we say that many Neighborhood Youth Corps enrollees are now taxpayers.

(The information referred to follows:)

PENL, KAREN S.

MANY N.Y.C. ENROLLEES ARE NOW TAXPAYER'S



	Year	Gross	Fed.	State	Fica
EARNINGS FROM NYC	1967	1,107.50	72.50	21.00	48.77
	1968	238.75	19.30	4.70	10.51
	TOTAL	1,346.25	91.80	25.70	59.28
EARNINGS FROM PRESENT EMPLOYER	1968	1,948.86	226.90	46.51	85.78
	1969	2,993.42	364.10	70.25	143.63
	1970	3,759.63	418.10	101.21	180.49
	TOTAL	8,701.91	1,009.10	217.97	409.90

CHARBONNEAU, DAVID T.

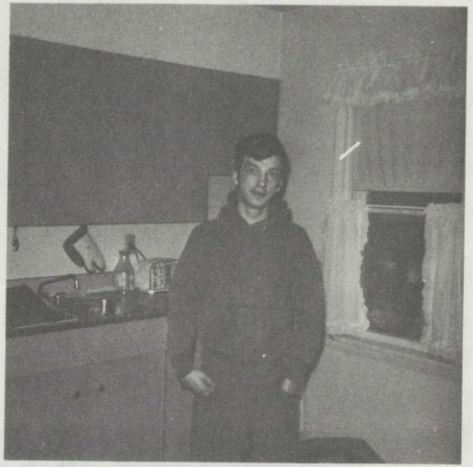
MANY N.Y.C. ENROLLEES ARE NOW TAXPAYER'S



	Year	Gross	Fed.	State	Fica
EARNINGS FROM NYC	1967	820.00	64.00	17.20	16.08
	1968	320.00	25.60	6.80	14.08
	TOTAL	1,140.00	89.60	~~24.80~~	30.16
EARNINGS FROM PRESENT EMPLOYER	1968	3,643.35	500.20	99.30	160.32
	1969	5,029.30	750.10	144.90	241.45
	1970	5,198.13	732.10	174.10	249.52
	TOTAL	13,870.78	1,982.80	418.30	651.29

BUNNELL, CHARLES A.

MANY N.Y.C. ENROLLEES ARE NOW TAXPAYER'S



	Year	Gross	Fed.	State	Fica
EARNINGS FROM NYC	1967	388.75	30.10	7.60	
	1968	260.00	22.70	5.30	12.44
	TOTAL	648.75	52.80	12.90	12.44
EARNINGS FROM PRESENT EMPLOYER	1968	3,886.04	542.50	100.70	170.97
	1969	5,447.66	822.25	164.41	261.42
	TOTAL	9,333.70	1,364.75	265.11	432.39

SAARI, DOUGLAS L.

Superior

MANY N.Y.C. ENROLLEES ARE NOW TAXPAYER'S



	Year	Gross	Fed.	State	Fica
EARNINGS FROM NYC	1968	187.20	17.80	3.80	8.24
	1969	854.75	75.55	17.70	40.99
	TOTAL	1,041.95	93.35	21.50	49.23
EARNINGS FROM PRESENT EMPLOYER	1969	2,163.25	313.70	52.50	--
	1970	3,932.03	511.30	106.10	188.73
	TOTAL	6,095.28	825.00	152.60	188.73

MATHEWS, SHERRY L.

MANY N.Y.C. ENROLLEES ARE NOW TAXPAYERS



	Year	Gross	Fed.	State	Fica
EARNINGS FROM NYC	1968	993.20	90.20	20.50	43.70
	1969	1,002.30	87.00	20.75	48.08
	TOTAL	1,995.50	177.20	41.25	91.78
EARNINGS FROM PRESENT EMPLOYER	1969	2,303.94	302.30	59.10	105.35
	1970	4,014.42	531.50	116.70	192.71
	TOTAL	6,318.36	833.80	175.80	298.06

455 Lake Street
Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501
April 16, 1971

Mr. Gilbert Rohde
Wisconsin Farmers Union
117 N. Spring Street
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729

Dear Mr. Rohde:

As a past enrollee in your NYC program, I would like to express my feelings towards your program.

I was an NYC student enrollee in 1968-69. I worked as an NYC student with the Rhinelander High School. I worked as an office helper and during the summer of 1968 and through the school year of 1968-69, I gained much experience in office work. I learned different office procedures; operating of office machines, correct ways to answer phones, writing letters, etc. I also did typing, working mimeograph machine and many other skills, that proved to be very educational.

From my experience working in their office under NYC, I was able to expand my interest in this secretarial field. That summer of 1969, I became secretary for the Catholic Charities Bureau of Rhinelander; where I found that the past knowledge I gained while at the Rhinelander High School became valuable to me with my present job and thus valuable to my employer.

I am still presently working with the Catholic Charities Bureau, but I owe much of my thanks for their cooperation as well as to my schooling, teachers, and to NYC for making it possible for me to have the opportunity to work at the high school and gain beneficial experience to my career.

I strongly approve of your program and feel that it should be continued, so that others may gain the many experiences I have.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Reissmann

(Miss) Kathleen J. Reissmann

kjr

(715) 362-3553

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729
Telephone 715-723-7418

NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE

Please complete this simple questionaire immediately and return to this office. A stamped and self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Your cooperation in this "NYC Project Self-Appraisal Survey" will be greatly appreciated.

1. What does your employment on the NYC Program mean to you?

I can make my own money and help to buy things I couldn't have otherwise. I am learning to work for what I get. I have something useful to do each day.

2. What do you do with the money you earn on NYC?

I buy my own clothes and things for my mother. When appliances wear out Mom can't replace them. I bought her a new steam iron, and paid to have the television repaired. I now pay my own way in Boy Scouts, before I had to have a sponsor. Also, I now can afford to buy extra food like fruit, and cake mixes that Mother can't afford.

3. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

1. ___X___ Continued at a higher level of funding to assist more youth
2. _____ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Frank Schneider

Address Box 41

City Amberg State Wis.

Dated 1/19/71 Tel. No. [redacted] S.S. No. [redacted]

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729

Telephone 715-723-7418

NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Please complete this simple questionaire immediately and return to this office. A stamped and self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.
Your cooperation in this "NYC Project Self-Appraisal Survey" will be greatly appreciated.

1. Please explain the different ways you feel your son or daughter benefited from the work experience and earnings of the NYC Program.

My income is just enough for rent, fuel, utilities, and plain food. My son has been able to buy his own clothes, pay his Boy Scout dues, pay for his school lunches, go to a few ball games, buy extra snacks,-growing boys need lots of food. He can be like the rest of the crowd even tho we are poor. This means he can finish High School. He has something definate to do each night after school.
If more High School boys would work and make their own money, they wouldn't have time for vandelism, drugs, etc.

2. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

1. ___X___ Continued at a higher level of funding to assist more youth
2. _____ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Mrs Helen Schneider
Address Box 44
City Amberg State Wis
Dated 1-19-71

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729

Telephone 715-723-7418

NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE

Please complete this simple questionaire immediately and return to this office. A stamped and self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Your cooperation in this "NYC Project Self-Appraisal Survey" will be greatly appreciated.

1. What does your employment on the NYC Program mean to you?

To me it Meant the Difference Between Graduating and Failing!

2. What do you do with the money you earn on NYC?

The Money was Spent on School Needs such as Clothes, Supplies, Graduation Caps & Gowns etc.

3. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

1. _____ Continued at a higher level of funding to assist more youth
2. ___X___ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Dennis J. Knutson

Address 5963-W-75

City L.A. 45, State Calif. 90045

Dated 2-9-71 Tel. No. XXXXXXXX S.S. No. XXXXXXXXXXX

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729

Telephone 715-723-7418

NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Please complete this simple questionaire immediately and return to this office. A stamped and self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.
Your cooperation in this "NYC Project Self-Appraisal Survey" will be greatly appreciated.

1. Please explain the different ways you feel your son or daughter benefited from the work experience and earnings of the NYC Program.

Without the Aid of NYC My Son could not have Participated in his Graduating Class activities plus Buy Supplies & Clothes!

2. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

1. _____ Continued at a higher level of funding to assist more youth
2. ___X___ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Mrs Louise E. Knutson
Address 5963-W-75
City Los Angeles 45, State Calif 90045
Dated 2-9-71

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729
Telephone 715-723-7418

NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE

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Your cooperation in this "NYC Project Self-Appraisal Survey" will be greatly appreciated.

1. What does your employment on the NYC Program mean to you?

It means money in my pocket that I earned and not a gift of charity

2. What do you do with the money you earn on NYC?

The money I earned I buy clothes and other thing that I need.

3. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

1. ___✓___ Continued at a higher level of funding to assist more youth
2. _____ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed John A. Woods
Address 611 South Lake Ave
City Crandon State Wisc.
Dated Feb 20, 1970 Tel. No. [redacted] S.S. No. [redacted]

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729

Telephone 715-723-7418

NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Please complete this simple questionaire immediately and return to this office. A stamped and self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Your cooperation in this "NYC Project Self-Appraisal Survey" will be greatly appreciated.

1. Please explain the different ways you feel your son or daughter benefited from the work experience and earnings of the NYC Program.

my son benefited from this program as they learned to save some of their money. The responsible of keeping a job and going to work every day. He learned to buy his school clothes. This keep the children off the streets in the summer and also gives them their own spending money.

2. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

1. ___X___ Continued at a higher level of funding to assist more youth
2. _____ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Edith Brodle

Address 611 So. Lake Ave

City Cornell State Wisc

Dated Feb 20, 1971

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729
Telephone 715-723-7418

NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE

Please complete this simple questionaire immediately and return to this office. A stamped and self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.
Your cooperation in this "NYC Project Self-Appraisal Survey" will be greatly appreciated.

1. What does your employment on the NYC Program mean to you?
It mean I will have a neigh money for the things I need.

2. What do you do with the money you earn on NYC?
I buy clothing and other things I need.

Total Hrs worked 48.00 Gross $69.60 Net 65.26

3. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an X in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

1. X Continued at a higher level of funding to assist more youth
2. _____ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Gail Weiberg
Address 695 6Th circle South
City Park Falls State Wis.
Dated 2/13/71 Tel. No. XXXXXXXX S.S. No. XXXXXX

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
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Telephone 715-723-7418

NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN

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1. Please explain the different ways you feel your son or daughter benefited from the work experience and earnings of the NYC Program.

Although my son worked on this program only a short time we were very thankful. I think it helped his ego and gave him a sense of responsibility. His earnings came at a very good time as it helped him to buy school clothes.

2. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

1. _____ Continued at a higher level of funding to assist more youth

2. ___X___ Continued at the present level of funding

3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding

4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Mrs Virginia Wiedeny

Address 644 6th Ave. So

City Park Falls State Wis

Dated 2/2/76

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729

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1. Please explain the different ways you feel your son or daughter benefited from the work experience and earnings of the NYC Program.

This was the first job Jay has had so it was a very good experience for him. It gave him responsibility. As he only worked about 10 days his earnings were not much but it did help to buy school clothes & supplies.

48 hrs.
69.60 Gross
65.06 Net

2. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

1. _____ Continued at a higher level of funding to assist more youth

2. ___X___ Continued at the present level of funding

3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding

4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Mrs Virginia Weiberg

Address 694 6th Ave So.

City Bark Falls State Wis.

Dated 2/2/71

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729

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NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE

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1. What does your employment on the NYC Program mean to you?

Employment on NYC, to me, means mostly the assurance of having a reference to which I can turn whenever I desire employment in the future. The NYC provides this reference because it provides employment over a period of time long enough to affirm a fair appraisal of the worker.

2. What do you do with the money you earn on NYC?

The money I earn on NYC, because my mother and I do have an income lower than most in the Mellen area, has helped me to Meet school expenses in my senior year with relative ease, has provided me with transportation which, without this job, neither I nor my mother would be able to afford, and has provided a small amount of spending money for myself.

3. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

1. _____ Continued at a higher level of funding to assist more youth
2. ___X___ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed [signature]

Address Box 701

City Mellen State Wis.

Dated 2-12-1971 Tel. No. [redacted] S.S. No. [redacted]

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729
Telephone 715-723-7418

NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN

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1. Please explain the different ways you feel your son or daughter benefited from the work experience and earnings of the NYC Program.

I think Gary benefited from the program because he seems to take more responsibility now both at work and at home. He spends it carefully and has helped me out with the money he earns. I think you should make the biggest wage requirement higher and only keep the best workers on the program, because I think some of them think that it's just easy money and they take jobs away from those who really want to work. This is a good program, and I think it's worth keeping.

Gary's grades went up since he got the job, and now he is going on to college at Eau Claire.

2. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

1. _____ Continued at a higher level of funding to assist more youth
2. ___X___ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Verna Schlichting

Address Box 701

City Mellen State Wis

Dated 2-12-1971

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729

Telephone 715-723-7418

NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN

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1. Please explain the different ways you feel your son or daughter benefited from the work experience and earnings of the NYC Program.

My sons have benefitted from their work experience on the NYC program tremendously. One son worked one summer and the other worked winter programs and summer. Both boys saved a part of their money. The eldest son has saved enough to pay his tuition to a Junior College this fall. Both boys paid for their class rings and had adequate spending money and bought some of their own clothing.

Learning to get along with fellow workers has always benefitted young people. Under this program it is a must. Some jobs were harder than others and for the most part there was a well-rounded apportionment of jobs working for the city of Montreal.

2. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

1. ___X___ Continued at a higher level of funding to assist more youth
2. _____ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Audrey Jean Mankoski

Address 82 Mckenzie

City Montreal State Wisc

Dated 2/8/71

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729

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NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN

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1. Please explain the different ways you feel your son or daughter benefited from the work experience and earnings of the NYC Program.

I feel that my son Frank benefited from the work experience and earnings of the NYC by learning responsibility - working and getting along with other people and how to handle money for clothes etc.

2. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

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2. _____ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Mrs. Harriet Liborski
Address Star Route 3 Box 410
City Dairyland State Wisc.
Dated January 28, 1971

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729

Telephone 715-723-7418

NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN

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1. Please explain the different ways you feel your son or daughter benefited from the work experience and earnings of the NYC Program.

It gives them the feelings of responsibilities, and also the advantage of meeting other interesting people and learn to get along with their employers, and what work is all about.

2. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

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2. _____ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Mrs Peter Stilen (mother)
Address But 72
City Montreal State Wis. 54550
Dated January 16/71

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729
Telephone 715-723-7418

NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN

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1. Please explain the different ways you feel your son or daughter benefited from the work experience and earnings of the NYC Program.

It has made him feel more independent and has help to make him feel more grown-up. It has taught him the value of money and the value of ~~saving~~ for something speical. And also of being able to buy the things that he wants but wouldnt have if he didnt have is own money.

2. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

1. _____ Continued at a higher level of funding to assist more youth
2. ___X___ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Mrs Joseph Poncek
Address _____
City Westboro State Wis
Dated Jan. 20, 1971

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
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1. Please explain the different ways you feel your son or daughter benefited from the work experience and earnings of the NYC Program.

The pride of being able to support themselves, in a way of being able to buy clothes they would not of been able to have, if they hadn't worked, also buying school supplies. Meeting other children & having to work, not only with others their own age, but also finding out about life can be understanding & willing to help the younger generation.

2. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

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2. _____ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Mrs. Jean Van Ray
Address 408 Turnbull St.
City Green Bay State Wisc.
Dated 1-18-71

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729

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1. Please explain the different ways you feel your son or daughter benefited from the work experience and earnings of the NYC Program.

I feel my son Archie benefited from the work experience and salaries of the NYC. Program because I wasn't able to give him spending money because of financial problems & his father was in a mental institution. It also taught him to budget his money wisely because he had to work for it himself!

2. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

1. ___X___ Continued at a higher level of funding to assist more youth
2. _____ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Mrs Fred LaBrie
Address _____
City Long Lake State Wis
Dated 2/2/71

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729

Telephone 715-723-7418

NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE

Please complete this simple questionaire immediately and return to this office. A stamped and self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Your cooperation in this "NYC Project Self-Appraisal Survey" will be greatly appreciated.

1. What does your employment on the NYC Program mean to you?
It keeps me busy, [redacted] out of trouble, and makes me feel a little independent, if I want something, the job gives me a chance to work for it and know that nobody had to give it to me or anything else.

2. What do you do with the money you earn on NYC?
During the school year I buy my own school clothes, and supplies, I give part of my check to my mom, or borrow her some money and try to save as much of it as I can.

3. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

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2. _____ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Donald R. O'Keefe

Address 4031 E 2nd ST.

City Superior State Wisc.

Dated 2-15-71 Tel. No. [redacted] S.S. No. [redacted]

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729

Telephone 715-723-7418

NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN

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1. Please explain the different ways you feel your son or daughter benefited from the work experience and earnings of the NYC Program.

My son Donald O'Keefe has benefited very much by his work experience in these ways. His job has taught him dependability, responsibility and also independence as far as taking care of his own school needs, clothes and transportation to school. His earnings have taught him the care of money, economic-wise and most important, given him a feeling of self-worth.

Mrs. Lorrain O'Keefe

2. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

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2. _____ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Mrs. Lorraine L. O'Keefe
Address 4031 E 2nd Street
City Superior State Wis.
Dated 2-15-71 tel No. [redacted]

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729

Telephone 715-723-7418

NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE

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Your cooperation in this "NYC Project Self-Appraisal Survey" will be greatly appreciated.

1. What does your employment on the NYC Program mean to you?
Now that I am working I don't have to keep asking my parents for money and I can get things I would not be able to otherwise.

2. What do you do with the money you earn on NYC?
I use the money for things for school, clothes, and entertainment and saving for college

3. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

1. ___X___ Continued at a higher level of funding to assist more youth
2. _____ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Kathleen Bahlman

Address 244 Superior Street

City Antigo State Wisconsin

Dated Feb. 12, 1971 Tel. No. [redacted] S.S. No. [redacted]

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
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Telephone 715-723-7418

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1. Please explain the different ways you feel your son or daughter benefited from the work experience and earnings of the NYC Program.

I feel that my daughter Kathy through working at the Public Library has gained in being more self reliant, able to talk with people, is more confident & understands that all people working together can get work done faster – & easier. I'm glad she was able to work under the N.Y.C. Program. She has used her earnings for clothes, school & saved some for college.

2. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

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2. _____ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Mrs. Duane Bohlman
Address 244 Superior St.
City Antigo State Wisc
Dated 2-13-71

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729

Telephone 715-723-7418

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Your cooperation in this "NYC Project Self-Appraisal Survey" will be greatly appreciated.

1. What does your employment on the NYC Program mean to you?

It means to get out a mowing other people, to take orders and to find out what the value of a dollar is.

2. What do you do with the money you earn on NYC?

I use it for enjoyment and to buy school clothes to help out.

3. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an X in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

1. X Continued at a higher level of funding to assist more youth
2. _____ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Michael Setterman

Address RR 1 Box 334

City Park Falls State Wisc.

Dated Feb. 13th, 1971 Tel. No. [redacted] S.S. No. [redacted]

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
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Telephone 715-723-7418

NOTICE TO NYC ENROLLEE'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Please complete this simple questionaire immediately and return to this office. A stamped and self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.
Your cooperation in this "NYC Project Self-Appraisal Survey" will be greatly appreciated.

1. Please explain the different ways you feel your son or daughter benefited from the work experience and earnings of the NYC Program.

I believe that it has taught him to take orders and responsibility also to be able to have earnings of his own which he used wisely.

2. Governor Lucey in his inaugural day address stated in part "Some existing programs will be eliminated because they no longer justify public confidence."

Please complete the statement below by placing an ___X___ in one of the four blanks.

. . . . . .

As an interested citizen and tax-payer of the State of Wisconsin I would recommend to Governor Lucey that the NYC Program should be:

1. ___X___ Continued at a higher level of funding to assist more youth
2. _____ Continued at the present level of funding
3. _____ Continued but at a lower level of funding
4. _____ Discontinued

Signed Mrs Myra Haegert
Address Rte 1 – Box 334
City Park Falls State Wis.
Dated Feb. 17-1971

Mr. ROHDE. I have here a young lady who was employed in 1967 and part of 1968, and Federal funds invested in Neighborhood Youth Corps, to her, amounted to $1,346.25. In 1968, as a result of experience that she had gotten in on-the-job training, she enrolled in private employment and from 1968 through 1970, has earned a total of $8,701 and has paid in Federal taxes $1,009.

Another young person received Federal funds in the amount of $1,100, has entered private employment and has already paid back $1,982 in Federal taxes and $418 in State taxes.

Another young man who received $648 in Federal funds under NYC has paid back $1,364 in Federal taxes, and $265 in State taxes.

Another young person did receive $1,041, and has paid back since 1969, $825 in Federal taxes and $152 in State taxes.

All of these people now, Senator, were potential drop outs, without any financial resources to be able to continue on in school, no prior work experience, came from real disadvantaged homes in rural areas of Wisconsin.

Another young lady received $1,995 in NYC funds through our Neighborhood Youth Corps program. Since 1969, she has entered private employment and has paid back $833.80 in Federal taxes and $175 in State taxes.

I would like to introduce this into the record.

Senator NELSON. It will be received. We will receive all of the records of these young people as you have presented them.

Mr. ROHDE. Thank you.

I have also the vital statistics of each of our Neighborhood Youth Corps programs and Green Thumb programs which document the experience that we have had in Wisconsin, where these people have worked, what their accomplishments have been, which is supported by the 208 letters of documentation which I would like to enter into the record.

Senator NELSON. They will be received.

(The information referred to follow:)

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
115½ W. Spring Street
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729
Telephone 715-723-7418

April 23, 1971

The initial Out of School contract was approved on 2-4-66. An In School contract was approved in June of that same year. SEE PROJECT STATISTICS TO-DATE SHEET for total Federal Funding and for Total In kind Contribution.

Present In School Fall Funding level is 168 job slots however, 272 are employed because of the great need for financial assistance. Many slots are split by mutual agreement between enrollees in order that more youths can be assisted by the program.

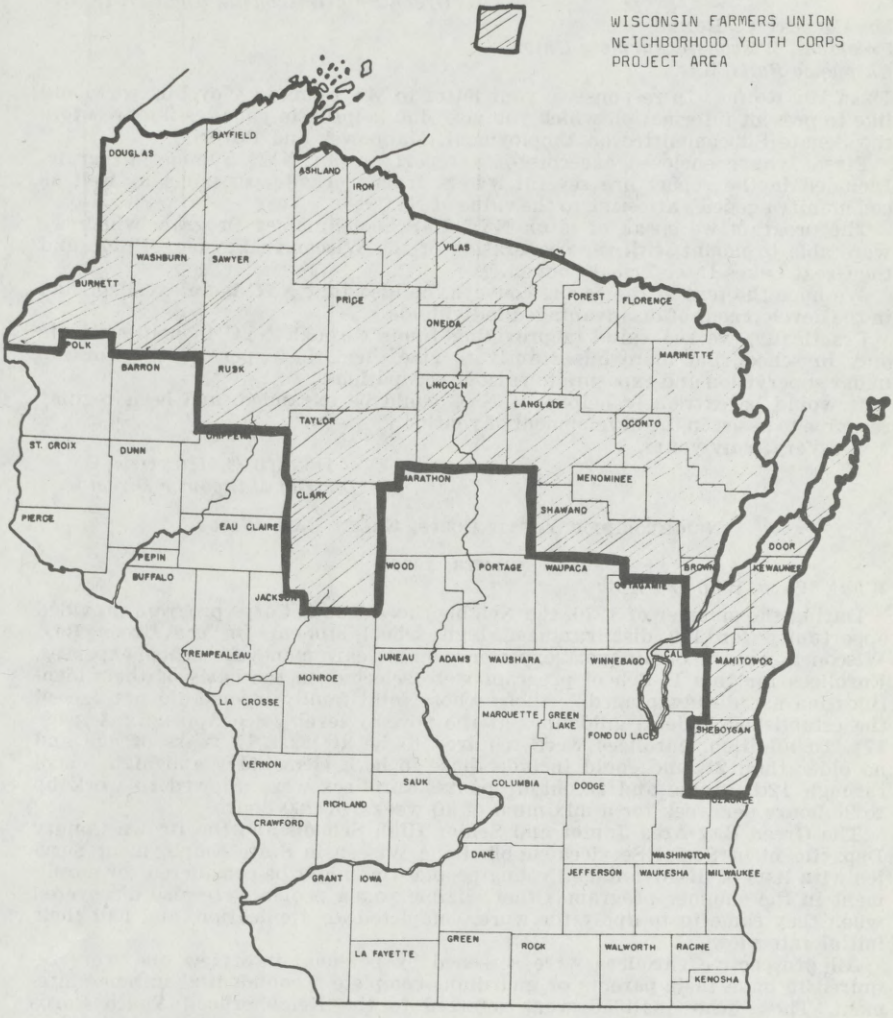
The 1971 In School Summer program is funded at 677 job slots. The program this year is cut from 10 weeks to 8½ weeks or a cut from maximum summer hours of 260 to 212 hours per enrollee.

Out of School program funding level of 44 enrollees has been carrying up to 63 enrollees recently at reduced hours per week to meet the need for program. Just recently however, the funding level has been increased to 54 job slots.

The In School Summer Program this year will include approximately 106 high School Districts and about another 75 other public or non-profit participating agencies in the 25 northern counties of Wisconsin.

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS PROJECT STATISTICS 2-4-66 thru 4-9-71

		Cost Per Project	% Per Project	Combined Cost	Combined %
SECTION I	847 O.S. Enrollees	565,493.25	78.0%		
	3,047 I.S. Enrollees	1,278,348.21	89.9%	1,843,841.46	85.9%
SECTION II	O.S. Staff	129,096.80	17.8%		
	I.S. Staff	116,625.18	8.2%	245,721.98	11.4%
SECTION III	O.S. Operational Costs	30,434.94	4.2%		
	I.S. Operational Costs	27,334.85	1.9%	57,769.79	2.7%
SECTION IV	O.S. Total	725,024.99	100.0%		
	I.S. Total	1,422,308.24	100.0%	2,147,333.23	100.0%
			In-Kind Contribution:	395,920.15	18.4%


WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
PROJECT AREA
DOUGLAS
BAYFIELD
ASHLAND
IRON
VILAS
WASHBURN
SAWYER
BURNETT
PRICE
FOREST
FLORENCE
ONEIDA
MARINETTE
POLK
BARRON
RUSK
LINCOLN
LANGLADE
TAYLOR
OCONTO
ST. CROIX
DUNN
CHIPPEWA
MARATHON
MENOMINEE
CLARK
SHAWANO
PIERCE
EAU CLAIRE
DOOR
PEPIN
WOOD
PORTAGE
WAUPACA
BROWN
KEWAUNEE
BUFFALO
OUTAGAMIE
JACKSON
TREMPEALEAU
JUNEAU
ADAMS
WAUSHARA
WINNEBAGO
CALUMET
MANITOWOC
MONROE
LA CROSSE
MARQUETTE
GREEN LAKE
FOND DU LAC
SHEBOYGAN
VERNON
SAUK
COLUMBIA
DODGE
OZAUKEE
RICHLAND
CRAWFORD
DANE
WASHINGTON
GRANT
IOWA
JEFFERSON
WAUKESHA
MILWAUKEE
GREEN
ROCK
WALWORTH
RACINE
LA FAYETTE
KENOSHA

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, LABOR AND HUMAN RELATIONS,
WISCONSIN STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE,
Green Bay, Wisconsin, April 21, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: In response to your letter to Mr. Edmund Woychik, we would like to present information which you may find helpful, in your testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on Employment, Manpower and Poverty.

First, I have enclosed excerpts of a report on our NYC Summer Program. Included in the report are several letters from worksite personnel as well as community agencies attesting to the value of NYC.

The program we speak of is an NYC In-School Summer Program which we were able to mount with the cooperation of the Wisconsin Farmers Union and the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council.

We hope the text of the report conveys the idea that NYC is an excellent tool in the development of disadvantaged individuals.

Practically, we see value in providing funds through NYC to help students stay in school, but more importantly to give them the experience of working under supervision and exposure to various occupations.

It would be extremely helpful if NYC could be expanded, and be a regular resource to assist in the development of youth.

Very truly yours,

DONALD G. HUNTLEY,
District Manpower Director.

NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS, GREEN BAY, WISC.

SUMMER, 1970

What, When, Who and How

During the summer of 1970, the Neighborhood Youth Corps program provided opportunity for 160 disadvantaged high school students in the Green Bay, Wisconsin, area to obtain work experience and to earn money for school expenses. Enrollees for this In-School program were selected on the basis of their identification as "disadvantaged,"—those whose total family income did not exceed the established Federal guidelines at the poverty level. (See Appendix A, page 17). In addition, enrollees were required to be at least 14 years of age and no older than 21, and could include those in both elementary and high school through 12th grade, and recent dropouts. Enrollees were allowed to work up to 26 hours per week for a miximum of 10 weeks, or 260 hours.

The Green Bay Area Junior and Senior High Schools and the Brown County Department of Social Services supplied the Wisconsin State Employment Service with lists of disadvantaged young people who might be considered for enrollment in the summer program. Other eligible young people were also discovered when they came in to apply for work, completed an application, and had their initial interview.

All prospective enrollees were screened by personal interview and were required to have their parents or guardians complete a confidential income statement. Those who qualified were referred to the Neighborhood Youth Corps program. Subsequently, as job sites were available, these eligible students were enrolled in the training program and placed in an appropriate work situation. In all cases, those who appeared to be the most needy were placed first.

Where

Job sites were established in a number of area schools, various city and county departments, the two University of Wisconsin Green Bay campuses, the Northeast Wisconsin Technical Institute, the Curative Workshop and Sheltered Industries (organizations for the handicapped), the United States Post Office, and the Wisconsin State Employment Service. A list of job sites and the duties performed at each is provided on pages 3, 4, and 5 of this report. In all cases, NYC enrollees were performing actual tasks that needed to be done. There was no "drumming up of busy work." The employers, or their employees, often worked along with the NYC youth, setting the pace and providing a good example of what the typical worker was expected to do. Development of appropriate work stations and work experiences was the responsibility of John Harvey, Coordinator of the Green Bay NYC project.

The Sponsors

Salaries and expenses to operate this work-training program were provided by the United States Department of Labor and administered locally through two agencies: The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council of Bowler, Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Farmers Union of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

Green Bay Personnel

Throughout the entire year, Mr. Donald Vandersteen is Supervisor of the Employability Development Unit of the Wisconsin State Employment Service. In this capacity he directs and oversees all training programs including those funded by the Federal Government such as the Neighborhood Youth Corps program.

Assisting him is Mr. Jerry Thompson, Coordinator for all WSES involvement in NYC activities.

Mr. John Harvey was specifically employed by the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council to coordinate the Green Bay activities for the 1970 NYC program.

Mrs. Dorothy Hildebrand, a summer replacement for another WSES Counselor, was assigned as Counselor for the 160 NYC enrollees.

Finally, Mr. Donald G. Huntley is Manpower Director for the entire Green Bay Wisconsin State Employment Service office and all personnel and activities therein.

NYC Goals

The goals of the NYC programs were several. First, it was hoped that the enrollees could be provided with the opportunity to earn the necessary funds to make it possible for them to stay in school, or return to school as the case may be. Educators are well aware that in many instances a student's unhappiness in school and ultimate decision to drop out is because he does not have adequate or proper clothing, or required materials for his home economics, shop, or art courses; or he often lacks money for fees or school activities. He may also be hungry. Although the school can provide free hot lunches to any needy student, there is often a reluctance on the part of the student to be identified— and he is often undiscovered. He may prefer to drop out of school rather than reveal he doesn't have money for things he knows, or believes, to be essential. He may not wish to continue being a frustrated someone who can't afford a year book, proper shoes, activity ticket, or even occasional spending money for noon bake sales— when he sees "everyone else" having these things, and he can't. His self-esteem is often greatly diminished by always lacking things others have. Some students resort to stealing, but it has been the experience of those working with these disadvantaged youth that they are less likely to steal when they know they can earn the money to have what they desire.

Students who drop out of school for lack of money almost never give this as a reason. Instead, they will state that they don't like school, establish a truancy record, or give some other vague reason. These early school leavers believe they can find a "job" easily, and they say they are willing to do "anything." They soon discover that their young age and lack of experience closes most doors to employment.

This brings in another NYC goal. It is hoped that enrollees can obtain beneficial work experience. For some this may mean learning to go to work every day, and on time. Many of the enrollees come from families with no head-of-the-house going to work every day. Instead, the mailman brings the ADC or Social Security check. With no model to follow, they may not have acquired the self-discipline and motivation to perform satisfactory in a job situation. It is hoped that their NYC work experience will help them develop the skills, attitudes, responsibility and work habits necessary to compete in the job market. Many of these disadvantaged youth may have poor opinions of themselves and lack confidence in their own ability to perform adequately on a job. A successful NYC work experience can do much to correct this. Of course, other NYC enrollees have no adjustment or school problems and have sufficient self-confidence. They may be disadvantaged merely on the basis of not enough money in the home.

Not to be overlooked as a goal of the NYC program is the pride and feeling of achievement these NYC youth experience when they receive their checks. Many of them may never have had any money of their own before. They may benefit considerably from counseling on how to save and spend their money wisely and assistance in how to budget to meet their needs and wants. The experience of handling money is a definite advantage gained through this program.

Operation of the Program

The record keeping and paper work necessary in administering a program of this kind was processed with the help of two NYC enrollees. Two senior girls, Connie Schatz and Sally Van Abel, were utilized in payroll and other record keeping activities. Copies of the forms used in these procedures are included in Appendix E, page 71.

Each enrollee had to obtain a work permit, present a Social Security number, a completed confidential income statement prepared by the parent or guardian, and sign a W-4 Federal Income Tax Withholding Authorization.

Weekly time reports were completed by the employers and forwarded to our office for submission to the appropriate sponsor, Wisconsin Farmers Union or Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council. Checks were issued by the sponsor every two weeks and mailed to the Wisconsin State Employment Service office in Green Bay. The checks were then recorded and delivered to the job sites to be handed out by the work supervisor. Each enrollee had to sign for his own check. Checks were not turned over to friends or relatives except in very unusual circumstances. Each enrollee was entitled and expected to pick up his own check. Some difficulty was experienced on occasion when the check did not arrive through the mails on time.

Since the Green Bay WSES office is operating on a computer record keeping system, it was necessary to prepare appropriate "ESAR" forms to record any activities or transactions involving an enrollee. This included such things as referrals to training, enrolling in training, counseling, recording of any barriers to employment (too young, unskilled, health problems, etc.) and terminations.

At the onset, Mr. Harvey visited each prospective employer, explained the purposes of the program and the part the employer would play in providing work experiences for the NYC enrollees in his charge. At various times during the summer, Mr. Harvey furnished the employer with printed materials (samples in Appendix F, page 90) which were to be passed on to the enrollees and discussed with them. For the most part, the participating employers were found to be cooperative and interested in these NYC young people. The success of this summer's program depended to a large extent on the patience, understanding, and training provided by the employers.

Mr. Harvey worked closely with the employers in assuring that both the student enrollees and the employers were happy with the arrangement. Occasionally problems would arise and the counselor, Mrs. Hildebrand, would visit the student and/or employer to assist in resolving these difficulties. Examples are as follows: There were those students who failed to return after lunch, or who failed to show at all for a day or two. In one instance, two enrollees placed on the job were too shy to meet the public as the job required. They were transferred to other work, and more outgoing young people replaced them.

One boy, in spite of glasses, had such poor eyesight that his employer requested he be removed before an accident occurred. Suitable placement for him was obtained elsewhere, as well as referral to support services. Other adjustment problems might be concerned with the completion of work at one site or transportation difficulties, etc. These could usually be resolved without too much difficulty.

Counseling Activities

The counselor assigned to work with the NYC enrollees attempted to see each individual student for an initial get acquainted visit. These interviews took place at the actual work site. This might mean in a warehouse, school, or along a roadside or field. During this interview, there was opportunity to obtain background information and learn a little about the enrollee's home environment and previous school experience. There was also opportunity to learn what careeer plans, if any, the counselee might have.

During these interviews, the counselor explained the purposes and goals of the Neighborhood Youth Corps and listened to whatever the counselee might wish to discuss. Often these students had questions about their work, method of payment, etc. They might be troubled about personal problems, or they might be concerned about availability of financial aids for further education. It was often possible to provide considerable information about work or study opportunities and provide career and vocational information and literature. Any previous work experience the counselee might have had was also explored.

Those students who were discovered to require more counseling or who needed help with immediate problems were visited oftener as needed. Unexpected prob-

lems were often revealed. Some examples of the kinds of problems these youngsters experienced are as follows:

Two girls asked the counselor for advice on how they could manage to keep some of their own money. Their father required them to turn it over to him, or he threatened to kill their dog if they didn't. This dog was especially important to these girls for their mother had died in the last year and things at home had not been going well for them. Their father drank to excess, he was unemployed and disabled, and he often did not provide adequate food. The girls reported that for several days there was only a little bread in the house, and this they fed to their dog. These girls were also in need of adequate clothing as well as food.

On several occasions other youngsters were discovered who were hungry. The counselor always asked the enrollees what they did for lunch. Usually they brought their lunches, but in several instances, students reported that there was nothing at home to fix, and they might not have had anything for breakfast, either. One work supervisor reported that he and his men had noticed that one particular boy never had a lunch, and they had made it a point to share a few sandwiches with him.

One girl received a rather severe beating from her mother and did not report to work for several days. She had a black eye and bruised arms for some time. Needless to say, this girl did not attend to her duties at work as she should have and might have otherwise. She seemed to be unhappy much of the time. She had dropped out of school in the 9th grade.

A number of boys were enrolled in the program who were living at St. Joseph Home for Children. Some of these boys had no families or such families they could not be cared for adequately in their homes. Some were boys who had been in trouble as well, and the NYC work experience may have been the first time they were able to earn money to buy the things they might have stolen previously.

One young boy who was always so exuberant about his job confided that his father was in Waupun State Prison. He wrote his father every week and passed on all his experiences at his work. This boy had a very optimistic outlook in spite of some financial hardships at home and the absence of his father.

There were several instances of students who came from homes where supervision and direction were lacking. These young people sometimes obtained valuable counsel from the work supervisors with whom they were working. These enrollees came to respect and listen to some of the advice these supervisors gave them. One young counselee expressed her appreciation for the advice her work supervisor had given her concerning the late hours and questionable company she was keeping. No one had talked to her about these things before.

Most of the youngsters anticipated their first checks eagerly. Several confided that they were looking forward to the checks in order to buy needed shoes or other clothes so that they could be "presentable" for their work.

One girl enrolled in the program was the oldest of nine children. Her mother had died during the past year, and she had numerous responsibilities at home after her day at work. The money was urgently needed, and she appreciated the opportunity to work.

One boy was discovered who had neither a home or food—an unusual situation which was partly his own fault and partly that of his parents and the agencies involved with his case. Through supportive agencies in Green Bay, a temporary solution was effected, and long range plans are still in progress.

One mother required her boy to turn over his money to her. She would then allot him $5 per week. He was resentful and began stealing money around the house for things he wanted. The boy was well on his way to becoming involved in other real problems as he expressed his rebellion for not having more to say about the money he had earned.

Two boys were involved in a theft from their employer. However, it was possible to arrange for these boys to continue at the work site and attempt to redeem themselves.

Several enrollees were slow learners in the schools and other situations and required special placement in their work situations. It was not unusual to have enrollees who had caseworkers, or a probation officer. Whenever there was occasion to use a supportive service or agency, this was done.

The counseling activities were, then, concerned not only with the present functioning of the enrollees, but their plans for the future as well.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The letters from the employers and the NYC enrollees themselves are perhaps the best evidence of the effectiveness of the 1970 summer program. (Appendix D, page 23). However, not all individuals involved in the program are represented in these letters. No structured questionnaire was used, and this possibility might be considered for another year. This year the employers and enrollees alike were asked to write what they wished about the program—what they thought of it, etc.

A student who was picking up dead fish along the shoreline might value the monetary returns of the program most, whereas a student working in an air-conditioned office or in the Head Start Program at one of the schools might conceivably see the total learning situation as more important. Also, the degree of need in the home and the varied backgrounds and value systems were, no doubt, reflected in the evaluations the students gave of this summer's program. Some students wrote hurriedly without giving much thought; others obviously drafted their comments carefully.

The suggestion has been made that group counseling sessions during the training and perhaps at the end might be useful. The intent would be to provide opportunity for the enrollees to voice their satisfactions or difficulties with the program and perhaps profit by their own and others experiences. Critical to the success of any such venture would, of course, be the group leader.

The problem of motivation for NYC enrollees is somewhat taken care of by the money reward. However, there are still some who, despite their need, object to early rising hours or interference with personal or recreational desires. There also are some who look down on certain types of work, such as cleaning. One girl assigned to clean lockers at East High School threw her lunch down and stalked out, saying, "I'm not going to do *that* kind of work." She later stated she was only interested in office work and wasn't interested in working with "those people" who did "that" kind of work. This was a girl who came from a fatherless family of eight, where the mother received welfare and there was considerable financial hardship.

The image some have of manual work being somehow lowly, inferior, or something to be ashamed of needs to be changed. It would seem from some comments the students made that progress was made in this direction this summer, at least insofar as some of the enrollees were concerned.

A number of the enrollees expressed pleasure at feeling they made a contribution to their employers and others. They also expressed pride in a job well done, and satisfaction with the wages they had earned. Most students appeared content with their work assignments, although there were a few who stated they became bored with their work. Before passing judgment on either the work or work site, one would need to understand the unique background and problems of the enrollee making such statements.

Worthy of special mention is the degree of interest in the NYC enrollees that some of the supervisors displayed. One example would be the special luncheon one supervisor prepared as a farewell for the NYC employees at his site (six students). Another work supervisor developed considerable interest in a boy from St. Joseph's home who was working for him. This supervisor called the Director of the Home and discussed the possibility of a foster home arrangement. This is certainly beyond any expected outcome of a program of this kind; however, it does point out that significant relationships are formed through these work experiences.

There appears to be a genuine interest on the part of most work supervisors to continue this program throughout the school year. There also appears to be real value in providing these very needy students with continuing opportunity for additional money for school and the training experiences they can gain.

In summary, this summer's involvement with these young people, with all their hopes, discouragements, accomplishments and problems will not soon be forgotten by those of us who worked with them. It is the writer's sincere hope that continued opportunities may be provided for these youngsters and others like them. Any investment in their futures would seem to promise considerable returns, not only to them, but to society as well.

BROWN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES,
Green Bay, Wis., August 17, 1970.

MRS. DOROTHY HILDEBRAND,
NYC Counselor,
Wisconsin State Employment Service,
Green Bay, Wis.

DEAR MRS. HILDEBRAND: I would like to present some of my experiences while working with juveniles participating in the NYC Program and would like to offer my comments regarding this program.

Almost without exception, I have had positive experiences and reactions to this program. It has helped the juvenile mature and take a more realistic look at life.

The inability of many juveniles to achieve adequate recognition through normal means has caused them to use deviant or delinquent means to achieve this recognition. The NYC Program provides for the satisfaction of accomplishing a job and gaining recognition either from an emotional standpoint or a financial position, and in particular cases has helped in the rehabilitation of the potential delinquents.

Many juveniles do not have enough activity to occupy their time—this brings out another positive facet of the NYC Program. Not only does this Program offer "something to do" but also offers a creative learning experience which in turn helps to modify the potential delinquents outlook on life.

A continuing program throughout the entire year would be highly beneficial for the juvenile and community. It would help restructure the juveniles behavior and attitude and potentially provide the community with less delinquency. It is a valuable program to the community.

Sincerely,

EUGENE L. O'LEARY,
Supervising Caseworker, Juvenile Court Services.

GREEN BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL,
August 21, 1970.

MRS. DOROTHY HILDEBRAND,
Counselor.

I would like to express my thanks for the help we received from the NYC program. With the help of these young people, we were able to complete many jobs that would not have been possible without their help.

As you know we had a few problems, but over all the boys worked well. We tried to put the boys to work at jobs they were suited to. We found some that worked well as mechanic's helpers, painters, and other jobs. I'll list some of the things they have been doing.

1. Sanding & finishing desks.
2. Moving furniture & supplies.
3. Painting.
4. Cleaning school yards.
5. Washing trucks.
6. Helped mechanics.
7. Helped custodians.

I feel this program has not only helped us, but has helped these young people to gain work experience and work habits that will help them later. I'm sure these young people have been helped by being kept busy. I feel an extended program of this kind would help to keep many of these young people out of trouble.

It's been a pleasure to work with you, John Harvey, and the other people connected with this program.

Thank you.

R. W. DUCHATEAN.

GREEN BAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
BOARD OF EDUCATION,
Green Bay, Wis., August 20, 1970.

MRS. DOROTHY HILDEBRAND,
Wisconsin Department of Employment Services,
Green Bay, Wis.

DEAR MRS. HILDEBRAND: This note brings you a sincere "thank you" for the superb services both you and Mr. John Harvey rendered the summer school pro-

grams in arranging for our teacher aides. I feel that much of the success of the Title I and Head Start programs was due to the splendid assistance given us by the Neighborhood Youth Corps young people.

This is the second summer the Green Bay Board of Education has been privileged in utilizing the services of the N.Y.C. youth and because of their help, some of the children who needed extra help and individual attention would not have received it without them. The teacher aides in all cases were energetic, cooperative, neat, interested and exhibited a great deal of pride and enthusiasm in their work. All of your N.Y.C. people attended our in-service meetings and shared in the discussion of their duties and responsibilities in the classroom.

The N.Y.C. program has been a tremendous help to us and I am convinced the program has helped the young people far more than the financial benefits they derived from it. From our experiences with the N.Y.C. program I conclude in saying this program has helped the school, the youth involved, his family and the entire community.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) AMELIA E. FORGIE,
Elementary Supervisor.

ST. JOSEPH HOME FOR CHILDREN,
Green Bay, Wis., August 17, 1970.

Re: Neighborhood Youth Corp.

WISCONSIN STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE,
Green Bay, Wis.

DEAR MRS. HILDEBRAND: This letter comes in reference to an evaluation of the benefits received from the work experience the boys have had in working under the Neighborhood Youth Corp this summer.

First of all, I would feel that it is the best kind of therapy available to them, because it places them under the supervision of an adult in an employment situation. In most cases, it is the first time they have experienced this kind of a relationship where the demands placed on them call for a definite commitment from them.

With a few exceptions, the twenty-three (23) boys have responded to this responsibility and have demonstrated that they can produce for a wage which is a definitive achievement for them. We cannot afford to pay them this kind of a wage here and as a result this wage incentive is a definite asset for their work history.

The work experience provides us with a means of helping them learn how to save their money. We have opened bank accounts in their names; they are able to make choices on how they spend their money; and with this opportunity are able to see the fruits of their labor for the first time in their life. Because you are aware of some of the factors in the family backgrounds of these boys, it does take on greater significance when one realizes that most have been living from day to day in their family environments.

The Neighborhood Youth Corp Project is an important asset to the boys and to the program offered by the Home. We would be hard pressed to find this kind of work experience on the grounds and at the same time pay them this wage.

The cooperation and consideration given by the staff at the Employment Service are appreciated. You are to be commended very highly for the concern and attention shown the boys, because they come to us very with some very difficult problems. And to see the boys participate in this work experience; to witness their achievement and pride when they receive their check; it becomes one of the best therapy tools one can provide for troubled minds.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to express our appreciation to the staff for the boys; and to state our feeling that this is a very worthwhile and important program for them.

Sincerely yours,

WEST DE PERE PUBLIC SCHOOL,
West de Pere, Wis., August 19, 1970.

MRS. DOROTHY HILDEBRAND,
Wisconsin State Employment Division, Green Bay, Wis.

DEAR MRS. HILDEBRAND: I'm writing to you in regard to the NYC youths we had working for us. Most of these young men did a creditable job. Many things which we normally wouldn't have done during the summer was completed.

We made every attempt to instill in these people a service of punctuality and pride in their work. We tried to get across the idea, that they had to work an hour for an hour's pay. I believe we had some degree of success.

If this program was carried on during the school year, I feel it probably would be more beneficial. A person could set up jobs which should take a specific amount of time. One could tell them this and if they finished sooner give them credit for the time, but if it took longer, only give credit for the time you thought it should take.

These people need something to do in order to make money. This will most likely help to keep them in school.

In closing I would say that if the youths happen to be from your own school, I feel you probably will have more success with them.

Sincerely,

GERALD C. SAUER,
Principal.

GREEN BAY, BROWN COUNTY,
PLANNING COMMISSION,
Green Bay, Wis., August 19, 1970.

MRS. DOROTHY HILDEBRAND,
Counselor, Neighborhood Youth Corps Program, Wisconsin Employment Service, Green Bay, Wis.

DEAR MRS. HILDEBRAND: During the summer months of 1970, this office has been fortunate to have on its temporary staff several people from the Neighborhood Youth Corp Program. These personnel were placed in positions which enabled the conduct of necessary land use tabulation data for Brown County. Because of their presence with our organization a release of professional service time for other personnel was possible, thereby allowing a greater degree of planning activity within the department.

The nature of the work was varied and allowed contact with immediate supervisory personnel. We believe that the program that the people were involved in was mutually beneficial to the participants as well as the agency.

Because our work continues into fall and winter, we do have need for similar personnel throughout those months. If the N.Y.C. program could be continued it would be of definite benefit to us.

Sincerely,

R. M. BERGMAN,
Executive Director.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-GREEN BAY,
OFFICE OF PHYSICAL PLANT,
Green Bay, Wis., August 12, 1970.

MR. JOHN HARVEY,
Wisconsin State Employment Service,
330 Jefferson Street, Green Bay, Wis.

DEAR JOHN: I wish to take this opportunity to officially thank you, your office, and the Federal Government for supplying the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay with High School student employees. My supervisors have found that these students have worked out very well. They have been very excited about this program and hope that it continues in future years. They are sorry to see the students leave in a few days. Actually, it appears that the students themselves are sorry that this program has come to an end for this biennium.

Again we here at the University wish to thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

J. CURT LINDEM,
Director of Physical Plant.

SCHOOL BOARD,
JOINT DISTRICT NO. 1—CITY OF RHINELANDER, ET AL.,
Rhinelander, Wis., April 22, 1971.

MR. EDMUND WOYCHIK,
Wisconsin Farmers Union, Neighborhood Youth Corps, 115 W. Spring Street, Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: The Jt. District #1, City of Rhinelander School Board and staff are most pleased with the experiences that they have had with the N.Y.C. program the past years.

It is amazing at the amount of work that has been accomplished by the members of the Neighborhood Youth Corp. Not only have these youth learned the skills

of taking care of building and yards—of handling some minor painting and custodial projects—but the school district has obtained innumerable amounts of service from the workers, resulting in savings to the district but even more important—the facilities and sites of the district properties are more attractive than usual.

As an Administrator I look upon this program with great favor. It's one that gets more "bang out of the dollar" than most Federal programs. Many of these youth are lacking in dollars. To maintain a good image in their peer group they need some money to buy a few of the items they need—to be able to go places with their friends—to compete with their peer group socially. Through the NYC program they are able to earn these dollars—they do not have to resort to dubious means of securing them. I like to see people get their dollars through work projects—work that not only provides these dollars but also teaches many of them a workable skill.

It is our hope that the N.Y.C. program will be continued—if not expanded. The summer program is so important for the welfare of the youth in this area. It would be difficult to fill the gap in this community if the program were discontinued or curtailed.

We are pleased with the Farmers Union's general over-all administration. They are doing an excellent job. Their program supervisors are capable and helpful. There is little redtape connected with the administration of the program.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that this is an excellent youth project and should have top priority in the thinking of those people who set up Federal projects.

Yours very truly,

C. A. VIG,
Administrator

CENTRAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL,
JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1,
Superior, Wis., April 21, 1971.

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS,
115½ West Spring St., Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK, I have just received a copy of a letter sent to you by Gilbert Rohde.

It is my opinion that it would be a great tragedy if the Nelson-Javits Bill S–1290 were not passed.

We have a school with just under 1400 students. Many of these are classified as underprivileged. We have had the N.Y.C. Program here for several years. I would certainly classify it as a success. Many young people have been helped over the years. Not only have these boys and girls received extra money for clothes and other necessary things, but have also received valuable experience in the world of work.

Many of the students involved in the program had very little training in the responsibilities that are attached to a job. For example, having the responsibility to be at work on time and every day. This has often carried over into attendance at school.

As for the administration of the program, it is a pleasure being associated with the Wisconsin Farmers Union. Our staff is a busy one and the amount of work attached to this program administratively is minimal. Our local representative, Mr. Paul Hakkila has given us much advice and help in administering this program.

Please extend to Mr. Rohde our hope in his success at the hearing in Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,

JAMES OLIVER, *Assistant Principal.*

VILLAGE OF WHITE LAKE,
White Lake, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Director, WI Farmers Union Neighborhood Youth Corps,
115½ West Spring St., Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: It is the opinion of the White Lake Village Board that this Manpower Program be continued.

We have had experience with the Green Thumb Program mostly and were very satisfied with this group. We also had some experience with the Neighborhood Youth Corp and this was satisfactory.

The Board feels these programs are beneficial to the community.

Yours truly,

BERNICE HOFFMAN, *Village Clerk.*

WASHBURN COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE,
COUNTY HIGHWAY BUILDING,
Spooner, Wis., April 22, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT ROHDE,
117 W. Spring Street,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: Washburn County has been able to put some youngsters to work, with a minimum of paper work, through the Farmers Union Neighborhood Youth Corps Program. The young people seem quite appreciative and anxious to have the opportunity to earn extra funds. The program has provided extra needed help on some of the programs we are involved with for the county.

The programs for our older people, such as Green Thumb and Green Light, would be well received by those people wishing to work at least two or three days for some extra money. We have not had this in our county because of fund limitations.

Very truly yours,

W. F. LINDENBERGER,
Extension Resource Agent.

COLBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Colby, Wis., April 22, 1971.

DIRECTOR:
Wisconsin Farmers Union, Neighborhood Youth Corps, 115½ West Spring Street, Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR SIR: This letter is regarding Cynthia Diedrich, an applicant for the Neighborhood Youth Corps Project in Colby, Wisconsin.

It is our hope that Cynthia will be able to work this summer because she needs not only the money, but the experience of earning it. Cynthia comes from a broken home. She knows her mother has remarried for the fourth time, but does not know where she lives. Her father lives in a nearby community, has also remarried, and is living on his wife's farm which has four cows, a few chickens, and a few pigs. He has no other job.

Cynthia has been living with her grandparents, who are in their 70's, and in ill health. She will have to move to a foster home as the grandparents are unhappy in having young children to break their solitude, and they are living on social security.

Thank you for considering this young lady, and hope that the N.Y.C. program will be continued by Congress.

Sincerely,

MARTIN HAAVISTO,
Guidance Director.

ASHLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
HARVEY W. JOHNSON, SUPERINTENDENT,
Ashland, Wis., April 22, 1971.

Mr. EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Project Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Neighborhood Youth Corps,
115½ W. Spring Street, Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: We have participated in the NYC program here at Ashland since 1965. During that time we have had many students as participants both here in school and in various other agencies throughout the community. As the person primarily responsible for the program operations during that time I can truly say that the overall effect of the program has been very positive.

There are several reasons why I feel this way. The most obvious reasons are the monetary aid it provides the participating students and the service it provides the people for whom the students are working.

I feel that an even greater contribution has been made by this program in the way it has affected individual students. I have witnessed students as they discovered that with a little effort they could contribute a worthwhile service that is appreciated by people they respect. I have seen others whose dress improved greatly as the result of the money, which led to their gaining added confidence in themselves. Others have gained on the job experience that was instrumental in guiding them toward their career choice beyond high school. While still others were enough encouraged by this small income to stay in school until they graduated.

It would seem that programs of this sort that develop more positive attitudes in the underprivileged at an early age are much more economical than the possible welfare or rehabilitation expenses that can result in later years from such attitudes.

I would like to add that I have been very pleased with the leadership that the Wisconsin Farmers Union has provided in the operation of the N.Y.C. program. I feel that every consideration has been extended to us the users of your fine organization.

Sincerely,

EUGENE STAUFFER,
Federal Programs Coordinator.

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES,
BUREAU OF PROBATION AND PAROLE,
Rhinelander, Wis., April 22, 1971.

MR. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
117 W. Spring St., Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: It has come to my attention that the office of Economic Opportunity Programs, including the Neighborhood Youth Corps, will expire on June 30, 1971 unless Congress enacts legislation to continue them. I am especially interested in the continuation of NYC for the benefit of many of my clients who are teenage girls under the custody of the State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services.

These girls are typically from low to middle income families and are low achievers in school (many are dropouts). They are generally unmotivated because of their very low self-images. I have repeatedly seen these girls, after being placed on a job under NYC, discover within themselves some worth and consequently there is an improvement in their total attitudes and adjustments. They are doing a job and receiving pay for it—not merely having money handed to them. They are seeing themselves as responsible young adults earning the money for the things which are of value to them such as record players, clothing and musical instruments. These may seem insignificant to an adult but to them these things are highly important.

Prior to the instatement of NYC in this community, the job possibilities for these girls were minimal, We, perhaps, could find employment for a few; usually the brightest and best adjusted. Thus the needs of the typical girl, the one I have previously described, were not being met. If the Neighborhood Youth Corp Program is discontinued this tremendous resource will be a great loss to our clients and our agency as well as to many other young people in rural areas such as ours.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

(MRS.) E. ANNE MEYER,
Probation and Parole Agent.

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109 MAPLE STREET,
Hurley, Wis., April 21, 1971.

GILBERT C. ROHDE,
Wisconsin Farmers Union,
117 W. Spring Street, Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: In reference to your Rural Manpower and Poverty Programs, I would like to offer you the following information as far as this area is concerned.

Your W.Y.C. Program should be expanded, if at all possible.

The public opinion of this program, in the past, has been exceptionally good in this area.

I believe the qualifications are rather severe. We are penalizing the youth of our area, who desperately need help, because their parents earn over the allotted wages.

We, in this area, who are affiliated with Little League, are in the process of building our own athletic field and will need much outside help in attaining this goal. At least 5 or 6 boys will be needed for the various help needed. The field now used, belongs to the school district, and we are restricted inasmuch as we cannot build a regulation fence around it, because it is used for other athletic events, such as practice football, track, etc.

Many of the past enrollees, in our particular area, have set aside a certain amount of this money earned, to go to school, to travel to cities to obtain employment, to purchase clothing for school; thereby taking much of the burden off their parents.

Hoping this program will be definitely continued and possibly expanded, I am,

Very Sincerely Yours,

FELIX J. PATRITTO,
Player Agent and Acting President,
Hurley Area Little League.

SUPERIOR-DOUGLAS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.,
Superior, Wis., April 22, 1971.

EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Project Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Neighborhood Youth Corps,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: After retirement about fifteen months ago from a management position in a relatively large corporation I assumed the position of Executive Director of the Superior-Douglas County Development Association and first learned about the Neighborhood Youth Corps. My observations must, therefore, be limited to experience with the NYC during that relatively short period.

Most of the work of this office is carried out by a Staff Assistant who has been actively employed here on a full-time basis since the Association was created as a separate entity ten years ago. Supplementary assistance is provided by persons acquired from the Concentrated Employment Program and the Neighborhood Youth Corps, usually one person from each of these sources.

There have only been two assignees from the NYC while I have been here. The first has graduated from High School and is no longer eligible. The second who replaced her is still with us. Because we know in advance the hours these girls will work we have endeavored to assign them special work for which they are made responsible and in which they can develop pride and interest. They receive needed advice and direction but are allowed, and in fact are encouraged, to display some degree of initiative in getting the work properly accomplished. They do, in fact, receive practical on-the-job training.

In your letter of April 14 you requested comments on certain aspects of the NYC program as it exists today as a guide to Mr. Rohde in his appearance before the Senate Subcommittee on Employment, Manpower and Poverty. From my observations and experience the NYC is effective in providing opportunities for meaningful training for children who qualify because of financial or other reasons as intended and therefore should be continued. While I am not in a position to gauge public opinion about the NYC program, I have heard no adverse comments about it. I therefore assume this indicates it is being well accepted.

So far as this office is concerned the program appears to be administered by the Farmers' Union in a most efficient manner. There is adequate review and appraisal by those concerned without undue interference and restriction. The program is working smoothly and we are quite satisfied.

With the emphasis being placed on youth training, practical education and other forms of preparation for taking advantage of job opportunities, which members of the Administration and of Congress are so frequently voicing, would appear the Neighborhood Youth Corps concept is a very effective method for achieving these objectives. Unless and until better ways of achieving these aims are developed I feel the present programs should be continued.

Very truly yours,

J. T. STUART,
Executive Director.

PINE CREST HOME AND HOSPITAL,
Merrill, Wis., April 19, 1971.

EDWARD F. WOYCHIK,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
N.Y.C., Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: I have had students under the N.Y.C. Program since the beginning of the 1966 school year.

I am sure that 80 to 90% of the students have benefited by the program to the extent that they were able to find full time employment after they were no longer eligible under N.Y.C. In fact I have two girls still working for Pine Crest Nursing Home who were enrollees in your program several years ago, one as a Nurses Aid, the other in the Dietary Department. I know of several others who married and left this community but are employed in Nursing Homes and Hospitals in their respective locality now. They are very capable, trustworthy and efficient. I am pleased to know that I was able to have them in my employment because of the program you offered.

I have been very much in favor of this program from the start because I feel it has afforded those students of lesser financial backing and possibilities of furthering their education, to receive some help in a vocation that can be followed after their graduation from High School.

I certainly hope this program will not be discontinued as of June 30. I have always asked for more students than were allotted me and felt badly when I was refused the quota I had asked for. I feel we owe these children help in this time of stress and strain.

May this program continue for a long, long time. I'm all for it.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

MARGARET STARK, RN, N.H.A.

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Superior, April 20, 1971.

EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Project Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Neighborhood Youth Corps, Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: I would certainly like to see the N.Y.C. program be continued. I feel if conducted right this is a definite training program for high school drop outs and is preparing them to make a living for themselves.

Superior is considered a depressed area and I think the people of the area feel it is fortunate that these young people are able to take advantage of this program. It has a tendency to keep them busy instead of giving them time to think of trouble to get into.

We have been very pleased with the young people we have had working for us as a result of the N.Y.C. program. Out of the seven people we have had working for us, there were five I would gladly recommend to anyone. The other two should have been working some place where more time could have been spent with them. One of these, I believe, was transferred to the Employment Office, where they could spend more time with her.

We have no fault to find with the program and we certainly hope it can continue.

Sincerely yours,

LLOYD W. FREER,
Director, Bureau of Grain Regulation.

DOUGLAS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES,
Superior, Wis., April 20,1971.

Mr. EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Project Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Neighborhood Youth Corps, Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: Reference is your communication dated April 14, 1971 relative to the above and my reply will address itself to the issues enumerated in that communication:

1. More investment must be made with the youth as this is the age group where more dividends can be earned in purposeful planning. If there is to be a

realignment of priorities, then, NYC should be continued at present funding level but also to provide for more enrollee slots. Also, there should be thought in including on some percentage youth other than the financially disadvantaged.

2. To our knowledge, there has been no criticism of NYC. The program appears to have community support.

3. We do not have any dramatic success stories. However, from the several NYC enrollees placed in this agency, we have observed quite perceptively a growing maturity and confidence on the enrollee's part through such an experience. We feel that such suggests that there has been goal attainment.

4. Paper work, red tape, and over-supervision has not been our experience with your agency. The working relationship to my knowledge is good with the understanding that if consultation is needed, such is immediately available. This facet of the program must be rated high.

Very truly yours,

JOHN L. BARRETT, *Director.*

IRON COUNTY UNIVERSITY EXTENSION,
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS,
April 20, 1971.

Mr. EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Project Director, Neighborhood Youth Corps, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Chippewa, Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: The Neighborhood Youth Program should be expanded, in order to offer job opportunties and training to additional youth.

Employment opportunities for young people are very scarce here. Therefore, many will be without jobs.

Our particular part in the program has been small since we usually had only one or two job slots. However, we feel the work in our office was a major contribution toward the enrollees' education.

Farmers Union should be complimented on their efficient administration of the program.

Sincerely yours,

H. W. KINNEY, *Chairman.*

PARK FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Park Falls, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Mr. EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Neighborhood Youth Corps,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: As you are aware, the Park Falls Public Schools has participated in the Neighborhood Youth Corps Program during the entire time your agency has sponsored the program.

Its effect on our school and on the young people employed on the program has been entirely positive.

The bookkeeping has been kept at a minimum and the Farmers Union has acted in an efficient and cooperative manner. We sincerely hope that the program continues.

Sincerely,

HARRY D. FROKJER,
Superintendent of Schools.

Rib Lake, Wis., April 16, 1971.

Mr. EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Project Director, Neighborhood Youth Corps,
Wisconsin Farmer's Union, Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: I would like to react to the possibility that the Neighborhood Youth Corps might be terminated as of June 30, 1971 unless additional funds are appropriated:

I tried for many months to get a Neighborhood Youth Corps program established in this area, with the emphasis, of course, being to help some of our high school youth. The Wisconsin Farmer's Union came to our aid and established such a program. We have been grateful ever since.

We are in a rather low income area, many of our school units have no problem

qualifying for Title I programs as the number of children from low income families is rather large. We have been able to, over the past few years employ about twenty different boys and girls in the NYC program. Not only have we been able do a great many more things than we could have done without their help, but we find we have helped these boys and girls in many ways other than finances.

Three of the boys we have given a chance to work under the program were problem boys of a sort. We were constantly having to call them in for rule infractions of one sort or another. The NYC program is one where we must be able to trust these boys as we have to give them building keys and put them in positions of responsibility. We know that the responsibility given these boys changed them to the point, where after a short time in the program, they are respected students in our school. The program has given these boys a strong feeling of belonging and being part of the school. Needless to say, grade point averages of these students has risen as well.

We find, in a school system the size we are, that we never are able to gather all the finances to do the many things we want to do. We seem to be behind in much of our daily routine work such as grading, posting, entering, etc. These NYC people have been a blessing.

The people of the community, who come in contact with the boys and girls working in the program have commented many times, on what a wonderful program it is for boys and girls and how satisfied the boys and girls are working in such a program.

The Farmer's Union has done a splendid job in administering the program. We have ample supervision from their representatives who call on us frequently, we get special summer supervision which helps us. The book work needed for the program is held to a minimum for us, yet is complete enough to have all the details available. Everything is done for us except some details of hour keeping and supervision which we ourselves do. Our relationship with the Farmer's Union on the NYC project leaves nothing to be desired.

My personal thinking on the NYC program is that if it were to be curtailed, we would suffer as would many young boys and girls in this area. I feel that it is perhaps the most practical program we have ever had, the simplest to operate, and one which does the most for boys and girls.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT C. BECKER

SPOONER, WIS., *April 16, 1971.*

Mr. EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union Neighborhood Youth Corps,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

Dear Mr. Woychik: In reply to your letter of April 13th, I wish to state that the Northwest Wisconsin Area, which has been designated as a depressed area, has been served very well by the Neighborhood Youth Corps. There has always been more eligible youth than their budget would permit. So, in view of this fact, and their excellent performance in service to youth of this area, I would feel that the program should be continued and perhaps, expanded.

Public opinion has been very good, as the program has served the needs of youth from low income families. Any program which provides meaningful employment for youth, while contributing to the improvement of the community, should be continued. In regards to the Administration by the Wisconsin Farmers Union, we might note that their Administration budget has been very low, in comparison to the amount received by the enrollees.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE GRAHAM.

SIREN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS,
Siren, Wis., April 15, 1971.

Mr. EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Wisconsin Farmers Union, Neighborhood Youth Corps,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: We have had an N.Y.C. program in our school for several years. It has enabled our students to do useful and valuable work as well as enabled them to earn money for school needs and clothing. Many of these students had poor attendance in the past because of a feeling of not belonging. They felt

left out when they did not have money for games, prom, concerts, etc. They wanted to be able to dress like other students. If it were not for N.Y.C. help some of these students may well have become high school drop outs.

The work done by the N.Y.C. students is very well accepted by the public. Their interest in keeping the area green and beautiful has received many compliments.

Some of our N.Y.C. students have developed leadership in work experiences to the point where they were hired by employers in the community and no longer needed the N.Y.C. help thus leaving a slot open for another needy student.

The over-all administration of the Farmers Union program has been excellent. They do the work with a minimum of red-tape.

I know of no program that is available in the local community that could do as much good as N.Y.C. Farmers Union.

I would strongly support the continuation of this program.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ruth Rock,
Guidance Counselor.

Joint School District No. 1,
Gliden, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Gilbert C. Rohde,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Neighborhood Youth Corps,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

Dear Sir: Please be advised that the N.Y.C. Program in our school district is a most valuable program. Service rendered through this program has been most specific in assisting the youth of our community to assume responsibility not only relative to individual employment but also in gaining experience in handling money. By making the funds available, this program has provided the opportunity for many of the youth of our community to become, to a great degree, self-reliant. It has also provided school administration with an excellent means of improving student-staff rapport. Certainly the work done by the N.Y.C. enrollees has been most worthwhile and a definite service to the school district.

Our entire community appears to support the program and I believe I voice the sentiment of the community in requesting that the program be expanded if at all possible.

Sincerely,

Matthew T. Kelly,
Administrator.

Birchwood Public Schools,
Birchwood, Wis., April 16, 1971.

Mr. Gilbert C. Rohde,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union.

Dear Sir: I am writing this letter to inform you that we highly approve of the Neighborhood Corps program in our school and community.

Frankly, public opinion of State and Federal programs has not always been looked on favorably. However, the N.Y.C. program has been one of the exceptions and has done much to main public confidence that higher agencies do care, and are interested in helping when and where they are really needed.

To an economically depressed area like ours it is important that the public have a positive image of their local, state and federal government and its concern for its people.

Sincerely,

Dennis P. Hendrickson,
High School Principal.

Superior Senior High School,
Superior, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Neighborhood Youth Corps,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

Dear Mr. Rohde: As a high school counselor, I am concerned about the future of the Neighborhood Youth Corp and would like to do what I can to see that the Nelson-Javits Bill, which provides funds for this program, is passed by Congress.

The Neighborhood Youth Corp is not a luxury program. It meets some of the basic needs of students from poor homes, who generally have had little encouragement and whose outlook on life is bleak. In my work with these young people, I have seen the changes that have taken place. Their school attendance is better, they are learning to assume responsibility, and most important of all, they smile now.

The program is well supervised by personnel who have an interest in youth. Money spent on Neighborhood Youth Corp is money well spent.

Respectfully yours,

JOSEPH ROGINA,
Counselor.

EAGLE BLUFF COUNTRY CLUB,
Hurley, Wis., April 17, 1971.

MR. EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Neighborhood Youth Corps,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR SIR: For the past several years the Eagle Bluff Country Club of Hurley, Wisconsin has been fortunate enough to have had the services of up to 6 young men provided through the participation of the Wisconsin Farmers Union Neighborhood Youth Corps. These young men received good training in the operation and maintenance of farm and lawn equipment, proper care and development of tees, greens, and fareways, and general construction and irrigation problems.

They, of course, have been very useful and productive in the general care and development of our new golf course, and have profited financially from earnings received. The members and users of our golf course are especially grateful for this help, and certainly hope these boys will be available each and every ensuing year. We could use more of this type of assistance, and hope that we can count on additional assistance this season.

This program has been a big help to the boys, both morally and financially, and has even assisted several boys to continue their education by enabling them to earn some much needed money during the summer months to pay part of their college expenses.

I feel that this type of program is very beneficial to the participants, and trust that you will be able to inform us, in the very near future, of the continuance of this program.

Very truly yours,

ED H. ERSPAMER,
President.

NORTHWEST WISCONSIN CONCENTRATED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM,
Ashland, Wis., April 16, 1971.

MR. EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Project Director, Neighborhood Youth Corps,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: I am in receipt of your letter reqeusting information pertaining to the NYC program.

We certainly feel that NYC should be continued in this area and probably expanded in other areas. I believe that it is a program that has been and continues to be an effective and well accepted program in the counties of Rusk and Sawyer, which are served by this agency.

Since we are also an employment agency, we deal with the general public, the disadvantaged and the business community alike. Were there to be any public discontent with the program, it most certainly would be brought to my attention.

We feel that your agency prepares the in-school, disadvantaged youth of the community to accept work and/or training that we may have to offer them upon graduation. It provides a stepping stone to our program that would be sorely missed by us. Both this agency and the communities we serve would suffer greatly were the program to be discontinued.

Your personal assistance in expediting cases that we have brought to your attention has been invaluable.

Very truly yours,

JOHN W. SCHNELLER,
Supervisor.

NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, INC.,
April 16, 1971.

Mr. EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Wisconsin Farmers Union, Neighborhood Youth Corps,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR SIR: The N.Y.C. Program has provided useful work experience as well as developing work habits of several young people of the area.

N.Y.C. should be continued and expanded, since the number of economically deprived families in the area indicate the need for this program. Its effectiveness has been obvious in that several potential school drop-outs remained in school, when financial assistance through this program was available.

The responsive attitude of the community is noted, since many local merchants prefer to hire students with N.Y.C. experience for part time jobs.

The program has been administered satisfactorily and the representative in this area has been most cooperative.

Sincerely,

GERTRUDE PEERENBOOM,
Executive Director.

ANTIGO PUBLIC LIBRARY,
Antigo, Wis.

Mr. EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Neighborhood Youth Corps,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: I was rather upset when I learned that there is a possibility that the Neighborhood Youth Corps might be discontinued. Naturally our work output would be a great deal less without their extra help, but it is the youth that this program has helped that will suffer.

In the past few years we have been fortunate enough to have NYC people we have worked with quite a few. Some had never worked before, did not know how to follow directions and did not know what to do with their money. I think working with them and giving them proper supervision they have learned how to work, accept responsibility and how to work with people. Some of them learn to dress better, have a more positive attitude. All have learned to save some of their money and spend the rest wisely. We have had one who was a drop-out go back to high school. One of the best things this program has given them a place to go each day and kept them off the street. One has even admitted that working has kept him out of trouble, because he knows he'll lose his job here if he gets into trouble. I know our economy would never be able to absorb these students in the labor market without some kind of program.

Best of luck on the continuance of this program.

Sincerely,

MRS. ROBERT BARTA,
Librarian.

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES,
Ashland, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Mr. EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Director, Wisc. Farmers Union N.Y.C.
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: This letter is written in regard to possible discontinuance of O.E.O. Manpower Programs this summer. These programs not only assist people who are having socio-economic difficulties but have proved to be an integral part of the economy of Northern Wisconsin. The abrupt ending of any or all of these programs would cause irreparable harm to the economy but more importantly to the outlook of the people who have benefited in the past and will benefit in the future.

It is apparent these programs have helped alleviate chronic unemployment and have made positive inroads on the inevitable welfare cycle. The statistics I have seen show the accuracy of the previous statement.

The Neighborhood Youth Corps Program offers opportunity for youth to prove they can be productive. The in-school program has been instrumental in allowing

many potential high school dropouts to continue on to graduation and productive employment.

I have worked within the NYC Program and also as a member of a participating agency. This close association with the program has given me the opportunity to observe the positive results of offering employment to youth. Without NYC, these opportunities would be given to only a select few.

These programs have been effective and should be given the opportunity to continue.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD L. BORG,
Rehabilitation Field Agent,
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

NORTHWEST WISCONSIN COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, INC.,
Superior, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Project Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Neighborhood Youth Corps,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: I cannot over-emphasize my support for the NYC program in the five counties covered by the Northwest Wisconsin Community Action Agency. NYC should not only be continued but also expanded in this area, particularly the in-school program. I have already registered this opinion at the Region I CAMPS Committee and certainly am willing to go on record again in support of an expanded program.

NYC is a very popular program in our area and has had a very obvious effect on many of the low income youth here who, because of the scarcity of jobs, would probably not receive any other form of employment.

I hope that this letter indicates sufficiently my wholehearted support of the Neighborhood Youth Corps.

Yours truly,

ART BESSE, *Director.*

PESHTIGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Peshtigo, Wis., April 19, 1971.

MR. EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Wisconsin Farmers Union, Neighborhood Youth Corps,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

Dear Mr. WOYCHIK: I have benefited greatly from the Neighborhood Youth Program and therefore would like to see it continued.

Having insufficient secretarial assistance in the guidance office, I have trained the girls to take care of a number of the office responsibilities.

Also, I believe the girls have developed attitudes and skills which will help them in their future careers. Both girls have shown growth in responsibility and the skills necessary for office work, and I feel this experience has been very helpful to them.

Sincerely yours,

ADELINE J. LUNDIN,
Guidance Director.

PESHTIGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
April 17, 1971.

To: Miss Lundin.
From: Susan Swiatnicki.

I think that the Neighborhood Youth Corps should be continued because it is a very beneficial program.

First of all, it has given me an idea of some of the jobs and responsibilities of a secretary. It is the type of work I enjoy, and I believe this is very important.

Also, with the money I make I can pay for my own expenses, which is helpful to my parents.

PESHTIGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Peshtigo, Wis., April 17, 1971.

To: Miss Lundin
From: Mary Ann Koronkiewicz

I think N.Y.C. should be continued, because it has given me the opportunity of becoming more independent, so as I can buy my own necessities, not having to depend on my parents. It also gives me the opportunity to become a little more aware of the type of work responsibilities carried by a secretary or person in the business field of life. I think N.Y.C. should be continued, because for me it's the only type of work offered around here for 16 year old's. Since I've been on N.Y.C. I have learned how to operate different types of copy machines, set up for a meeting, answer and operate an office telephone, keep an accurate time card, and most important the true art of accepting responsibility.

LADYSMITH HAWKINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Ladysmith, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. EDMUND WOYCHIK,
Wisconsin Farmers Union—NYC,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

Dear Mr. WOYCHIK: I am writing in regard to the continuation of the N.Y.C. program. I have been in close contact with the N.Y.C. program for the past three years. During that time, I have found that many students have benefited greatly from the work programs themselves and also the monetary rewards. These benefits to our youth would not have been possible without the N.Y.C. program. The N.Y.C. program in our community has had very favorable response and many, including myself would like to see the program expanded. One would find it very difficult to understand the reasoning for this program not being continued. Youth involved in this program need the experiences provided by this program, to successfully move into the realm of a useful citizen. I sincerely hope that the program is continued and if possible expanded. I am available for further comments at any time.

Sincerely,

JAMES E. GARGULAK,
Guidance Director.

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, LABOR AND HUMAN RELATIONS,
Ashland, April 19, 1971.

Mr. EDMUND WOYCHIK,
Project Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union—NYC,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: As you know, the area served by our office experienced an unemployment rate in excess of 7% during 1970. Taking into consideration the termination of operation of two of our major manufacturers, this unemployment rate is expected to increase during 1971.

As a result of the above described economic situation, many of our youth are finding extreme difficulty in obtaining the necessary funds for normal school expenses. Without the required funds, some students may feel that they are forced to drop out of high school.

In the past, many of these disadvantaged youth have been able to turn toward the NYC program as a source of financial assistance. Some examples are:

"Drop outs returning to high school and now graduating;"

"Reenrollment of unmarried mothers resulting in graduation;"

"Has enabled many of our students to remain in school;"

"Enabled young men to remain in school and contribute to support of family due to death of the head of the household."

The above and many more positive comments have been made by area administrators which support our belief that the NYC program should be continued and expanded.

Yours very truly,

MATT HOSMER,
District Manpower Director,
Wisconsin State Employment Service.

MERCER COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1.
Mercer, Wis. April 19, 1971.

EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Neighborhood Youth Corps,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: Please inform Mr. Gilbert Rhode that I feel the Neighborhood Youth Corps is a worthwhile program and I would like to have it continued for Mercer.

Very truly yours,

FRANCIS HERRELL, *Superintendant.*

GOODMAN-ARMSTRONG SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1,
Goodman, Wis. April 19, 1971.

To Whom It May Concern:

We have had from two to four students working for us under this program. These students are reliable, good workers, and need the money. By hiring them, we are able to complete many cleaning and clerical jobs in the school. Through this program, these students are able to earn money while developing good work habits.

RAY NEVINS,
District Administrator.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
FOREST SERVICE,
Rhinelander, Wis., April 20, 1971.

MR. EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union Neighborhood Youth Corps,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. WOYCHIK: As a participating agency in the Neighborhood Youth Corps Program, we have been asked to furnish you with information with which you can evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

We have employed NYC enrollees here for several summers. It is our opinion that were the program extended, we would continue to hire some enrollees each summer. We have experienced some enrollees who were essentially untrainable, but in gneral, the program has worked out well for us. The enrollees do require more specific instructions and a more structural organizationa' arrangement than our other seasonal employees. However, when these conditions are provided, we find that their production is much improved, and continues to improve throughout the course of a summer season.

We believe that most of the enrollees have left here wtih a better understanding of the requirements of employment, than they had when they started. We feel also that perhaps the working experience which they do gain may contribute, if only in a small way, in establishing their employment goals.

From our point of view, the administration of the program is well handled with only a minimum of paperwork required in our office.

It is difficult to judge the public opinion of NYC in this area, but we doubt that the "average citizen" in the area really knows about NYC.

We do not feel that we are well enough equipped to coordinate the students' work with their formal education—to enhance their total learning experience. Perhaps more emphasis on the part of the sponsoring organization on this facet of the program might be in order.

Sincerely,

DAVID H. DAWSON,
Principal Plant Geneticist.

FLORENCE COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSION,
Florence, Wis., April 21, 1971.

MR. EDMUND F. WOYCHIK,
Project Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Neighborhood Youth Corps, Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR SIR: We understand that NYC program, one of the Economic Opportunity Programs will expire on June 30, 1971.

Please let me say that I feel that the program should be continued because of the many benefits it gives to the youth in this area of high unemployment and low wages.

The program has had some criticism but most of that can be traced to lack of supervision at the local level. We feel that the program as a whole, contributes considerable to maintaining the self respect of the community. We are satisfied with your area representative and believe he is doing a good job.

Sincerely,

DAVID J. ROACH,
Commissioner.

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY,
LABOR AND HUMAN RELATIONS,
Rinelander, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: When one considers the high cost of welfare programs, any other program that can prevent welfare cases from coming into existence must have merit. The Rhinelander office of the Wisconsin State Employment Service is able to document the success of the Neigbrohood Youth Corps program as a program that has and is a welfare preventive program. Two specific examples will be presented (a boy and a girl) to illustrate the point made.

A Bruce Thompson was put in an out-of-school program. He was from a broken home, a high school dropout, and often in trouble with the local police. With the name he had created for himself in the community, he became an unemployable. After many unsuccessful efforts to get him a permanent type job, he was enrolled in an N.Y.C. program. His immediate supervisor understood the goals of the program and did an excellent job reshaping Bruce's attitudes. Bruce is now married, has a son, and productively employed (a taxpayer). This young man might very well have gone sour if it was not for N.Y.C.

A Patricia Piasecki dropped out of high school at age 16. Pat is a very sensitive girl. She knew she came from a very poor family and could not have the clothes and money to spend that most of the other girls in her high school had. She was placed in an out-of-school program and then eventually in an M.D.T.A. stenographers course. She is completing that course now and ranks second in her class and very employable. It was really N.Y.C. that permitted her to become successful. Speculation on what normally happens to girls in her position would lead one to believe she might very well be another A.D.C. case by now.

The Neighborhood Youth Corps has been very successful in Northern Wisconsin giving youth that needed a job a chance to succeed. While the program is not always successful with all of its youth the percentages of success indicate this program deserves to stay alive.

Community wise the program has much support. It is not regarded as a giveaway program, but rather a chance to let the disadvantaged youth earn a dollar. In rural areas, part-time work is not easily obtained. N.Y.C. has made it easier for the youth who want work to get work.

The program from the Employment Service viewpoint has been an easy one to administer, since it requires a minimum of administration.

Yours truly,

EUGENE H. VOSS,
Manpower Director.

ABBOTSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Abbotsford, Wis., April 21, 1971.

GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. RHODES: I am writing to you regarding the benefits received by the young people of this community, and the community from the Neighborhood Youth Corps program.

The young people of this community have been greatly assisted by the NYC program. They have received needed financial assistsance, and the community has profited from their work service.

Let me give you one example of what this program has done for one young high school student. She is one of nine children in a fine family. The mother passed away several years ago. The father struggles to provide for the family. The family income is limited. The girls do the housework, cooking, washing, etc. One of the girls works in the NYC program. Needless to say, the financial rewards earned by the girl not only help the family, but the girl's outlook on life also. She is a contributing member of the family. She is continuing with her education. This girl has a deep sense of responsibility for the work service she provides in the community. You should meet her. You would be proud of her, and what the NYC program does for her.

This is only one example. There are many similar families, and students who benefit from the program. The community is aware of the NYC program and its value to the young people of the community.

I recommend that every effort be made to continue the program. It has been administered with a minimum amount of red tape. It definitely is a program that is worthwhile. Many of our young people will suffer, if it is discontinued. Let's continue to help those who need help, and make a contribution to their community. These people need help, and are willing workers. Let's not let them down!

Sincerely,

HAROLD L. MILLS,
Administrator.

CITY OF HURLEY,
Hurley, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union N.Y.C.,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: As Mayor of the city of Hurley, Wisc., I have been and still am a strong supporter of the Neighborhood Youth Corps program. I believe that this type of program has been beneficial to our community over the past years in providing work experience and financial aid to these youngsters. At the same time these youngsters did considerable work in our parks, library, cemetery, street beautification and painting.

We have been well pleased with the over-all administration of the N.Y.C. under the direction of the Wis. Farmers Union organization. Their director and supervisor of the N.Y.C. program were available when we needed them to assist us.

I believe that the people in our city are looking forward again in having these youngsters do various jobs throughout our city. I can assure you that our city can *not* hire any of these youngsters this summer because we are not in a financial position to do so. A great number of these youngsters who have worked under the N.Y.C. program and have graduated from High School, have been proud to mention that they worked in the N.Y.C. program as reference when applying for a job in various industries, and I have given them a just recommendation as to their work habits. Many of these youngsters are now working in various industries and some are attending college or a trade school.

Therefore, I again strongly support the N.Y.C. program included under the Office of Economic Opportunity Programs to be extended beyond June 30, 1971 by our Congress.

Sincerely yours,

Mayor PAUL J. SANTINI.

SPOONER, WIS., *April 21, 1971.*

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: In response to a copy of your letter to Mr. Woychik and a letter from Mr. Woychik, I would like to make the following comments of which I have experienced.

I believe the N.Y.C. program in some respects is very good and profitable, in that the groups that operate out of camps, such as the Nancy lake camp, are very constructive and reliable so far as our needs apply. We have found these boys very willing to work and show considerable interest in the work,

however the groups which have worked for us from towns in most cases are not reliable or interested. I would therefore say in my opinion that the camps should be encouraged to continue as there appears to be more discipline and interest than found in the groups which are made up in towns. In our particular type of work the individuals or small groups who have worked for us fall into this same line.

I hope this clarifies my opinion on the N.Y.C. program and I think that in all respects the Farmers Union should be congratulated for the manner and interest shown in this program.

E. W. LINDBERG,
Fish Management,
District Headquarters Foreman.

SURING PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Suring, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: The Suring Public Schools have been included in the Neighborhood Youth Corps Program for several years and have found the program to be very valuable in a variety of ways.

The program has provided a means for a number of deserving young people to do work they can do well, to earn some much-needed financial assisstance and to learn something about the economics of work for wages.

The N.Y.C. has been well-received in this area. The school staff has cooperated extremely well and the community in general appreciates the tangible effects of having the program in operation.

I have found the Wisconsin Farmers Union to be well-equipped to handle the program, both in their central office and in their system of visiting counsel. They have done a fine job with a minimum of directives and red tape.

I would like very much to see the N.Y.C. program continued, at least, and expanded if possible.

Sincerely,

R. H. KANDLE.R.

CRANDON, WIS., *April 17, 1971.*

Mr. GILBERT ROHDE,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: It has come to my attention that the N.Y.C. program will be discontinued by June 30, 1971, unless Congress reacts favorably.

We here in the Forest County area, staff of the Mole Lake Head-Start, our opinion in favor of the help that N.Y.C. has given our area. In our federal program of Head Start here at Mole Lake, we have the Chippewa Indian tribe. We have two Chippewa Indians, and one white girl working in our program. This has helped very much in giving employment to school drop outs, and as an incentive for them to continue school.

The people of Forest County are highly favorable of the N.Y.C. program as we have had fine support and supervision from our directors, to make it a very successful, workable program.

We here in the Forest County area, staff of the Mole Lake Head-Start, our parent advisory group, and other interested citizens beg of you to intervene in our behalf, for this program, as we can see very good results in the lives of our school drop outs, and it helps to make our Head-Start program one of the best in the state.

Sincerely,

FLOSSIE SCHALLOCK,
Teacher, Mole Lake Head Start Center.

IRON COUNTY DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES,
Hurley, Wis., April 16, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: We are distressed that there is the possibility that the NYC program may be discontinued. We have found it to be very useful in our area,

both in the way of the projects that are completed and the financial aid to the enrollees. Our agency has been a sponsor of several young people and we have accomplished a great deal in a small way, both with respect to the work that is done and the help that has been given to youngsters from needy families. We are also acquainted with the kind of work and the kind of youngsters that have been enrolled in the city of Hurley, and in the city of Montreal.

The public has accepted these youngsters and appreciates the work that they are doing and the help that they are receiving. I can say with authority that public opinion in the Iron County area has been very good.

We are aware of several cases in our immediate sponsor area that have been able to stay in high school because of the funds that they have received from the NYC program. Several of these youngsters have been able to go on to college and to vocational schools.

The NYC program has been very effective in this area through the proper sponsorship of the city and the county and other units. We think, too, that the success of the program is due in a very large way because of the very well planned program that is administered by the Farmers Union. We have found a minimum of trouble, a minimum of red tape and we have been told expeditiously just what we could expect in the way of numbers and things of that sort.

In conclusion, we can say very sincerely that we would be very sad if NYC was discontinued, both with respect to program that we sponsor directly and the programs that we know about through our welfare agency. Please do whatever you can to sustain NYC.

Yours sincerely,

ARMAND F. CIRILLI, *Director.*

CATHOLIC CHARITIES BUREAU,
DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR,
April 16, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: We were very concerned by the recent information with regards to the possible expiration of all OEO programs as of June 30, 1971. It has been our experience with the NYC program that there has been much good from it and if at all possible we would like to see that the program not only continue but be expanded.

It is our belief that those persons who have had any contact or knowledge of NYC programs in the community have responded only with favorable comment. The students that our agency have been involved with through the NYC program have certainly gained considerably through this program, not only in job experience, but also in developing in the area of work adjustment skills to the extent that they have certainly become productive on the work market.

Our experience with the Wisconsin Farmers Union as far as the NYC program, has been very satisfactory. The amount of bureaucratic forms has been minimal, which has certainly been helpful as far as our office is concerned.

Once again I would like to emphasize the fact that we are very pleased with the NYC program and its effectiveness.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

(Rev.) BRENDAN J. KUNDA, M.S.W.,
Director.

JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 1,
Three Lakes, Wis., April 16, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. RHODE: As the Guidance Director of Three Lakes High School I feel I have the necessary knowledge and experience with which the following observations can be reinforced in regards to the NYC Program.

At a time when the climate of our nation is one of reducing expenditures it seems to me that we must definitely be selective. The NYC Program has been

so exceedingly worthwhile that all other potential budgetary cuts should precede the consideration of its elimination or even slight reduction in size. Not only are students provided with employment, they are given the opportunity to engage in an experience which enhances their self-concept, and allows them to recognize their positive potential as constructive human beings. When at last tax dollars are being wisely invested in the youth of our nation who in turn are learning skills which improve their effectiveness as citizens it would indeed be tragic to make any negative change in the NYC Program. I trust you will forward a copy of this letter to the proper legislative group.

Thank you for your attention to this letter's contents.

Sincerely,

CARL L. ZON,
Guidance Director, Three Lakes High School.

JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1,
Three Lakes, Wis., April 16, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. RHODE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. RHODE: As requested I am writing comments regarding the value of the NYC Program.

In our estimation (The Three Lakes School District), the NYC is probably one of the most beneficial federal programs available to local units. We can observe first hand the benefits derived by our young people participating in the program. We have a number of students who have participated in the program. In addition to the monetary rewards derived from the program, it also helps to give these young people the necessary independence and responsibility so lacking in our society today. We cannot say enough about the merits of this program.

The administration of the program at the regional and local levels is most efficient. To us at the local level it is a vivid picture of how some of our federal tax dollars are being returned to the constituents.

Without a doubt we urge that this program be continued.

Sincerely,

J. G. LEHMAN,
District Administrator.

BURNETT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES,
Webster, Wis., April 16, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. RHODE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR SIR: I wish to take this opportunity to express this agency's appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the Neighborhood Youth Corps Program. We have been a participating member since the inauguration of this program and have had the opportunity to observe the benefits derived from it by the many youths in the lower income families in this rural area. As you are aware, in the rural areas of nothern Wisconsin job opportunities are greatly limited for youths and your program has opened the door for many who would not normally have such an opportunity to gain job experience and at the same time earn some additional income to assist themselves. Several of the enrollees have gone on to higher education upon graduating from high school. One of our first enrollees graduated last June from college and is now teaching math in a rural community school in northern Wisconsin. Our present enrollee has applied for a scholarship with the expressed desire of entering college next year. Several went to larger cities for employment and we receive requests from their employers for references which we were most happy to supply, and I believe that in many cases had they not had the experience and reference they may not have obtained the job when competing with other children from metropolitan areas who had such qualifications because of the broader opportunities available to them in metropolitan areas.

In my capacity as Welfare Director of the Department of Social Services, I

have had the opportunity to work with many of the OEO Programs including the Manpower Program, Mainstream, Green Thumb, CAP, as well as the Neighborhood Youth Corps. In all of these programs I could not say I have enjoyed any finer cooperation with staff administering the program than that relationship which we have experienced with Mr. Woychik and his field representatives. Services have been prompt when requested and unlike several of the other OEO Programs I have viewed no duplication of services or cost for which they are to be commended.

I realize that public sentiment in the area of the social security aids and OEO Programs are not always expressed in a positive manner but I have never heard any criticism of the Youth Corps Program from other citizens in our community or officials of the county board who are also aware of its local activities. I know of no other program in our community if it was withdrawn and thus would urge the continued funding and if possible the expansion of this program in order to give more children the opportunity that you have presented to so many.

I realize that the present times are trying ones for OEO and their efforts to secure funding at the National level. I also feel presonally that some of the criticism that has been expressed about duplication of services and costs are valid. We are presently hoping to resolve one such issue with the repersentative of the District OEO Office in Chicago, Mr. Larry Couch, and the administrators of three CAP agencies presently working in Burnett County. There were obvious duplication of services and expenses involved.

I also feel in some cases OEO should place greater emphasis on the use of local funds when possible in order to spread their funding out to better serve more people. As an example, I recently mentioned to a representative of OEO's Community Coordinated Child Care Program that of the three school's systems operating in our county, two had operated kindergarten programs for many years, whereas the third had operated none although provisions were made for same within the state education system and regular reimbursement through the state was also available. Yet when headstart funds were available at 90% reimbursement from the federal government, this school system was one of the first to participate. I do not question the value of the headstart program believing it to be most essential to the over-all development of the child, but I do not believe it should supplement for a program such as kindergarten which the school system itself had the opportunity to administor and had refused to do previously. Thus some of these funds would have been available to help other areas.

It is this kind of an administrative review which I believe has to be honestly made by those responsible on the federal level. If community support of OEO Programs is going to be continued I believe it is unfortunate that too often a minority of abuses within a program will tend to reflect this upon all the programs including those such as you are operating making it difficult in your effort to secure funding. However, as I have stated, we have participated with your program since its inception and I feel it is one of the best administered OEO Programs which I have had the opportunity to work with and I wish you success in the forth coming year for funding and further operation of this much needed program.

Respectfully yours,

THOMAS E. KEITH,
Director.

NORTHLAND COLLEGE,
Ashland, Wis., April 16, 1917.

MR. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: I wrote the enclosed letter to you in my capacity as volunteer Director of the Ashland Head Start Day Care Center that is sponsored by Northland College. Rest assured you could get any number of supporters by the college age students and by faculty members that would support the NYC program.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM E. CARROLL,
Department of Political Science.

APRIL 16, 1971.

GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: This letter is being written to you to express to you what a tremendous assistance the Neighborhood Youth Corps has been to our Ashland Head Start Program. The young people that have worked on our program have been a great asset and while they have been employed they have gained a great deal of practical experience in job training and have been assisted in prparing for the work-world which will soon be upon them. With the very limited job opportunities that exist in Northern Wisconsin, the possible loss of the NYC Program would be very grave. Since the beginning of our Head Start Program, we have had approximately 100 young people during various periods of time and I have found very few of these young people that did not play a very constructive role. I have had the good fortune to have had some 20 years experience in administration and I have found very few programs that have been as well administered as the direction given this program by the Farmers Union.

Public opinion in this area has been a supporter of NYC and as I view the local scene, I see a desire on the part of the people engaged in a positive program such as this. It would be a tragedy if this program were dropped and a period of several years would pass before society would again realize that some such positive program as this is greatly needed. My life-time has been spent in working with college age young people and young people in their teens and I would make an all-out plea to see that NYC is continued and if at all possible be expanded.

It would be my hope that those responsible for government programs talk to those of us on the firing line and find out how we support these programs that are working to do some positive good for the young people of America. It would be my personal opinion that this money is very well spent and that a great positive good has come both to the youth involved and the communities concerned. This is a time in our nation's history when we should not turn our backs on the youth of the country, but should double our interest and concern. The Policy Advisory Board made up of some 25 parents; labor, business, and professional people in the community have solidly backed our using NYC personnel in our program and I am certain they would feel this is a grave loss. In no way do I see any local community based program being able to raise the finances to carry on a program of this nature, and my heart is saddened at the great loss that would come by the possible termination of a program of this nature.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM E. CARROLL,
Director, Ashland Headstart Day Care Center.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF OCONTO, WIS.,
April 16, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: We, here at Oconto, are disturbed to hear of the possibility of a discontinuance of the Neighborhood Youth Corps. Instead of discontinuance, we were hoping it would be expanded.

We have only been allotted two youngsters and could have handled more. The program has proved not only useful, but more importantly, it is extremely beneficial to the youngsters involved. Without the funds earned by these youngsters they would be handicapped in attending high school and in providing their basic needs.

We sincerely solicit your support in working toward the passage of Bill S–1290.

Sincerely,

JOHN B. LEMAY, *Superintendent.*

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES,
DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION,
Superior, April 16, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: It has been called to my attention that the Neighborhood Youth Corps, along with other Manpower Programs, may expire on June 30, 1971 unless continuation is authorized under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

Our agency is familiar with, and very interested in, the Neighborhood Youth Corps Program. We feel strongly that this program should be continued and expanded, if possible.

Our experience has shown complete acceptance of the program throughout the district by many agencies, schools and municipalities other than our own. We personally have utilized this particular program by having a number of enrollees assigned to our district office in Superior as well as our homecraft sales outlets in Iron River and Bayfield. The experience gained and financial assistance received by the enrollees has enabled them to go on for further training and employment in almost all of the cases which we are familiar with.

We feel that the minimal amount of paper work and other justification is minimal, making it more easy for agencies such as ours to receive assignments of enrollees.

We are particular pleased with the cooperation of Mr. Woychik, Project Director, and Mr. Hakkila, Field Representative.

We are confident that adequate support will be generated to enable this fine program to continue.

Very truly yours,

L. R. FORSLUND,
District Supervisor.

JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2,
Gilman, Wis., April 16, 1971.

GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: The associations developed between the Gilman Public Schools and the Neighborhood Youth Corps program have been very favorable. We have found that the work experiences provided for high school age youth have had a significant effect on their maturation, self-concept, and emotional development, as well as limited financial independence.

If federal funding for this program is discontinued, I do not feel that the school or any of our local agencies will be able to support it.

It is my sincere hope that your efforts are successful.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS CHICKERING,
Admin. For the Board of Education.

LENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Lena, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT ROHDE,
President, Neighborhood Youth Corp., Wisconsin Farmers Union, Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: I feel the Neighborhood Youth Program (N.Y.C.) should be continued and expanded for this coming year since it provides both boys and girls from low income families an opportunity to obtain gainful employment around the school under good working conditions.

This program has been well accepted by the people in this community since it provides a meaningful outlet for the students energy and at the same time enables them to be gainfully employed while under supervision of school administrative officials.

All of our students engaged in N.Y.C. work program at Lena, thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to work. Some of our students have obtained successful jobs in surrounding areas because of the background and experience gained while working under this program.

The amount of administrative paperwork imposed by the N.Y.C. office in Chippewa Falls is minimal and can be accomplished within thirty to forty-five minutes every two weeks by the supervising official.

We heartily support the N.Y.C. program in its present form and hope that it can be continued for those students who qualify for enrollment under current income limitations.

Sincerely yours,

HOWARD J. GOULD, *Principal.*

SUPERIOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
BLAINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
Superior, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: The Blaine School of Superior, Wisconsin welcomes the opportunity to participate in the N.Y.C. program. We feel it is a fine program. It gives work to boys and girls who are in need of employment to improve their image as a good citizen of the Community.

In our program we know it has given guided experiences to these boys and girls who would not have received this guidance in any other way. Without this guidance I feel some of the boys would have become school drop-outs and even become police problem adults.

We add our support to the N.Y.C. program and hope it will continue as we feel it is a very worthwhile program. It could well be expanded to give more jobs to the boys and girls of our community.

We have found the administration of the program is very sound, efficient, and well done.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM E. AXT, *Principal.*

PREMONTRE HIGH SCHOOL,
Green Bay, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President,
Wisconsin Farmers Union
Chippewa Falls., Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: We are very much in favor of the N.Y.C. Program. It has been very beneficial to the community in that it provides work experience and financial aid to many needy youth in this area.

We at Premontre are in hopes that this program continues.

Sincerely,

NORBERT PETERS, *Engineer.*

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE,
Green Bay, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President,
Wisconsin Farmer's Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: In regards to your letter regarding specific information to ascertain the value of the Neighborhood Youth Corps, it is my reaction that this program has been on a whole quite successful. I feel that the program should be continued since at the present time, many youngsters do not have the availability of finding employment and those form the area that the Neigrborhood Youth Corps recruits youngsters that would have less of an opportunity to obtain employment.

I would say as a whole in our area, public opinion of the Neighborhood Youth

Corps is favorable. I would hope that this program would continue to be available so that public recognition of it could gain a more significant level.

In our own connection with the program, it has been only over the last several years that I have been involved with the enrollees who have been successful in developing good work habits, and I feel that this is one of the large attributes of the total program.

In regards to the administration of the program in cooperation with the Farmer's Union, it has been successful and did not have a large amount of red tape involved.

I would give my wholehearted support to the continuation of this program, and if at all possible to expand it so that more disadvantaged youth could have the availability of the program for themselves.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY A. WALLACE, Jr.,
Supervisor, Student Services Department.

JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 1,
Tony, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: Joint School District No. 1, Villages of Tony, Conrath, Glen Flora, Ingram and Sheldon; Rusk, Chippewa and Taylor Counties is very interested in the continuation of the Neighborhood Youth Corps Program in this area administered by the Wisconsin Farmer's Union.

We have averaged about three students on the program since its inception. Almost all of these students would have been forced to drop out of school for economic reasons, had it not been for the program.

The program also provides work-training for the enrollees in the area of office work and maintenance. An effective vocational work-training program is limited in this area because of economics and the lack of larger business enterprises.

Our school patrons have been very receptive to the program, and many comments have been received requesting the expansion of the program. We probably have three or four times as many students who request the program and are eligible than can be accommodated.

Because of the economics of our county and our school district, if the program were to be discontinued, there is no way that the school district could step in and provide such a program from its local resources.

We are also very appreciative of the Farmer's Union Administration of the program. The amount of red tape necessary to be a subcontractor is almost minimal. It is one of the easiest federal programs in which to participate, thanks to the efficiency of the Wisconsin Farmer's Union administration. In a small school with limited administrative and clerical staff, this is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

MARVIN E. NELSON,
Administrator.

COMMON JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 1,
Maple, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: We recently read with considerable concern that unless there is passage of the Nelson-Javits Bill, there will be no authorization to continue the Neighborhood Youth Corps after June 30, 1971. Our primary concern is for the youngsters and their families, who need the guidance, training, financial assistance, and work experience available under this program. In addition to the help given to NYC enrollees and their families, our school district has benefited immeasurably from student services provided under this program.

Since our participation in the NYC program, we have achieved a much greater degree of success in helping students to:

1. Develop good work habits and job skills.
2. Develop a positive self-image.
3. Aid their families with their financial burden.
4. See the importance of remaining in school and completing their high school program.
5. Develop career concepts and to pursue a career in keeping with their interests and abilities.

The NYC program has also been integrated in our school district with ESEA, Title I, Wisconsin Vocational Rehabilitation Program, and other state, local, and federal programs to assist disadvantaged students. NYC has been an excellent avenue in assisting us in helping the disadvantaged high school student to gain maximum benefit from school experiences and to better understand his own uniqueness and worthwhileness by synthesizing his intellectual, emotional, physical, social, and vocational development.

The Maple School District has received valuable services from NYC participants in the form of:

1. Teacher aide's services.
2. Secretarial and clerical work.
3. Maintenance jobs including painting, cleaning and minor repairs.
4. Land development and school beautification projects. These projects include the planting of trees, shrubs, and flowers on the school grounds, and general improvement of our track and athletic fields.

Enrollees also spread top soil, fertilizer, lime, seed and maintained young plant growth.

5. Assistance to school cooks in food preparation and serving activities.

In our opinion, the NYC program is being capably administered in our area by the Wisconsin Farmers Union. Their NYC administrator, Mr. Edmund Woychik, and area representative, Mr. Paul Hakkila have shown a great deal of interest, understanding, and emphathy for our student enrollees.

If we are to continue to meet the interests and needs of our disadvantaged students, we must continue the activities described above. To discontinue the NYC program at this time would be a serious blow to disadvantaged students, their families, and our school district community. We therefore strongly urge Congress to give approval to the Nelson-Javits Bill.

Sincerely,

RICHARD HEYTENS,
Federal Aid Coordinator.

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
COOPERATIVE AREA MANPOWER PLANNING SYSTEM,
Madison, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: We are pleased to advise that the Area I CAMPS committee reviewed the Neighborhood Youth Corps porgram today at our monthly meeting.

All of the agencies represented at our committee are familiar with and very interested in the Neighborhood Youth Corps program. We feel strongly that this program should be continued and expanded, if possible.

We hope that this letter of endorsement will be presented and considered in congressional hearings, which we understand are scheduled in the very near future.

Very truly yours,

L. R. FORSLUND,
Chairman, CAMPS Area I.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN,
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS,
Webster, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: Mr. Edmund Woychik, Project Director for the NYC Program, has advised me of the possible discontinuation of the NYC Program as

well as other OEO Programs. I wish to direct a few comments to the questions which you pose in your letter to Mr. Woychik.

For the past three or four years we have continually had a high school girl working in our University Extension Office under the NYC Program. The assistance of these young people has been invaluable to us in the conduct of our program and more importantly, the work experience has been extremely useful to them. We have been able to give these girls very authentic work experience and have written recommendations on their behalf when they sought employment after high school graduation. I know that their experience here and our recommendation on their behalf has been instrumental in their progression into the working force of this country.

Beyond office work we have employed young people in the NYC Program to work on fair buildings and numerous other public projects. In each case I would suggest that they were jobs that would not have been done were it not for a labor force available to these young people. In this way I think the program has provided some real input to community development and improvement.

You asked the question if local communities would step in and provide the help if NYC was terminated and I doubt seriously if this would happen. I know that we in the University Extension Office would not receive any additional budgeting for the purpose of replacing the help received from these girls and I'm confident that the local fair board, for example, would not be able to hire labor to make the replacement. Rather I think these are jobs that would either go undone completely or not be done for a long period of time.

The contribution of NYC to getting the jobs done in our community is important but I think most important is what the NYC Program has done for certain young people. I cannot speak for all cases by any means but those girls who have worked in our office have left here a much more capable and experienced young person. Because of the income level this work froce is drawn from we frequently end up with young people that are not particularly sociable or possessed with social graces. Their experience here has made great improvements in these personal characteristics.

I hope that through your efforts this program can be continued in the years to come.

Sincerely,

WM. C. TAUBMAN,
Burnett County, Ext. Resource Agent.

P.S. I note by the paper that the purchase of your property here in Burnett County has gone through and we welcome you to the growing list of absentee land owners. I am enclosing also a letter and program that recently went out to over 400 absentee landowners from four different townships in the county with the thought that the program maybe of interest to you. If so, please feel free to attend.

COLBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Colby, Wis., April 19, 1971.

GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: I feel very strongly that the Neighborhood Youth Corps as well as the other Manpower Programs should be continued. I feel they are tangible evidence of federally sponosred programs that work effectively.

Speaking specifically of the Neighborhood Youth Corps, we have had the opportunity to utilize these people during the summer months and also during the school year. They contributed the manpower to complete projects that we would have been unable to do because our budget just could not allow it.

More importantly, these young people were taught a very valuable educational objective, namely that work is necessary to achieve financial reward. It gave them a true feeling of accomplishment and pride in themselves.

Wisconsin Farmers Union has done a remarkable job in administering the program. No agency could operate this program more efficiently.

This is a good program; not only to the youth and to the municipality, but to the taxpayer as well. It should be continued.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH H. BOETTCHER,
Superintendent.

BRUCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Bruce, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT ROHDE,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR SIR: In response to your letter to Mr. Woychik I would offer the following:

We here at Bruce have been involved in the NYC and Green Thumb projects for several years. We have had NYC workers in school and out of school. We have felt there were several good points about this program. We have not had a single student drop out of school if they were involved in this program. I cannot in any way prove that the program was an aid, but I do feel that it was. We have also found this to be an excellent job training for students who have not previously held jobs. The money is of course very beneficial to low income students as it provides them with clothes, supplies, etc. they might not otherwise have.

I think the Green Thumb project has done two things. It has provided low income, healthy retirees an opportunity to raise their standard of living. It has also made them more useful community members instead of retirees with nothing to do.

I have every hope that this program can be continued.

Sincerely yours,

ELDON SKOGEN, *Principal.*

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, LABOR, AND HUMAN RELATIONS,
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION DIVISION,
Rhinelander, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: This letter is written in response to a memorandum received in the Rhinelander Office regarding the discontinuance of the National Youth Corps as of June 30, 1971. The writer wants to take this opportunity to indicate what a worthwhile program the National Youth Corps is due to personal experience received from working with youth working under the National Youth Corps program.

During the past three years we have had a number of youth working in the Rhinelander Office of the Unemployment Compensation Division assisting with various aspects of our benefit program. These youths have furnished us with considerable help and the writer is sure that the youth we have had on this program have received valuable training in general office work and work habits, which will help them in their later careers and becoming good taxpayer citizens.

The segment of society which these youth came from is not a segment of society where the youth have the advantage of spending money and in some cases did not have funds available with which to be adequately clothed while going to school. The result was that through their earnings from the Neighborhood Youth Corps employment, they were able to afford clothes and meet fellow students on an equal ground to the extent adequate clothing and a limited amount of spending money could help them. I am sure the public opinion from this area is that the National Youth Corps is one of the worthwhile projects set up by the Office of Economic Opportunity. It would be a tragedy to the youth of this country if continued training in the future is not available to the youth with limited financial means.

The writer also wants to take this opportunity to express satisfaction and admiration for the manner in which the Wisconsin Farmers Union handled the National Youth Corps. Edmund F. Woychik, the director of the program in this area, and Gerald White, the field representative serving the Rhinelander Office, were always available for consultation on any problems we might have involving the youth we had working on our project and they also made many worthwhile suggestions to improve the training given the youth on Project No. 12–651–98 at the Rhinelander Office.

Yours very truly,

FRANK E. PAULSON,
Manager, Unemployment Compensation Division.

COLBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Colby, Wis., April 16, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: This letter is in support of the continuance of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

I think it is time we ask the federal government just what their role and function really is. Certainly one of the functions of government is to develop and educate young people so they will become productive and useful citizens. Programs such as the Job Corps, and Neighborhood Youth Corps are prime examples, in our rural area, of the government doing something worthwhile to improve a person's dignity. We would be severely handicapped in our helping the high school drop-out or potential drop-out without these programs. To young people—it is important that someone cares about them. It is also most important to them that they can help themselves, and N.Y.C. and the Job Corps are areas where a person feels dignity and worth. Dropping these programs will only mean that many teen-agers will feel resentment and disappointment in adults and especially in our elected officials.

Mr. Rohde, I hope you can convey this message to Washington. We have been pleased with the role of the Farmers Union in sponsoring the N.Y.C., and certainly offer our thanks to you and your group. We can look back at our students who worked last summer under N.Y.C., and feel a sense of accomplishment. Incidentally, I already have 24 applicants for N.Y.C. summer positions in our area.

Sincerely,

MARTIN HAAVISTO,
Guidance Director.

CITY OF HAYWARD,
Hayward, Wis., April 16, 1971.

GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: I have been informed that the Neighborhood Youth Corps and other Economic Opportunity Programs will expire on June 30, 1971.

These programs, especially the N.Y.C., has been a great help to communities such as ours, in that it has provided funds for part time employees to perform much needed services in our smaller cities and towns.

I also feel that the training received by these youths will directly benefit everyone and will be reflected in our unemployment and welfare problems.

I trust that you will make every effort to obtain an extension for these worthy programs.

Very truly yours,

JOHN J. BERGER,
City Clerk-Treasurer.

HAYWARD AREA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL,
Hayward, Wis. April 16, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: I have been advised that there is a possibility that the N.Y.C. program may expire June 30, 1971. I sincerely hope that this program will be able to be continued.

I feel that the Farmers Union has been doing a good job with this project which allows some of the disadvantaged people in this area to be helped.

Anything you may be able to do to keep this program in force will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

DENNIS MARQUADT, *Administrator.*

DRUMMOND INTEGRATED SCHOOL DISTRICT,
Drummond, Wis., April 16, 1971.

MR. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President,
Wisconsin Farmers Union Neighborhood Youth Corps,
Chippewa Falls., Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: It is our opinion that the Neighborhood Youth Corp has been beneficial both to the school for the services received (in maintenance and the office) and to the students for the skills they received "on the job."

In our area of many low income families the Neighborhood Youth Corp has been a welcome financial aid to the families involved.

We consider the program an excellent one, with no red tape. We have received needed help with only a practical amount of participation on our part.

The Farmers Union has been most cooperative and their administration of the program has been both effective and efficient. We certainly hope the program will continue.

Sincerely yours,

DONALD R. EGLSEDER, *Administrator.*

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1,
Antigo, Wis., April 16, 1971.

MR. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: The Antigo Unified School District, through the services of the sponsoring agency, the Wisconsin Farmers Union, has been able to participate in the NYC program.

In a period of time when the economy has taken a sharp reversal and scores of people in our area, both young and middle aged, are found in the unemployment ranks, a continuance and expansion of the NYC program is definitely in order. My experience with this program since it's inception has indicated to me that scores of young men and women have been able to accomplish their niche in life by the services of a NYC program.

It is my firm conviction that the continuance of these programs under Senate Bill 1290 known as the Nelson-Javits Bill will have a positive effect on what is needed today with the mounting needs for employment indeed a sorry plight.

In a realistic manner, the requests for employment today in the Antigo Unified School District are staggering. The number of applicants who are persently unemployed is frightening. Yes, from one who daily sees the tremendous need and the deep concern of what is going to happen to scores of young people from homes with the most limited of incomes, it is not pleasant. The Wisconsin Farmers Union has in the past and is now performing a most noble service as a sponsoring agency for this worthwhile program. May it continue.

Cordially yours,

GILBERT L. ANDERSON,
Superintendent.

APRIL 19, 1971

MR. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR SIR: As I have done on numerous other occasions, as the end of a Youth Corps Program approaches, this is my yearly comments on the program.

The Neighborhood Youth Corps Program has benefitted the city of Montreal for several years. The majority of the young people who qualified for the program have done themselves proud in many different ways. One boy who was a potential delinquent and a true hippy qualified for the program and as a result of it has gone on to a state program and is now learning the butcher's trade in a local super market. When he began on the youth program it was almost impossible to communicate with him, now he is a fine upstanding young man and a true asset to his community.

Not only deliquents and people who have always been needy have qualified for this programs. Last year a family here in Montreal had three boys that qualified and these boys came from a family of eight. Their father had

been injured in a mining accident over a year before and as a result was not working. These three boys saved their earnings and pooled their finances before school started and outfitted themselves and their two sisters and younger brother with school clothes and other school necessities. As a result of the fine job the eldest boy did on the youth corps he found a job this past winter at a ski lodge where he worked as a safety patrol skier, manned a concession stand did general repair on the ski hills. This boy is also a junior leader in the 4–H program here in Montreal. This fall he will enter the conservation field in college and as a result of his past experience on the N.Y.C. program and the fine recommendation he got from this office and from his employer this past winter he is a fine candidate for a 4–H scholarship.

One could go on with numerous incidents and tell you what a fine job the Youth Corps did here in Montreal and how much the program benefitted the city and the enrollees. The best way to describe the program is that it equalizes the opportunities for the less fortunate youth in communities where employment is low and the potential even lower. Because a young man or young lady come from a low income family, it does not necessarily mean that they are of low intelligence; but if they can't dress as others and participate in extra activities they will often become withdrawn and not try to develop their intelligence. The Youth Corps has helped the underprivileged and has brought out the best in young people.

It is the hope of this city that the Neighborhood Youth Corps will continue for years to come and that when the program is funded each year that there might be a possibility to add to these funds; thereby giving more young people a chance to live and be normal individuals. After all, if this country cannot contribute to the Youth of the Country, what will the country amount to in years to come.

Thank you for sharing my comments on the Neighborhood Youth Corps Program.

Very truly yours,

LAWRENCE SAMARDICH, *Mayor.*

ST. CROIX SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 1.
Solon Springs, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: We at Solon Springs place a very high value on the Neighborhood Youth Corps program which has been sponsored by the Wisconsin Farmers Union and placed in operation in our school district.

I do not believe any local community group or agency could step in and take the place of this program should the program be terminated.

The mere fact that students from low income families are given jobs at which they receive financial aid as well as supervised work experience would indicate that the community would benefit.

We certainly hope that Congress sees fit to continue the Neighborhood Youth Corps program.

Yours truly,

DAVE WELTER,
District Administrator.

PHELPS SCHOOLS,
Phelps, Wis., April 19, 1971.

GILBERT C. ROHDE, *Chippewa Falls, Wis.*

MR. ROHDE: I would like to express may enthusiasm for the Farmers Union program. I think it is an excellent media for helping children stay in school and avoiding dropouts. I believe that it is an excellent service for young people seeking employment in areas where there is just not that much available. I would ask that when you go before the Senate subcommittee that you speak affirmatively in maintaining this program.

Thank you for any service you can render.

Yours truly,

EARL R. SCHILLING.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: Regarding your letter of April 13, 1971, I think it would be a big mistake to discontinue the Rural Manpower and Poverty Programs under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

Our Institution has participated in the program for several years. The program has been most helpful in teaching responsibility and good work habits, as well as giving financial aid to the needy.

If this institution were financially able to rehire these individuals we most certainly would do so. They were able to accomplish things here at the Rest Home we would have been unable to have done without extra help.

I have discussed this matter with a number of others who have participated in this program and they feel the same as I do on this problem.

This program was well conducted by the Farmers Union and here was a minimum amount of red tape in the participation of the program.

I most heartily endorse this program.

Very truly yours,

EDITH M. NOLANDER, NHA.

NORTH SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL,
Eau Claire, Wis., April 22, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. RHODE: It has come to my attention that you are to appear before the Senate Subcommittee on Manpower and Poverty and so I am writing to ask you to support two of the manpower programs that I have been acquainted with.

The first is the Green Light Program. The Green Light Program has furnished North High School with personnel over a period of the past two years. We find these people very helpful in the operation of our school lunch program. Not only is it a benefit to us, but the fact that these people get the feeling that they are helpful and doing something worthwhile is a great benefit to them. I hope the Green Thumb-Green Light program can be continued and perhaps expanded to include many of our older citizens and for the benefit of the community in which they work.

North Senior High School has participated in the Neighborhood Youth Corps since its' inception. We have found this program to be most helpful to our young people who are unable to find any employment. It has also been helpful with the youth who have difficulty in looking right for the job or in filling the demands that employers make such as appearance, attitude, and work habits. The Neighborhood Youth Corps has served as a good training ground for the underprivileged. It has made it possible for some financially underprivileged to remain in high school when they might have otherwise been so discouraged as to have dropped out. I have a strong feeling that, not only should this program be continued, but that it should be expanded because of the current unemployment crisis existing among these families. I even feel that there are a large number of youth that could benefit from this program but don't quite qualify because of the poverty standards set by this program.

Again I would like to reiterate that these are excellent programs and I hope you can help convince the legislature of the worthwhileness of these programs.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID BARNES,
Principal.

WAUSAU AND MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSIONS,
April 15, 1971.

Hon. GAYLORD NELSON,
U.S. Senator, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: We understand that the Green Thumb Program in Wisconsin is going to Washington shortly to support its appropriation for the oncoming year.

We here in the Wausau-Marathon County Park Department have a crew of fourteen Green Thumb workers helping us at present. As you know, this area of

Wisconsin was one of the first to support this program and use these people for the benefit of outdoor recreation and beautification.

Green Thumb crewmen do the kind of work for us that is simply far too expensive to do by any others means. Planting, brushing, and similar tasks require patient handwork with an attention to detail which we simply cannot lavish on our parks with our limited crew and budget. With today's emphasis on providing the basic needs for swelling crowds of outdoors-minded people, we are fortunate if we can simply build the roads, parking lots, and rest facilities needed to satisfy basic park requirements.

Care of the earth, retention of ecological values, and preservation of natural beauty must come last in our scale of priorities no matter how much we may regret it.

The Green Thumb Program seems to employ elderly gentlemen with a multitude of skills, pride of workmanship, and determination to do a full day's work. Unlike most government programs, there is a minimum of paper work required of the sponsoring employer.

We highly recommend—or rather insist—that this program be continued and funded at levels necessary to preserve at least the present quantity and quality of work being done. We know that you are closely tied with this program and hope you will use our letter in giving the Green Thumb Program your continuing support.

Yours very truly,

DUANE L. CORBIN,
Superintendent of Parks.

EARL H. SMITH, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR, CLARK COUNTY,
Neillsville, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Courthouse, Neillsville

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I feel that if the Green Thumb Program were discontinued each community and county would lose some valuable help. Many of the projects that are worked on would never be started, if this aid were not available. We would not afford to raise all the money needed if help was not granted.

I feel those more elderly people need jobs. They take great pride in doing a community service and do the finest of work. Likewise, if they were unemployed, we would have to take care of them in some other way.

18.8 percent, of Clark County people, are over 65 years old. This is a high dependency ratio that we can use for community service. 29.3 percent, of our population, is 0–14 years old. Another dependency that cannot be of service. Clark County as only 51.9 percent population that is of a supporting age.

Therefore, I strongly urge that this program continues, both for community aid and more important for aid to these elderly people.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

EARL H. SMITH,
Zoning Administrator.

CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
Neillsville, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Chippewa Falls, Wis.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb, Neillsville, Wis.

GENTLEMEN: I understand there will be a hearing held in Washington, D.C., concerning a bill, Senate No. 1290, to determine whether or not the Green Thumb and Green Light programs should be continued.

I wish at this time to take the opportunity to express my whole-hearted satisfaction and encouragement for these fine programs. The work being done by the Green Thumb and Green Light participants has been a tremendous benefit to Clark County. They have permitted elderly persons to become gainfully employed and to use their talents for the betterment of our communities.

They have cleaned up our parks, recreational areas; they have rejuvenated cemeteries and areas which have fallen in disrepair; they have improved facili-

ties at the fairgrounds and have brushed out and cleaned up highways which were neglected because of other pressing commitments by highway personnel.

This also has meant that our elderly have felt a degree of worthiness and have been able to expend their energies constructively which has helped lessen the waste that would occur if jobs were not available for people of retirement age.

In my opinion, these programs have been very beneficial and should be continued. I feel if they were terminated that local communities and Clark County could not step in and pick up the program and meet its financial demands. I want you to know I have been an avid advocate and will be glad to assist you in any way I can. You may certainly use my name in supporting your programs.

Sincerely,

H. R. BAIRD, *Chairman County Board.*

APRIL 22, 1971.

Mr. KMOSENA: Two years ago I had an operation on my hip and was bedridden for about 1 year. During this time a green light lady came to assist me once a week, cleaned the home and cooked for me & my husband. It was impossible to hire anyone to care for me and without the assistance of the green light program we would have been in a serious situation.

I feel that the green thumb—green light programs are very worthwhile and certainly should be continued.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) RALPH SCHOLTZ.

WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE, ASSEMBLY CHAMBER,
Madison, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Gree Thumb, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: Thank you for your letter of April 16, 1971, in which you requested my opinion of the Green Thumb-Green Light Programs which have been in operation in my county.

These programs have been very beneficial to my community, and I strongly support their continuance. It is my feeling that these programs have met the continuing need for forms of employment for many of our elderly citizens who find themselves in good health and desire part-time employment. The work which the Green Thumb-Green Light programs have conducted within our local area and community is also greatly appreciated by the citizens in my county.

It is my further feeling that it would be difficult to continue these programs if it became necessary to fund them at the local level. I think the continued success of these programs depends on the continued support of the federal government.

Finally, I feel that in these times of concern over the protection of our environment, the Green Thumb-Green Light Programs are not only beneficial, but necessary, and therefore deserve continued support.

Sincerely,

JOE SWEDA,
Speaker Pro Tempore,
Representative, Lincoln-Taylor Counties.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, the Green Thumb-Green Light Program will terminate on August 1, 1971 if additional funds are not appropriated by Congress to continue the program beyond that date; and

Whereas, the present program has been very beneficial to Langlade County, its political subdivisions, and to the elderly citizens employed by the program; and

Whereas, termination of the program would deny elderly citizens their inherent right to continue living a useful life and needed additional income; and

Whereas, the tax burden being imposed upon the local taxpayer is beyond the saturation point, therefore making it impossible for the county to finance the program in its entirety: Therefore be it *Resolved, by the Langlade County Board*

of Supervisors, That the Congress of the United States be memorialized to appropriate sufficient funds to continue and expand this very worthy program; and, be it further

Resolved, That upon adoption of this Resolution, the clerk be, and is herely instructed to send copies of the resolution to Senator Nelson, Senator Proxmire, Congressman Obey, and John Kmosena, State Director Green Thumb,-Green Light Program.

WALTER BLIMICHI.
GERALD SVATON.
W. L. JONES.
WILLIAM A. WOLF.

Dated this 20th day ot April, 1971.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
County of Langlade, ss:

I, Norman J. Cejka, clerk of the County of Langlade, Antigo, Wisconsin do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution #7 is a true and correct copy of said resolution as passed by the Langlade County Board of Supervisors at their organizational meeting, Tuesday, April 20, 1971.

NORMAN J. CEJKA,
Langlade County Clerk.

Dated this 20th day of April, 1971.

OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL,
Waushara County, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Re Discontinuance of Green Thumb Program.
Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: Please be advised that on the 20th day of April 1971, your letter of April 16 to Mr. Elmer Weiland, Chairman of the Waushara County Board of Supervisors was read.

A considerable discussion followed in which each town supervisor, together with the supervisors representing the various incorporated municipalities, related to the Board the many projects that their particular constituency had received help from under the Green Thumb Project.

In particular Mr. Ervin Alborn, Supervisor of the Village of Redgranite and Lohrville gave specific mention of how the Green Thumb project had helped clean up our parks, build park benches, the making of signs, cook-out grills and generally enhance the area he represents.

Mr. E. W. Schultz of the City of Wautoma explained how the various city buildings had been painted and repairs had been done. Mr. Schultz further explained that in his own opinion the Green Thumb Program had offered to the older members of the community and to the surrounding area an opportunity for them to feel that they still had some use to society and in turn not only would the general public receive the benefits of their endeavors but they could be gainfully employed and off the welfare rolls. He went on in detail by saying that in his opinion this was certainly one of the finest programs that our government had been a sponsor of and from what information he had been able to obtain it appeared that the greatest amount of money expended on this program went to the direct end result of the program and was not lost in administrative expenses and red tape as is the case of so many.

I can further state that Waushara County has been considered a depressed area due to the amount of unemployment that we have. I also know you are fully aware of the fact that a greater percent than is normal of the residents of Waushara County are at the retirement age. Therefore many of the projects that have been undertaken through Green Thumb would not be made available for the simple reason the various municipalities would be unable to afford the same and therefore if Green Thumb would be discontinued our local municipality would not have funds available to assist the disadvantaged citizens.

The main problem that we have had with Green Thumb is that the green helmets that are worn by the Employees of Green Thumb have become a recognizable symbol. Consequently people have inquired as to what Green Thumb is and they have been informed as to the requirements of becoming an employee of Green Thumb and how an agency may obtain their services.

Unfortunately we have found that many more people would like to become engaged in Green Thumb and most certainly many more municipalities and agencies within Waushara County would like to make themselves available for the services offered. Therefore if anything, Green Thumb should be extended in Waushara County and should not be curtailed.

In conclusion I can only offer my observations over the past years that this project has been offered in Waushara County. It has managed to take men who had lost part of their personal respect due to old age or financial reasons and allowed them to place themselves in such a position that they now feel they are contributing much in time and body to the advancement of our society. It has allowed them the opportunity to feel that they are no longer being passed by but are actually a part of our constantly changing times. If Green Thumb were to be discontinued I am afraid many of these people would lose the personal respect that Green Thumb has assisted them in gaining and undoubtedly they would fall back into the doldrums of old age and welfare.

Very truly yours,

HOWARD E. DUTCHER

ST. JOSEPH'S RECTORY,
Fairchild, Wis., April 21, 1971.

WISCONSIN GREEN THUMB, INC.,
Clark County Courthouse,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR SIR: In regard to your letter of April 16, 1971, I would like to tell you first how much I appreciate the work done by the Green Thumb.

The help to the elderly financially as well as physically and mentally is of great advantage to these people. They are proud of the work they are doing, and we are proud of them, and the beautiful parks and the needed conservation acts they are performing as well.

It is hoped the Government will continue this worthy work and perhaps extend it in other fields, to help not only the elderly but others on public dole as well.

Too many people forget that such manual work is still honorable and that in helping others they help themselves. Most of all, human dignity cannot be bought with dole.

Respectfully,

REV. RUDOLPH URBIC,
Pastor.

COUNTY OF CHIPPEWA, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
Chippewa Falls, Wis., April 19, 1971.

JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I feel that the Green Thumb Program has been one of the most beneficial programs that has been available to Chippewa County. Chippewa County itself has benefited greatly by the work of the Green Thumb on the Otter Lake Flowage.

In addition to this, I know that different municipalities such as Cadott and Stanley have received great help on their park systems in the work done by the Green Thumb.

The workers taking part in the program have proven to be capable and willing and interested enough to make the project well worth while. There are no programs or funds set aside by any local communities or agencies in Chippewa County that could assist the disadvantaged elderly citizens in such a beneficial way.

I sincerely hope that Mr. Rohde will have the backing of every county with which he may convince the Senate Sub-Committee of the importance of continuing such worthwhile programs as the Green Thumb and Green Light.

Sincerely,

EDWIN B. ROE, *Chairman,*
Board of Supervisors,
Chippewa County, Wis.

CITY OF MERRILL,
Merrill, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb and Green Light, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: We want to take this opportunity on behalf of the City of Merrill, our Park and Recreation Department, and Mr. Andy Olivotti, Park Superintendent, to thank you and the Wisconsin Farmers Union for providing work for the elder citizens in our city.

The Green Thumb Program has been very beneficial to our "overall" Park and Airport Maintenance Programs, because our property tax rate is very high—in the upper 5% of communities over 5,000 population—we have been unable to budget any monies for the kind of work that we have received through the Green Thumb Program.

We are also interested in learning more about the *Green Light Program.*

We sincerely hope that we can participate in the Farmers Union Green Thumb Program because the City *cannot* provide financial assistance to economically disadvantaged elder citizens.

Very truly yours,

RALPH F. J. VOIGT,
Mayor.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMS, UNIVERSITY EXTENSION,
Wautoma, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I would be glad to tell what the Green Thumb Program has meant to this area. I was the first job supervisor of the first Green Thumb Crew in Waushara County, My first thoughts, about the idea of working with a group of "old men," were not the most positive. After the first week my fears were gone, my "old men" were good workers, conscientious fellows that enjoyed a good days work and proud of the job they had done.

As an example of jobs being done that otherwise would go undone, I'd like to tell about the improvement on the Waushara County Fair grounds. The Green Thumb Crew did a real job of face lifting. These fellows cut brush, painted buildings, constructed pens, repaired things needing repair, trimmed out weeds, and picked up 25 years accumulation of miscellaneous trash. There were many compliments regarding how nice the fair grounds looked and what a pleasure to come to a fair that cared enough to make things look nice.

Without Green Thumb the county fair only hired help for jobs that absolutely had to be done. The extra things that people notice have been done and we think it is great.

The fair grounds was the first job, these fellows have worked in rural town halls, fire stations, city halls, parks, built picnic tables and many other jobs that have waited for a long time to be done. Everyone that has been close to Green Thumb has been very satisfied. I could go on and on with details of each project, but I would only repeat the facts that these fellows are doing jobs good for the community and good for themselves in that they are active and helping to make their own way financially.

The question is asked, "Would the communities continue this program if the Federal monies were withdrawn?" With all the talk about property taxes being too high, knowing that many of these jobs have been left undone for many years in the past, I think that local governmental bodies would be very reluctant to provide all the funds necessary to continue as in the past couple of years. No community is going to let older residents starve, but there is so much more pride involved when they are doing something useful and helping care for themselves. The Green Thumb program should be continued.

Sincerely,

LESTER VAN LOON,
Agricultural Agent.

EDGAR, WIS., *April 20, 1971.*

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Clark County Courthouse, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: This is in response to your request for comment in regarding the Green Thumb and Green Light programs as we have come to know them in Marathon County. We must admit that we are biased in favor of the programs as we have seen the many benefits develop in which both the individual as well as the agency or organization have been recipients of these particular programs. In Marathon County, we have found the township has benefited by improved roadside appearance, county park improvement, public building decorating, school districts, highways and social services departments all have felt the sincere constructive caressing which the elderly Green Thumb-Green Light employees have delivered to the community. There is no question in our mind that the benefits will be long remembered.

Unfortunately, at this time it would appear extremely difficult if not impossible for the local municipality to assume this responsibility that Green Thumb-Green Light have taken onto themselves. Perhaps at another economical era, a greater willingness would be apparent, but the fiscal burdens of the locality are, as you well know, an obstacle of great proportion. We would hope that the federal government will be able to continue this worthwhile program in this community.

Sincerely,

JOHN R. GESICKI.
Chairman of: Marathon County Beautification Committee, Marathon County Board of Social Services, Marathon County Health Committee.

OFFICE OF FREDERICK E. WERNER,
Wausau, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA, *Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union,*
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I strongly believe that the Green Thumb—Green Light Programs do deserve every consideration by our representatives in Washington, and in view of this have written to Senator Garlord Nelson, Senator William Proxmire and Congressman David Obey.

I feel that the program has been beneficial to Marathon County due to the fact that it has provided not only a means of beautifying the various Parks under the Marathon County and City of Wausau Park Systems, but also provides a means where our Senior Citizens can channel their energies and capabilities to working in these various projects and also realize financial payments for their labors.

If this program should terminate, Marathon County would not be able to undertake the financing of it because the County is obligated to sponsoring a great number of projects presently. I do believe that they should be continued on the same basis as at present, and every effort should be put forth to continue federal funding.

Yours truly,

FREDERICK WERNER, *Chairman,*
Marathon County Board of Supervisors.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL,
Stanley, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Wisconsin Green Thumb, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: This is in reply to your letter of April 16, in which you wish an evaluation of the Green Thumb-Green Light Program. I am pleased to give my estimate of the Green Light Program in which we are involved.

This program is beneficial to our community for several reasons—

It gives low-income elderly people a greater feeling of security by having the means of securing some financial assistance.

It also gives such people a feeling of worth-whileness because they can fill a need in the place they work.

It promotes their social-cultural life by affording the opportunity to associate and work with people that value them.

There are no agencies or funds available on the local level to carry on what the Green Light Program does, should it terminate. I have made inquiries regarding this.

We value our Green Light worker much. She is treated as one of our group and she in turn is flexible and willing to adjust and help as circumstances come up. She has been with us two years and we hope she can be with us again next year. We would greatly appreciate another helper if any are available. So, please do what you can to have the Green Thumb-Green Light Program continue.

Yours truly,

SISTER ALICE VAN LOO,
Principal.

WHITE LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
White Lake, Wis., April 20, 1971.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter with regards to our Green Thumb program at the White Lake school. We are grateful to this program for the following reasons:

1. These men give our students an excellent example of turning out a day's work for a day's pay.
2. Their determination of doing the job is such that every student growing up in this kind of environment will be just that much better for having these experiences.
3. The pride they take in their work is a lost art in our society today and must be rejuvenated in order for America to survive.
4. We are fortunate to have an excellent foreman with determination and possesses many trade skills.
5. The other workers with a varied background, and a life time of experiences, all add their touch to a given task in order to turn out a product everyone can admire.
6. Their workmanship and attitude toward life, toward their job no doubt will have a positive affect on the students and younger employees of our system.
7. In all sincerity, I see these elderly men looking forward to tomorrow's accomplishments with pride and vigor. They realize they have something to offer society and are happy to do so. If this program or similar ones didn't exist I feel our society would miss out not only on these local resources, but I can just imagine these elderly gents with no goals to attain, just sitting around and reminiscing on what they have accomplished thru life; yes and now, have very little to offer.

In closing, I observe a much younger crew now than when the program started. These men take pride in their work and their ability to earn a few dollars rather than it given to them. The program has built up their ego and that in itself is worthy of the program.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM GEENEN,
District Administrator.

CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
Neillsville, Wis., April 21, 1971.

JOHN KMOSENA,
Wisconsin Green Thumb, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: This is to inform you that Clark County appreciates the fine work done by your men and women working in the Green Thumb-Green Light Programs.

Without this help, we are certain that much of the work being done in beautifying our parks and other areas of our great County could not have been accomplished.

As we prepare our budgets for such programs, we become more mindful of the great saving involved and realize more than ever the help we are getting.

We know of no better program to provide some good for the communities involved as well as giving employment to our senior citizens.

We have always felt that this is one of the better programs authorized under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and hope the people in charge can see fit to continue its being.

Sincerely yours,

H. H. QUICKER, *Vice Chairman.*

WISCONSIN INDIAN HEAD COUNTRY, INC.,
Chippewa Falls, Wis., April 19, 1971.

JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR JOHN: The Green Light Program has been extremely beneficial to the neighboring communities of Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire. By operating a full-time information center, the impact of the relationship between traveler-vacationer and our office extends far beyond the two communities.

Our particular Green Lighter, Martena Olson, has adapted well to the business of meeting the public. She has become well versed in catering to the specific needs of travelers and vacationers.

I am firmly convinced that Miss Olson's influence has been good for young and old alike. She has learned much about the northern part of Wisconsin—and this information she has passed along to many other persons.

I am sure that should the Green Light Program be termined, a definite void would exist. Whether local communities of government agencies would provide the necessary funds to continue a program of this nature is not known. I feel the Green Light Program has a definite and distinct place in our society. The sphere of influence displayed by our Green Lighter has touched many persons; many of them senior citizens. It is this attitude, one of continuing to serve the public, that is so necessary to the lives of our senior citizens.

Sincerely,

STEVE HENRY, *Executive Secretary.*

CITY OF BERLIN,
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,
Berlin, Wis., April 22, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Clark County Courthouse,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: During my term as Mayor for the past two years, I have had a chance to observe the Green Thumb Program as it benefits our community.

The Green Thumb Workers have really been a blessing to us, doing many of the projects normally requiring the services of regular employees, whose efforts are needed on more essential work. I have received many comments by interested citizens who have observed these people working in our park area and after being informed of the program, these people have expressed endoresment of the Green Thumb Program.

I can best sum up our evaluation of the program by quoting our Public Works Director when he was informed the program would be discontinued, and I quote, "They can't do that, we can't get along without the wonderful help these people provide".

With the emphasis being placed on the overburdened taxpayer, many of the projects these people do would be left undone because of the lack of funds on the local level.

I give my complete endorsement of this program and sincerely hope you people are successful in keeping it in effect.

Very truly yours,

GORDON C. JODARSKI, *Mayor.*

OSSEO-FAIRCHILD SCHOOLS,
Osseo, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Green Thumb and Green Light,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I do completely endorse the Green Light program. We have two ladies working in our school as teachers' helpers and they have had a positive effect upong the education of our youth while helping themselves. These helpers have enabled the teachers to spend more time teaching and preparaing to teach as the helpers do most of the menial tasks that can occupy so much of a teacher's time. They have also, under a teacher's supervision, given individual help to selected students who have needed it. This help may have

meant the difference between a child falling behind his classmates and perhaps even eventually dropping out or receiving the necessary help so he can remain on the same academic level as his classmates and probably be a more happy, contented youngster.

Our school would truly be in a bind if it were not for the Green Light program. We would/could not replace these helpers if this program is terminated.

I further feel this program tremendously benefits the recipients themselves. I wish more programs where self help is stressed would be initiated rather than just "giving" out funds as, I feel, too many welfare programs do. I know our helpers have developed a feeling of pride within themselves because the Green Light program has made it possible for them to help themselves while helping others.

Once again, I reiterate, I heartily endorse this program and cannot think of a better way to spend some of our tax dollar.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify in behalf of this worthwhile organization.

Sincerely,

GARY H. TWINING,
Building Principal,
Fairchild Elementary School.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM,
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION,
Menomonie, Wis., April 21, 1971.

MR. JOHN KMOSENA,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR JOHN: I am writing in regards to the Green Thumb program as I have observed it in our fair county. I have been a supervisor, project coordinator on the Caddie Woodlawn Park project in southern Dunn County. The Green Thumb people have transformed a brush patch into a pleasant park facility.

This park was awarded a historical marker this past year to commemorate the idea of Caddie Woodlawn. This park would not have been a reality if it would not have been for the faithful efforts on the part of the Green Thumb people. We citizens and Extension people in the community have solicited funds to purchase the bare essentials. For example, the well, the lumber for the picnic tables, the mortar for the buildings, all of the miscellaneous supplies needed to help put together this park.

Have the efforts been appreciated? To give you an idea of how much appreciation there has been for this project, I would like to tell you about the registry that was placed in the park the first part of August. Over 1500 names of either individuals or families were entered during the months of August, September and the first part of October. Workers at the park indicated that only about ⅓ of the visitors signed the registry. Many visitors drove in, read the wayside marker, looked around and departed without signing. Visitors were from 23 states and several countries. The fourth of July we had a dedication of the park. The author came from California with her family and nearly 500 people were on hand to witness the dedication of the park. The fourth of July is normally a busy day with numerous activities, but yet citizens came to see the work and be a part of this project.

Many individuals for decades have wanted a park in commemoration of Caddie Woodlawn. It takes a tremendous effort of labor to accomplish these dreams. Only because the *Green Thumb* workers were there three days a week was this park accomplished. The county would not have given tax dollars to pay for creating the park. This is the nicest park in the County system. This park is in commemoration of Caddie Woodlawn for the young people to stop and reminisce about a little girl growing up on the frontier of Wisconsin about 1860.

It is not likely that the local political subdivisions would provide funds for the disadvantaged elderly citizens, if there was not a Green Thumb program.

Sincerely,

F. MILO OLSON,
Farm Management Agent.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMS,
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION,
Oshkosh, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: It is in order periodically to evaluate the various projects and programs for which we have responsibility in our community. Since our office has been a factor in the establishment of the Green Thumb program in Winnebago county, we would like to make an evaluation of it at this time.

Originally we were not familiar with the Wisconsin Green Thumb. Upon explanation of its history and the services rendered, and a program which gave gainful occupation to retired or semi-retired people, the program obviously appeared advantageous.

In explaining the program to our municipalities, there was some feeling on the part of the cities that it may interfere with the Union philosophy to which their employees were members.

I personally launched the program with Green Thumb employees at the county fairgrounds in the late summer of 1969. There were some problems relative to locating qualified personnel, but the fairgrounds project worked good. This was followed by their working at the newly developed Marble Memorial Park in the Village of Winneconne. Mr. James Coughlin, village president, and a member of the county board, has frequently expressed the excellent work that these men did much of which would not have been possible had it not been for Green Thumb. The work that Green Thumb did was hand work.

Winneconne Village was quick to find another project when winter came and they worked renovating a railroad depot into a museum. Here the men also did excellent work and it was the type of work that did not justify, nor were funds available, to convert the depot into a museum.

Recently I noted in the daily press that people in the Town of Utica were requesting the services of Green Thumb to renovate their Town Hall which is a landmark. Here again, to employ skilled labor at union wages, this I am sure would meet with opposition by townspeople. I have noted that other units of town government have made inquiry concerning Green Thumb including the Town of Oshkosh.

May I conclude by stating that the program certainly has been beneficial in this community and I am sure that any projects including development of several potential park sites may not be possible because of the tight economy and because of much of the hand work that would at least temporarily satisfy the development of some of these needy projects to help make our community a better place in which to live. And it does give gainful occupation to people who are not satisfied to sit idly by and let Social Services take care of them.

Sincerely yours,

V. W. PEROUTKY,
Agriculture Agent.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT,
Chippewa Falls, Wis., April 21, 1971.

JOHN KMOSENA,
Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: Thank you for your letter of April 16, regarding the Green Thumb and Green Light Programs. I personally have been pleased with the results of these two programs here in Chippewa County.

I do feel that the program has been beneficial. It has given employment to under-employed and unemployed residents who would have had to seek relief or some other form of public aid had it not been for the program. It seems to me that at the same time it has provided the labor force to complete some worthwhile public, conservation and beautification projects.

If the program should terminate this community could provide the funds needed to continue such a program, however, at this time funding would have to be derived from property taxes. Therefore, unless some other revenue sharing or funding method is available I do not recommend the transfer of program costs to

the local area. Many of the persons who would be potentially benefiting from the employment given would also find that their property taxes increased, thereby negating some of the benefits of the program.

Very truly yours,

JOHN D. THURMAN, *Director.*

COLBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Colby, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: We have been especially pleased with the Green Light project in our school. The services performed by the Green Light worker in our school has supplied us with services that would be impossible to furnish from existing budgets.

If the program were to terminate I am very sure there would be no assistance to elderly citizens from the local community or agencies.

Because our aide is from the older generation we feel we receive a unique benefit from her services, which would be surely missed in case of termination. The administration, classroom teachers, and parents are willing to vouch for the value of the program.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) ANITA HIBBARD,
Elementary Supervisor.

ABBOTSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Abbotsford, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Wisconsin Farmer's Union Green Light,
Clark County Court House,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I have been informed that President Nixon is considering deleting the Green Light Project from his budget. I hope something can be done to save the program as I feel it is very worthwhile.

We have had a Green Light worker helping in our elementary school this past year. The teachers have appreciated her assistance and would like to have her continue her job here.

The worker we have feels she is contributing to a worthwhile endeavor as there are so many useful tasks she can perform.

I sincerely hope the Green Light Program can be continued and that our wishes will be made known to the proper authorities.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE STETTLER,
Principal, Abbotsford Elementary.

GREENWOOD HIGH SCHOOL,
Greenwood, Wis., April 21, 1971.

GREEN LIGHT,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR SIRS: On behalf of Mrs. Franz, our Green Light Worker in our school, may I say how much I appreciate her help in our Senior and Junior High School Library Resource Centers. This is my first year as librarian in the Senior High library and she was most valuable to me because she had worked there for the librarian last year and was able to do so many things to help me as I became acquainted with my new duties and materials. Her daily help for me is very valuable.

I am sure the financial value of these workers is high—in many cases no help would be possible for these duties were it not for this plan.

Our rural areas need this kind of help and certainly appreciate the chance to have it provided for us. We do hope it can be continued in our school and area for some time. It would be difficult now to work without such help but most appreciated if it could be continued.

Sincerely,

Mrs. GENEVA BERRETT,
Librarian.

PLOVER, WISCONSIN, PARKS DEPT.,
Plover, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR SIR: 1971 will hopefully be the 3rd year that the Town of Plover will be participating in the Green Thumb program. Our parks and community have benefited greatly as a result.

Our town suffers from many of the problems faced by rapidly expanding areas all over the country. The population has mushroomed and local gov't. doesn't have the resources to keep up. Parks and recreation suffer as a result since they are often among the first to have funds cut.

Green Thumb crews have helped fill the gap in a spectacular way. In the past 2 years Green Thumb crews have constructed a Little League field, brushed out park areas, pruned hundreds of trees, built picnic tables and benches, and painted equipment and trash barrels. They have installed parking barriers, laid cement slabs, and put up fencing. They do a tremendous job. When the Green Thumb crew is working with us, it is all my as't and myself can do just keeping them supplied with materials. They work faster than we can supply at times.

The citizens of the community and the local officials are aware of the Green Thumb contribution and they all realize that without Green Thumb aid even our small parks system would be in the paper stage, since, in our case, funds are not available to do the work.

But any benefits the community has gained should be considered secondary to the benefits gained by the workers. This opportunity to work provides them with dignity. They don't want a dole or a handout. They have worked hard all their lives. This program gives them something to keep active in their latter years. I'm personally convinced that in at least some cases the Green Thumb program has literally saved their lives. They were wasting away—supposedly forgotten and unwanted—that is until Green Thumb came along.

The best substitute for the Green Thumb program (and it would be just that—a poor substitute, not a replacement—that might be obtainable locally would be to put these deserving citizens back on welfare—if and when money becomes available in some cases. To cancel out the Green Thumb program would be a grave mistake. Why void a program that is working with such obvious success. I hope that the program can be continued.

Sincerely,

LEO THOMASGARD,
Parks Manager.

OFFICE OF ZONING ADMINISTRATOR,
Wautoma, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: May I take a moment of your time? I wish to commend you for the fine work the Green Thumb workers are doing, and the fine leadership you give them.

The projects the Green Thumb have worked on here in Waushara County are most satisfactory. Further, I am sure some of the work would never have been accomplished if it were not for those workers.

One of the workers told me he enjoys his work, is proud to be of service to his community, and has a definite improvement in health since he joined the crew. I am sure most workers are glad to be useful, and of course, enjoy the income the projects provide. I am sure this provides a few extras and necessities in their everyday living.

We have some projects we are hoping the Green Thumb can do for this county this summer, and I am hoping the program will be continued. We sure have need for it.

Thank you, and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

LEO SARNOWSKI,
Park Commissioner.

PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
Ellsworth, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: This is in reply to your letter of April 16th requesting an evaluation of the Green Thumb in our County.

It is my feeling that the Green Thumb has been beneficial to our community in many areas. They are presently doing several things in the Court House, painting, putting screens on, remodeling office space, building a vault etc. In the past they have done several things in the County, cleaning up roadsides, cleaning up parks, painting town halls, built privies etc.

To my knowledge we are not able to provide funds to assist the disadvantaged elderly citizens in the manner that programs are providing at the present time.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

LAURENCE WEBER,
County Board Chairman.

MELROSE, WIS., *April 20, 1971.*

JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: This is in reply to your letter of April 16, 1971.

Our observations of the Green Thumb program has been very good and been beneficial to our village. A well-built and roomy park shelter which is well used during the summer months and which was built by Green Thumb is a fine testimony.

We certainly feel it is a worth while project as we have nothing (no other agency) to take it's place.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

O. L. O'HEARN,
Village President.

VILLAGE OF WOODVILLE,
Woodville, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: In our community we feel the Green Thumb program has been most beneficial. There have been many projects accomplished that would otherwise have entailed a lot of higher paid labor and involving persons needed for other programming in our community.

It has been beneficial to several local citizens who otherwise would not have had access to funds such as this. It has also lent an air of dignity to these elderly citizens who could still earn some extra money for themselves.

I do not feel that local communities and agencies could provide funds such as this for disadvantaged elderly citizens as the Green Thumb program has.

Sincerely yours,

ART BEST, *Village President.*

VILLAGE OF BRUCE,
Bruce, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: The Village of Bruce is very grateful for the work done by the Green Thumb men in the Village in the past four years. We believe it is the best program of its kind. The senior men take great pride in their work and everything they do is done right. It also gives them additional income, which many of them need.

The latest project in Bruce was painting our new garage which houses a new

Ambulance. This was painted inside and out. They did a fine job, one of which the Green Thumb can be proud of.

The Village does not have the money to continue the type of work the Green Thumb does. We certainly hope that this program will be continued.

Sincerely,

GLENN MORTON, *Village Clerk.*

LANGLADE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL
AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE,
Antigo, Wis., April 20, 1971.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the Green Thumb Program in Langlade County, Wisconsin.

When the program was established in Langlade County we felt that it would help improve the physical assets of the community and provide an incentive for our Senior Citizens who had a positive work attitude and needed financial assistance to fight inflation.

The Green Thumb Program has met these objectives.

Since 1968, the Green Thumb Program has beautified our parks, streams and lakes, constructed picnic and outdoor recreational facilities, provided safety facilities for public property, upgraded the facilities at County Ski Hill, roadside picnic areas, swimming and fishing recreational areas and replanted trees and plants to help beautify public parks and recreational areas.

Green Thumb has been an asset to our County. But more important, it has provided citizens, because of age, an opportunity to point with pride at their accomplishments and a positive attitude toward the future.

Sincerely,

ALBERT J. TSCHUDY,
Executive Secretary.

CITY OF STANLEY,
CHIPPEWA COUNTY,
Stanley, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb and Green Light,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: The City of Stanley feels that the program has been very beneficial. We have had the Green Thumb work for us for the last three years. They have worked in our city park doing work which the city didn't have the money to hire labor to do. They have fixed up our baseball and football field, our bathing beach, and park area. This last winter they painted our city auditorium, city hall and jail.

If the program should terminate, the City of Stanley could not provide the funds needed to assist the disadvantaged elderly citizens that the Green Thumb and Green Light programs are providing now.

Sincerely,

WILLARD C. MORTENSEN, *Mayor.*

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,
Black River Falls, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR JOHN: As you know, I have worked with Green Thumb crews at various times since the inception of the program. My views on the program are as follows:

It is the best OEO program in operation. The numerous projects, from community park work to State Forest roadside improvement, would not, for the most part, have been accomplished. The psychological lift that these senior citizens get from being useful again is just as important as the financial assistance they receive.

Many of them could no doubt get some assistance from the Department of Social Services or some charity. However, given a chance, they prefer to work for their money, just as we do.

There are not now any community or county programs to provide financial assistance to elderly citizens. It is inconceivable that local communities could provide the kind of financial assistance now provided by Green Thumb. It is also very doubtful that the amounts of park and beautification work accomplished by Green Thumb could be handled only by local communities.

These remarks are not meant as flattery for the Green Thumb Program. They are a true reflection of my views.

I sincerely hope the Legislature sees fit to continue it.

Very truly yours,

DIVISION OF FORESTRY
AND RECREATION,
ALBERT F. KUBISKE,
Area Forester.

LADYSMITH HAWKINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Ladysmith, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: Yes, I do feel that the Green Thumb Program has been beneficial to both the community and the participants. The so called "grass roots" knowledge that emanates from the Green Thumb workers has been of tremendous value to my school district. These people have contributed many dollars worth of labor in landscaping the grounds of our new high school as well as practical advise in how to develop a fine looking lawn.

Hoping Congress can authorize funds to continue this program, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

HAROLD A. BILLINGS, *Superintendent.*

COURTHOUSE ANNEX,
Eau Claire, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT ROHDE
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR SIR: I have had the pleasure of working with at least one Green Thumb Crew continuously since it's beginning and think that it is a very worthwhile program.

They have helped on snowmobile trails, hunting and walking trails, forest roads, boat landings and several county parks.

The men for the most part are good workers and because of their background know how to work, and certainly need the wages they receive in order to exist because of rising living costs.

I, for one, hope the program can be extended and even enlarged to allow these workers to help maintain the facilities they have helped to build.

Sincerely,

LESTER LOWMAN,
Eau Claire County, Forest and Parks Administrator.

WAUSAU AND MARATHON COUNTY
PARK COMMISSIONS,
Wausau, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mayor JOHN KANNENBERG,
City Hall, Wausau, Wis.

DEAR JOHN: Enclosed is a copy of a letter concerning the Green Thumb Program which should be self-explanatory. As you know, the Park Department has gotten a lot of benefit in the form of free labor from these people which couldn't have been done economically using park funds. A Green Thumb laborer is available to us absolutely free and with a minimum of paper work.

Apparently, the Green Thumb Program is under fire and is in danger of losing its appropriations. If you have a moment, could you dash off a quick letter supporting this program to our two senators and our congressman? We have already sent a letter recommending the continuation of this program, but another letter from a head of government would lend much greater weight to their appeal.

The letter can be short and general to save time and composition.
Can you help them out?
Very truly yours,

DON BRONK,
Administrative Assistant.

WAUSAU AND MARATHON COUNTY
PARK COMMISSIONS,
Wausau, Wis., April 19, 1971.

MR. RAY OTT,
County Clerk,
Court House, Wausau, Wis.

DEAR RAY: Enclosed is a copy of a letter concerning the Green Thumb Program which should be self-explanatory. As you know, the Park Department has gotten a lot of benefits in the form of free labor from these people which couldn't have been done economically using park funds. A Green Thumb laborer is available to us absolutely free and with a minimum of paper work.

Apparently, the Green Thumb Program is under fire and is in danger of losing its appropriations. If you have a moment, could you dash off a quick letter supporting this program to our two senators and our congressman? We have already sent a letter recommending the continuation of this program, but another letter from a head of government would lend much greater weight to their appeal.

The letter can be short and general to save time and composition.
Can you help them out?
Very truly yours,

DON BRONK,
Administrative Assistant.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM,
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN,
Alma, Wis., April 19, 1971.

JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb, Clark County Courthouse, Neillesville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: The Green Thumb Program in Buffalo County, Wisconsin has been one of the very finest programs we have had a opportunity to deal with in regards to combating poverty.

The limited work program has made it possible for some people to get back into the regular work force, as they found and employers found they were still able to work.

Secondly, a number of fine projects of beautification of the Publlic property have been accomplished. These include a number of improvements to parks, Town Halls, Libraries, Fire Stations, Fairgrounds, Stream banks, Beaches, Bath House, Park Roads, Campsites and other works of Public value.

I'm sure that this program should continue as it is indeed one of the very good and worthwhile programs both for the individual and general public involved.

Sincerely,

ARCHIE BROVOLD,
Agriculture Agent.

JUMP RIVER, WIS., *April 17, 1971.*

JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director.

DEAR SIR: In reply to your letter requesting my opinion on the value of the Green Thumb programs I must state that they have been beneficial not only to communities, but to counties, county and federal forests. It has created jobs for low income people, making them feel proud of the work they do, as well as being self supporting. The beautification work they have done and are still doing, is just wonderful. The Green Thumb program should never be terminated, instead it should be increased. Funds from local communities and agencies would be hard to receive, so I hope the program will be funded again. I have nothing but praise for the work the program has done.

Respectfully yours,

CHARLES LATZ, SR.,
Senior Citizen Coordinator for ICAA.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
FOREST SERVICE,
Rhinelander, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb, Clark County Court House, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: We've had a Green Thumb crew working on the Nicolet National Forest since last fall. I have visited them on the job at least three times. It's my sincere belief that this program is quite beneficial to the community, as well as to the Nicolet National Forest. Here's why:

These men have turned out quality production. They are proud of their work, they are skilled, and they are production oriented.

These men have a new lease on life because they feel they are doing something useful. They are, because the needed work they're doing is presently unfunded in our program, yet we need it.

These men really appreciate the work. We very definitely appreciate their efforts.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. CHAFFIN,
Forest Supervisor.

CITY OF GALESVILLE,
Galesville, Wis., April 17, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I wish to take this opportunity to express our thanks to your program for the help you have been giving us thru your program with regard to restoring our beautiful High Cliff Park as well as our Arctic Springs Park and the Trout Ponds. The program was a real help to us in refinishing the rest-rooms and other areas in an older building our city bought because of a need for an election and police quarters.

You may be sure this could not have been done without the help of your program.

It has made me happy to note these older and what one might term disadvantaged elderly people given the oportunity to keep busy and earn much-needed funds.

Not only do these men need the money they earn thru your program but it is a pleasure to see the lift in moral they gain by having a job as in most cases these same elderly men could not obtain work through the usual channels.

I wish to express the thanks of our city and trust you will continue with this fine program.

Yours very truly,

RALPH B. MYHRE, *Mayor.*

OFFICE OF CITY CLERK,
Osseo, Wis., April 19,1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR SIR: I am writing on behalf of the continuation of the Green Thumb project. The City of Osseo, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, has had the services of the Green Thumbers several times in the past few years.

They have helped beautify the banks of Lake Martha in our city and also the river banks of the river which feeds the lake, by brushing, cutting weeds and just picking up in general. We had them this spring to refinish the floor in our auditorium, and another fine job was done by them. The work they did in the city park was a great help in beautification.

We sincerely hope the program is continued as it is usually the only help we can obtain for these kind of jobs, yet these jobs are important and should be done. Having the Green Thumbers to call on assures us of competent help to accomplish this.

Sincerely,

MRS. EVA KITTELSON,
City Clerk.

OFFICE OF CLERK,
CITY OF BUFFALO,
Cochrane, Wis.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb and Green Light,
Room 209, Court House, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I would sincerely hate to see the Green Thumb program terminate. It has been a great help to our community but what I believe is more important is that these elderly people will feel more useful and it will give them a more meaningful life. It is not good for them to just sit around and deteriorate. We are only able to hire one man and his assistant and we have the river bank that has to have up keep performed each spring. We have a lot of miles of river bank and the Green Thumb takes a great deal of load off our shoulders.

In answer to your second question about city providing funds to assist elderly citizens. We have so much that is dipping into our city funds all the time and its getting worse each year. Some time it has to start slowing down. We would do what we could to aid the senior citizens but it would strain our budget plus having to hire extra help to replace the Green Thumb.

I think the Green Thumb is very important and I and the city council would like to go on record with a vote for the program to continue.

RAY HULTON,
Mayor.

WOOD COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT,
COURT HOUSE,
Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Court House, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: The Green Thumb Program sponsored by the Wisconsin Farmers Union has been carried on in the Wood County Parks System for the past several years with excellent results.

Projects which have been completed by the Green Thumb men include planting trees, painting and repairing benches and picnic tables, and converting oil barrels to refuse containers. They have also done a great job of clearing brush and undesirable trees from lands in our new park project, Dexter Park, and we are very proud of their work in making this a very attractive recreation area.

The entire program is not only beneficial to the Wood County Parks System, but it affords useful occupations to the disadvantaged elderly who are anxious to be employed at worthwhile projects. We have found that the Green Thumb workers have always taken a great deal of pride in their work and can be depended upon to do a good job at whatever project they may be assigned. Morale and attitudes of the men are commendable.

Many of the projects which they have accomplished in our County Parks System would have been left undone due to budget limitations, and our new park would not be nearly as far developed had we not had the assistance of the Green Thumb Program.

We heartily recommend that this program continue and we will continue to support it in any way possible.

Very truly yours,

A. J. BUCHBERGER, *Superintendent.*

CITY OF BARRON,
OFFICE OF CLERK,
Barron, Wis., April 19, 1971.

WISCONSIN GREEN THUMB,
Clark County Courthouse,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: In response to your letter of April 16, 1971, which was addressed to Mr. Charles Stokke, and which has been referred to me as Mr. Stokke is no longer Mayor of the City of Barron, I feel that the Green Thumb program is very beneficial to all of the citizens in the City. A number of proj-

ects have been completed by this help that I am sure would not have been done otherwise.

The City government budget does not provide for programs that would take the place of the Green Thumb program consequently there would be no employment for older citizens which the Green Thumb promotes.

I recommend the continuation of the Green Thumb program as we all feel that this program is a vital service for all of the residents of any community which is served by this program.

Yours very truly,

OTIS G. BERGER,
Mayor.

APRIL 19, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb,
Room 209, Court House, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR Mr. KMOSENA: I think the Green Thumb Program is very beneficial to the community, and to are elder citizens exceptionally good. It is providing some additional income for our elder citizens which we all know they can use, and which our municipalities could not provide for them in any other way.

I know what this Program has done for our elder citizens, and also for the town of Halsey, Marathon County.

WM. PUNKE,
Chairman, Town of Halsey, Marathon County,
Route No. 3, Athens, Wis.

L. A. ANDERSON, D.V.M.,
Glenwood City, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb & Green Light, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMESONA: After carefully evaluating the Green Thumb-Green Light Programs which have been in operation here for sometime, I feel the program has really been beneficial in supplementing the elderly citizens income. Without this program some of our citizens would find it rather hard going financially.

As far as the work is concerned, these people have done a tremendous job in our new recreational park. Trying to get it ready for our summer season just ahead.

If the program should terminate, I believe our small community would find it quite taxing to provide funds to assist these disadvantaged elderly citizens in a like manner.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. L. A. ANDERSON, *Mayor.*

CITY OF AUGUSTA,
Augusta, Wis., April 17, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director,
Neillsville, Wis.

Dear Sir: In reply to your letter of the 16th. I cant tell you what the GREEN THUMB has done for the City of Augusta, we cound not have been able to do a small part for the Men that has been with the Green Thumb workers. We have them now. We hope this program will continue, and any other part I can do to help you I will be very glad to do it.

I certainly thank you for this chance to tell you this.

Sincerely,

RAYMOND STRINGER, *Mayor.*

CORNELL JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2,
Cornell, Wis., April 15, 1971.

To Whom It May Concern:

The Cornell School System has enjoyed the benefits of the Green Light program for two years.

We have found the program to be of great value to the operation of our sys-

tem. It has been possible to expand student services by releasing faculty members from routine duties which are now capably handled by Green Light workers.

Sincerely,

W. J. STOWELL,
High School Principal.

CITY OF NEILLSVILLE,
Neillsville, Wis., April 15, 1971.

GREEN THUMB ASSOCIATION,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR SIRS: On behalf of the City of Neillsville Common Council it is a pleasure to write this letter thanking your organization for the recent painting project which was just completed at the City Hall, City Fire Station, and City Garage here at Neillsville, Wis.

It is a pleasure to see these men working and performing such useful activities.

I hope in the future we may have projects which can be performed under arrangements with your organization.

Very truly yours,

KENNETH A. OLSON,
Mayor.
WILLIAM GALLAGHER,
Clerk.

JUNCTION CITY, WIS., *April 17, 1971.*

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb and Green Light,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: With information I heard that the Green Thumb and Green Light programs would terminate in August of 1971. Now I do believe that these programs are in need to help small villages and towns in need who can not finance some of those programs as parks, tree planting, buildings, streams, and conservation.

And also do help some of those on small income trying to live in their own home. Maintenance and taxes are increasing. So with this help, keeps them off welfare or other aids.

Sincerely,

PAUL B. KITOWSKI, *Village President.*

HOLCOMBE PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Holcombe, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I feel the program has been very beneficial to our school district. We have help through this program that would not be available to use if we were to use school funds. Our lunch program uses the services of a Green Light worker.

The Green Thumb provided help to the school district in a number of ways. They did a very good job of brushing our school forest, painting classrooms, conservation work around the school, plus a number of other jobs.

I feel they have provided a service that would not be available to disadvantaged elderly citizens if this program was not in operation.

I do hope this program is continued. We look forward to the services it provides to us and the people employed.

Sincerely,

DONALD D. SCHNEIDER, *Superintendent.*

CORNELL JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2,
Cornell, Wis., April 16, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Light,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I have been asked by your organization to react to the Green Thumb Program, which I am happy to do. As superintendent of the Cornell

School District I have a close working knowledge of what takes place with this program on the local level, so as I express my enthusiasm and support of this program I do so with some substantial background.

I first of all want to express our appreciation for the excellent work the Green Thumb crews assigned to our projects have done.

The men have been responsible and hardworking, and take considerable pride in doing their job well. They have been very cooperative in every respect. The results of their work has added a great deal of beauty to our grounds, and the practical application of their various skills has made our facilities more durable and lasting.

I have only one complaint, that being I wish we could keep the crews for longer periods of time or get them more often. However, I realize there are many demands on their time from other agencies.

Yours truly,

BERNARD H. BENNETT,
Superintendent of Schools.

CITY OF ANTIGO,
Antigo, Wis., April 15, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Clerk, County Court House,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: As mayor of the City of Antigo, Wis., I am writing this letter in the best interest of the Green Thumb and Green Light Federal project.

We, the City of Antigo, have used these men and women under the above mentioned project for the past few years. Doing such work as filling sand bags for flood prevention and cleaning the shore line of debris, etc. The ladies did such work as painting and general cleaning.

We the people in Antigo and Langlade County are much in need of their type of project as we are classed as a depressed area and the older people of 60 years and over need this extra income wherever possible.

Thank you for what you can do for us.

Sincerely,

RUBEN A. KRAUSE, *Mayor.*

PRICE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,
Phillips, Wis., April 17, 1971.

JOHN KMOSENA,
Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Light,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR SIR: Answering your inquiry of April 16th I wish to state that we here in this area are strongly in favor of the Green Thumb-Green Light Program. Answering your question No. 1. We feel that the program has been beneficial to our community:

Number 1: Because we have a large number of Social Security members that have to work to make ends meet. We have numbers of old people still able to work that get far less than a $100.00 a month. I know a number that get in the $60.00 range and with the wife getting half it is less than the $100.00.

Number 2: If the program should terminate the local communities and agency could not provide the funds to assist the elderly citizens.

Speaking for the Price County Agricultural Society I can say that we welcome this program as our County Fairs are beginning to have a rugged time and something like the Green Thumb is a God send to us.

Thanking you for giving me the opportunity of expressing my views, I am, sir,

Sincerely yours,

ROY A. BODENBURG,
Secretary Treasurer.

ATHENS, WIS., *April 19, 1971.*

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Court House,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR SIR: The Green Thumb men have worked in our Community for several years and I wish to advise you that they have made a definite and good contribution to our community.

1. They have done a lot of work in our recreation areas, such as parks, swimming area and Village watershed. They have beautified the village in general.
2. If it were not for these men we would not have been able to do this work as there is just not enough tax money to do these little extras to make a better town.
3. These men really *need* the extra money that they earn, as Social Security does not reach in these times of inflation.

If this program should terminate, these men will be out of work, as our tax money simply will not reach to hire these men to get this work done. As a result it will be left undone.

I sincerely hope this program can continue without interruption.

Sincerely yours,

ARNOLD SCHROEDER, *Trustee.*

OFFICE OF COUNTY TREASURER,
Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR SIR: In behalf of the Wood County Conservation and Forestry Committee, I would like to express our appreciation for the services received through the Green Thumb Program.

The public acceptance of these projects has been gratifying and the benefits derived by the public's use will be beneficial for many years.

Due to labor cots, most of these projects would not be feasible without the aid of the Green Thumb workers. Also, the financial aid to the individual worker, as well as the personal pride and respect shown by these men as they perform their duties, is of the utmost importance.

It would be very difficult, if not impossible, for local communities to finance this type of program without federal funding.

Thanking you for your cooperation in carrying out these programs, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

E. D. REZIN,
Wood County Forest Administrator.

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Black River Falls, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb-Green Light,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR SIR: Regarding the Green Thumb project, I know personally many of the men this project involves here and know that they look forward to this program very much, not only for a financial support to their small income, but because of the benefits to their health and mental attitude.

I feel that every dollar spent to provide work saves lives, welfare money, honor, mental and physical sickness.

I further feel that many communities like ours would have to let many projects go that affect the welfare and ecological condition of these communities.

When one looks at the assistance programs as a whole, this one is the best for the recipients. I feel that a busy person is a good, satisfied American. I am retired from my job, but busy as you can see.

Very truly yours,

CORTEZ H. HAHN,
County Fair Association.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMS,
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION,
Merrill, Wis., April 19, 1971.

JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Green Thumb Program,
Courthouse,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR SIR: The Green Thumb work force has completed many projects during the past three years in Lincoln County. Well over $20,000 of local contributions

have gone into the projects, all involving publicly owned facilities. We currently have a long waiting list of projects the men could develop and complete.

Every project the men have completed has brought forth nothing but praise and thanks for a job well done.

I see no way with the present tight budget, for local governments to find the monies to continue the program on their own. We certainly would like to see it expanded, not dropped.

Sincerely,

ROBERT SUMNICHT, *County Agent.*

TOWNSHIP OF LUDINGTON,
Fall Creek, Wis., April 21, 1971.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I am writing in response to your letter to tell you that the Green Thumb program has been very beneficial to our community as they have done things to make our community a better place to live.

It has also provided extra income for the elderly people of our community as most of these people could not make a living off of these Social Security and we as a community could not gather the funds to give them.

I hope that Washington will continue to suport this program.

Sincerely,

DALE NOEL, *Chairman.*

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,
Black River Falls, Wis., April 22, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb, Courthouse, Neillsville, Wis.,

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: This letter is in reply to yours of April 16, on the Green Thumb program.

During the last few years your Green Thumb crew has completed some very worthwhile projects on the Black River State Forest. There is no doubt that the program has been very beneficial to forest users as well as the local community.

The work projects have ranged from improvements of a snowmobile trail to improvements and clean up of developed public use areas (campgrounds and picnic sites). Many miles of roadside have also been improved. In many cases, without the Green Thumb crew these projects would simply not be completed.

If the program should terminate, the Department of Natural Resources would not have the funds to adequately finance the Green Thumb work program on the Black River State Forest in the next biennium.

We sincerely hope that the program can continue and that we can continue to provide these projects.

Very truly yours,

DIVISION OF FORESTRY & RECREATION,
CHARLES J. ERICKSON,
Superintendent, Black River Forest.

TOWN OF BROWNING,
TAYLOR COUNTY,
Medford, Wis., April 22, 1971.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: In regards to the letter you sent me about the Green Thumb Green Light, it surely has made good improvements in our Town of Browning. They done a real good job on our town hall. I have seen other places in our county (Taylor) that they have beautified. I surely would like to see it kept up. As for some other agencies to take over I don't know who it could be. Our elderly citizens will be left by the way side. The Green Thumb Green Light has made great improvements in Taylor County and hope and wish it will continue.

Sincerely,

GEORGE RADANDT, *Chairman.*

LADYSMITH HAWKINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Ladysmith, Wis., April 22, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Green Thumb Program, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: Just a short note expressing my support of the Green Thumb Program in our community. As president of the Board of Education, I have come to realize the tremendous financial contribution this program has given to our school district. I sincerely hope that this program can be continued as I firmly believe this community as well as the Green Thumb workers benefit.

Sincerely yours,

EARL H. ENERSON,
President, Board of Education.

STOCKHOLM, WIS., *April 21, 1971.*

JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I received your letter concerning the green thumb program, and I hope we can keep this program going for many years, these elderly citizens have done a lot of wonderful work in this community which we could not otherwise afford, we will in a few years, with the help of these elderly citizens have one of the most beautiful parks bordering lake pipen which is enjoyed by the people for miles around and people from neighboring states so I hope we will be able to keep the green thumb program going for many years.

Thanking your very much,

STANLEY WALLIN, *Mayor.*

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
Eau Claire, Wis., April 22, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb, Neilsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: The Green Thumb-Light Program is one of the most worthwhile federal assistance programs. The older men that are eligible to work under the Green Thumb-Light Program would find it very hard to obtain work through any other source. The Green Thumb program provides work and a small income, both being important to older people. In addition, the work performed enhances the community.

The work performed by Green Thumb workers would not be taken over by local units of government. Generally, these local units of government are operating under very limited budgets that do not allow for development work.

The costs of the Green Thumb-Light Program are borne by the people and the benefits are, also, enjoyed by the people.

I, personally, have been involved in the Green Thumb-Light Program in different communities. Some of these communities were rather skeptical as to work that would be performed by the Green Thumb workers. However, after a sound development program was developed by the community and work proceeded, the people were definitely behind the program.

The Green Thumb-Light Program, I think, should definitely be continued.

Sincerely,

HENRY L. ANDERSON, *Area Forester.*

SAINT MARY CHURCH,
Neillsville, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb, Inc.,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I am sorry not be much help in information regarding the need for disadvantaged elderly citizens of this community. I have been here since last July. However, I believe that Neillsville has its share of disadvantaged elderly citizens who could use an added income to this Social Security benefits. As yet I know only a small portion of this community but if the small number that I know is an indication of the need, I believe this community needs this help very badly.

With every best wish that your efforts to help the disadvantaged elderly citizens will bear much fruit.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES D. BRADY, *Pastor.*

VOCATIONAL, TECHNICAL AND
ADULT EDUCATION—DISTRICT 10,
Fond du Lac, Wis., April 22, 1971.

MR. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: Your office has advised that your present program of the Wisconsin Green Thumb terminates on August 1, 1971. This would indeed be a loss to the senior citizens and to the communities and institutions which they have served. I feel that the program has been very beneficial to our community.

In our Institute, one of the participants of the program has provided an outstanding service. He has been conscientious and deeply interested in his work in the Custodial Services Division. In addition to providing a better environment for our students, the service provides the worker with a greater sense of self-esteem and self-satisfaction because of his contribution.

I am hopeful that the program will not terminate, and I don't believe that funds are available locally to assist us to continue employment of a disadvantaged elderly citizen. I am hopeful that legislators will provide the funds to continue the Green Thumb Program.

Sincerely yours,

CONRAD MAYER, *Administrator.*

MARATHON COUNTY,
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES,
Wausau, Wis., April 22, 1971.

MR. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb, Clark County Court House, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: We have had two Green Light workers assigned to us here at the Marathon County Department of Social Services since October, 1969. We are most appreciative of the services that these two women have provided to the agency. They are congenial, well motivated, and are concerned relative to the people whom we serve.

One of the Green Light aides has been functioning in a capacity similar to our regular case aide staff. She is accountable to the supervisor of our financial aid and eligibility unit and is in a position to provide extra flexibility to this unit in assisting with some of the paper work and clerical tasks which wouldn't necessarily be done by the case aide. Because she is able to help us over some of the rough spots, the aides are able to more expediently process requests for financial aid and more quickly meet the needs of people whom we serve.

The other Green Light aide is assigned to our foster home and family services unit and functions somewhat in the capacity of a social services aide. She is available both on "short notice" call or, in some instances, on a longer term planned basis. She might function in a home at times in a homemaker type capacity, or in other instances provide child care or transportation where such services seem to be in the best interest of the receipient concerned. Again, this individual functions in a conplementary capacity and enables us to better and more flexibly meet the needs of the recipients involved.

It would be my opinion that these services have been of a decided benefit to this community. They are conplementary type services which we would be unable to finance or staff under ordinary circumstances, and yet they enable us to better meet the needs of the people whom we serve.

It is my opinion that local communities and agencies would not be in a position to step in and provide the funds necessary to assist the elderly people whom your programs are serving. I believe it would be unfortunate if such programs were to terminate.

Very truly yours,

DAVID W. CARLSON,
Social Work Supervisor.

PHILLIPS, WIS, *April 20, 1971.*

JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director.

DEAR SIR: Received your letter in regard to my feelings on the green thumb project. I feel that the program has been beneficial to our community. First the many projects that they have completed, for the beautification for all of us to enjoy, plus the improvement of our environment. It also has given many of our senior members of the various communities an opportunity to use the many talents they have and to become a part of our society again. I can see the pleased look on the faces of these men, as they earn the money with their own hands.

You asked if the local community could step in and provide the funds to assist the disadvantaged elderly citizens. No, we could not, but with the cooperation of the green thumb project, the local municipalities can provide the material necessary, and between the two can produce great things. In my opinion of the many of the many programs, I believe this to be one of the best. I feel that it should continue.

Sincerely,

ANDREW BOHLOD,
Town Chairman.

STEVENS POINT, WIS., *April 22, 1971.*

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb & Green Light,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I wish to comment as follows relative to the Green Thumb-Green Light Programs that have operated in our City for the past two years.

In the year 1969, we had a very good experience and enjoyed the work that the green thumbers did for us in the parks and recreation areas. The work was outstanding and lent a great amount to improvements to our recreation facilities. The work that they provided was very thorough and will undoubtedly be appreciated for a considerable period of time. However, in 1970, I personally was a little disappointed in the program inasmuch that we had requested for additional participation through our County Park Commission, but for unknown reasons, we were not given any assistance under this program. It was a definite disappointment to us because we really could have used this assistance in 1970 as we did in 1969.

In general, however, I would endorse the program as very worthwhile and one that should be continued. However, if the continuance of this program should be based entirely on local funding, it would be something we could dispense with. Our local revenues would not allow us to participate in this program if not subsidized.

Very truly yours,

PAUL A. BORHAM, *Mayor.*

APRIL 22, 1971.

JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR JOHN: The Green Thumb program has benefited many communities in Rusk County. They have benefited through improvement of property that would have been neglected except for the Green Thumb program. Many of these projects would have not been accomplished because of lack of funds and/or lack of manpower willing to accept some of these tasks.

One of the greatest values to the community is the appearance of a job well done on a paint up, fix up, clean up campaign in our parks, town premises and many other buildings throughout our communities. It is always a pleasure to view the results of such tasks.

The greatest benefit of all is to the senior citizen who is living on a very small income. Not only the extra income he receives but the pride of being able to work and the feeling of being needed is a very important part of the program. We have had some senior citizens whose life has been extended by being active and feeling needed by others.

I cannot answer the question of whether or not local Government units would continue the program. It's my belief that not many would continue the program if they had to pick up the total bill. Our local governments each year are asked to pick up more and more of the programs started by our Federal and State Governments so that they can for one political reason or another start something else. Many of which duplicate some program already going but given another name.

I believe the Green Thumb programs to be one of the best programs to come along and would hate to see it dropped.

Sincerely,

KEITH L. BURTON,
Rusk County Fair Secretary.

TRAILS END YOUTH CAMP,
Bruce, Wis., April 21, 1971.

JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR JOHN: I wonder if any of the other trustees of Trails End Youth Camp have expressed their appreciation for the fine work the Green Thumb crews have done at Trails End during the past three years.

We operate on a very limited budget and the improvements we have made at camp would not have been possible if we had been unable to get help from Green Thumb.

This is a real public service and it is one of the reasons the trustees of Trails End Camp have been able to hold their camp use fee to 10 cents per day per child plus the electricity.

Rusk County is a low income area and many parents have large families. We feel that no child who belongs to 4–H, the Boy Scouts or the Girl Scouts should be denied the privilege of attending camp because of high prices.

I know many of the Green Thumb boys in Rusk County personally. I know that many of them come from pioneer families who have always taken pride in their work. This is still true today. They turn out a full days work with a minimum of supervision. They are able to hold their heads up and look you in the eye because they are doing a job that is needed.

It is my sincere hope that this program can be continued.

Sincerely yours,

DONALD MC EATHON, *Trustee.*

THE CITY OF CUMBERLAND,
Cumberland, Wis., April 22, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb & Green Light,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: Thank you for your letter of April 16, 1971. I am disappointed to hear that there is some indication that the Green Thumb program may be terminated in August of this year. I feel that the program is very worthy, and does deserve strong consideration and support for its continuance. The Green Thumb workers have been active in our county and our city and have provided a valuable improvement for our community. The Green Thumb workers have done an exceptional job in cleaning an area of our park, and have been most helpful in assisting in a conservation project at our city hospital. They have improved both of the indicated areas providing a definite asset in the appearance of our community. Needless to say, these projects are not always accomplished through city employees and city funds because they usually lack rate priority. I feel the program intent of the Green Thumb workers inspires communities such as ours to accomplish these very worthwhile projects.

I sincerely encourage that the Green Thumb Program be extended beyond August 1, 1971, and encourage the program to continue its fine works.

Sincerely,

ALBERT B. SKINNER,
Mayor, City of Cumberland.

CITY OF LADYSMITH,
Ladysmith, Wis., April 27, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR JOHN: As you know, we in Ladysmith have always valued the Green Thumb program highly. This applies particularly to those of us who have had the opportunity to see it at close hand.

It is my belief that in addition to the fine service rendered municipalities such as ours and the rural townships, the program is invaluable to the participants not only from the standpoint of income derived but from that of producing in them a feeling of being useful. Many of these men have fine skills which are the result of long years of training and active participation in their crafts.

Ladysmith has benefitted greatly from the work done in our parks and along the beautiful Flambeau, as well as at the site of the new Landysmith-Hawkins high school building. You are aware, of course, that we are hoping to avail ourselves of the services of these men again this summer and have already submitted an application.

I am sure that if Green Thumb were terminated (heaven forbid!) that we would be unable to come up with a suitable substitute through our municipal agencies.

It is my feeling that this fine program should be continued and even expanded.

It has been a pleasure working with you, and I hope to continue to do so in the future.

Sincerely,

CHESTER P. BURT, *Mayor.*

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMS, UNIVERSITY EXTENSION,
PEPIN COUNTY OFFICE,
Durand, Wis., April 22, 1971.

JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR JOHN: The program has been beneficial to Pepin County as we utilized these men on County public parks, township parks and buildings.

The program has provided a needed form of employment for several senior citizens who have had low incomes.

It would be doubtful if our county would be able to provide the funds necessary to continue a program of this type.

In our opinion much needed work has been accomplished in public areas by this group of men.

Sincerely,

WILFRED HARTUNG,
Chairman, County Agricultural Committee,
Pepin County.
GEORGE L. ONCKEN,
County Agricultural Agent,
Pepin County.

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY YOUTH CAMP,
Fall Creek, Wis., April 21, 1971.

GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: This letter is to inform you of our feeling about the Green Thumb program and the contribution that it has made to a public facility in our community.

Volunteers and the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors have, for more than twenty years, been developing a Youth Camp and Conservation Center on 170 acres of County owned by land near Fall Creek, Wisconsin. We now have four cottages for campers, a 40 by 100 foot central lodge, a central sanitary facility and a custodian residence. Needless to say, hundreds of hours of labor and thousands of dollars have been donated to this youth project.

I am happy to inform you that we consider the assistance rendered by the Green Thumb crew at the youth camp of enduring value. We are all concerned about the quality of our environment and the countless tasks these men performed at the Youth Camp all contributed to the improvement of the environment. I speak in behalf of hundreds of people when I say that we hope the Green Thumb program can and will continue. It provides jobs for people who appreciate the opportunity to contribute something to society while supplementing their own financial status.

Sincerely yours,

EDWIN A. BAKER,
President, Eau Claire County Youth Camp Board.

JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: Enclosed are two copies of the Project Request Form for Green Thumb assistance at the Eau Claire County Youth Camp. This camp is on County owned property and is the property of Eau Claire County. Starting with 160 acres, the camp now has 170 acres (10 acres donated by a neighbor), four cottages, central lodge, central shower and toilet facility and Camp Directors residence. It has taken twenty years to reach this point. Volunteer labor, donated material and equipment, and the energy of many people with some contribution through County Board funds has made this possible.

We are requesting Green Thumb assistance to augment voluntary contributions to expand this community facility. It is open to all organizations and groups with responsible leadership. It has been used by many segments of society and its use is growing each year. The entire community can and does benefit from the Eau Claire County Youth Camp. The term Youth Camp may be somewhat of a misnomer since the facility is available to adult groups and is frequently used by adult church and other community groups.

The limited budget with which the camp is operated makes it necessary to seek and obtain funds and donations from every available source. The growth of the facility will depend upon whatever assistance is obtained. The Green Thumb assistance in the past had been most beneficial and greatly appreciated by all. We hope you can consider us in the program again. The Youth Camp Board functions without remuneration and donates hundreds of hours of time to the project because we believe it is for the good of all.

Sincerely yours,

EDWIN O. BAKER,
President,
Eau Claire County Youth Camp Board.

JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1,
Tony, Wis., April 21, 1971.

GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Wisconsin Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: First, as a school administrator, I would say that the Green Thumb Program has been very beneficial to our particular school district. At the Flambeau High School, the Green Thumb crew did considerable improvement work on our recreational field which includes a football, track, and baseball diamonds. They also built a softball diamond and facilities at the Glen Flora Grade School. Improvements at both of these schools would have been impossible because of limited budgets. I might also add that these improvements serve the communities for summer recreational purposes.

As a member of the County Fair Committee, I might point out that the Green Thumb crews have provided labor for several thousand dollars worth of improvements to the Rusk County Fairgrounds. Again, this would have been impossible without the aid of the Green Thumb crew because of a limited fair maintenance budget.

If this program were to be terminated, it would be impossible for our local educational agencies and governmental agencies to step in and provide the funds necessary to assist the disadvantaged elderly citizens in the manner that the Green Thumb Program is presently doing in Rusk County. In addition, the

civic improvements that are being accomplished would be difficult to carry on without the labor furnished by the Green Thumb crews.

Sincerely,

MARVIN E. NELSON,
District Administrator.

INDEPENDENCE, WIS., *April 20, 1971.*

Mr. GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: Enclosed please find a copy of my letter to Mr. Kmosena, Director of our Green Thumb-Green Light Program. I hope this information will be of value to you in your evaluation.

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH M. ROSKOS,
Trempealeu County Park Commission.

APRIL 19, 1971.

JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I feel that the Green Thumb Program has been one of the most beneficial programs that has been available to Chippewa County. Chippewa County itself has benefited greatly by the work of the Green Thumb on the Otter Lake Flowage.

In addition to this, I know that different municipalities such as Cadott and Stanley have received great help on their park systems in the work done by the Green Thumb.

The workers taking part in the program have proven to be capable and willing and interested enough to make the project well worth while. There are no programs or funds set aside by any local communities or agencies in Chippewa County that could assist the disadvantaged elderly citizens in such a beneficial way.

I sincerely hope that Mr. Rohde will have the backing of every county with which he may convince the Senate Sub-Committee of the importance of continuing such worthwhile programs as the Green Thumb and Green Light.

Sincerely,

_____ _____,
Chairman, Board of Supervisors, Chippewa County, Wis.

COURTHOUSE ANNEX,
Eau Claire, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Mr. GILBERT ROHDE,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR SIR: I have had the pleasure of working with at least one Green Thumb Crew continuously since its beginning and think that is is a very worthwhile program.

They have helped on snowmobile trails, hunting and walking trails, forest roads, boat landings and several county parks.

The men for the most part or good workers and because of their background know how to work, and certainly need the wages they receive in order to exist because of rising living costs.

I, for one, hope the program can be extended and even enlarged to allow these workers to help maintain the facilities they have helped to build.

Sincerely,

LESTER LOWMAN,
Eau Claire County Forest and Parks Administrator.

ANTIGO PUBLIC LIBRARY,
Antigo, Wis.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb and Green Light,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I understand that there is a possibility that the Green Light Program may not be extended after June 1971. I hope that the funding agency will reconsider and continue the program.

We have derived many benefits from this program. Mrs. Agnes Augustine and Mrs. Ethel Case have gone through a back log of books to be mended that we have given up hope of ever seing on our shelves again. Once they got us caught up on many years of backlog we were able to go through the shelves and pull both adult and juvenile books that needed to be mended, but we could not keep them off our shelves for a long period of time. Once again we have stacks of books to be done. Our library budget barely covers the purchasing of new books, much less replacing worn out books, so the mending has been a tremendous help to us.

Our library is open 12 hours a day, 5 days a week, so our own staff is spread thin and we would never get these books done without the Green Light Program. Also, the ladies work off the children's room and because they are there, our staff has been able to leave the desk during slack time and get some of their other work done without feeling the children's room is unattended.

Not only have they been a great help to us, they are pleasant to work with. I feel this program not only benefits us, but also the people working in the Green Light program. Aside from the monetary help, it gives them companionship, a place to go each day and a feeling of usefulness. Antigo and the surrounding area is having a hard time supporting the young and trained people, so if this program does not continue there is very little chance that our economy could absorb the people in these programs. It would be a shame because there is a lot of talent and energy in these people and it would be such a waste. I know we would feel the loss and so would many other non-profit agencies in our area.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Robert Barta, *Librarian,*

Village of Ridgeland,
Ridegland, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Re Green Thumb Program

Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

Dear Mr. Kmosena: The above has been very helpful in our area . . . by improving public playgrounds . . . local ball park . . . drainage sloping etc. We are hopeful of further services from this program as our community is in need of several improvements and some face-lifting.

To the best of my knowledge, there is no financial assistance available for the disadvantaged elderly in our area. The Green Thumb project has been very helpful in our area and we do hope that it will continue.

Yours truly

Walter J. Hafele,
President.

Langlade County Community Services Agency,
Antigo, Wis., April 16, 1971.

Re: Green Light and Green Thumb.

Mr. John Kmosena,
Clark County Court House,
Neillsville, Wis.

Dear Mr. Kmosena: I am writing on behalf of Miss Edna Steinbach and Mrs. Rose Zdrazil, who have been employed in our department under the Green Light Program since October of 1969. Their contribution to the department and the attitudes that they have brought with them are immeasurable, and we strongly recommend the continuance of the Green Light & Green Thumb program.

As further emphasis, I am enclosing a copy of a petition that was drawn up by the several social workers on behalf of Miss Steinbach when it was learned that she would be terminated April 15, 1971 under the Green Light.

Very sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Mildred Bryan,
Acting Director,
Department of Social Services.

To: Members of the Langlade County Welfare Board.
From: Members of the Community Services Social Work Staff.

Recently, the Agency became aware of the fact that funds for the Green Light Program, are now exhausted. As a result, Miss Edna Steinbach, who is employed

in the Agency, was informed that she will no longer be employed by Green Light after April 15, 1971. Because Miss Steinbach receives a Social Security payment each month she was told by the Administrators of the Green Light Program that she could not receive an extension, such as has been granted to Mrs. Rose Zdrazil. This will mean that Miss Steinbach will not be able to continue her employment with this Agency as a Homemaker and as a result, Homemaker services will no longer be available from the Agency.

We see this as having several implications for Langlade County and for the people we are attempting to serve through our Agency. Miss Steinbach is presently handling a caseload of ten elderly individuals. We felt it may be important in your decisionmaking to actually have a duplication of a daily log of services provided by Miss Steinbach to these individuals. This is Miss Steinbach's daily log:

1. Elizabeth (Bessie) Van Ooyan. Age 82 years, Monday P.M. 2:00 o'clock. *January 5*—cashed Social Security check, cashed welfare check, paid rent, paid light bill, paid water bill, deposited $200 in Savings Account, and shopped for groceries. *January 11*—paid telephone bill purchased groceries and shoveled snow. *January 12*—purchased groceries for Bessie. *January 25*—Purchased groceries and shoveled snow. *January 28*—Social visit. *February 1*—did marketing for Bessie and purchased food stamps. *February 4*—cashed Social Security check $58.70, cashed Welfare Check $77, paid rent $45, paid telephone $5.53, paid lights $4.75, paid gas $18, deposited $17.00 in Savings Account. *February 10*—purchased groceries for Bessie. *February 16*—purchased groceries. *February 22*—shopped for groceries. *February 23*—took groceries. *February 25*—paid light bill $5, and paid gas bill $18. *March 2*—cashed welfare check $77, paid rent $45, bought food stamps, purchased groceries, and shoveled snow. *March 4*—cashed Social Security check, purchased groceries. *March 8*—purchased groceries. *March 15*—paid telephone bill, deposited $400 in Savings account and purchased groceries. *March 22*—shopped for groceries. *March 29*—Shopped for groceries, cashed welfare check, paid light bill, gas bill, and purchased food stamps. *April 5*—Cashed social security check, paid rent, paid telephone, and purchased groceries. *April 6*—Took some clothing to Bessie. *April 12*—Purchased groceries.

2. Hattie Jeffers. Age 94, Tuesday a.m. *Jan. 5*—Cashed welfare check and shopped for groceries. *Jan 12*—Shopped for groceries and drugs. *Jan. 19*—Shopped for groceries. *Jan. 26*—Shopped for groceries. *Feb. 2*—Did marketing for Mrs. Jeffers. *Feb. 9*—Did grocery shopping. *Feb. 16*—Shopped for Hattie Jeffers. *Feb. 23*—Shopped for Hattie Jeffers—Gamble's store, Vosmek's Drugs, and Ace Hardware. *March 2*—Cashed welfare check, shopped for groceries. *March 9*—Shopped for groceries. *March 16*—Shopped for groceries. *March 23*—Did grocery shopping. *March 30*—Shopped for drugs and groceries—Vosmek's Drug Store. *April 6*—Shopped for groceries and shopped for drugs—Vosmek's drug store. *April 13*—Shopped for groceries.

3. Anna Buetow. Age 85. Visit—Wednesday p.m. *Jan. 6*—Purchased food stamps, Paid gas bill, paid electric bill, paid water bill and purchased groceries. *Jan. 13*—Baked cookies and mixed bread. *Jan. 20*—Mixed rolls and made dressing. *Jan. 27*—Made bread and baked cookies. *Feb. 3*—Purchased food stamps, paid light bill, paid gas bill and purchased groceries. *Feb. 10*—Baked bread. *Feb. 16*—Did a large ironing for Mrs. Anna Buetow. *Feb. 24*—Baked two batches of cookies. *March 3*—paid gas bill, paid electric bill, purchased food stamps, shopped for groceries and shopped for drugs. *March 10*—Made cookies and mixed bread. *March 17*—Baked two pies and made salad dressing. *March 24*—Made banana bread and baked cookies. *March 31*—Planned clothes and shopped for drugs. *April 7*—Wiped up living room and kitchen floors.

We do not think it is necessary to continue with this log any further, since we feel this is a fairly representative sampling of the things that Miss Steinbach has done for the people on her case load. The only additional information we would like to present to you is a list of the cases by name and by age, so that you will have some idea of the age group that Miss Steinbach is serving.

In 1970, Miss Steinbach had the following cases:

Joyce and Elmer Shufelt, protective payee services.
Dorothy Godleske.
Irma Schillman, 73 years old.
Hattie Jeffers, 94 years old.
Anna Buetow, 85 years old.

Miss Steinbach's 1971 case load is as follows:

Peter and Edna Gossen, 82 and 92 years old.

Frank and Francis Dvorak, 84 and 78 years old.
Elizabeth Lambert, 86 years old.
Anna Buetow (a repeat from 1970), 85 years old.
Gladys Stegall, 63 years old.
Elizabeth Wierschke, 76 years old
Alice Langlois, 63 years old.
Agnes Strope, 80 years old.
Hattie Jeffers (a repeat from 1970), 94 years old.
Elizabeth (Bessie) VanOoyen, 82 years old.

The point in presenting the above information, is to show that in many of the cases that Miss Steinbach is presently serving, the age and the nature of the service being provided indicates that many of these people would probably have to be in some type of care resource if Miss Steinbach were not helping them. In many cases, Miss Steinbach assists the people with their financial management, or handles it almost entirely by herself. Financial incompetence is one of the reasons why people do go to nursing homes. It is our feeling that Miss Steinbach has provided a tremendous service to the agency and to the people that are served by the agency. She was also a delegate to the Wisconsin Conference on Aging, held on October 22 and 23rd, 1970. Miss Steinbach obtained valuable information at this conference which she was able to relate to her work. This is also a great opportunity for Miss Steinbach on an individual basis.

We feel as the staff that we cannot sit by idly when we see such a valuable resource as Miss Steinbach having to leave the Agency. We feel that activities such as Miss Steinbach is involved in should be praised by the County, and every effort made to enable Miss Steinbach to continue this service, not only that she may be able to maintain herself independently, but that she may continue to provide the service to the elderly clients of the Agency, so that they also may maintain themselves in independent living situations. We ask this not for ourselves but for the people.

Thank you for your sincere consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,
The Social Worker Staff

THOMAS W. HARTMAN,
NEIL KLEEMANN,
VAN DONOHUE,
MYRA OATMAN,
ALICE BRESETTE,
Community Services Agency,
Langlade County.

BOYCEVILLE, WIS., *April 20, 1971.*

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb, Clark County Court House, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I have heard that funds for the continuation of the Green Thumb Program will be exhausted soon and that no appropriations is being contemplated.

We have used the services of these elderly citizens as directed by the Nelson-Javits Bill, and believe that not only has this been a sound program in accomplishments, but a wonderful and needed benefit to our senior citizens who may otherwise perhaps be compelled to resort to a more costly and health deterring welfare type subsidy.

We therefor, would very much support a drive for the replenishment of funds and the continuation of Bill # S–1290.

I might add that our entire Village Board supports this attitude.

Sincerely yours,

E. S. EVENSON,
Village President.

ROSHOLT FREE COMMUNITY FAIR ASSOCIATION INC.,
Rosholt, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: Just a few words to inform you of how much the Portage County Fair which is held here in Rosholt has appreciated the services we re-

ceived in 1970 from your program. I and the fair board here cannot express in words the benefit we arrived from the work that was done, and if it had not been for the help we got before the fair, we would have run far in the hole last year, but as it was we were able to pay off some of the debt we have on our new cattle barn.

If we should figure dollars and cents value we received from the program in 1970 we feel that it would amount to at least $2000.00 in labor plus the materials which we purchased.

We are looking forward to your help again this year, and we hope the program will continue for some time.

Yours truly,

A. P. DOBBE,
Fair Secretary.

TOWN OF SPIRIT,
Ogema, Wis.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR SIR: We feel that the Green Light-Green Thumb programs have been an asset and beneficial to our community. They have done projects in our town that make it more appealing to the eye and have bettered the community. This program also provides funds to assist the disadvantaged elderly citizens who would not receive financial assistance were it not for this program.

We strongly encourage the continuation of this program.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. NELSON,
Chairman, Town of Spirit.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMS,
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION,
Medford, Wis., April 20, 1971.

JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: Someone once said "No News is Good News" but it is time for me to give Taylor County's Green Thumb report, number one priority.

We are having a good year in constructon of recreation facilities and landscape beautification, thanks to our Green Thumb workers who are sincere in their work, honest in their dealings and have created an image of excellence with our Taylor County people.

County residents tell me the Green Thumb program is well structured to assist the disadvantaged elderly citizens and provide our communities and county with manpower to complete projects today that were once long-range developments.

What does Green Thumb mean to Taylor County? To us it is three fold, it enhances the beauty of our surroundings, our parks and recreation facilities are better able to handle the demands for increased use and provides our elderly residents with assistance to meet the living cost of a proud American.

Sincerely,

ALLEN H. LIETZKE,
Extension Resource Agent.

VILLAGE OF PEPIN,
Pepin, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: We feel that the Green Thumb has been very beneficial to our Village and county in improving and making our country sides beautiful. They have worked on our parks, village buildings, roadways, and cleaning where there is a need.

We feel if these men had not been able to work for our village, we would not have been able to complete all the projects that these men have done for us.

We appreciate all the work that the Green Thumb has done for our Village and County.

If the program is not continued, we would try and give to the fund to keep the program going.

We hope that this project is not terminated because we appreciate all that is being done for our county as well as all the other counties in Wisconsin.

LEROY ZELLER, *Village President.*

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMS,
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION,
Ladysmith, Wis., April 21, 1971.

JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR JOHN: I am most happy to express my feelings in regards to the Green Thumb and Green Light programs.

The Green Thumb and Green Light programs serve what I believe to be several important functions. First of all it gives low-income elderly people a chance to supplement their meager retirement income. The way in which it does this is the truely significant factor, however. The individuals must work for the money, thus helping society and also instilling a sense of pride in the individuals who are working. I honestly believe that this program gives many elderly people a reason to live which they did not have previously.

Here in Rusk County the Green Thumbers have carried out many very excellent projects. To name two, they painted the inside of the Courthouse in Ladysmith, and insulated, paneled and fixed cabins at the County youth camp. These are only two of the dozens of worthwhile projects that have been carried out by these men.

As I mentioned, the Green Thumbers do many very necessary things. Most of these could not be done if not for the Green Thumb program. County and Municipal governments are facing very tough economic problems, with more and more economic burdens being placed on them. If this program were terminated it would be a very severe blow to many low income elderly and the communities in which they reside. I most certainly hope that the Green Thumb and Green Light projects receive a top priority in Washington, D.C. I believe the results of this program should speak for themselves.

Sincerely,

BRUCE NELSON,
4–H and Youth Agent, Rusk County.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE,
Merrill, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

MR. KMOSENA: I have assumed the duties of district conservationist for Lincoln County since Mr. Jackelen's retirement last July.

In the short time I have been here I have realized that the Green Thumb Program is a definite benefit to the people of Lincoln County. The projects undertaken are of value to all people, and the employment of these senior citizens gives them a sense of worth and responsibiilty.

I do not believe local communities and agencies would or could raise funds to provide opportunities for elderly citizens that are available through the Green Thumb Program.

Sincerely,

DAVID W. BURBACH,
District Conservationist.

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY YOUTH CAMP,
Fall Creek, Wis., April 21, 1971.

GILBERT C. ROHDE,
President, Farmers Union,
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

DEAR MR. ROHDE: This letter is to inform you of our feeling about the Green Thumb Program and the contribution that it has made to a public facility in our community.

Volunteers and the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors have, for more than twenty years, been developing a Youth Camp and Conservation Center on 170 acres of County owned land near Fall Creek, Wisconsin. We now have four cottages for campers, a 40 by 100 foot central lodge, a central sanitary facility and a custodian residence. Needless to say, hundreds of hours of labor and thousands of dollars have been donated to this youth project.

I am happy to inform you that we consider the assistance rendered by the Green Thumb crew at the youth camp of enduring value. We are all concerned about the quality of our environment and the countless tasks these men performed at the Youth Camp all contributed to the improvement of the environment. I speak in behalf of hundreds of people when I say that we hope the Green Thumb program can and will continue. It provides jobs for people who appreciate the opportunity to contribute something to society while supplementing their own financial status.

Sincerely yours,

EDWIN O. BAKER,
Eau Claire County Youth Camp Board.

CLARK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,
April 15, 1971.

FARMER'S UNION GREEN THUMB PROGRAM,
Green Thumb State Office,
Neillsville, Wis.

GENTLEMEN: This letter is to express the appreciation of the Clark County Agricultural Society for the splendid cooperation we have received from your program in the past years on the improvement and beautification of the Fair Grounds in Neillsville.

Without the assistance of your program, many of these improvements would have been impossible, because the cost would have been prohibitive. The Green Thumb Program has saved the taxpayers of Clark County thousands of dollars and at the same time enabled them to have one of the nicest appearing fairgrounds in the area.

The Green Thumb Program is vital, I feel, for another very important reason. It enables many of these elderly fellows to have a purpose in life—that of being of service to this community and area. No job is too difficult for the Green Thumber's. I would defy the average teenager to work along side of them for a day—I know I couldn't keep up.

They take pride in their work and their accomplishments and are continually looking for the most economical way to accomplish whatever job they are doing, a characteristic that you especially appreciate when you are in charge of a non-profit organization such as the Clark County Fair Association.

I cannot say enough about the fine work that the Green Thumb Program has accomplished and I am sure that this attitude is predominant throughout the County. I have not spoken with anyone who does not recognize the importance and fine work these gentlemen do.

Thanking you for your splendid cooperation in the past and urging you to continue this Green Thumb Program in the future, I remain.

Sincerely yours,

WAYNE F. GRAP,
Secretary, Clark Co. Agricultural Society.

WILSON TOWNSHIP,
Boyd, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director,
Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb and Green Light.

Dear Sir: My direct and most sincere appraisal of the workings of the O, E, O.; Programs, especially, the Green Thumb Program, with which I am most familiar, though no doubt the other OEO programs are as beneficial and necessary, according to their need. In our community and all communities, of this great Nation. For they the Communities, are the Mainstreams of strength, whether large or small; To continue, to opening the door of enlightenment, on the tremendouse Big Job. of making and keeping the U,S,A, Clean and Beautiful,

In every part of its Environment; To help hold, Our Tradition of Life-Liberty and Happiness for all. And this can only be accomplished by the efforts of all concerned, Especially the Elderly, The people that have gained much experience and knowledge. In the growing up and making this great Nation, and proud to be useful. While Young-America, grows to Assume its responsibilities in taking over and keeping, Our great Nation, Clean and Beautiful.

If this program should terminate, Our Local Communities and agencies, could not step-in, and provide the funds needed, to assist the disadvantaged Elderly citizens in the manner, that these O E O-programs are providing now; Due to the very Fact; That it takes so many, One could say all the people, Old and young, To work together in their proper places, Of knowledge and strength.

I sincerely appreciate very much, and pray that my responce, will be to Mr. Gilbert C. Rohde; A helping hand, in this great work, that he is doing, Through a great organization, The Farmers Union; And may, the Nelson-Javits Bill NoS–1290, Be a Success.

Yours Respectfully,

JOSEPH J. RAYCHER SR.,
Park Committee Chairman.

WISCONSIN GREEN THUMB,
Clark County Courthouse,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: The City of Marshfield has been using the Green Thumb program ever since it started and has enjoyed the fruits of all the work done by the Green Thumb men in our City. The men have planted trees on the terraces, remade terraces and seeded grass on new paving jobs and put in flowers in our Park and waysides. This is work that I would have to do but with my own men which would leave other work undone.

I believe this program has done much at a low cost to the taxpayers of the City for work that had to be done and done at a reasonable cost. The men involved with the program take pride in their work and it must give them a lift to know that they are useful and not left out because of their age. I know from personal experience that when I give the Green Thumb a project to do it is done right and is done with pride in their work.

At the present time the only cost to the City is the furnishing of tools, black ground, trees, shrubs and flowers which are provided in our budget from year to year. If the City had to budget more for funds for assistance to the program it would be more of a burden on the taxpayers which today seems the wrong way to approach the situation.

Yours truly,

MARCELLUS JIRSCHELE,
Street Superintendent.

TOMAHAWK REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Tomahawk, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director of Green Thumb Program,
Clark County Court House,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR JOHN: The Green Thumb boys did a great job in our office. We surely are grateful to them and to you for making this possible. We are planning an open house within the next few weeks so that the business men in town can see how great the program is.

Mr. George Faust was in the past week—he has his application in and was accepted last fall. At that time he had to have some medical attention and was unable to report. He now said he is ready to go to work and wants to know if he has to fill out a new application. Will you please advise.

Again our thanks to the Green Thumb.

Sincerely,

TOMAHAWK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
(MRS.) LEAH G. DELAIRE,
Executive Secretary.

TOWN OF SIGEL,
Cadott, Wis., April 19, 1971.

MR. JOHN KMOSENA,
Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: The Township of Sigel now has a clean, newly painted town hall. Many of our roadsides are seeded and rip-rapped and right-of-ways have been brushed in readiness for widening and resurfacing of the road. For this we must give much credit to the Green Thumb. Without their assistance many of these projects would not have been undertaken.

Several men from our township have been employed on the Green Thumb program; affording us the opportunity to view the benefits derived by the workers. After working on Green Thumb, one of our residents was placed on permanent employment for the first time in his life.

Our community as a whole has benefited from this program. We feel this program should be continued.

Sincerely,

CLEMENT A. BOWE,
Chairman, Town of Sigel.

TOWN OF ST. JOSEPH,
St. Croix County, Wis., April 21, 1971.

MR. JOHN KMOSENA,
Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I received your letter of April 16, 1971, regarding the Green Thumb-Green Light Programs terminating as of August 1, 1971. This would be very sad, if these programs cannot be financed for another year.

The Town of St. Joseph had the Town Hall remodeled by this program. These men done panelling, put in ceiling-tile in basement and 1st floor, also put in new windows, and painted. We also put up new drapes, and someone from your program did take a picture of our Building when it was finished. We held our Spring Election in this Town Hall after this work was finished, and the Town residents were very pleased with the work done, and how nice it looked.

At the present time, the Townships Fire Dept. Building is being painted.

The fact is, that if this program had not been financed on the payment for labor, our Township would not have been able to have all this work done. Also this program gives our elderly citizens a sense of responsibility, and a feeling from others they are still needed. While at the same time they are supplementing their Income.

If this program was to terminate, there is nothing set up by local communities or agencies to continue this program at a local level.

Being this program is working so well now, it would be very time saving and money saving to continue as it is. The whole Town Board and all the residents of this Township wish to "Thank You" at this time for helping to beautifying our Township, and please try to continue this program.

Yours very truly,

LESLIE WALDORFF,
Town Chairman.

TREMPEALEAU COUNTY PARK COMMISSION,
Independence, Wis., April 20, 1971.

JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: In reply to your letter of April 16, 1971, regarding the Green Thumb-Green Light Programs, I wish to advise that we feel it is a definite asset to our County to have these programs available to us. We have utilized them in many area's of the County and hope to use them even more in the future.

At this point I do not feel that a comparable program could be funded locally. Perhaps, in the future, when it is better known and understood by the public, the plan could be sold to the community.

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH M. ROSKOS.

FOREST AND PARK ADMINISTRATOR,
CLARK COUNTY COURTHOUSE,
Neillsville, Wis., April 20, 1971.

MR. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director,
Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb & Green Light,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I wish to express on behalf of the Forestry & Parks Department how important the Green Thumb & Green Light Program is to Clark County, not only from the standpoint of dollars and cents, but also to the type of work that these elderly people can accomplish.

We certainly could not carry on such an extensive program, in the Forestry and Parks field, without their fine assistance. These projects were carried out to the highest degree in workmanship and performance. Of all the government sponsored programs the Green Thumb & Green Light Programs are perhaps the most efficiently operated programs in the United States. It would be a worthwhile experience if many of the Government officials viewed these various projects that the Green Thumb & Green Light crews participate in and see how important this program really is.

Our Forestry & Parks Department hopes that serious consideration will be given to renew this program and that it continues for many years to come.

Yours truly,

DON KIRN,
Forestry & Parks Administrator.

TOWN OF WASHINGTON,
Bruce, Wis., April 19, 1971.

MR. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb and Green Light, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR SIR: The Town Board of the Town of Washington wish to inform you that the Green Thumb-Green Light Programs have been very beneficial to our community and ask that they be continued. It has provided job opportunities for the elderly citizens in our community and given them financial assistance, making life more meaningful to them. Through their work programs it has given us an opportunity to greatly improve the appearance of our town hall and the surrounding grounds. It would have been hard for us to get someone to do this work for us as everyone is busy with their own work or holding down jobs away from home. We have no funds available in our community to assist the elderly citizens in the same manner as the Green Thumb-Green Light Programs have.

Sincerely,

AMELIA SCHWEIGERT, *Clerk.*

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
April 20, 1971.

JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Green Thumb Program, Courthouse, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR SIR: During the past three years, the Green Thumb work force has completed many projects in Lincoln County. Local Contributions, totalling over $20,000 have gone into the projects, all involving publicity owned facilities. Presently there are a number of projects on the waiting list the men could develop and complete.

All the projects the men have undertaken and completed have brought forth much praise and appreciation from the community.

For local governments, with present tight budgets, it presents a problem for them to find monies to continue in the program on their own. We would certainly want to see this program continued and even expanded, not dropped.

Sincerely,

ADRIAN SCHOONE, *Chairman.*

PINE CREST HOME AND HOSPITAL,
Merrill, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Green Thumb and Green Light, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I am sure the Green Thumb, Green Light Program has been very successful in the Lincoln County Area.

The area waysides have been greatly improved with the addition of tables, and other facilities.

They built picnic tables at Pine Crest Nursing Home which are used extensively by residents and their relatives for picnics during the summer months. They also limbed our stand of Norway Pines on the Hospital grounds adding to their beauty.

I'm sure our community could not provide the funds to continue this wonderful program.

Let's keep these retired people occupied and happy after they are compelled to retire. They are less apt to be a burden for the county, State and Federal Government in their later years.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

MARGARET STARK, RN, N.H.A.

CHIPPEWA FALLS, WIS.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: Yes, I have had the opportunity to be aided by the Green Thumb-Green Light Program in our community. I am a disabled residual Polio patient in a wheelchair and have Welfare Aid.

I have been helped many times by the gracious lady who works under the Green Light Program. I think definitely, that it should be continued. Who will do these errands for us, (someone with a car) if it is not carried on? I feel it is a deserving project—and hope to see it continued.

Sincerely,

(Miss) EVELYN PRUEHER.

REGISTER OF DEEDS,
LANGLADE COUNTY,
Antigo, Wis.

Regarding the Green Light Project:

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

It seems that a great deal should be done to keep this worthwhile project going.

Our observation of workers in our community proved to us that it is good for our aging citizens and the community to know that they are still useful (and they are, very much so) and can still make their way in this world. It is certainly rewarding to them both mentally and physically.

Their pride in their work is refreshing to see in these times where there is so much; let the other fellow do it; greed; and every man for himself.

Miss Helen Hayner, a Green Light worker, has been with us since October 1970. She has proved to be very helpful. She is conscientious, capable, dependable, willing and friendly, and we are very happy to have her with us. I am sure the others have been as satisfied as we have been with the Green Light helpers.

We sincerely ask for your help in the fight to continue this project.

Thank you,

JUNE ORGEMAN,
Irma Schreiber Deputy.

AMHERST, WIS., *April 21, 1971.*

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR SIR: I would like to respond to your letter of April 16th and hope it reaches you in time for the hearing.

I feel that the Green Thumb Program has been beneficial to our community and to our county. We had work done in our village park and painting done in our

village buildings that I'm sure would not have been done without labor furnished by Green Thumb. I also feel that our county as a whole received much benefit through the work done in our county parks.

If this program should terminate there would be very little our village could do to assist disadvantaged elderly citizens. We would, of course, give assistance to anyone who was in dire need, but this doesn't do much for the many who have to skimp to make ends meet.

Hope this letter will be helpful.

Sincerely,

KENNETH CAREY.

DORCHESTER PARK CORP.,
Dorchester, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Green Thumb Program,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your list of employees under the Green Thumb program that have worked in our community in helping us to build our park project, and we will be holding an appreciation program with banquet and refreshments some time in the month of April for the Green Thumbers and their wives in appreciation for the very spendid efforts on their behalf. Without this program our community would not be able to sponsor the park project or allocate funds for the Green Thumbers financing of the amount of work done already on this project.

This program we feel (Village of Dorchester) is one of the finest programs that ever was instituted and of such great benefit to the small communities in this area. You sure have done a splendid job here in Clark County and in nearby counties that it has been my pleasure to observe these men at work, and they take such great pride in their work, and it gives them much satisfaction to see their efforts when the project is completed. It gives these men a real purpose in life and a feeling that there is a need for them, it boosts their morale and a sense of belonging, and this is much needed for older people.

It is my sincere wish that this program continue for next year and that they may continue to work on some projects here in Dorchester because without this program our community would not be able to provide funds for this type of work.

Sincerely,

TED SCHWOCH, Jr.,
Village President.

ELCHO JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1,
Elcho, Wis., April 15, 1971.

JOYCE E. GANNON,
Assistant State Director for Green Light,
Wisconsin Green Light Program,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MISS GANNON: This letter is intended as a letter of appreciation on behalf of the students and people of the Elcho School District for the fine services offered by the program known as the "Green Light Program" and sponsored by the Farmers Union.

The contribution made by this program are considered important not only for the help it gives to the individual employed, but also for service to the school that is above and beyond that which would be normally asked of the local taxpayer. There is no question that the program makes a significant contribution to the effectiveness of our operation, with a subsequent benefit to the welfare of all the students in our school district.

Again, thank you for your excellent cooperation and fine service in the past and please consider us for the same or preferably an expanded program in the future.

Sincerely,

MERRILL J. SWITZENBERG,
District Superintendent.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMS,
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION,
Eau Claire, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb, Clark County Courthouse, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I have nothing but praise for the Green Thumb program as operated in Eau Claire County. The reasons for my attitude on this are as follows:

1. The program has been operated with a minimum of administrative costs.
2. The jobs done have been those which would not have been done or would have been delayed for years if this program had not been in existence. This included work in the following fields which I am familiar with: Eau Claire County Youth Camp, Eau Claire County Forest, Town of Union Park and the Eau Claire County Junior Fairgrounds. The work done at the Fairgrounds was done under my supervision. It was done expeditiously and well and in a manner which reflected concern for the costs of material.
3. This program has made it possible for unemployed older men to have the satisfaction of gainful employment. It has done much for their morale and made them more interested in community projects.

Quite frankly I doubt if local communities would pick up the costs and continue the program if Federal funds were to be terminated. Not because the program is not an excellent one, but rather that most communities, counties and states are straining every sinew to find sources of revenue to pay for the present programs.

Respectfully,

WILLARD A. HAMM,
County Agricultural Agent.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,
Nekoosa, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director of Green Thumb, Clark County Courthouse, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: In reply to your letter of April 16, 1971, the Common Council of the City of Nekoosa at their regular Council Meeting April 20, 1971, wishes to convey the following:

1. The Green Thumb program was very beneficial to the City of Nekoosa, because we were able to beautify our park along the river and other projects without hiring additional help, at a much higher cost to the city.
2. The Council feels that we could not support the program, should it terminate. It is the feeling that it should remain a federal funded program.

Yours very truly,

JOSEPH M. RUSCH, *Mayor.*

DURAND, WIS., *April 21, 1971.*

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Clark County Courthouse,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: Thank you for your letter dated April 16, 1971.

On behalf of the entire Common Council and myself, we feel that the Green Thumb Workers have done a tremendous job in the beautification of our parks within the city, county and the whole area. Our citizens have benefited greatly through the program in many ways.

The budget setup for 1971 would not cover such a program here in Durand. Without the assistance of the Green Thumbers, the restoration program started would have to be dropped.

Please extend our best wishes to your organization, and may your efforts to continue the program be successful.

Sincerely yours,

CLARENCE NOLL, *Mayor.*

COUNTY OF CHIPPEWA,
Chippewa Falls, Wis., April 21, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb,
Clark County Courthouse, Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I would like to offer these comments on the Green Thumb program with respect to the work done in Chippewa County.

As you know, since February, 1968, Green Thumb crews have worked at clear-

ing out the bottom lands for our new 673 acre Otter Lake Flowage. These Green Thumb workers, with their farm backgrounds, adapted well to the work requirements for accomplishing the large amount of land clearing needed to make the area suitable for flooding.

This work has been completed and a new recreational resource has come into being for the people of the area to use and enjoy. The financial burden to Chippewa County of building this new lake was substantial, however, without the help of the Green Thumb workers, I do not think that Chippewa County would have been able to complete the project.

It appears to me that the Green Thumb program fills a need in providing constructive work opportunities for the elderly and disadvantaged which would not be provided on a local basis.

We anticipate the need for Green Thumb workers in further development of our Chippewa County Park System. As the Administrator of the Chippewa County Parks, I would hope that the Green Thumb program will be continued in Wisconsin.

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH W. JOAS.

TOMAHAWK, WIS.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb and Green Light,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: The City of Tomahawk would like to express it's concern over the possible discontinuance of the Green Thumb and Green Light Programs. We feel that the program has been very beneficial to the community in the needed work that they have done, but also in the feeling of being needed and useful and contributing to the community that it has given the citizens in this age group. The City also realizes that it would not be able to continue these programs without the help given these programs as the City must use their funds on other projects.

Sincerely yours,

MARTIN O. LOFTUS, *Mayor.*

CORNELL JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2,
Cornell, Wis., April 20, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Light,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I have been asked by your organization to react to the Green Light Program, which I am happy to do. As superintendent of the Cornell School District I have a close working knowledge of what takes place with this program on the local level, so as I express my enthusiasm and support of this program I do so with substantial background.

I first of all want to express our appreciation for the excellent work the three Green Light Ladies assigned to our schools have done.

The two ladies working in our lunchrooms as Cook Aides and our Library Aide have been responsible and hardworking, and take considerable pride in doing their job well. They have been very cooperative in every respect.

The Cornell School District could not afford this additional assistance if district funds were to be used. The added service we are able to give students because of this program is reason enough for the program. However, the added income and the pride of doing something worthwhile for the Green Light Ladies cannot be measured.

Yours truly,

BERNARD H. BENNETT,
Superintendent of Schools.

WHITE LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
White Lake, April 20, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
Director, Wisconsin Farmers Union Green Thumb and Green Light,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I am writing this letter with regards to our Green Light program at the White Lake School. We are grateful to this program for the following reasons:

1. These women give our students an excellent example of turning out a day's work for a day's pay.

2. Their determination of doing the job is such that every student growing up in this kind of environment will be just that much better for having these experiences.

3. The pride they take in their work is a lost art in our society today and must be rejuvenated in order for America to survive.

4. The workers all add their touch to a given task in order to turn out a product everyone can admire.

5. Their workmanship and attitude toward life, toward their job no doubt will have a positive affect on the students and younger employees of our system.

6. In all sincerity, I see these elderly women looking forward to tomorrow's accomplishments with pride and vigor. They realize they have something to offer society and are happy to do so. If this program or similar ones didn't exist I feel our society would miss out not only on these local resources, but I can just imagine these elderly ladies with no goals to attain, just sitting around and reminiscing on what they have accomplished thru life: yes and now, have very little to offer.

In closing, I see these women taking pride in their work and their ability to earn a few dollars rather than it given to them. The program has built up their ego and that in itself is worthy of the program.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM GEENEN,
District Administrator.

GREENWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS,
Greenwood, Wis., April 16, 1971.

JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Green Thumb and Green Light, Court House,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KIMOSEMA: I am writing this letter to tell you how grateful we are for the services of the Green Thumb and Green Light laborers.

The project is certainly a most worthwhile one. The psychological effect that it produces in the lives of the aged persons is most gratifying. The sense of usefulness and service to these individuals is certainly born out in the pride each one has in the work that he or she is doing.

There is also an economic factor involved in the program. These people are earning their own keep and they are not shelved on public support programs.

The individuals connected with our programs have performed well. It is our hope that this program can continue for many years to come.

Sincerely,

KENNETH F. BARTELS, *Superintendent.*

AUGUSTA COMMON SCHOOLS,
Augusta, Wis., April 20, 1971.

JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR MR. KMOSENA: I am most happy to respond to your letter concerning the Green Thumb-Green Light program in our area.

We have been fortunate enough to have had 2 Green Light Ladies working in our school system this past year. They have done a splendid job. I feel the benefits have been mutual as they seem to really enjoy their work and seem to be most happy to be making a contribution to our program and our students. I very strongly feel that this method of aiding them is much more desirable than aid without having them contribute. This way they know they are giving of themselves as well as receiving through the program.

I am not particularly liberal when it comes to aid programs. However, I feel it would be a serious mistake to drop this one that is working so well in our school.

Yours truly,

JAMES M. LARSON, *Superintendent.*

NEILLSVILLE, WIS., *April 18, 1971.*

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION GREEN THUMB,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR SIR: In regard to your letter of April 16, 1971 I am very much in favor of continuing the Green Thumb-Green Light Programs.

I am the teacher for the recently initiated pre-school in Neillsville. We have one of the ladies from the Green Light assisting me daily. She has proven to be invaluable. The children call her, "Grandma." At times an older person can be just what the very young child needs. I'm sure the children would miss her very much. I know I would. As our program is self-supporting your aid in providing this lady has also helped financially.

Just recently we were discussing our playground, fencing, equipment and labor to put it up when again we were made aware that the Green Thumb would assist us in nearly all the aspects of that project. We still don't quite believe our good fortune but hope time will prove we were wrong for ever doubting in any way.

You have my backing for your programs all the way. I sincerely hope others will see their benefits too. I wish you good luck.

Sincerely,

(MRS.) PATRICIA STRANGFELD.

WISCONSIN GREEN THUMB,
CLARK COUNTY COURTHOUSE,
Neillsville, Wis., April 16, 1971.

ELEANOR BERG,
Colfax, Wis.

DEAR ELEANOR: I am hopeful that you have had an opportunity to acquaint yourself with the work of the Green Thumb-Green Light Programs in your community.

These programs provide employment for disadvantaged elderly citizens in public sevice projects for municipalities. This part time work supplements their Social Security benefits and at the same time enables them to carry out meaningful projects within the community. It also gives them the dignity and respect that they deserve, making them feel that they are not a burden on the community.

There is a question as to whether programs of this nature should be continued. I am asking lay people to give me their evaluation of what the program has meant to their community.

If you are in a position to give me this information, I would appreciate a letter from you to my office before April 23, 1971, indicating your reasons why the program should or should not be continued.

We will need this for testimony in Washington, D.C., in reference to extension of the present program.

Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,

JOHN KMOSENA, *State Director.*

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
Antigo, Wis., April 19, 1971.

Mr. JOHN KMOSENA,
State Director, Wisconsin Green Thumb-Green Light,
Neillsville, Wis.

DEAR JOHN: This letter is to indicate my support and overall positive impression of the Green Thumb-Green Light project.

Although my association with the program has been brief, I am favorably impressed with the results gained in my wildlife management activities and tasks were completed that needed action but hadn't been handled because of personnel lack. The real positive impact of the program, however, stems from the feature that elderly are given needed money and a little purpose to their later life. I'm sure that the psychological improvement of these citizens is vastly important.

I would doubt if local communities in general, would provide such a program.

I would support any effort to continue and to furnish their type program for the subjects of concern.

With kindest regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

MAX MOREHOUSE,
Area Game Manager, Department of Natural Resources,
Bureau of Game Management.

Senator NELSON. Do you have a breakdown of the employment of these 450 people who do full-time employment in the past year?

Mr. ROHDE. I can't tell you categorically the counties in which they are working or the jobs they are working at, but we can provide it for you.

Generally we can tell you what they are doing.

These young people are working in schools, helping in maintenance, helping in libraries, helping in lunchrooms, assisting teachers and doing that kind of work, and working in hospitals as aides. The young men are working as maintenance men in county garages, for school districts and assisting them in bus programs, maintenance of buses, janitorial, and custodial work.

Senator NELSON. You mentioned 450 elderly who had taken full-time jobs. Do you have a breakdown of what kind of jobs?

Mr. ROHDE. In our own on-the-job training program, these people are working in the private employment sector for companies, for counties, as maintenance men in parks and roadside rest areas. In some instances, they are working in garages as maintenance men, mechanics—almost any job which you find in a rural community or a small town which provide service for the people of that area.

If I may continue then, with the testimony, Senator, beyond these programs sponsored by the Farmers Union, we look upon the Economic Opportunity Act as the basic framework for the alleviation and eventual elimination of poverty in America.

We urge in this committee and the Congress to extend the Economic Opportunity Act for at least 3 years, and that the Office of Economic Opportunity be restored to its essential role as "advocate of the poor" throughout the country and extended along with the Economic Opportunity Act.

There should be no dismantling of the OEO's operating and other existing responsibilities that go beyond research, regardless of whether such dismantling would be accomplished by revenue sharing or by any other means.

We think that the time has come for the OEO to give the proper emphasis to the rural dimension for the poverty problem. Some 27 percent of our people in poverty are rural. There may have been ample reasons in the initial years of the Economic Opportunity Act to devote somewhat less of the resources under the act to rural poverty than these statistics would warrant, but to slight rural poverty is no longer justifiable.

To promote the proper emphasis on rural poverty, we urge this committee to:

1. Develop a firm record of legislative intent—in these hearings and in a statement included in the committee's report to the House—directing that the position of OEO Assistant Director for Community Action in Rural Areas be reactivated, promptly filled, and amply staffed for effective operation.

There is a crying need for top-level OEO leadership that is sensitive to rural problems in planning and design of poverty programs and in working with and guiding Labor Department, HEW, and other agencies to which OEO programs are delegated.

For instance, in rural settings, to a greater extent than in cities and urban places, work assignments tend to even be discontinuous and ad hoc. They tend not to be structured into "jobs" in the sense of a classified position into which an individual can be placed for an extended period of time. Farmers Union has found that a Green Thumb worker, for example, may work on 15 different projects during the course of a year. Each of theese projects can be highly useful and meaningful.

Indeed it is because the county or other host agency is able to shift workers from one task to another as the need arises that it is possible to avoid holding a worker in the "make-work" situation beyond that time required for completion of the actual work. Incidentally, local political leaders are highly sensitive to a "make-work" situation.

To take care of this kind of problem, the local sponsors in rural areas need to be given discretion and flexibility to determine day-to-day job and work assignments.

Another important question that requires high level attention in OEO and the Labor Department is: which agencies or organizations can best serve as manpower program sponsors in rural areas?

In many cases a private nonprofit organization can be a more efficient and effective local sponsor than a county or other local governmental unit.

In Wisconsin, for example, the Farmers Union has operated Neighborhood Youth Corps programs in a way that has allowed a high percentage of the money (75 to 80 percent) to go to the young people, with a relatively small percentage taken up by overhead expenses.

Here is an error that I wish you would correct. The percentage of money going to enrollees is not 75 to 80 percent but 85 to 90 percent. It is 85.9 percent in our Neighborhood Youth Corps and it is about 90 percent in Green Thumb.

It is futile to try to get programs to work in rural settings if unique rural operating requirements of these kinds are ignored during program formulation. With 40 percent of our people in poverty living in rural areas, an Assistant Director of OEO primarily devoted to rural considerations is certainly warranted.

2. Include in the pending legislation an explicit requirement that Economic Opportunity Act funds and other assistance be allocated and distributed on an equitable basis between rural and urban areas—the formula for such allocation being the proportion of Americans in poverty who are urban and rural, respectively, or a comparable, equally precise criterion.

There are various references in the Economic Opportunity Act to the idea of rural-urban balance, including a mandate to the Director to establish criteria on which to achieve rural-urban balance. But since such a balance is not yet effective, an explicit requirement seems now in order. Two additional statutory provisions are necessary to make sure that an appropriate rural-urban balance is achieved:

(*a*) A requirement that the OEO make computer runs, on perhaps a bimonthly basis, yielding program account by program account breakdowns of funding levels for those community action agencies which are precoded as rural, with comparative runs for those precoded as urban.

These computer runs were made until the middle of 1969, at which time they were discontinued. The data are an essential prerequisite to any attempt to achieve a rural-urban funding balance.

(*b*) A requirement that the OEO submit an annual report to the Congress on its activities and accomplishments in achieving a rural-urban balance.

Mr. Chairman, Farmers Union is deeply concerned about the survival of the rural community action agencies and rural manpower programs if the administration's revenue-sharing proposals were to be enacted. We firmly hold the view that the commitment to the alleviation of poverty which forms the essence of the Economic Opportunity Act is and must continue to be a nationwide commitment—and that the most effective way to meet this commitment is to retain Federal financing and basic direction of community action agencies and programs.

We are finally beginning to evolve a structure in our rural areas through which antipoverty and development programs can be effectively administered—a structure which tends to draw leadership from the local community action agencies.

It would indeed be tragic if, in the name of local flexibility that is in fact already built into the poverty programs, we dismantled the basic structures around which effective programs can be planned and administered and it seems clear that many CAA's including perhaps 80 percent of rural CAA's, would not survive if they are thrown into open competition with other programs for Federal funds to be received by the States under revenue sharing.

We think that the Federal-local matching formula for community action activities be held at the 80-to-20 ratio, rather than changed to 75-to-25 ratio, as designated in the President's fiscal year 1972 budget.

At the very time that general revenue sharing is being proposed as a means of relieving the financial pressures on State and local governments, any decrease in the Federal cost share for community action programs seems unwarranted.

We take this opportunity to reaffirm our support for Operation Mainstream, Neighborhood Youth Corps, and other categorical manpower programs under title I of the Economic Opportunity Act. These successful programs should continue to be federally funded, and on this basis should be made truly nationwide programs by extending them to every State of the Union.

We think that the concentrated employment program, which brings together various manpower programs into a single package, affords a rough prototype of the kind of arrangement that would prevail under the proposed revenue-sharing scheme.

By most indications, the CEP tends to lack effectiveness.

Until the concentrated employment program is proven more workable, we think it unwise to completely adopt such an undifferentiated approach as a substitute for provenly effective categorical manpower programs.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I wish to discuss the rural economic opportunity loan program, which the administration has announced will be phased out beginning this year.

The rural economic opportunity loan program has been administered by the Farmers Home Administration of the Department of Agriculture through delegation of authority from OEO. Under the program, loans are provided at 4⅛ percent interest to low-income rural residents for small farm and nonfarm enterprises.

Loans are also made to rural cooperatives serving the rural poor through processing, purchasing, and marketing activities. As of this date, approximately $80 million of loans are outstanding, and about $20 million is available in the revolving fund out of which such loans are made.

I would emphasize that phasing out is a weak description of what in fact will occur if this program is killed. As the outstanding loans are repaid into the revolving fund, this money will be returned to the Treasury and will be lost to rural families unless it is recaptured by OEO and channeled into new rural programs.

The rural poor have a claim on these funds if only because they were originally appropriated to rural purposes in a spirit of genuine reform, but not accompanied with sufficient resources to make that reform a reality. By draining the economic opportunity loan revolving fund of its capital without reallocating it to other rural purposes, the Federal Government would be further distorting the urban-rural imbalance in funding referred to earlier in my testimony.

The President's fiscal year 1972 budget states as the reason for the planned phaseout, that "evaluations of the program have shown that it has not proven effective in improving the income potentials of the rural poor."

The reference on the budget is apparently to a General Accounting Office report on the program released August 21, 1969. The GAO report was indeed critical; it found that most borrowers included in its sample that were selected for investigation, generally increased their income only slightly, if at all, from the loan-financed enterprises.

However, the report acknowledged that its findings must be taken as tentative in light of the short time period covered, the fact that it examined only loans to individuals and did not cover cooperative loans, and other limiting factors.

Even so, the GAO report concluded with a clearly positive emphasis that "significant improvements are possible without substantially increased efforts," and recommendations for improvement were included in the report.

Mr. Chairman, we strongly urge you and this committee to build a record of legislative intent and otherwise to use your influence to prevent this program from being phased out, and to get it extended with at least the level of operation existing prior to the administration's announced intention to phase it out.

Indeed, we cannot understand why the administration would not want to give the rural opportunity loan program a full opportunity to succeed for it is designed to solve the very problem that has proven so intractable in the family assistance program of welfare reform: the

problem of building work incentives and opportunities into government assistance programs.

The rural opportunity loan program—by helping marginal and poor farmers to help themselves—can be a truly effective model of how this theory can be put into practice.

If the program is to prove successful by this standard, it must be administered with the proper emphasis on social welfare considerations as well as economic soundness.

To accomplish this, we think that the program should be continued under the auspices of the Office of Economic Opportunity, rather than spun off to the Farmers Home Administration.

This is necessary in order that OEO's responsibility and sensitivity to low-income people and to poverty considerations shall continue to influence the operation of the loan program.

This concludes my testimony, Mr. Chairman, and I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Senator NELSON. I want to thank you very much for your very fine presentation. The committee is well aware of the exceptionally fine job the Wisconsin Farmers Union and the National Farmers Union have done as sponsors of Mainstream Green Thumb programs, as well as Neighborhood Youth Corps, and your testimony will be valuable to the committee in its examination of the bills to extend the OEO.

I regret that we don't have time to go into some questions on this, because I would—we do have to conclude today pretty close to 12:30, and we have four additional groups to appear.

If you will leave those letters so that we can at least take excerpts from them to put in the record, we would appreciate it, and if you have some data you could supply on the kinds of the jobs that have been taken in the past year by the 450 elderly citizens in the private sector that you mentioned in your prepared remarks, we would be glad to make that part of the record, too.

Mr. ROHDE. Very well, Senator; I will go back to our Washington office this afternoon and have that information for you today.

(The prepared statement of Mr. Rohde follows:)

Statement of
National Farmers Union
presented by
Gilbert C. Rohde, President, Wisconsin Farmers Union

concerning

LEGISLATION TO EXTEND THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1964

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

I am pleased with the opportunity to testify today on legislation to extend the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and to authorize funds to carry on programs under this Act.

The National Farmers Union is intensely interested in Economic Opportunity Act programs and the activities of the Office of Economic Opportunity. Twenty-four hundred elderly men and 275 elderly women in 17 states are earning $1,600 a year under the Green Thumb-Green Light programs sponsored by Farmers Union. During the past 12 months, over 450 elderly persons have found full-time private employment through Farmers Union's On-the-Job Training program. We also sponsor Neighborhood Youth Corps and Mainstream programs in several states--including Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Arkansas. Our Neighborhood Youth Corps in these states involved over 4,000 young people during the past year.

Mr. Chairman, about three weeks ago I invited school districts, other state and local agencies, state legislators, and certain other groups that have been involved with Farmers Union Neighborhood Youth Corps and Green Thumb-Green Light in Wisconsin to inform me or our state directors of their experience with these programs. As of this date, we have received 129 letters on Green Thumb and Green Light, and 79 letters on Neighborhood Youth Corps from across the State of Wisconsin. These letters, we think, are clear testimony to the success and effectiveness of these programs.

I would like to turn over copies of these 208 letters to the Subcommittee at this time, for use in the record in any manner that you find appropriate. I am confident that similar testimonials could be secured from other states in which Farmers Union NYC and Green Thumb-Green Light operate.

Beyond these programs sponsored by the Farmers Union, we look upon the Economic Opportunity Act as the basic framework for the alleviation and eventual elimination of poverty in America. We look upon the OEO as the primary spokesman for poor people in Government.

We urge this Committee and the Congress to extend the Economic Opportunity Act for at least three years, and that the Office of Economic Opportunity be restored to its essential role as "advocate for the poor" throughout the government, and extended along with the Economic Opportunity Act. There should be no dismantling of the OEO's operating and other existing responsibilities that go beyond research--regardless of whether such dismantling would be accomplished by revenue-sharing or by any other means.

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1. Develop a firm record of legislative intent--in these hearings and in a statement included in the Committee's Report to the House--directing that the position of OEO Assistant Director for Community Action in Rural Areas be reactivated, promptly filled, and amply staffed for effective operation.

There is a crying need for top-level OEO leadership that is sensitive to rural problems in planning and design of poverty programs and in working with and guiding Labor Department, HEW, and other agencies to which OEO programs are delegated. For instance, in rural settings, to a greater extent than in cities and urban places, work assignments tend to be discontinuous and ad hoc. They tend not to be structured into "jobs"--in the sense of a classifiable position into which an individual can be "placed' for an extended period of time. Farmers Union has found that a Green Thumb worker, for example, may work on 15 different projects during the course of a year. Each of these projects can be highly useful and meaningful.

Indeed, it is because the county or other host agency is able to shift workers from one task to another as the need arises that it is possible to avoid holding a worker in the "make-work" situation beyond the time required for completion of the actual work. To take care of this kind of problem, the local sponsors in rural areas need to be given discretion and flexibility to determine day-to-day job and work assignments.

Another important question that requires high-level attention in OEO and the Labor Department is: Which agencies or organizations can best serve as manpower program sponsors in rural areas? In many cases a private non-profit organization can be a more efficient and effective local sponsor than a county or other local governmental unit.

In Wisconsin, for example, the Farmers Union has operated Neighborhood Youth Corps programs in a way that has allowed a high percentage of the money (75-80%) to go to the young people, with a relatively small percentage taken up by overhead expenses.

It is futile to try to get programs to work in rural settings if unique rural operating requirements of these kinds are ignored during program formulation. With 40 percent of our people in poverty living in rural areas, an Assistant Director of OEO primarily devoted to rural considerations is certainly warranted.

(2) Include in the pending legislation an explicit requirement that Economic Opportunity Act funds and other assistance be allocated and distributed on an equitable basis between rural and urban areas--the formula for such allocation being the proportion of Americans in poverty who are urban and rural, respectively, or a comparable, equally precise criterion. There are various references in the Economic Opportunity Act to the idea of rural-urban balance, including a mandate to the Director to establish criteria on which to achieve rural-urban balance. But since such a balance is not yet effective, an explicit requirement seems now in order. Two additional statutory provisions are necessary to make sure that an appropriate rural-urban balance is achieved:

(a) A requirement that the OEO make computer runs, on perhaps a bi-monthly basis, yielding program account by program account breakdowns of funding levels for those Community Action Agencies which are precoded as rural, with comparative runs for those precoded as urban. These computer runs were made until the middle of 1969, at which time they were discontinued. The data are an essential prerequisite to any attempt to achieve a rural-urban funding balance.

(b) A requirement that the OEO submit an annual report to the Congress on its activities and accomplishments in achieving a rural-urban balance.

Mr. Chairman, Farmers Union is deeply concerned about the survival of the rural Community Action Agencies and rural manpower programs if the Administration's revenue-sharing proposals were to be enacted. We firmly hold the view that the commitment to the alleviation of poverty which forms the essence of the Economic Opportunity Act is and must continue to be a <u>nationwide</u> commitment --and that the most effective way to meet this commitment is to retain Federal financing and basic direction of Community Action Agencies and Programs. We are finally beginning to evolve a

structure in our rural areas through which anti-poverty and development programs can be effectively administered--a structure which tends to draw leadership from the local Community Action Agencies.

It would indeed be tragic if, in the name of local flexibility that is in fact already built into the poverty programs, we dismantled the basic structures around which effective programs can be planned and administered. It seems clear that many CAAs, including perhaps 80% of rural CAA's, would not survive if they are thrown into open competition with other programs for Federal funds to be received by the states under revenue-sharing.

We think that the Federal-local matching formula for community action activities be held at 80-20, rather than changed to 75-25 as designated in the President's Fiscal Year 1972 Budget. At the very time that general revenue-sharing is being proposed as a means of relieving the financial pressures on state and local governments, any decrease in the Federal cost share for community action programs seems unwarranted.

We take this opportunity to reaffirm our support for Operation Mainstream, Neighborhood Youth Corps, and other categorical manpower programs under Title I of the Economic Opportunity Act. These successful programs should continue to be Federally-funded, and on this basis should be made truly nationwide programs by extending them to every State of the Union.

We think that the Concentrated Employment Program, which brings together various manpower programs into a single package, affords a rough prototype of the kind of arrangement that would prevail under the proposed revenue-sharing scheme. By most indications, the CEP tends to lack effectiveness.

Until the Concentrated Employment Program is proven more workable, we think it unwise completely to adopt such an undifferentiated approach as a substitute for provenly-effective categorical manpower programs.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I wish to discuss the Rural Economic Opportunity Loan Program, which the Administration has announced will be phased out beginning this year.

The Rural Economic Opportunity Loan Program has been administered by the Farmers Home Administration of the Department of Agriculture through delegation of authority from OEO. Under the

program, loans are provided at 4-1/8 percent interest to low-income rural residents for small farm and nonfarm enterprises. Loans are also made to rural cooperatives serving the rural poor through processing, purchasing, and marketing activities. As of this date, approximately $70 million of loans are outstanding, and about $20 million is available in the revolving fund out of which such loans are made.

I would emphasize that "phasing out" is a weak description of what in fact will occur if this program is killed. As the outstanding loans are repaid into the revolving fund, this money will be returned to the Treasury and will be lost to rural families unless it is recaptured by OEO and channeled into new rural programs. The rural poor have a claim on these funds, if only because they were originally appropriated to rural purposes in a spirit of genuine reform, but not accompanied with sufficient resources to make that reform a reality. By draining the Economic Opportunity loan revolving fund of its capital without reallocating it to other rural purposes, the Federal Government would be further distorting the urban-rural imbalance in funding referred to earlier in my testimony.

The President's FY 1972 Budget states, as the reason for the planned phase-out, that "evaluations of the program have shown that it has not proven effective in improving the income potentials of the rural poor."

The reference in the Budget is apparently to a General Accounting Office report on the program released August 21, 1969. The GAO report was indeed critical; it found that most borrowers included in its sample that was selected for investigation, generally increased their income only slightly, if at all, from the loan-financed enterprises.

However, the report acknowledged that its findings must be taken as <u>tentative</u> in light of the short time period covered, the fact that it examined only loans to individuals and did not cover cooperative loans, and other limiting factors. Even so, the GAO report concluded with a clearly positive emphasis that "significant improvements are possible without substantially increased efforts," and recommendations for improvement were included in the report.

There have been problems with this program. Indeed, in terms of "hard" cost-benefit analysis, direct cash assistance to persons in poverty may be more efficient than programs of credit to assist low-income people to increase their level of "earned" income. However, a credit program of the type at issue here--designed as it is to help motivated individuals to establish and operate successful economic enterprises--can promote the dignity of the people involved in very important ways that are missed, or at best under-emphasized, by quantitative cost-benefit analyses. And it must be emphasized that this is a loan program, which unlike cash grants has an impact on budget expenditures only to the extent of administrative costs and defaults on loan repayment.

Furthermore, the August 1969 GAO report provided constructive criticism and recommendations with which the rural loan program could be strengthened, and it appears that the Farmers Home Administration reacted positively to make full use of the report. In 1970, Farmers Home undertook changes in the program along lines suggested by the GAO. Farmers Home began to concentrate loans in geographical areas of greatest economic need, and to staff its local offices in these areas with full-time personnel to administer the loans. These reforms are designed to remedy the two major defects identified by the GAO: inadequate screening of loan applicants to make sure that they meet the poverty qualification, and lack of adequate counseling and supervision of borrowers by the Farmers Home Administration. The additional personnel devoted exclusively to rural loans, along with other reforms implemented by Farmers Home in 1970, offer real promise of making the rural loan program truly effective.

With these reforms in progress to place the Rural Economic Opportunity Loan Program on a more effective basis, we think that the program should be extended at least at its current funding level. The individual loans made under the program--both farm and nonfarm--can play an important role in slowing the senseless migration off the Nation's farms and rural areas and into our overcrowded cities. And there is a real, unmet need for loans to cooperatives to strengthen small business ventures among low-income rural people. As an effort to meet this need, the delegates to Farmers Union's February 24-27 National Convention unanimously adopted a Statement of Policy recommending:

> "that the Farmers Home Administration be authorized to extend its lending authority to include cooperatives now doing business and others wanting to go into cooperative endeavors, who are unable to obtain funds under the present requirements."

Mr. Chairman, we strongly urge you and this Committee to build a record of legislative intent and otherwise to use your influence to prevent this program from being phased out, and to get it extended with at least the level of operation existing prior to the Administration's announced intention to phase it out. Indeed, we cannot understand why the Administration would not want to give the Rural Opportunity Loan Program a full opportunity to succeed, for it is designed to solve the very problem that has proven so intractable in the Family Assistance Plan of welfare reform: the problem of building work incentives and opportunities into government assistance programs. The Rural Opportunity Loan Program--by helping marginal and poor farmers to help themselves--can be a truly effective model of how this theory can be put into practice.

If the program is to prove successful by this standard, it must be administered with the proper emphasis on social welfare considerations as well as economic soundness. To accomplish this, we think that the program should be continued under the auspices of the Office of Economic Opportunity, rather than spun off to the Farmers Home Administration. This is necessary in order that OEO's responsibility and sensitivity to low-income people and to poverty considerations will continue to influence the operation of the loan program.

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Senator NELSON. Thank you very much.

Our next witnesses are a panel on rural community action programs (CAP) and manpower programs. The witnesses are Mr. Harry Ring, president of the Illinois CAP Directors Association; Mr. H. D. Dick Rankin, CAP board member, Columbia, Miss.; Mr. John L. Hairston, Pine Hall, N.C., CAP board member; Mr. Robert Cannon, CAP director, Lawton, Okla.; Mr. Deartie Tucker, Blanchard, La.; and a group from Tennessee: Dr. Clifford Dennison, Cleveland, Tenn.; Mrs. Melvin Stulberg, Oak Ridge, Tenn.; and Ben Hall McFarlin, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

I repeat that I regret we are up against a time schedule that won't permit us to get into as much detail with each witness as we would like to; but, in order to complete the hearings in time to act on this bill in executive session, the subcommittee and the full committee, the Senate and the House, it will be necessary to condense these hearings, within a limited time.

Anybody who has a prepared statement, that statement will be printed in full in the record, and it would be helpful if you could summarize the remarks.

We will have to conclude the panel in 30 minutes.

STATEMENT OF A PANEL FROM THE RURAL COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS (CAP) AND MANPOWER PROGRAMS COMPOSED OF HARRY RING, PRESIDENT, ILLINOIS CAP DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION; H. D. DICK RANKIN, CAP BOARD MEMBER, COLUMBIA, MISS.; JOHN L. HAIRSTON, PINE HALL, N.C., CAP BOARD MEMBER; ROBERT CANNON, CAP DIRECTOR, LAWTON, OKLA.; DEARTIE TUCKER, BLANCHARD, LA.; DR. CLIFFORD DENNISON, CLEVELAND, TENN.; MRS. MELVIN STULBERG, OAK RIDGE, TENN.; AND BEN HALL McFARLIN, MURFREESBORO, TENN.

Senator NELSON. Each time you address the Chair, if you would identify yourself so that the reporter will have your name correctly for the hearing record, we would appreciate it.

Mr. RING. Mr. Chairman, I am Harry Ring, from the State of Illinois, chairman of the Illinois CAP Association and executive director of an eight-county rural OEO agency.

I did bring a printed statement that I would like to enter out of respect for the schedule today. I understand you had a long, drawn-out affair yesterday, and I don't wish to contribute to that.

I would like to make two points. One, not only as a CAP director at the present time, but having been a member of a county board for 4 years in which I was chairman for 3 years, the chairman of the rural county hospital for 2 years, chairman of the tax board of review for 3 years, and on the finance committee for 1 year, I think I have a little insight into the rural area.

One point that I would like to make to you is in regard to the Mainstream program, which, in my opinion, I don't know how they managed it, but as far as I am concerned Mainstream comes as close to near perfection in a Federal program as any I have worked with so far, at least for the rural area.

Here is what has me concerned with the mainstream program. In our eight-county area, the county does not have any full-time em-

ployees. The only staff that they have are their elected officials, such as you have in Wisconsin.

Now, under a revenue-sharing plan or any plan where an agency such as the community action agency was not the prime sponsor, I don't see where these counties are going to get the finances or the manpower to administer the programs.

Let me give you an example. In the State of Illinois, by some type of manipulation which I am not sure of yet—I am a member of the State camps committee there—the OJT project has been turned over to the State of Illinois.

Now, the way I read nine guidelines, the guidelines say the community action agency is the prime sponsor of the manpower program unless they are deemed unfit or incapable. Nonetheless, it has been done.

The first meeting that we had in the State camps committee which was within 3 days after that program was turned over, the first item of business on agenda was to recommend to the Congress that they remove the 15-percent administrative cost.

I think that it gives you a good example where, under a revenue-sharing program or under a State sponsorship program, to back up what Mr. Rohde said, our program for eight counties with 150 enrollees, our administrative costs run 12 to 13 percent, which leaves 88 percent, or 67 percent really to the enrollees.

You are not going to have that with State sponsorship. Why would they want the 15 percent taken off within 2 days after they got the program?

If it were set up to where the money went to the county boards, this in my opinion, is what a county board will always vote for. I think anybody in the rural areas knows that. In my opinion, that is a bad investment, too, if you don't put some oil with it. (Gravel)

In my opinion, the CAP agencies in the rural areas are about all that we have going for us by way of Federal programs and we even help towns and cities with their plans for the water grants and housing grants, because they don't have people on their payrolls to do it.

Another thing, in an OEO agency or in any other of these programs, you not only have a responsibility to the poor people, you have a responsibility to the taxpayers.

In the State of Illinois they have removed the percentage of personal property tax, which is costing the local governments and the State millions of dollars. It is conceivable that with the mainstream program properly administered, in my opinion we can pick up the slack in our eight counties as a result of this.

One example I would give you is this: We have one county where they had 11 township cemeteries. The law says that if those cemeteries are not maintained, the people can walk in and deed that to the township and the township had to levy a local real estate tax to maintain those cemeteries.

We sent a crew of our mainstream men around, cleaned up the cemeteries, and prevented that tax.

The President referred to it as a dead end employment. Maybe that is right. There is a tremendous difference between your real estate tax and income tax. In the State of Illinois, if you don't pay your real estate tax, if you are sick in the hospital for a year, on October 1 if your taxes are not paid, they sell your property. Your real estate tax

is a tough tax. Your income tax is more equitable to start with. If you don't make it there, you don't pay it.

If we can prevent those real estate taxes, we have not only done something for the poor people, but we have done something for the people who are furnishing the money for us to do it with.

Our agency has 10 offices in the eight counties. There is only one office that we pay any rent on. The 4½ years I have been director of the agency, to equip those 10 offices we purchased less than $1,500 worth of equipment. The reason is that we have utilized the Federal surplus property program.

Our equipment and materials we get from surplus property if at all possible. Our purchases are very minimal. I don't think you will see that with the State.

We have what we call a recreationally deprived area. I don't know whether you have heard that term here before or not, but we like to use it in Illinois.

We had one town with a population of about 1,100 people. We got a farmer to give us 20 acres of ground for no purpose other than to get it off the tax books. We went in there and built the finest 20-acre park you ever saw. We had 34 campers from around the State of Illinois here before it was finished, only three of them residents of that county.

That was done at a cost of three men and a surplus property caterpillar and I would say we did the whole thing for less than $12,000.

I don't think you are going to have that when you get on State sponsorship. We also don't have the pressures the State people have.

Last week it took us 12 days to get a boy on an MDTA training program, because they ran us to three State employment agencies before we found anybody who would handle him. If he had been a mainstream employee, we would have had him on the payroll in one day.

I would like to see agencies like ours, responsible to a regional office, where you don't have the pressures or influences that you would have on the State level, and, two, if such a thing does develop, where these programs like our on-the-job training, go over to the State, I would like to see them keep—I would go along with this: I think the administrative costs might possibly be in the neighborhood of between 15 and 20 percent, but I would not want to see a manpower program come into a rural area with no limitation on the administrative costs. You have too many State things in Illinois that you can look at and see why.

So as far as I am concerned between the OEO agency and between our agency—the thing about it is, I can walk into a county board chairman or a mayor who has a problem, and tell him I have two or three men I can give him to do the job, but if he gets a letter through the mail on a program to do the jobs, with a long, drawn out process, he is not going to do it.

Our townships are run by people meeting once a month, and you can't meet once a month and do these types of things. We do appreciate the fact that we were invited to appear here, and the fact that we are getting this chance to make some input into it is encouraging, and I would be glad to try to answer any questions you might have, Senator.

Senator NELSON. Thank you.

(The prepared statement of Mr. Ring follows:)

Statement by:
Harry Ring, Executive Director
Embarras River Basin Agency for Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Before
Senate Sub-Committee on Employment, Manpower, Poverty

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee. On behalf of my agency the people in our eight county rural area, I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear here. Just the fact that we have been invited to appear here and have some input for the rural area is very encouraging. I would like for you to know that the opinions I will be expressing here and the opinions I will be giving are based on two backgrounds: one as Director of an eight county rural community action agency, the other as a former county board member, Chairman of the County Board for three years, Chairman of the Tax Review Committee for three years, Chairman of the Hospital Committee for two years and on the County Finance Committee for one year. By virtue of these two experiences, I feel I am somewhat aware of the problems in the rural area. One thing that I would say to you, if ever a federal program neared perfection, in my opinion, especially in regard and only in regard to the rural area, your operation Mainstream program does this. In my opinion this is the finest program ever developed by the federal government. It has been a life saver for the rural area and a tremendous boon to the communities, cities and townships in the rural area. The reason I say this, by Mainstream being funded through a Community Action Agency, the time, the work and the trouble of enrolling a man on Mainstream is practically nil. We can find an enrollee, have him screened with him, and have him on the payroll within an hour or two hours, one day at the most. If it wasn't for the physical examination required, we could do it in less time. When you combine a manpower program such a Mainstream with the outreach capability of our Community Action Agency, you have a perfect setup.

Our outreach workers, as a part of their regular duties and as they go around performing their duties, come in contact with the enrollees and they have a record of them. At that point, we know whether he needs a job, we know we have a job and we know where we can put him. After he is enrolled our outreach workers still furnish followup for him. We make sure if he needs any type of aid that we can get it for him, such as food stamps, etc. We have a working relationship with the Division of Vacational Rehabilitiation, where if we find an enrollee that needs medical treatment before he goes to work we can get it for him and get him to work. Wh have working relationships with Public Aid, the Township Supervisors, etc. My job, in my opinion, is not to put people on Public Aid or Welfare but to take them off. We point first to the people who are on township assistance or those on general assistance. These are the poeple we try to hire first. Of course, like on any other program, we have approximately half the needed job slots. We have 150 job slots for eight counties. We have that many more applications in our office from eligible receipients which we could put to work tomorrow morning if we had the job slots available. The thing that we do with our program is that we assign these enrollees to job sites where it will prevent a local real estate tax from being levied. To me that more than justifies the expenditure of federal funds for this type program. For example, in the State of Illinois there is a law that if a township cemetary is not taken care of, they can deed the cemetary to the township and the township is forced to levy a tax for the maintenance of that cemetary. In one county we have cleaned up or repaired seven cemetaries. Probably, without this program, there would have been a tax levied on the real estate in that county, and after all Gentlemen, real estate taxes are the taxes

that hurt. In the case of the State of Illinois the real estate taxes have to be paid whether the person works or not. Income taxes are only paid if you make it, but with real estate taxes, if you are sick and in the hospital for a year your taxes are due and if they aren't paid, they sell your property, so in my opinion, the real estate tax is the meanest tax there is, and if there is anything we can do to keep this tax down, we should do it. Another thing, in the State of Illinois they have taken off the Personal Property Tax, which is going to cost the communities of the State thousands and millions of dollars. In my opinion, the Operation Mainstream is a perfect program to help absorb some of this loss. We assign our men to townships, villages, counties, little league ball parks, parks, things of this type that would require local public tax for support. Now, someone might say, well fine, we can do this through the State or direct through the community, this, Gentlemen, could not be done in the rural area due to the fact that we do not have full time paid people on these jobs as city councilmen, village councilmen, county boards, etc. These people are part time people and most of your county boards meet once a month to conduct the business of the county. They have no one with the finesse, time or the experience to write the programs or to handle the men after they get them. One thing that we do require before we assign workers to a project, is that they provide alocal supervisor to be in charge of the workers. This totally eliminates the problem of having the old thing of having people say that these men are laying around on a federal program and not doing anything. We are proud to say that our men work every hour they are required to. Unfortunately our budget allows that we work them only thirty-five hours per week. This is based on the amount of money available. To me, with this type of

program, where we have our outreach workers to find the enrollees, we have them assigned to political subdivisions and tax supported institutions to try to keep down other taxes, to me, we have a winning program. Our turn over rate into private industry has been excellent. The only thing that has hurt it is the new requirement that 45% of the enrollees be at least 55 years old. I am in total agreement with this. These people need employment, the same as anyone else, the only thing is I don't want the program evaluated strictly on the basis of turn over into private industry because this only leaves me 55% to work with due to the fact that people 55 and above are difficult to put inot private employment. However, those 55 and over do have a tremendous need for employment. We have people in the rural area who give a tremendous day's work who are 65 years of age and older when their social security is not sufficient to carry them. These people deserve jobs and need jobs and Mainstream is a perfect job for them. I would like to see be beginning age for Mainstream enrollees lowered to 19, because at the present

time we have no program for the young people between 19 and 22. The reason I would rather see the age for Mainstream lowered, rather than the NYC program raised, is that we can handle them so much faster. In the State of Illinois we have to find our NYC kids and take them to the Employment Service to get them screened. All of this before we can put them to work and you can get bogged down in three to five days of paper work before you get them to work. With Mainstream, we do our own screening and selection of job sites, and we can have them working in one day. Thisis my biggest argument about the State becoming the sponsor of the program. If the State does this, the efficiency of your program will be reduced at least 70% by the paper work and the time involved. Recently we had a boy we were trying to get in the MDTA program. Due to the fact that we had to go through the Employment Service with this, it took us over seven days to get that boy in school. If we could operate that like we do our Mainstream program, we could have had him in the same day that we found him. Our job slots are totally and entirely full all the time. We never have any job slots unless somebody has quit yesterday or today. I don't think you can say this with the State. I think if they had the 150 job slots that we have, you would be lucky if you had 40 working. The reason I say that is this, your State Agencies, Public Aid, Employment Service, only deal with the people that walk in. Now, our outreach workersfind these people and do something with them. The only people handled by the State agencies are the people who have the knowledge and are aware of the programs that walk into the officeand ask for it and this is not where you program is needed. That type of people can normally find a job on their own. It is the people who are living in total ignorance of all this and these are the ones that we feel benefit society most by getting them and getting them into some type of program. The Mainstream program might be, I think it was the President who recently referred to the Manpower programs as dead end, but I am here to tell you this, if I can hire men 55 years old and older who are on insufficient, pensions, social security or under employed, and I can put themon Mainstream

to build little league ball parks, to help the cities, the townships, the counties, the cemeteries, the park districts, and so on, he can call it anything he wants to, but Gentlemen, to me it is a winning program. We are preventing local taxes, we are utilizing taxes already paid, and we are giving these people pride in knowing that they are still able to work and make a living. What do you think it is worth to a man to be able to go out and do an honest day's work instead of having to sit around unemployed and with an insufficient pension, possibly having to take money from his own children. To me, any time we can furnish him with a job and put him out doing the type of work we have him doing, I say no one should complain about that and I don't care whether you call it dead end or what you call it. The same thing is true with the younger people and Viet Nam veterans, we have list after list of those, some are not old enough for Mainstream, others are caught up in the fact that we don't have enough job slots, or slots were full before they got back. The 150 slots that we have, are inadequate, within 24 to 48 hours, we could use 300. I am talking about eligible receipients now, I am not talking about any one other than that and I mean solid eligible recipients that we could have working in 24 to 48 hours, depending on how fast we could get their physical exams. What is it worth for us to be able to take a widow woman with three children in school with an extremely inadequate income, put her in our office working for about 60 days on Operation Mainstream while she gets her typing and skills practiced up and ready for employment and move her out on a $350 a month job. What is this worth to a community? The only way that woman could have gotten that job would have been through the work experience that we provided her with on Operation Mainstream. She applied for the same job before but when she applied for the job she had to tell them how out of practice she was, how rusty she was in the work and they were smart enough to know that they were going to have to spend 30, 60 or 90 days catching her up on the job. We put her on Mainstream in our office doing records and things that we needed and in 30 to 65 days we had her on this job. There are many cases like this.

These people deserve to work. This is the only way that I know that you are going to be able to accomplish this in the rural area. Now, granted, we don't have much need for fancy training or long drawn out training but the thing our people need is work experience. Many, many times we put people on Mainstream and work them 30, 60 or 90 days that are hired by local government or local industry. The only thing we accomplish on our program is to show these people that these people would work if given the opportunity. After we give them the opportunity to work, they hire them. This is what we need, work experience, not fancy drawn out programs. I say this to you, I think that these programs whould be broken down by what will work in the city and what will work in the rural area. Now I have no objection to your giving all the money for certain programs to the city because some of those will not work in the rural area, but the programs that will work in the rural area, give us the money let us do the program, but whatever you do leave the control the way you have it now. You see, by working Mainstream through the Community Action Agency with a Board of Directors coming from over eight counties, I can't get bogged down into any political situations as far as enrollees. People are employed entirely upon need, they are not employed upon influence or anything like that. Our staff and administrative costs are nothing compared to what they would be with the city, our programs operate on about 12 to 13% administrative cost. In Illinois they have turned the OJT program over to the State. I am on the State CAMPS Committee. The first meeting I attended after they did this, they were trying to get the 15% administrative cost removed because the State can't operate it for that. This is true and I recognize administrative cost at 15% now I will go along with raising it wo 20 but Action Agency can do these programs cheaper due to the fact that we already have our outreach program. We utilize many, many of our present employees on these programs. We don't have the staff that the State would have, for we utilize the

staff that we already have. Granted, for the eight counties I only have ten outreach workers, we could use 15 or 20, but never has the monty been available. This came up on this thing called "Continuing Resolution" which makes new money unavailable to me so I have had to operate this way. We need two people, at least in each county. You must remember this, Illinois Public Aid and these other agencies have 15 or 20 people in a county, I have one and they are making $1.70 per hour. Their people are required to have a college degree and they go out and do the same job that my $1.70 an hour people are doing. This is where a lot of your cost of welfare is going. It is not going into the pockets of the recipients, it is going into administrative cost and I say to you that the day that you take administrative cost limits off these programs you are going to be in trouble. I would say this to you, it is my honest and sincere opinion and drawing on my experience as a township supervisor, I can honestly and sincerely say that In my opinion, properly adminstered community action agencies and Operation Mainstream can be the answer to many problems in the rural area. For example, on my Mainstream program we have a bookkeeper in our central office for eight counties. Now we do all the paper work, the administration adn all of this. Now when I walk into a mayor's office and provide men to him or the county Board Chairman or to the Township Supervisor where all they have to do is select the job site and provide the supervisor for these men, then you have a winning program. It always bothers me considerable to hear the remark that we are going to give the government back to the people. Well there is one thing that you have to be sure of, number one, you have to be sure that the people are capable of accepting it, and number two, that they are willing to accept it. Now I know this, when I was Chairman of our County Board, I tried to my best to do my job, but I had a full time job working 12 to 18 hours per day trying to make a living for my family. In only did the county's business a couple days a month. In our county the only full time employee in the county was the Superintnedent of highways. The superintendent of highways certainly doesn't have

The staff to operate these types of programs. In the rural area you have to have consolidation, eight counties we can operate for the same price you might operate one under a revenue sharing basis if each town and each county has to go their own. I say this to you, the Community Action Agency can be the greatest thing that has ever happened to the rural area. Now I know there have been cities and areas where you have had problems but you have to remember this in the rural area, everybody assosicates with everybody practically every day. You just can't do the things in the rural area that you do in the cities. We don't have the people, we don't have the finesse. Many of the towns we are providing workers for wouldn't have thepoeple because of the administrative work. Number one, the poeple probably wouldn't be available to do the work, number two, they certainly can't afford to employ them. The rural area, especially in Illinois, is hard pressed right now with taxes being reduced and personal property tax being eliminated. What is it worth to a community when we can take a young man 34 years old who spent over 14 years in jail, put him on our Operation Mainstream and in 60 to 90 days have a large farmer in the area come along and hire him for $90 per week. What is it worth to a community to take a 17 year old boy who can't read or write and put him in private employment through out outreach program at no additional cost. These are two actual cases that we have performed lately. What is it worth when you can take a parollee out of prison and put him on one of our Mainstream projects and have him hired by the city as a permanent employee. Gentlemen, these types of programs are winners, but the cities and villages do not have the people to do it in the rural area, they have to depend on the Community Action Agency. I can't speak to the city, I don't intend to even try. In my opinion

in regard to the rural area, revenue sharing will do absolutely nothing for us. In the first place most of the money received from revenue sharing would have to be put into administrative cost to put the programs into effect that they would lose, and in my opinion many of them wouldn't be put into effect. I have found out that the rural county board will spend most of the money for gravel, which I have found is a bad investment any way. You can always get a county board to spend money for gravel in a rural area but you can never get them to spend money to help the people. I can remember when we had trouble purchasing equipment for our hospital. The administrative cost of putting in revenue sharing on that basis would be a major of the money. In my opinion if a properly administered Community Action Agency working with the Mayor, the County Board Chairmen and the County and Township Supervisors is the answer to the problem. When we can administer program, over an eight county area with a staff the size that we have, and our total funding for program administration is only in the neighborhood of $100,000.00, the bulk of the money is going to enrollees and to the needy. Now revenue sharing without ear marking or strings attached is going to be money down the drain. Without programs, such as Operation Mainstream which might possibly be eliminated in favor of it, there will be nothing available. I would recommend this for a rural area. If we can get our Mainstream doubled, we can provide for these towns, counties and townships that you will get with revenue sharing. The same is true with the executive reorganization. If the executive reorganization goes through to where your Community Action Agency is eliminated, you will be left with absolutely nothing to help in the rural area. The rural area need help and the finesse of handling programs and the finesse of getting programs and experiences derived with programs, We just do not have full time people to turn these things over

to and the revenue sharing money is going to have to be used to hire new people who will do absolutely nothing until the programs are in effect. In other words, the administrative people we now have would be eliminated and they would have to be hired in each of eight counties. The revuenue sharing, Gentlemen, in no answer for the rural area. Revenue sharing will kill your rural area. You think the cities are bankrupt now, I would say with revenue sharing on any basis you are going to do worse that that to the rural area, if there is anthing worse than bankruptcy. There is no way that it can be set up to keep the small towns and villages from competing with the cities for the money. With the small amount of experience I have had in pol - itics and by being County Board Chairman, I am in favor of the patronage system. I believe until somebody finds a better way for people to run for office this is the only way the average man can seek elective office, however,there are areas, conservation departments, etc., where you can use your patronage, but Gentlemen do not put this money out to the Governor, the County Board Chairmen or to the Mayors where it can be used in this manner. Lets keep this money the way it is to where we can use the money for the enrollees where we can try to accom- plish the mission that everybody wants accomplished, which is merely to take people off welfare and get them to work, rather than sitting at home. A gauaranteed annual income for example, what good is that going to do a town. You can guarantee a man $1,600 a year, he can sit at home and draw it but to me it is much better to give that man $1.60 per hour and assign him to a tax supported institution within the county to work eight hours a day and most of them would rather do it. We made a survey one time and tested 1500 families in the eight counties and we discovered that 68% of the people had a mediwn to high work aspiration level. I know the stories about them wanting to sit around

home and draw their money but, Gentlemen, we just don't find that true in the rural areas. These people want to work. But how are you going to tack an ammendment on a program that says a man has to work when you have no work to offer him at the present time. We have unemployment rates as high as 7.8% in our counties. Where are you going to put the man to work. Now if I sould put him on our Mainstream and assign him to the city to work on the park or the streets or for the city or county where it will prevent a local tax or help relieve a local tax, then I say you have a winner. It doesn't do any good to give these people maney unless you can help them spend it. Wh have experimented. We are operating homemaking classes of which 60% of the time in class is spent budgeting, and learning to handle money. It doesn't do any good to give somebody with a third grade education money when they have never had any money or never handled money. You have to teach them how to do it. For example, the thing I have always been in favor of but I don't know how you could ever get it passed--in the State of Illinois when they put a family on Public Aid they make out a family budget and give them X number of dollars for food, X number for lights, and X number for utilities and rent. When they get the check they have to pay the rent, they have to pay the light bill and they have to pay the heat bill, the only item in the budget they get money for that they don't have to use for that is food. Consequently a lot of our children are not being fed where the family is actually getting money for it. I have always said this, the amount of money, we will say for example allowed for food in a budget $200, I say a minimum of $150 of that should come to the family in food stamps, credit slips or something to make sure that they buy food with that money. That is where a lot of your welfare money is going. They have the option

of how to spend that money. The biggest item in the budget has no strings attached to it, after they receive their check they can spend it anyway they want to and many of these children are not getting the food they need because this money is going for booze, tobacco, etc. You have to teach people and educate people to handle their money and live their lives, you can't force it down their throats. Our classes have been highly successful in teaching them to buy, to budget, to cook and to sew. It doesn't cost hardly anything to do this. We have it coordinated with our Junior Colleges and it works beautifully. The cities, the towns and villages do not have people to sit down and work these things out. I sincerely and honestly believe that if I had a proper number of job slots on my Mainstream program where I could go to the Mayors and the County Board Chairmen and show them what we could do with it that they would be much more satisfied and they will buy it much more quickly and I believe they will recognize that it will be much more effective than revenue sharing. We do the best we can but with 150 job slots in eight counties you can't push a program, you can't sell a program to much because if you do what you run into is your Mayors, your County Board Chairmen, etc. are calling you in when you have all your job slots filled.

Now you can believe this or not but every day of the week we have out job slots filled, I doubt if there is any State program that can say that. We don't let any of these job slots go vacant, we keep them full and like I said earlier, we have applications stacked up in our office where if a man quits today we replace him today, or if a man gets sick today we replace him today. We keep out program full, we keep it at the maximum. I doubt if any State agency can say that. Again, there is out outreach program of finding the people, having them available and having the people get them on as soon as a vacancy occurs.

Given the full authority to write what I consider to be the program that would be best for my eight counties, Gentlemen, I couldn't do any better job than you have done with Operation Mainstream. The only thing is that you have never been able, and I know you have tried, to get the proper amount of money to where we can get enough job slots to do our job. I guanantee you this, you can come into my agency any time that you want to and I think that if anybody looks at the people we hire and what we are doing, the people will buy it. We are sending them to projects that nobody questions, we are trying to prevent local taxes and we are trying to get people off of Public Aid and off General Assistance and I think that as long as you have your agencies operating this way, this is the best program you can put into a rural area. We don't have any 20 or 30 thousand dollar a year men in our counties administering programs or to get money. If and when this thing comes to the point where the rural area has to compete with the city for money, you are going to see the rural area go down the drain. You can't believe how dependent some of these towns and counties are on us for getting grants, etc. for different types of federal programs not even associated with OEO, such as HUD grants for water systems, etc. They have no one on the payroll to do this and we try to help them with this whenever we can. To me this is the thing that the rural area needs and this is going to be the answer to many of the problems in the rural area. There are certain draw backs to many of our programs. Our food and medical program is a beautiful program. Last

year out of the food stamps that we bought for the first time, over 99% are buying them on their own. How can you expect low income people to buy in food stamps for $40, $60 or $80 in cash, when they con't have any cash. Through this program we have been able to buy their food stamps for the first time and when we do this we set down and explain to them that the reason we are doing this is to give them 30 days to save up the money to buy them on their own the next time and we have been 99% successful and I also am happy to tell you that while we are doing that, approximately 15% of the people for whom we have purchased food stamps we have found better jobs, and upped their income to where they are no longer eligible for food stamps and-- this is a winner. Now there is a draw back in one area whichI hope will be changed in the food and medical program and that is in the area of medical care. The guideline are extremely tight in that we can only furnish medical care where there is malnutrition or people are starving to death. Not too often do you find people starving to death but we do find a lot of malnutrition that we spend money on which we are afraid was out of these guidelines. One area of need is prenatal care. We need to purchase proper food for expectant mothers rather than do nothing. The reason I say this, I don't want to just talk about out programs as they are operating, I want to make some helpful suggestions and this is one that I would like to give and another one is that our manpower OEO programs is only funded for one year at a time. Number one, it is awfully hard to get good staff people when the program only has a year's longevity. Then if we have operated six months into the year and lose someone, it is extremely difficult to operate 60 or 90 days before you know if you will be refunded. For example, our Mainstream program is only funded for a year at a time which makes it extremely difficult to find people who will accept jobs for this short perios of time. When we get down to the point that we only have six months, 90 days or even 60 days left on a program you can readilly see that it is difficult to talk people into leaving Public Aid or Township Assistance when they know that their job is only goind to last for this short period of time. If programs could be funded for an indefinite ~~pxix~~ period

of time I feel they would be more effective.

The Community Action Agency Directors are in the same situation. This makes it extremely difficult to get any professionalism in the agencies. It is difficult to get qualified people in jobs that may expire in one year or less. If something could be done in this are to make these positions more permanent or with more security, better people could be acquired.

Again I want to thank you for the opportunity of appearing before this Committee. I realize that there are many obstacles to overcome in this field. I still feel that the programs have been successful and that they are basically good. I think it is a shame that so much attention has been given to the pad programs and that as a result of this all the programs have to suffer.

April 27, 1971

Raymond McNear, age 35, had a drinking problem that basically led to him being sentenced to the State Penitentiary at Menard, Illinois. In April of 1969, he was being considered for parole provided employment could be arranged. Parole Officer, Walter Elliston, McLeansboro, Illinois, explained this. Mr. McNear was enrolled in the Operation Mainstream worktraining project, assigned to the town of Norris City and after a period of six months was hired (Dec. 1, 1969) as a regular city employee. To-date he is still working.

Wm. E. Drew, age 63, due to age and poor education, had been only part-time employed for several years, just doing odd-jobs for any kind of pay he could get. He was enrolled by Operation Mainstream and assigned to Hamilton Memorial Hospital, McLeansboro, Illinois. Mr. Drew worked about seven months and has been full time employed by the User-member since June 29, 1970.

Charles E. Cullivan, age 26, was another parolee, convicted and sentenced for petty larceny. He was referred by Parole Officer, Walter Elliston, hired by Operation Mainstream and assigned to the City of Mt. Carmel, Illinois. He was full-time employed by this User-member April 5, 1971.

Roy E. Bratton, age 33, with an 8th grade education, is mentally slow and was very shy at the start of his training. He began working at the Beall Woods Park and slowly progressed until, at times, he was left in complete charge of the entrance and regristration of all guests. On September 18, 1970, he was hired as a full time employee of the State of Illinois at the Beall Woods Park.

Donald V. Henson, age 44, is a small man with a severe physical handicap and only an 8th grade education. He was out of the labor market and receiving welfare for his family, (wife and three children). He was enrolled on Operation Mainstream and assigned to the City of Fairfield, Illinois. After nine months, he was employed May 4, 1970 full time by the above User-member.

John W. Fitzgerald Jr., age 37, with an 8th grade education was part time employed. He received about four months work-training on Operation Mainstream and was employed by one of the largest farmer in White County, Illinois, Robert J. Williams. Mr. Fitzgerald started to work for Mr. Williams on February 12, 1968, and is still on the job.

Ruth Gawthorp, age 42, was training in the office of the Albion Grade School in typing and general secretarial work. As a result, she overcome a drinking problem. She also gained the self confidence necessary to apply for, and the ability to hold a better job for The Johnnye Company where she has worked since February 25, 1970.

PERMANENT JOB PLACEMENTS

2-11-71 Marvin Byrley, 19 years old. This boy attended school for eight years but is unable to read or write. He can sign his name but cannot complete a job application. He was placed on a job at Hutsonville Pallet Factory on an OJT contract. This contract was for a six week period. The owner of the factory is very pleased with Marvin's work and he is now a permanent employee of the factory. During the first two weeks of Marvin's employment he had no transportation and Mr. Hughes took him back and forth to work until such time as Marvin could obtain a car. Marvin is married and they have one child.

2-22-71 Ron Remlinger, 19 years old. This boy was referred to our agency by the States Attorney. He had been in trouble with the local law enforcement and had received a conditional discharge from the Army, whereby the discharge would become honorable if he stays out of trouble for six months. He was placed on a job with Duncan Oil Company on an OJT contract. He is still working and doing well.

2-22-71 Larry Moore, 19 years old. This boy returned from prison last fall. We have placed him on several jobs. First he went to work for Bailey Bros. Saw Mill, then at Duncan Oil Company, and then at the Hutsonville Pallet Factory. We have spent many hours counselling this boy and trying to get him to stay on a job but have been unsuccessful. He hasn't actually been fired but gets mad and quits. At the present time he is working on his father's farm as his parole officer said he must work or go back to prison.

3-5-71 Jack Byrley, 17 years old. This is Marvin Byrley's brother. He too is unable to read or write. The owner of the Hutsonville Pallet

Factory was so pleased with Marvin's work he agreed to also put Jack to work. Both boys are doing very well. Jack is married and they are expecting a child soon.

3-8-71 Douglas Bailey, 19 years old. This boy is a highschool graduate. He was forced to get married and now has a child. Before coming to us Doug had tried everyway possible to obtain employment with no success. Mr. Hughes obtained employment for him at Bradford Supply Company with a starting pay of $85.50 per week. The Company is very pleased with this boy's work. He is a truck driver and a chemical trainee. One of the company's vice presidents gave Doug a 1967 Mercury and told him he didn't have to start paying for it until he got on his feet.

Case history on the Carlos Burrow family

My first interest in this family came when Mrs. Taylor, juvenile probation officer, asked me to contact them. I ran a survey on them August 18,1967. There are nine children in the family. The oldest is in prison; another in reform school. One just kind of bums around, staying mostly in Danville. The The oldest child at home, Dennis, is seventeen years old. The fourteen year old, Joe, is in the Baptist home in Centralia. The next three, a girl and a set of twins, are in grade school. The youngest, a three year old boy, is at home.

Mrs. Burrows does not work outside the home. Mr. Burrow is a steady worker. Mrs. Taylor asked me to see this family because the seventeen year old is on probation; not in school nor working. I made several calls on the family and talked Dennis into going back to high school. He's staying with it and doing well. He received his first report card last week. The grades were B+, C, C, and D. Mrs. Kitty Craighead, case-worker with Child and Family Services, has started working with the family so I'm done.

Accomplishment: Dennis Burrow, age 17, returned to high school, Grade, freshman

Judy D. Ervin, Field Worker, Douglas County 11/30/67

Judy D. Ervin

VLA

Report on the Family of Lyle Hayes, Written by Jane McKee, O.E.O. Field Worker for the County of Crawford

TOTAL NUMBER IN FAMILY: Husband and wife and five children.
Lyle; Age 49
Christine; Age 47
Donald; Age 17
Darlene; Age 14
Mike Age 11
Rickey; Age 6
Deanie; Age 12

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS: R.R. 2 Palestine Illinois. Living in a house that is not even fit for a dog. The plaster is falling in several of the rooms and the Bathroom is not in good repair. This house has five rooms and a bath. It is in very bad need of repair.

HEALTH: This family has a lot of health problems. The father is a Veteran with forty percent disability. He is a positive reactor to T.B.,he has cronic Broncial trouble, and a lung desease, that is verydangerious.

The mother is in bad health because she has black out spells,and the other day she was driving down the High way and had a spell and the car went off the road,luckily and stopped in a bean field. She has never been examined to find out what causes these spells.

Donald and Darlene the teen agers seem to be in pretty good health. The twelve year old is in the School for Mentally Retarded Children in Centralia, Ill.. The family has to buy all his clothing. Mike the eleven year old has some problems that we are real concerned about. He is about four feet tall and weighs 225 pounds, his pulse rate is 110 per minute and his blood presure is 114 over 84, which is rather high for a child this age. The little boy Ricky has a speech problem and his Kindergarden teacher said that he needs to do more for himself and not have everybody jumping to do everything for him.

REPORT ON LYLE HAYES FAMILY CONT'D

FAMILY RESOURSES: When I first meant this family they were on disability Social Security, Veterans Pension Public Aide for Medical and a small grant.

Since this time they have been taken off of Social Security and also off of Public Aide. They reaplied for a Medical card from Public Aide in the month of March of this year. They were turned down because at that the father was working at the refinery as a night watchman. He is now trying to work at the Stave Mill two or three days a week.

WAYS THIS FAMILY HAS BEEN HELPED BY OUR AGENCY AND THE RESULTS:

ONE: Head start;

A. Contacted them about Head Start, Filled out pre-registration forms.

B. Child attended Head Start in Summer of 1968.

C. Mother served on the Parent Advisory committee this same year.

D. Mother attended training sessions for teachers Aide for Head Start, and served as a paid aid in the program of 1968.

Head Start was recommended for the year of 1969 by the teacher of Ricky in Kindergarden. This was related to his mother and she said that she would think about it and call me if she decided to send him. She never called, so he did not attend this year.

TWO: Nieghborhood Youth Corp;

A. Contacted donald about working on the N.Y.C. program.

B. Took him to Effingham to be screened for the program.

C. The boy is working on the program and has been for a year.

REPORT ON LYLE HAYES FAMILY CONT'D

THREE: Reffered to D.V.R.

A. Reffered oldest daughter to Department of vocational Rehabilitation for problem of obesity.

B. Took her to Olney to have examination at Weber Clinic.

C. She recieved an appointment with Dr. Thornton in Olney to receivea psycological, but did not keep the appointment. D.V.R. contacted me to find out why.

D. Called on her and after several hours of hard talking convinced her that they were not trying to prove that she was crazy but was trying to find out through these tests what she could be trained to do most successfully.

E. Secured another appointment for her which she did not keep because she spraned her ankle the day before the appointment. D.V.R. then canceled her case because of lack of co-operation.

F. Last week I reffered the mother and she is waiting for papers to see a Doctor about the black out spells.

FOUR: Miscelanious Help;

A. Helped her obtain clothing for the boy in the school for mentally retarded children.

B. Reffered Mike to Elks Lodge No. 1188 to have his tonsils removed. Got no Results.

C. Gave Mrs. Hayes name to Mr. Machtley of Crawford County Opportunities for a job. Wrote her letters telling her of jobs available. No results.

Got Dianne a job with elderly lady comming home from hospital she did not take it.

D. Gathered food for the family when thier V.A. pension was taken away. Food amounting to about $75.00.

Talked to township supervisor about them and explained about the pensions being taken away. He Promised not to let them go hungry.

E. Wrote to and talked to the man from V.A. Mr.Vaught about this family.

REPORT ON LYLE HAYES FAMILY CONT'D

FOUR: CONT'D.

The V.A. Pension was restored and the Doctor attending for the V.A. offered in writting to testify at a hearing contesting the decision of the Social Security Board, but not having the money to live on they did not have the money to contest this decision.

F. Took eleven year old Mike to Flora Illinois for a clinic on speech and hearing. Here he was examined by a Baby Specialist. Findings were; Age 11 years, Weight 225, Pulse 110, Blood Presure was 114 over 84. The Doctor recommended that he have
1. A thyroid evaluation.
2. Extensive urine and blood work.
3. A very strict diet eliminating all milk and milk products, all wheat and wheat products, and all corn and corn products, Not even anything that might be sweetened with corn syrup.

FIVE: Request from this Field Worker;

A. Money to have this work done for Mike and possible to have him sent to a hospital where they will take off the excess weight he has to carry around. I feel that this is the only way to help this child.

OPERATION MAINSTREAM

Previous 9 month peroid:

Referred to DVR for medical services	*28*
Placed in permanent employment	*27*
Referred to more advance MDTA training	*1*
Placed in permanent employment	*12.73%*
Total Enrollees	*150*

September 1, 1969 to August 31, 1970

TOTAL FAMILIES CONTACTED	*11,342*
SERVICES PROVIDED FOR 7324 FAMILIES	
MANPOWER	*844*
EDUCATION	*966*
HOUSING	*33*
HEALTH	*1247*
COMMUNITY SERVICES (Clothing, Food, Errands, & Donations)	*2143*
EMPLOYMENT	*517*
OTHER Transportation, etc.	*1574*
	7324

Present Unemployment Rates

Source: Illinois State Employment Service

Lawrence County	*6.4%*
Richland County	*6.6%*
Jasper County	*7.6%*
Crawford County	*6.5%*
Coles County	*(7.8%*
Cumberland County (Combined)	*(7.8%*
Clark County	*4.8%*
Edgar County	*5.8%*
Douglas County (Mostly self employed)	*2.7%*

Senator NELSON. Mr. Rankin? We have 15 minutes left, so I hope that everybody who wants to can speak.

Mr. RANKIN. Senator Nelson, and gentlemen, I have no prepared statement and my remarks will be very brief. I should like to correct one thing on the record. I am not, and I never have been a member of a CAP Board. I am a merchant and a banker from rural county in Mississippi.

It is most gratifying sir, to have the opportunity to appear before you today. I should like to state very briefly, because we are running short of time and other people have statements, that the program in the three counties that are administered from my home town, in my opinion, has been most successful.

If I could sum up what community action has done for the poor people in our area, I would say it has given them pride in personal achievement.

These people have been lead by competent administrators of the projects to learn to do for themselves things that perhaps they never would have learned to do before.

Economically speaking, the better educated all of our citizens are the better off we all shall be, and as Mr. King said I will be happy to answer any questions, but certainly I am in favor of the continuance of the program in my county and the two counties adjoining it.

It has been very valuable and very worthwhile.

Thank you, sir.

Senator NELSON. Thank you.

Mr. Hairston?

Mr. HAIRSTON. Senator Nelson, I am delighted to have the opportunity to appear here this morning. I certainly appreciate the invitation. I would like to request that the prepared statement that I have sent be entered into the record.

However, I would like to speak quickly just to two or three items.

Senator NELSON. Your statement will be printed in full in the record.

Mr. HAIRSTON. Thank you, sir. I am John L. Hairston, from Pine Hall, N.C.

I represent the Yadkin Valley Economic Development District, which is a community action agency, founded in early 1966 by the citizens of Davie, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin Counties. We represent some 119,000 people.

Approximately 40,000 of those persons are poor, as defined by OEO income guidelines. We are, of course, a rural area. The OEO in our area I think has performed marvelous things. Many things have been accomplished as a result of community action that I did not expect to see occur in the North Carolina area during my lifetime.

Local acceptance of a CAA is improving, but the even present strategically located critics constantly harm our image.

Our agency has asserted many times, as has our President and Congress recently that to save urban America, stronger and more coordinated efforts are needed in rural America to keep our rural citizens from fleeing to the inner cities, uneducated and unprepared for any job opportunities that might exist in the cities.

Through the philosophy of self-help and community development,

community action concepts can be expanded to initiate programs that can limit basic poverty in your area. With the huge percent of poverty, the limited tax bases, the scarcity of industry, the lack of expertise locally, resistance to change,—for instance in my own county of Stokes, we do not even have a county manager.

The county commissioners meet once per month to take care of the county government. As we all know, many of the basic causes of poverty in the rural areas are difficult to work with. One reason is lack of orientation to provide services.

Isolation is another reason. Transportation, the lack of organized systems of transportation, lack of outreach services and all too often beneficial programs are established and oriented toward the poor, but no outreach staff can carry them through.

In summary we would like to say that we feel that OEO should be continued, that as I see it, and many, many citizens in the four county area, we feel that it is going to be a travesty unless it is continued.

One other thing, we feel that OEO through community action still needs to do a great deal in trying to eradicate not only poverty but discrimination as well.

Many whites as well as blacks in our area have been intimidated because of the fact th at they were advocates of the poor. Thank you, sir.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much, sir.

Mr. HAIRSTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(The prepared statement of Mr. Hairston follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF JOHN L. HAIRSTON, CHAIRMAN, STOKES COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD OF YADKIN VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC., PINE HALL, N.C.

Honorable Senator Nelson and fellow citizens:

I. YADKIN VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC. EFFORTS

The Yadkin Valley Community Action Agency was founded in early 1966 by the citizens of Davie, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin Counties. Although the 1970 Census Data is not yet completely available, out of a population of about 119,000 citizens it is estimated that one-third or 40,000 persons, or citizens are Poor as defined by OEO Income Guidelines.

At least some fifty million dollars ($50,000,000) of Federal Funds came into our four county area, yet our CAA has a difficult time coordinating these funds to reach the Poor, taking into consideration the ruralness of the area, the amount of funds allocated and available to the CAA, and the attitudes of those agencies that actually have the local share of the National Pool of some thirty-three billion dollars supposedly allocated for the Poor.

Each year, this CAA's Board, after much time has been spent in reviewing present efforts, plans how to utilize a lesser amount of OEO Local Initiative Funds to "Fight the War on Poverty" that is impossible considering the factors referred to above. In FY 1970, this CAA was allotted ca. $285,000 Initiative Funds and $40,000 was allotted and earmarked for a Youth Program. From DOL this CAA has been receiving 75 In-School slots and 275 Summer slots. Through our efforts a Summer Head Start was conducted and special funding was received to initiate a Full Year Head Start Program.

In FY 1971, after being transferred to Region IV, our Local Initiative Funds were cut to $262,000 and the Youth Program to $30,000. Through extra special efforts, we were able to receive $29,000 from the Mobilization of Resources Grants for a community cannery that is nearing completion now. Without Emergency Food and Medical Services Program being delegated to the State OEO, YVEDDI was able to negotiate a 21 month contract for ca. $44,000. These last two programs were funded without any monies allotted for staff.

YVEDDI has been proud of its efforts in Head Start. For the past two years, a eight month program has been operated for 400 enrollees each year for less than $207,000 each year by utilizing a Career Development Program for Head Start mothers as teachers and aides. This CAA feels that these efforts have set a model for other North Carolina CAPs.

In the mission of coordinating our resources and operating limited "Services" this CAA has attempted to utilize available funds as efficiently as possible. Whenever possible the Poor are employed and benefits directed to Target Community Councils through our Incentive Grant Component.

At the heart of our program has been the Community Organization Account that enables us to assist some 30 viable Community Councils, operate County Service Centers, and provide staff that coordinate the services of other agencies to benefit the Poor.

Through the Youth Program, some 25 Youth Councils are assisted and the theme this year have been Economic Development, Education, and Recreation.

Through the District Office and County Service Centers all CAA activities are administered, and thus more efficiently operated.

With the new mission statement and new directives, services, so vitally needed, are being reduced and the CAA is attempting to become more catalytic, provide means for the Poor to participate in various advisory and coordinating groups, and provide more professional assistance in research and development that hopefully will assist the Poor.

Local acceptance of the CAA is improving, but the ever present strategically located critics constantly harm our image. It is only because of the dedication of the most of our Boards and staff that YVEDDI continues to be an "advocate" and able to mobilize resources to meet a small part of our needs. As we plan for the next Fiscal Year, we must now again reduce our focus, as our OEO funding is down to $268,000 from last year's $292,000. Yet, our new mission implies greater efforts toward professionalism and expanded efforts.

Nevertheless, as our budget is cut and staff reduced, those left are committed to the OEO mission and continue to work 16 hour days to implement programs and initiate plans for others.

Within the last year, YVEDDI, through the prompt information fed by OEO, has assisted our area to seek additional programs, such as (1) a community project under the Emergency School Assistance Act to assist Local Good Neighbor Councils, (2) a Pilot Public Service Career Program through OEO Regional Incentive Grants, (3) a youth prospectus, to ARC to implement a sustaining youth program in school and community facilities at night, weekend and summers, (4) a cooperative proposal for Community Drug Education and Prevention, (5) a proposal to assist Vietnam Veterans in finding jobs and utilizing the GI Bill, and shortly (6) proposals will be in to secure a Youth Conservation Corps, (7) Environmental Education Act Program, and (8) foundation funds to implement a Pilot Youth Conservation Corps in cooperation with the local Colleges' Consortium and available camp site and two state parks.

These recent efforts do lead to cooperative planning and coordination; yet YVEDDI OEO funding is being cut and staff are exhausted. If any of these are funded, the job for our CAA staff is not lessened, as even more effort from everyone will be needed to insure success. It is odd that now CAA's are maturing, needed funds are lessened; thus, greater frustration is created.

II. RURAL POVERTY

YVEDDI has asserted many times, as has our President and Congressmen recently, that to save Urban America, stronger and more coordinated efforts are needed in Rural America to keep our poor Rural Citizens from fleeing to the inner cities.

Through the philosophy of self-help and Community Development the Community Action Concept can be expanded to initiate programs that can eliminate basic poverty causes in our area.

With the huge percent of poverty, the limited tax bases, the scarcity of industry, the lack of expertise locally, resistance to change and inexperience, our rural area is lacking in many programs that would and could focus upon meeting needs.

As you know, many basic poverty problems are more difficult to work with in rural areas. A few of these are:

1. Lack of orientation to provide services.

2. Isolation—Our poor Senior Citizens, especially, live alone and apart from even local activities that could make their lives more worthwhile. Although REA telephones are now available, many cannot afford this necessity.

3. Transportation—The lack of organized systems unfortunately greatly lessens opportunities for work, community activities, and cultural enrichment.

4. Lack of Outreach Services—All to often, beneficial programs are established and oriented toward the poor, *but* no outreach staff are provided or those that are not oriented to poverty. As a result, all too often, this CAA must do the necessary outreach on a "War on Poverty."

5. Scarcity of local industries—Although more branches of companies are moving in, jobs are scarce and wages low. If a low income person or group seeks to develop a local business, attempts to secure assistance have so much red tape and frustration that most give up unless the CAA or another agency closely counsels and encourages.

6. Lack of middle class being in the "mainstream of life"—This CAA in its relations with so-called middle class groups and individuals has learned that not even these people have the necessary means to meet their much needed projects and goals. Thus, the CAA's programs, if adequately funded, could assist greatly "the Forgotten American" to become "the Mainstream of Life."

7. Lack of viable Coordinated Planning and Operation—Most agencies and many private groups are represented on our Boards and Committees. Viable attempts are exerted to coordinate planning and services through CAA meetings and participation in other coordinating and advisory groups. Yet, all too often, what can YVEDDI do for a particular agency or group, doubts on OEO-CAP existence, dislike of OEO, and failure to actually spend enough time and effort on specific problems and needed research and delivery cause such coordination and planning to be ineffective or *nil.*

As you can ascertain, the major goals of this CAA would be to provide needed catalytic roles and funds, provide outreach services, and broaden its base into a more comprehencive Community Development Agency. Realistically, how can YVEDDI reach these goals for four counties in one year funding of $268,000 and continued doubts about the existance of OEO–CAP?

III. EXTENSION OF EOA

YVEDDI certainly favors the extension of EOA, not for two years, but at least for *five* years, so that adequate planning and implementation can be exercised. If a Manpower bill allowing local administration, and priority for CAA's is passed then we would favor the removal of Title I.

Of special concern is the need for retaining at least one-third Poor Control, as this tends to keep a proper focus, administration and opportunities. Perhaps, also, except for actual elected Public Officials, the CAP Policy Board should not contain more than one representative from any one State wide agency, so as to lessen activities that can harm CAA's.

If possible, CAA's need to be allowed to develop two year plans and fundings, with at least two months of effort focussed upon the CAP 81 process each twelve months, needed services are hampered. Likewise, a better Management Information System is needed as the present one is unrealistic, too time consuming to compile, and seldom utilized except by the CAA.

If CAA's are expected to be more catalytic and yet provide some outreach services, more funds are necessary for planning. Likewise, some definite and precise mandate is needed to assure other agencies will cooperate with an in viable coordinating and planning. As related earlier, with the lack of local expertise or available time and staff from other agencies, YVEDDI, if funded adequately could provide the much needed catalyism research, development, and guidance needed by our local residents, groups, towns, and counties in implementing much needed services, such as mental health, water systems, public housing, child development, etc. As involvement in these broader activities occur, greater opportunities would be available to realistically foster a better orientation to poverty problems and ideas of self-help.

Some broader and mandated planning, cooperation and grouping is needed on at least the County level.

CAA's and other agencies still need to deal outright, with racial discrimination, especially by evidencing employment in such agencies. With the EOA as is, discrimination seems apparent against the representatives of the poor and private groups, as their terms on the Policy CAA Board is limited.

A review is needed to determine if it is best for Regional Directors to retain Local Initiative Funds to go into a pool for Regional Incentive Grants, as extra efforts and time, needed for on-going activities, must be expended to develop such proposals and prospects for funding are limited.

In North Carolina, the SEOO has received a grant for a "demonstration" project that allows the State Office to have a larger role in CAA activities. Such can be good if adequate staff actual technical assistance is available. However, such can be bad if administrative control is attempted, politics are involved, and personality clashes develop. Careful reviews are needed before these "demos" are continued or expanded as such allows for greater avenues for manipulation can harm.

Although few loans have been negotiated by this CAA, we feel that funds should continue for the Rural Economic Loan Program, as we anticipate and hope to assist more clients. We do ask that more definite roles in the loan process be identified for CAA's.

Until "Reorganization" clarity is given, I would oppose the transfer of CAP to any other agency. With the competition OEO has given on all levels, it is doubted that CAP would be well received and better administered by another Cabinet Department. Rumors about comments from one Department certainly indicates CAP's death would be soon, as we understand it now.

IV. MANPOWER LEGISLATION (SEE ATTACHED DATA)

Presently this CAA operates a DOL–NYC Program—74 slots In-School and 275 Summer. These programs are well received by participating agencies, groups, and especially by the poor students, since they are able to remain in school with the funds earned. Out of Local Initiative Funds, we operate a PA #11 program of job development, placement, and follow-up. This program is operated mainly because of the lack of outreach of the Employment Security Commission and the need for staff to volunteer time to coordinate and make referrals to Job Corps, MDTA classes, Vocational Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, College Work Study, Prison Work Release, etc. As I just stated these coordinating services are free to the funded agency by the PA #11 staff.

YVEDDI is pleased that the local area CAMPS has just been reorganized and has a staff person. Hopefully, viable planning and coordination will result soon.

Through the Regional Incentive Grants Program, YVEDDI has proposed to initiate a Pilot Public Services Career Program. We have realized that at this time of a slow economy, PCS is a major means of employment for the Chronic and Hard Core Poor. Also, there are so many local needs in public and human services. If this proposal if funded, we propose to give priority to Law Enforcement Agencies and Vietnam Veterans.

Being a rural area, we do not receive the benefits of a CEP, model cities, and other resources are scarcely allocated to our area. Therefore, based upon our reviews and discussions thus far, we favor Manpower Legislation similar to the Nelson Bill vetoed by the President that would allow our local counties to join together to operate a program based upon needs and Nationally identified categorial programs. We do not endorse State operating as that would only entail more red tape and "removed" administration.

V. REVENUE SHARING

Revenue Sharing, as we all know, has many positive sides, as local governments are in such dire economic straits. Yet there are deep concerns about "no strings" attached funds, especially as CAA would be in "General" kind.

Although our local county governments assist us as much as they think possible, there are so many services needed in our rural area that "an experimental and controversial" agency would not be on the high priority list. As we all know, CAP is the "cutting edge" of social change; thus, local government officials need to be somewhat "removed" from final obligation of funds.

If CAP was put into Special Revenue Sharing with "strings" of allotment attached for CAA's, then perhaps better local involvements and commitment could be developed.

As related previously, we do endorse Manpower Legislation that will enable our four rural counties to join together to sponsor a locally administered program.

Revenue Sharing funds are needed by local governments to assist in planning, initiating, and sustaining programs for at least five years.

Also, we feel that a Federally controlled and administered welfare system would be best and release local and State funds for other much needed programs.

VI. SUMMARY

We feel that Revenue Sharing is needed by continuing and expanding OEO Local Initiative Funds, a comprehensive Manpower Act for local administration, nationalization of the welfare system, and funds to local governments for planning initiating, and sustaining programs for five years.

MANPOWER DATA: CAMPS, NORTH CAROLINA AREA G, APR. 20, 1971

	Davie	Stokes	Surry	Yadkin	Total
Total population	18,855	23,782	51,415	24,599	118,651
Total minority	2,253	2,202	2,787	1,268	8,510
1969 employment	6,310	2,450	28,866	5,950	43,576
1969 unemployment	330	330	1,400	310	2,370
1969 ratio	5.2	5.1	4.9	5.2	5.1
Fiscal year 1972 projected need for manpower services	2,484	3,205	8,865	2,595	17,149
Poor	988	1,106	2,287	1,123	5,504
Near poverty, underemployed or unemployed	851	956	1,959	1,008	4,774
School dropout forecast	107	182	371	134	794
Veterans needing services	126	200	319	153	798
April 1971:					
Unempoyed	1,137	1,114	4,897	1,081	8,230
Underutilized	1,076	1,178	2,384	1,161	5,799
Employed part time	111	70	465	72	718
Employed, full time but near poverty	756	883	1,583	943	4,165
To be released in labor force	209	225	336	146	916
Employed but low skill and low pay	217	883	1,583	353	3,036

Senator NELSON. Mr. Cannon.

Mr. CANNON. Thank you, Senator Nelson. It is a privilege to be here this morning and testify in behalf of the rural problems that affect the Indians in this particular case, I need to qualify my position, and first, I am Bob Cannon, I am director of community action, and I have been with the agency for 2 years. I have worked with the bureau, and the public and my observations are the results of my visiting with not only the tribal leaders, but many of the different tribal people themselves, and also with staff on the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

All of my input will be made up of a series of generalizations because I have no official capacity to speak for a particular tribe, or group.

As a director of a community action agency, I must be concerned with all people of all races, but I was requested to give some input on some of the Indian problems as I have observed these problems.

No. 1, Oklahoma has the largest number of Indians of the 50 States. We have around 93,000 made up of about 30 different tribes. This creates a unique situation in that many of the OEO programs are not necessarily going to benefit the Indians in Oklahoma because of the fact that they are not reservation Indians.

They are nonreservation Indians. As a result, they are technically disqualified before they can even partake in any programs that may be made available and in spite of the fact many of the OEO programs for Indians have been doubled, Indian programs on leadership development. I think something needs to be done. There needs to be some changes made so that the money will go where the Indians are, rather than the Indians having to go back to the reservations.

I know that OEO is doing a tremendous job for the Indians and I

am concerned about the Congress taking positive action to extend the act. I hope that they do see fit to do so. I feel that the two areas that I need to speak to are the very agencies that were set up to help the Indians, and I am restricting my remarks to Oklahoma.

No. 1, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Oklahoma Commission of Indian Affairs. Unfortunately I had the opportunity to sit in on part of the committee hearings yesterday in which case the Commissioner of Indian Affairs was present and was requested to give input, and this told me a great deal as to why we do have problems.

Is is unfortunate, but you have got to have commitment at every level, including the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, if you are going to ever bring about the meaningful change that has been one of the really big problems that we have had throughout the history of this country.

The next would be the Commissioner of Indian Affairs position for the State of Oklahoma, which has gone without leadership now—they have not filled the post for the last 7 months.

I think that possibly the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the State of Oklahoma could probably do more in the area of bringing about a coordinated approach to solving the Indian problems than possibly the BIA, because of the bureaucratic nature and the 200 or 300 years of operation.

Certainly I have some observations that might go down as alternatives or options, you may have to streamline the BIA to where it would be functional and the accountability should be written into the program, because the delegation of authority has been confused with delegation of responsibility, and this should not have happened, but it has happened and as it appears now it will continue to happen.

I am not as knowledgeable about the BIA as I should be, but I really have not had that much occasion to research it. I am familiar with OEO programs, and I know that a BIA structured along the lines of the OEO where Indians would be given the privilege of direct and meaningful input into the planning and implementation of the programs that affect their lives. I think this would be one solution, or one beginning.

It does not necessarily mean that it would succeed.

But I can speak to the successful operation of our agency and despite the fact that you work with a low-income poor, middle-income groups to the highest of our political officials, and all the agencies in between, that you can coordinate with these people, and work with all ethnic groups, when you work with those groups and still make a program succeed, then I see no reason you can't take a program funded to the amount that the BIA has been funded these hundreds of years and come up with something more meaningful for the Indian people.

There needs to be definitely a coordination effort made at the congressional level to bring about this accountability. If you have to write it into the program—I don't know how you are going to reorganize it. It should be left up to the discretion of the commissioner whenever he is appointed to insist that certain administrative and managerial procedures be allowed to take place once he assumes the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The leadership has to rest someplace and in this case it has to rest with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. If he is an advocate of the people, then whether you are talking about coordination of programs relating to HUD, OEO, manpower, you name it, this person will be there as a catalyst and advocate for the Indians.

Mr. Chairman that completes my testimony, and thanks again for allowing me to be here.

Senator NELSON. Thank you.

(Additional information received from Mr. Cannon follows:)

COMANCHE COUNTY IMPROVEMENT FOUNDATION, INCORPORATED

Community Action Agency
of the
Office of Economic Opportunity

410 Koehler Building
Phone 353-2364

Fourth & C Street
Lawton, Oklahoma 73501

May 10, 1971

Mr. Stewart E. McClure, Staff Director
United States Senate Committee On
Labor & Public Welfare
Washington, D.C. 20510

From: Bob Cannon, Executive Director

The extenuation of the EOA is imperative and must be given positive approval by Congress. We must give as much emphasis to the rural problems as is being given to the urban cities. We must recognize that the urban crisis is the results of a poor rural program. The numbers may not be as great, but the problems of the rural poor are just as real.

The out migration of rural people must stop, if we are to solve some of the social ills in our country. The OEA programs discriminates against the poor, when it sets up two sets of guidelines for qualification as a means for participating in OEO programs. The amount varies with size of family from 300 for a family of 1 to 900 for a family of 7. The facts are--that more programs are available to urban population than for rural population. We have not had enough time or funding to come up with far-reaching and meaningful rural programs.

The State Office of Economic Opportunity recognizes the problems and is committed to coming up with greater emphasis in planning rural programs.

Sincerely,

Bob Cannon

Bob Cannon
Executive Director

BC/ms

Encl:

Southwestern Community Action Program Problems

I have listed some of the problems which our agency has documented as problems in our rural areas and I have futher requested input from staff , Southwestern CAP, Directors Association, SEOO and the participants, plus my experience with rural problems. Those problems are as follows:

1. Unemployment
2. Underemployment
3. Transportation
4. Industry
5. Education
6. Vocational Training
7. Housing
8. Aged and isolation
9. Hospitals
10. Legal Services
11. Lack of Federal Programs
12. Manpower training
13. Social Services difficult to attain
14. Without Leadership
15. Clinic facilities
16. Doctors
17. Weather
18. Day Care
19. Credit

Some of the rural emphasis programs now being operated in Oklahoma are as follows and projected funding for PY 71-72 amounts to 254,490.00.

Feeder Pig Program
Hot House Tomatoes
Community Gardens
Rabbit Programs
Processing Plant Study
Water Melon Programs
Agricultutal Development Pilot Project
Buying Clubs
Neighborhood Service Centers
Youth Development Programs

Senator NELSON. Our next witness is Mr. Tucker, of Blanchard, La.

Mr. TUCKER. Mr. Chairman, my name is Deartie Tucker and I come from the Blanchard area.

First of all I would like to make it clear that I am not an employee of CAP, I am not an employee of any government organization. I am a concerned citizen. I have worked with the community action program on a volunteer basis for approximately 5 years. Now we come from an area about 8 miles northwest of Shreveport, which has a population of about 180,000 people.

We have approximately 5,000 people in my immediate area which I represent. I represent all of the rural area, but my immediate area is poor, and approximately 75 percent of those people are in poverty.

I will be very brief. What I would really like to say is what this community action program has meant to the people, the poor people, such as what we are doing today. This is the first time to my knowledge where any poor person has been asked to pass his view on what he thinks the Government should do for him.

Ladies and gentlemen, too long we have listened to what the politicians and mayor and people in high places say what the poor people want. I am here to recommend the poor people, and by the way, I am poor.

I have a statement here, some accomplishments we have made to be checked out and everybody, and it is all true. My profile in the neighborhood center represents me as in poverty.

I think the biggest question here now is, should we extend the life of OEO or go into revenue sharing.

Ladies and gentlemen, I cannot think of a better way. I am half a hundred years old, and I was born in and I have lived in the rural area except for 8 years in the service.

During the 42 years I have lived in the rural areas, we have always had revenue, but the poor people have done very little sharing, and we will be back where we come from if OEO is not continued.

I think the intent of OEO at the beginning of the program was to gain the confidence of the people and mobilize the people, and move forward in economic development. We have accomplished the first two goals, and we are approaching the third goal. We have mobilized and we have gained confidence, and now we are moving into economic development.

Let me also say that poor people are very suspicious people. With this no revenue sharing with the poor people, this means that all of the confidence that I have worked for—I work on the average of 20 or 25 hours a week as a volunteer for this program—all of the confidence, all of the effort that I have put forth during these 6 years will be lost.

One more point, I know these people to say something, too. I would like to bring this out, and that is that you have many problems in the cities, and if you would only stop to think that most of your problems, 99 percent of your problems began in the rural areas. The rural problems are the most forgotten problems you have in the United States.

The model cities, if you have a model rural community, it is not in my knowledge. I would like for someone to inform me of a model rural community. This is what I would like to see, a model rural com-

munity. I have some accomplishments here that could be checked out by anybody—you can check it out with Mr. Hoover, if you want to——. [Laughter.]

Mr. TUCKER. And he is efficient.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the subcommittee.

(The prepared statement of Mr. Tucker follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DEARTIE TUCKER, BLANCHARD, LOUISIANA

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to speak before this sub-committee.

I come from northwest Louisiana, a rural community known as the Blanchard area, which represents about 5,000 people in population of which approximately 75% are in poverty. We are located about 8 miles from Shreveport, La., a city of over 180,000 in population.

The Community Action Agency means a lot to the rural communities of Caddo and Bossier Parishes.

The reason I say this is because they have provided us with a voice—and identity which we could shape our own destiny.

When the community action agency organized our rural policy Advisory Councils and gave us technical assistance, then our community was able to move forward in self-help programs which provided economic income, they helped us coordinate various agencies so as to get additional services, and mobilized volunteers in areas of community projects.

GARDENING

Through the CAA we organized non-profit organizations which in turn acquired farm lands, borrowed some farm machinery, and with their own hard labor developed a pilot-project in gardening.

From $20.00 worth of seed and a couple of acres of land, we produced a variety of vegetables and made over $400.00 profit.

This year we are harvesting over 100 acres of vegetable crops and selling them to local chain stores and truckers.

FEEDER PIG

THROUGH SEED MONEY and technical assistances, our youth group acquired 3 sows and one boar. This pilot hog project has now grown to over 200 hogs in an economic feeder pig operation.

SAUSAGE PLANT

Through the technical assistance of our "CAA" we are now developing a small sausage plant which will increase our economic growth in this project.

BUYERS CLUB

Our "*Buyers Club*" in the Greenwood area will be a natural outlet for our sausage products since they deal with meats for their club members at a small mark-up. We have 7 Buyers Clubs in the two-parish area that sell groceries to their members at a discount.

The CAA provided all the "know-how", motivation, for each of these self-help Co-Ops.

WATER SYSTEM

Our Policy Advisory group in Benton, La. through technical assistance was able to develop a water-system through H.U.D.

HOUSING

The Community Action Agency staff in coordination with the American Legion Post in the Cooper Road area was able to develop a *low-rental* apartment complex. In Bossier City the CAA staff was able to utilize the "235" Housing Program and completely change a slums area to new homes for its residents.

POLLUTION

Pollution and garbage are problems everywhere. In the Benton Rural area the CAA was able to coordinate the use of a garbage truck in removing garbage from the resident area.

FIRE PROTECTION

In the Cooper Road area, which is a rural community of around 17,000 persons, their was no fire protection. Then citizens and other CAA staff members mobilized the community and a fund-raising resulted whereby the community acquired a fire truck as well as a building to house the volunteer fire department.

Currently we are trying to mobilize a manpower program to train young men as firemen; since there are none available for the area.

EMERGENCY FOOD & MEDICAL SERVICES

One service that has been of great help to those that are broke, no job, down and out, or burned out, is the Emergency Food and Medical Service. This program does provide funds for immediate help and seed money for crop production in our rural areas.

LAND INHERITANCES

Poor people in the rural area have land, but it cannot be sold or mortgaged because of the number of family members involved in its inheritance—but it can be cultivated if we have seed money, and technical assistance. This is where the CAA can play an important role and this is where Emergency Food and Medical Service is a vital program of CAA.

TRANSPORTATION

One area that is difficult for everyone is transportation. We all know that cities are having problems on Bus Services. We in the rural areas are desperate. Some poor people on Welfare whose health and age will not allow them a chance to work must pay as high as $5 to $7 just to go to a charity hospital to get checked over and medicine, and then they stand a chance of not being seen in an 8-hr day. All they have in income is Old-age Pension.

The local CAA has developed rural bus routes on scheduled basis, but this depends on equipment and money for upkeep.

Our Rural communities are trying! We have our policy advisory councils for a voice, and the money we make off of our pig operation, and gardening we are using to help our needy families: buying, clothing, food, paying utilities when available. We use our money to help our children in recreation and help sponsor 4–H and scouting programs. We provide arts and crafts for our senior citizens, as well as a center for community gathering.

If it were not for the *Community Action Program* we would not have had the help and technical assistance so needed to organize our rural communities.

Through their aid we are slowly getting identification and thrust in rural economic growth.

If we can continue then we can become successful!

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much. Is there somebody who is prepared to testify on behalf of those who are here from Tennessee?

We will not have time to go through the whole list.

STATEMENT OF CLIFFORD DENNISON, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRESS FOR PEOPLE, INC., CLEVELAND, TENN.

Dr. DENNISON. Mr. Chairman, and distinguished Senators, I am Clifford Dennison. I represent the private sector on the board of directors of progress for people, which is a Community Action Agency in Cleveland, Tenn. I am a private citizen, and have been involved in community action work for a number of years without pay. I will try to make my remarks so brief that my colleagues can have a chance to speak before 12 o'clock.

I would like to have an hour to tell you about some of the things that community action has done in my community. Since I don't have that much time, I will present, in printed form, a few examples that

I think graphically illustrates what community action has been doing in the past few years.

In the limited time that I have, I would like to address myself to one idea which I believe is central to the meaning of community action. And that is that community action provides a mechanism—a vehicle through which the poor can speak, and act for themselves.

This is the first time, in my lifetime at least, that the poor have a means of effecting social change. I have seen it work in my community and it has produced amazing results.

I used to walk across the railroad tracks to the other side of Cleveland where about 6,000 people live. I could see anguish written on faces and knew that the people were groaning inside but I did not hear anything. They had been silent for a long long time.

Now I am beginning to hear some voices.

It warms my heart to know that these people who have been silent so long have finally been given the right to be heard and to help make decision on projects that affect them. This is a tremendous accomplishment, and we are all moving ahead because of it.

I would hate to see us do anything that would destroy this opportunity for the poor to speak for themselves and to act for themselves.

For the first time many of the poor have hope and confidence in themselves. It makes them feel like human beings. I, myself have been enriched by becoming involved with them. For the first time I am aware that these people are human beings just like myself; that they have the same hopes and the same aspirations that we have. What they need is the opportunity for these hopes and aspirations to be expressed. Community actions is giving them this opportunity.

I would ask that you support community action and OEO.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(The prepared statement of Mr. Dennison and information subsequently supplied for the record follows:)

STATEMENT OF CLIFFORD DENNISON
MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PROGRESS FOR PEOPLE, INC.
CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE

TO THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT, MANPOWER, AND POVERTY.

Chairman Nelson and Distinguished Senators:

It is a pleasure for my collegues and I to appear before you today in support of O.E.O and Community Action.

I am Clifford Dennison, Associate Professor in the Department of Biology, Lee College, Cleveland, Tennessee. I represent the private sector on the Board of Directors of Progress for People, Inc., which is a community action agency. My associates who are here with me will in troduce themselves and present their statements later.

As private citizens of this great land and specifically of the southeastern region and the STATE of Tennessee we support the continuation of OEO and recommend a longer funding authorization rather than the sort-term contracts the various programs are currently laboring under. We feel that OEO has a more vital role to play than one of just research and pilot projects that the Administration is proposing. We therefore, disapprove of transferring the many programs such as Head Start, Mainstream, and Neighborhood Youth Corps outside of OEO direction. Furthermore,

we are opposed to discontinuing Emergency Food and Medical, VISTA, and Legal Services.

Our main concern, however, is with the fate of Community Action. We believe this unique experience in participatory democracy is the only program with a concern for the total human being. We support community action because this organization is founded upon concepts and principles which are basic to the American dream. We believe that every citizen has the right--indeed the responsibility-- to function as a participating and productive member of his community. We believe that every individual possesses dignity and worth and is valued not only because of what he can contribute but because he is a member of the family of man.

We submit, however, that there is a large segment of our population for which the American dream is a farce and mockery. These de facto disenfranchised people live without voices, without meaningful participation in community affairs and without hope. It is for these Americans that we are most concerned. It is our contention that community action involves these people in a unique way and plays a role that no other agency is attempting or that any other agency is able to do.

It is the ONLY agency yet devised which is based upon the principle of maximum feasible participation of every segment of the community including the poor themselves. It departs from the traditional approach of doing things <u>for</u> the poor to doing things <u>with</u> the poor. You cannot involve the poor person in community affairs by giving him hand-outs. The only way he can become involved is to provide the mechanism and opportunity for meaningful participation. This is a most difficult task.

Too often the poor are distrustful of the motives of community leaders, unknowledgeable of the process of government and group dynamics, and fearful of the law. It takes patience, understanding, and a knowledge of, belief in, and sensitivity to the democratic process on the part of all of us.

This is what community action is all about. It involves the poor in decision making, planning and implementing programs which affect them; it mobilizes the resources in the total community in the war on poverty; and it participates in the coordination of the efforts of all agencies in the community thus providing maximum thrust to eliminate poverty.

The supportive material which I have prepared for you represents but a sampling of the activities performed by Progress for People, Inc., a community action agency located in the southeast region of the state of Tennessee. Included are newspaper articles, -reports and individual statements which graphically demonstrate the unique and positive role community action has in the total effort to eliminate poverty. Neighborhood advisory committees from target areas, volunteers from all segments of the community, professional and non-professional staff of the agency, all contributed in the preparation of the original material. Briefly, this material shows that community action was instrumental in:

1. A sidewalk for school children in a low-income neighborhood.
2. Pure water for a community that had none.
3. Food for the hungry.
4. Golden Age Clubs for the aged poor where there had been none.
5. Training programs for the unskilled

6. The organization and work of the volunteer program.

7. A sampling of activities reported by aids working in neighborhood service centers.

I am going to relate to you, in more detail of how community action has changed the lives of a number of senior citizens who live in a deprived area of Cleveland, Tennessee. These citizens belong to one of the fifteen Golden Age Clubs that have been organized in the region under the auspices of community action in the last year and one-half. This particular Golden Age Club held its regular meeting in the Highland Gym on the east side of town. They invited Jack Smith, the CAA Director and me to have lunch with them. There were about fifty(50) people, both white and black, participated in the activities. They played bingo, watched a film on the Holy Land, listened to a band composed of a group of their own peers, and enjoyed a very good meal which they themselves had prepared and brought to the meeting. In addition I toured the crafts room and was amazed b y the works of art which these elderly people had made. The striking experience of the visit, however, was the joy these people were demonstrating and complete lack of race consciousness which was evdent everywhere. The group was almost a random sampling of the elderly of the community with regard to color. Furthermore, there were no color clusters anywhere in the group. Even the band was mixed, and in about the same proportion as the entire group. This is one of the many good things that has happened to our area as a direct consequemce of the work of community action. I came away from this Golden Age Club meeting with a warm feeling for the program knowing full well that such an experience would have beem impossible just a few years ago.

Gentlemen, the facts speak for themselves. Community Action is needed in this country. We strongly urge its continuation and expansion.

1. How does community action support democracy at the local level--how does it provide a means for the citizen to have a voice in government?

2. What does Community Action do to make it possible for the low income person to become a participating and productive member of his community?

3. How does Community Action provide a line of communication across the various segments of society?

4.Why isn't it enough to have professional services providing education, jobs, health care---can't they provide the supportive services to the participants?

Documents supporting the testimony of Dr. Clifford Dennison, member of the board of directors of Progress for People, Inc.Cleveland, Tennessee to the Subcommittee on Employment, Manpower, and Poverty of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare United States Senate

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

A. East Cleveland Neighborhood Sidewalk

B. Summer employment for Black Youth Campaign

C. Dooley Street water pressure problem

D. Meigs County employment training survey

E. Blyth Avenue progress report

F. Peakland-Ten Mile Well Drilling program

A. East Cleveland Neighborhood Sidewalk

Citizens of the target area petitioned the county court for a 1.5 mile sidewalk to the neighborhood school. The neighborhood advisory committee obtained easements for the sidewalk. The county court appropriated $7,000 for construction.

East Cleveland
Neighborhood
Advisory Committee

Dear Sirs.

I live next to East Cleveland School. I'm deeply concerned about the Children that go to East Cleveland School. Because we cannot ~~protect~~ protect the children we have no side walk or any ~~protect~~ patrol out here to see that the children get to and from School safe and sound. When School is out you can't get down Strawberry Lane in a car. for the Children in the road. it is the only place for them to walk on their way home. Mrs Woods

August 7, 1968

To Whom It May Concern:

We the citizens of the East Cleveland area from 6th Street to East Cleveland, and along the Benton Pike, would like to have a sidewalk built along Benton Pike. We feel it would be safer for our children.

As you know, we do not have bus service for our school. All of our children have to walk. We have several fast cars that travel the Benton Pike. We have from about 250 to 400 cars every morning from 7 o'clock to 8:30 a. m. and the same way in the afternoon. So please remember to consider our problem. We have about 400 to 450 children going to our school.

Note: Mr. Jackson you said that you had some extra money, so consider building us a four foot sidewalk along the Benton Pike.

We think the city will build their part of the walk. Theirs will be about 200 feet of walk.

Mr. Jackson, we also need a patrol officer on Benton Pike from 7 a. m. to 8:30 a.m.. Also from the hours from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Thank you very much,

Mr. Marvin Gill
1090 Pea Street N. E.
Cleveland, Tennessee

Chairman

September 5, 1969

County Court Okays Student Sidewalk

Parents of East Cleveland School youngsters concerned for their safety in walking to school along heavily traveled streets were given Bradley County Quarterly Court assurances this morning of cooperation in securing a sidewalk.

However, it was pointed out that the right-of-way for the sidewalks would have to be made available in order for the sidewalks to be constructed. The court voted its support of County Road Superintendent Jodah Lauderdale and a committee to expedite a sidewalk move, securing right-of-way and building them.

Lauderdale said the law is strict in preventing expenditure of road department funds on private property, noting that the county owns no land upon which the sidewalks could be built.

Lauderdale said some 200 youngsters walk to school in the streets near East Cleveland School in an area where the traffic count is 2,000.

B. Summer employment for Black Youth Campaign

This campaign came about through the efforts of a neighborhood advisory committee located in a predominantly black neighborhood of Cleveland, Tennessee. The petition itself is self expanatory. The results achieved are that for the first time, black children are getting summer jobs in local stores, banks and community recreation programs.

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION
MR. NORMAN A. WAYMAN, CHAIRMAN

AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE DOOLEY STREET NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL, WE WANT TO THANK YOU FOR PERMITTING US TO MEET WITH YOU THIS AFTERNOON.

OUR PURPOSE FOR BEING HERE IS TO FIND AN ANSWER TO A QUESTION WHICH HAS BEEN TROUBLING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FOR A LONG TIME. THE QUESTION IS, "WHY CAN'T OUR (NEGRO) YOUNG PEOPLE GET JOBS IN THE DOWNTOWN STORES OF CLEVELAND?

IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS WE HAVE SENT REPRESENTATIVES TO SEVERAL STORES IN CLEVELAND REQUESTING THAT THEY CONSIDER THE APPLICATIONS OF SEVERAL YOUNG NEGROES WHO ARE IN GREAT NEED OF SUMMER EMPLOYMENT. SEVERAL STORES THAT WE VISITED EXPRESSED A SINCERE INTEREST IN HIRING A FEW OF THE YOUNGSTERS THAT WE MIGHT SEND TO THEM. OTHERS, HOWEVER, WERE NOT AS RECEPTIVE TO OUR REQUEST. AS OF TODAY, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, NO NEGRO YOUNGSTERS HAVE BEEN HIRED BY ANY OF THE DOWNTOWN STORES. MY COMMUNITY, IN GENERAL, AND THE PARENTS OF THESE YOUNGSTERS IN PARTICULAR ARE VERY DISTURBED AND UPSET OVER THE FACT THAT IT SEEMS THAT THEIR CHILDREN ARE NOT BEING GIVEN THE SAME CONSIDERATION AS OTHER CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

WE ARE A PEACEFUL PEOPLE AND LIKE TO THINK OF OURSELVES AS BEING JUST AS AN IMPORTANT PART OF CLEVELAND'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE AS ANY OTHER SECTION OF THE CITY. BUT, WHEN WE TAKE A WALK DOWNTOWN AND DO NOT SEE ANY OF OUR PEOPLE WORKING IN THE STORES OR BANKS, WE FEEL LEFT OUT. OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO FEEL THERE IS NO REAL FUTURE FOR THEM IN CLEVELAND - THAT CLEVELAND IS NOT THE PLACE FOR THEM TO SETTLE DOWN, GET MARRIED, AND RAISE THEIR FAMILIES. WE, AS LONG-TIME RESIDENTS OF CLEVELAND, TEND TO FEEL THAT THIS DOES NOT HAVE TO BE. THAT THERE IS A PLACE FOR NEGROES IN CLEVELAND.

SO WE HAVE COME TO YOU TODAY TO FIND OUT WHERE WE STAND. AND THE QUESTION THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ANSWERED IS WHY? WHY? WHY AREN'T NEGRO YOUNGSTERS BEING EMPLOYED IN THE DOWNTOWN RETAIL STORES?

The Honorable Mayor, City Officials, Ladies and Gentlemen: I am here as Chairman of the Dooley Street Neighborhood Advisory Council to petition the City Officials to take action to alleviate the low-water pressure problems which has plagued my neighbors for the past 15 years. We have on numerous occasions asked various public and private agencies to help us get the water pressure level raised in the East Inman Street area. On all occasions we were either rudely put-off or given vague promises that the matter would be looked into in the near future.

During a City-County Community Meeting which was held on August 14, 1967, the water pressure problem was cited as a critical problem that needed immediate attention. It was suggested that letters be sent to the appropriate city officials so that this problem might be brought to their attention. The letters were sent shortly afterwards: no action was taken.

Mr. Yeary, the Superintendent of the City Water Company, has been called on numerous occasions, asking him to look into the water pressure problem in the East Inman Street area. Mr. Yeary was contacted on August 10, 1967. Mr. Yeary was contacted again on August 25, 1967. Mr. Yeary was once again contacted October 3, 1967. The last contact, which was made to Mr. Yeary, came on October 13, 1967. At that time Mr. Yeary said that "he had done enough for these people over there" and that he was going to be working on projects in other parts of the city. The fact of the matter is Mr. Yeary hadn't done anything, hasn't done anything, and we don't think he ever will do anything unless the public, as represented by you and your offices, forces him to do it. Mr. Yeary was notified of this meeting by mail and by phone call.

The water pressure problem has now reached a critical stage in the East Inman Street area. Some mothers of young families have to get up at three and four o'clock in the morning in order to collect enough water to wash their children, feed their families, and have enough left over to clean their houses and do the family wash. Are any other sections of the city required to endure these circumstances? We don't think so. There are 28 families representing 98 people who are affected by this low-water pressure. They are citizens of Cleveland, as citizens they pay taxes to the City of Cleveland. Why, then, as tax-paying, vote-giving citizens of Cleveland are the people of East Inman Street expected to endure conditions over a period of months and even years that no other section of town would tolerate for a day?

We as petitioners, and as citizens feel that we have been grossly mistreated. We feel that we have done everything in our power to alleviate this situation through the proper channels. Thus far we have failed to get any kind of responsible action toward correcting the low-water pressure problem in the East Inman Street area. Therefore, we as citizens, are petitioning you, the highest authoritative body in the municipal government of Cleveland, to make a concerted effort to correct not only the water pressure problem that has plagued us for years, but also to eliminate the general indifferences of certain public officials and agencies toward the problems of the people in our neighborhood.

On behalf of the people of East Inman Street and the Dooley Street Neighborhood Advisory Council, I thank you.

FRONT PAGE HEADLINES FROM THE CLEVELAND DAILY BANNER

November 14, 1967

City Commission Hears

Water pressure protests in the form of a petition presented by Rev. B.C. Young, chairman of the Dooley Street Advisory Council, highlighted the regular monthly meeting of the city commission, held Monday, 3 p.m. in the city hall.

Young read to the assemblage a copy of a petition which he presented to the mayor and commissioners, asking "immediate attention" be given the residents of East Inman Street to raise the water pressure.

Young said the problem has now reached the critical stage and added, "mothers must get up at 3 a.m. in order to get enough water to bathe children," and do the needed jobs that require water.

"We feel we have been grossly mistreated," he added. Young then quoted a statement alleged to have been made by Bob Yeary, water department superintendent to Harvey Lee Tillery of the advisory council, that he (Yeary) had done enough for those people in that area and would be working in other areas of the city from now on." When contacted by The Banner today, Yeary denied the allegation. "I have never made such a statement to anyone," Yeary said.

Young said the residents of the area had asked Yeary to look into the problem four times since August, and nothing has been done.

"We are now asking the mayor and commissioners to do something."

Replying to Young, Commissioners Bob Taylor and Kenneth Tinsley said they could not believe that Yeary would make such a statement. Tinsley said he would check into the problem and do something about the situations. Another unidentified complainant who lives on High Street spoke to the gathering about the poor water pressure in his neighborhood and asked help from the commissioners

Water Pressure Protests

to alleviate the problem. He added he had complained to the city for some 25 years and had received no consideration.

The commission approved water line extentions recommended by Bob Yeary. They are to be paid for by land developers; voted to pay all approved monthly bills; a zoning ordinance change affecting property in the Guthrie Avenue area.

It had been announced during a commission meeting October 23, the city would decide Nov. 13 which of two lots the city would purchase for use as a parking area to help the downtown merchants.

Since the action was not forthcoming as previously announced, The Banner asked the commission and was informed the city had bought two lots. One is located at the corner of Broad and Fourth streets and owned by John Million; and the other lot is at the corner of Central Avenue and Worth streets and owned by Cleveland Builders' Supply of which Bob Bryan, city clerk, is president.

Commissioner John Hall and City Clerk Bob Bryan reported the city had bought both lots for a reported $40,000 per lot, payable over 15 years.

The purchases were made after a called meeting held Monday, Nov. 6, for the announced purpose of selling $100,000 in city bonds.

According to Commissioners Taylor and Hall, the city bought the two properties on a motion by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Tinsley. Commissioer Hall declined to vote either way.

On a motion by Commissioner Bob Taylor, the commission voted before Monday's meeting to pass on the next regularly scheduled meeting the reading of the minutes of the last meeting.

C. Dooley Street water pressure problem

For thirty years the Dooley Street target area had a water problem. In 1967, the neighborhood advisory committee decided to do something about. They petitioned city officials. Eighteen months later, the water pressure crisis was over.

D. Meigs County employment training survey

Meigs County, Tennessee is one of the poorest counties in the whole of the United States. It has no federally-funded manpower programs operating within the county lines. The neighborhood advisory committee decided to do something about this problem. While the committee has yet to achieve its goal, it has been able to stimulate the development of a training center in the immediate area.

FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MEIGS COUNTY
DECATUR, TENNESSEE 37322
NORMAN E. MENDELL, PRINCIPAL
PHONE 615-334-5454

April 26, 1971

Report of the activities of the Peakland-Ten Mile Neighborhood Advisory Committee by Norman E. Mendell, Chairman.

Our committee was formed in September of 1970. The committee consists of the following members: Norman E. Mendell, Chairman; A. B. Culvahouse, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Mary Lee Woody; Ernest Bostic; Tommy Moore and Jesse Templeton.

We began immediately to assess the needs of the community. We felt that our community had several needs as certain areas were under-developed and the people untrained for skilled jobs. Some of the projects are listed below:

I. Secured a well for a small community without water facilities. 80% of the funds were secured through cooperation of the local ASCS committee and community efforts supplied the other 20%.

II. The committee felt that there was a transportation problem for the elderly and disadvantaged citizens of the community. Through the efforts of Progress for People, we secured a government surplus car and raised the insurance money through donations of community leaders. The car has been used to transport people to the doctor, food stamp office, and local health department, etc.

III. Our next project was job training. Many of our citizens are school drop-outs and therefore have little training in skilled labor. The committee felt that if training was not provided, these people would never rise above their poverty conditions.

With the prospect of the T. V. A. Nuclear Power Plant being located in neighboring Rhea County, we felt that a cooperative training program might be developed. State Senators, Congressmen, Governor, National Senators and Congressmen were contacted and through their efforts, guidance has been given to the development of such a program. It now seems that a cooperative program on job training will be conducted by T. V. A., Tennessee Department of Education and the Chattanooga Labor Council. These classes will be located in neighboring Spring City on T. V. A. property.

IV. Elementary and High School drop-outs is of a great concern to our committee. We feel that an automechanic-building trades courses should be offered in the Junior High and Senior High levels. As of now, nothing has been accomplished to achieve these goals.

Norman E. Mendell

E. Blyth Avenue progress report

The Blyth Avenue Neighborhood Advisory Committee was one of the first organized target area groups. The state include here was first presented by Mr. T.J.Howard, a representative of the poor, to the annual meeting of the corporation membership in the summer of 1968. It is a statement of pride in what had been accomplished through local efforts and a statement of hope of what could be accomplished in the future.

WHEN I FIRST GOT INTO COMMUNITY ACTION WORK I KNEW WHAT THE PROBLEMS OF THE BLYTHE AREA WERE. ON MY OWN TIME I TRIED TO SOLVE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS I FOUND IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD. BUT THERE ARE ONLY SO MANY HOURS IN A DAY AND ONE PERSON JUST DOES NOT HAVE THE TIME TO GET DONE WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

WHEN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER OPENED LAST SUMMER WE WERE ALL SET TO GET SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS SOLVED.

WE KNEW THAT THERE WAS AN EMPLOYMENT PROBLEM IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN WHO HAD NO REAL JOB SKILLS. WITH MR. GARCIA'S HELP AND THE HELP OF ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES, WE SET UP AN INDUSTRIAL SEWING SCHOOL AT 1800 BLYTHE AVENUE. THE LADIES ENROLLED IN THIS SCHOOL NOT ONLY LEARNED TO OPERATE POWER SEWING MACHINES, THEY LEARNED HOW TO APPLY FOR A JOB, THEY LEARNED HOW TO FILL OUT A JOB APPLICATION FORM, THEY LEARNED HOW TO TAKE TESTS AND SOME WERE EVEN TAUGHT HOW TO TELL TIME AND SOME ELEMENTARY ARITHMETIC. NOT ALL THE LADIES WHO COMPLETED THIS COURSE WENT ON TO GET POWER SEWING MACHINE JOBS. BUT MANY OF THEM DID GET JOBS THAT THEY HAD NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO GET BEFORE.

IN THE EARLY FALL WE RECOGNIZED A CRITICAL NEED FOR A CHILD CARE CENTER IN THE BLYTHE AREA. THE CITY HAD GIVEN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD A SMALL HOUSE TO USE AS WE SAW FIT. WITH THE HELP OF MISS MARGARET PARK AND MRS. JUDY BINGHAM OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTER, AND HARD WORKING RESIDENTS OF THE BLYTHE AREA WE HAVE TURNED THIS HOUSE INTO A DAY CARE CENTER SERVING A MAXIMUM OF THIRTY CHILDREN.

WE HAVE DONE A LOT OF OTHER THINGS DURING THE PAST YEAR FOR WHICH WE ARE PROUD. WE HAVE ORGANIZED A SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB, WE HAVE HAD CRAFT CLASSES AND SEWING CLASSES. WE ORGANIZED TWO BASIC EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ADULTS, AND TAKEN COUNTLESS NUMBERS OF PEOPLE TO THE DOCTORS, THE GROCERS AND MANY OTHER PLACES.

WE MAY NOT HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ALL THAT WE WANTED THIS YEAR, BUT WE HAVE MADE A START AND WE INTEND TO DO MORE.

F. Peakland-Ten Mile Well Drilling program

The Peakland-Ten Mile community is the poorest area in one of the poorest couties in our country. There has been no truly pure water in the area...for centuries..! The neighborhood advisory committee made this their first priority. A fresh water well in the community.

[From the Athenian Post, Athens, Tenn., Oct. 2, 1970]

PEAKLAND AREA STARTS WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

In a Progress For People Community meeting, at the Hickory Flats Baptist Church earlier this week Curtis Wood, a social service specialist, with the program reviewed the project for obtaining pure water, for the people in the Peakland area.

A survey was made when it was brought to the attention of the public, that nine families and 58 people were hauling water two and a half miles one way. The survey of the source was disclosed as a spring and the spring was only 12 inches above the Sewee Creek bed and only four feet from the creek.

Also the spring was cribbed up with a water box, which moss and slime had lined. Also above the spring were barns, hog pens and cow pastures.

The neighborhood affected with the problem of not enough water, held a meeting July 8th, at the Baptist church to unite their efforts in developing, by some method a water supply for the community. Present, with these concerned, were county officials, county agent, soil conservation Rep. and civic groups. All pledged their support to work toward some type of water system.

On request, the 80 percent grant will be forthcoming, when the neighborhood to receive the benefit makes their contribution of $200.00. A finance committee, namely Walt Moore, Norman Mendall, Dollie Gregory, W. B. McKenzie, and Anna Bell Cobb has called a meeting for Tuesday evening, October 6, at 7:30 p.m. to start the Fund Drive. This will be a joint meeting with the advisory committee at the Ten Mile School.

October 15, 1970 is the date set for completing the fund drive. Drilling will start at approximately 200 feet, to a source of water, that families in the community may share pure water.

Later, the aim is for installation of pump, tank and building pump house. Cost for this is estimated $500. An agreement has been made, for those using the water to pay a proportionate share of the operating cost.

The desire was for four (4) wells, if possible and ground designated for the wells. Locations for four wells agreed upon were Mrs. Arlen Moore Sr., Arlen Moore Jr., John Winton, and Ive Moore. When the decision was made to start with digging one community well, the group voted to dig at the Arlen Moore Sr. location.

O. L. Masingale, from the Soil Conservation Service, in Nashville and Dr. Ozie Adams, Director of Field representatives of Tennessee State University, met with the community group. Masingale stated, assistance in the amount of $1,000.00 is available for water projects. However, this is acquired, on request of the Chairman of the County ASCS office.

[From the Athenian Post, Athens, Tenn., Nov. 27, 1970]

DREAM COMES TRUE IN PEAKLAND AREA

After two years of attempting to get water for several families in the Peakland Community of Meigs County, interested citizens were on the scene November 19, to watch Clyde Calfee and Son, well digging machine out of Cleveland, start drill for water on the property of Mrs. Arlen Moore, Sr.

Gratitude and appreciation was expressed by Meigs County Chairman W. B. McKenzie, S.C.S. Representative Howard Whitaker, School Principal Norman Mendell, J. T. Vincent and several others present including Leon Green and Curtis Woods from the executive staff of Progress For People.

Curtis Woods was commended for the many efforts and time he has spent in bringing this project to completion. Woods paved the way by making all the necessary contacts and working closely with S.C.S., A.S.C.S. offices and the community.

He expressed appreciation for such good community involvement.

On November 21, the people of the community and Woods, with family, were on hand to witness the strong stream of water in the well.

Mission accomplished, Calfee and Son moved on.

Those present for this event included:

W. B. McKenzie, County Chairman; Howard Whitaker, S.C.S.; Edd Norman, S.C.S.; Lankford Monroe. County Court Member; Norman Mendell, Principal of Fair View School; J. T. Vincent, Director for Progress For People; Mrs. Arlen Moore, Sr., Property Owner; Dennis Arnwine; Walter Moore, D. A. Guinn, Jessie Templeton, Mark Couch, Mrs. Lankford Monroe, J. B. Wilson, Zonnie Guffy, Wilma Brickle, Betty Beard, Curtis Woods, Leon Green, Dollie Gregory and Zella Smith.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTER AND THE WORK OF "NON-PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH PERSONNEL.

A. The Neighborhood Service Center

The neighborhood center written about in the following article is located in the Copper Basin area of Polk County, Tennessee. A few months ago an ABC television documentary cited this area as one of the most desolate and economically exploited in the entire nation. Today, the Copper Basin area has a neighborhood service center. Tommorow 400 men will be laid off from the mines owing to technological advancements. There will be no new jobs for these men. No re-training programs sponsered by any state or federal agency and no place to go.

[From the Cleveland (Tenn.) Daily Banner, Feb. 11, 1970]

WHAT IS THE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTER?

In recent months, many citizens have asked, "What is the Neighborhood Service Center?" The NSC office is located in the upstairs building of the Ducktown City Hall. This office serves the Ducktown, Turtletown and Copperhill areas, and is sponsored by Progress for People, Inc. in Cleveland.

This is a program designed to involve residents of low income neighborhoods in the affairs of their community. The poor are encouraged to organize and take group action to deal with their problems. Workers in the neigborhood centers seek out poor people through direct personal contact and determine their needs and inform them of programs and services available to them.

The center has recently acquired a bus for transporting participants to and from doctors' offices, food stamp office, and so on. A tutorial program, using work-study students from Tennessee Wesleyan College and Lee College, Cleveland, is presently underway at the Ducktown and Turtletown Elementary Schools, and a class for 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls from Copperhill School, qualified under OEO, has been receiving instructions in sewing, basic cooking, arts and crafts since October. A Golden Age Club has set up at Turtletown and had its first meeting in December.

A pre-technical program has been set up with Cleveland State Community College and Progress for People. In the beginning the primary concern was on uplifting school dropouts. However, because of the other needs of the community and the response to the program, its scope was expanded to serve all persons desiring to participate. These courses are geared to meet your individual needs and will start at your educational level and take you as high as you can go, or is necessary, depending on your goal and ambitions. The participants are offered financial assistance, if needed. If they qualify, the cost to the individual is only $5.00 for the application fee.

The NSC has an extensive outreach for needy and elderly persons, particularly those who subsist entirely on welfare or retirement benefits with the goal in mind to help them to find strength within themselves, leading them to happier and more productive lives. Specialists in social services, manpower and training, health and homemaking, emergency food and medical are used in this program extensively and work closely with the Welfare Department, Food Stamp Program, Federal Housing Authority, Veterans Administration Office and many other government, county, and city sponsored agencies and clubs.

During the month of December 250 contacts, 50 walk-ins and 150 follow-ups were made by the center and $1.492 value in emergency food stamps were issued by Progress for People, Inc., to needy families of the Basin.

In order to provide educational enrichment, rehabilitation programs and creative activities for all who are in need of these services, the help of the community is desired.

Mrs. Ralph Sisson, supervisor, and Mrs. E. V. Brackett and Miss Eunice Carruth, field workers, are the NSC representatives in this area. They are stressing community action, and the need for more volunteer workers.

B. Weekly reports of outreach workers of four rural neighborhood service centers.

This weekly report is typical of the kinds of reports turned in every week by the 17 neighborhood centers in the four counties(Meigs, Bradley, McMinn, and Polk) served by the community action agency. These reports go back four years. The problems cited in them never seem to change. They merely reflect the cycle of poverty endemic to this area.

AREA I - NARRATIVE REPORT:
October 5 - 9, 1970
BENTON CENTER: Charlotte Witt and Evelyn Guy

We started work on our Tutorial Program to be held at the center Tuesday p. m. Contacted Lynn Bates and received names of students needing this service. Evelyn visited about 14 families, whilesupervisor picked up Tutor in Cleveland for interview with principal and parents. Our Tutorial class was a great success. We had 13 attend The Lee College students impressed all of us with their dedication to this program. We sent notes home with the students to remind the parents to see that they bring their books with them Thursday. We have received great cooperation from all the parents and the school. Picked up donation of clothing from Mrs. Vance Bates, also several items from the Clemmers. We enjoyed the visit of Mr. Wood, Bazzell; Hathcock; Daniels, Seals from Cleveland State. Talked with Mrs. Huffman and Beard, our H&H Aides. Mrs. Huffman is concerned about the health of our H&H participants. Mrs Beard trying to re-arrange her schedule to save mileage. Both are excellent H&H Aide Evelyn carried Mrs. Johnson to Dr. Williams for medical and to Dr. Wilson to get her glasses Thursday. She will take Mrs. Mathis on Friday to Dr. Frye. Wish these doctors would get together on their closing days. Talked with Mr. Max Ellis of Title I on Adult Education Classes. These are in progress every Monday night at Benton Elementary. Mr. Hathcock and Supervisor will attend a meeting with Mr. Ellis on the 14th. of October. Purchased emergency food stamps for three: Freeman, Ledford, and Jones families. Received a call from Welfare Dept. for clothing for one of their Clents. We do believe that they are beginning to realize that we are good for something We are still building up our Golden Age Membership. We have received several calls about our sewing class that we hope to put into operation soon. Our weekend was sort a shaken up tho! One of our Golden Age participants home burned Sunday. Evelyn donated the use of an electric stove for them and we emmediately offered other assistance if needed. Visited school again on Tutorial. We discussed some problems that needed ironing out. Some of the teachers had listed "needs help on all subjects", which would have been impossible to give. Talked with Mr. Bates and he agreed to check with the various teachers on the tutorial students. Most basic needs. We also requested that the teacher assign these pupils homework on our Tutorial nights. This, we feel, will help the tutors know what level of studies to give. Mr. Bates will also check Mrs. Smiley on the use of school books for our tutors. These will have to be returned to the Board of Education after the classes are ended for the school year. Contacted three Shriners for extra tickets. Will receive some from two. We will use these for our Volunteer Choperones. Evelyn carried one of our No. 1 participants, Annabelle Blackwell to the clothing room. She has so many children it takes all year to find clothes for them. We also enjoyed seeing Mr. Smith, Mrs. Pugh and Mr. Wilson on a whirlwind stop. Our janitor put up plastic windows for us. We are preparing for Winter already. Our second session of tutorial classes was held Thursday night with 11 students present. All arrived promptly, in fact some came early, and seemed to be anzious to get started. Parents commented they were really encouraged by the interest their children had in these classes. Mr. Bingham, one of our high school teachers came by and offered his assistance if needed. Everything seems to be going well with tutors and students.

DUCKTOWN CENTER: Gladys Sisson

To Piggley Wiggley and Lonnie Hughes Grocery Stores delivering checks for emergency food for Mrs. Eldon Cole family, Mrs. Cleance Craig Rape family, call from Dora Davis, Piggley Wiggley to transport her home with groceries, unable to walk back home answered call. Walk-ins; R.S. Fuggin, Dillard Brown and Sister, also Jim Mason volunteer to make quilting frames for Golden Age Club at Turtletown; also news of crippled elderly woman having quilt tops for sale, we went by checked tops bought one. Fitted two children in Copperhill Elementary School with clothes this week. Daisy Presswood walk-in with clothing for needy families call from H&H Aide Elsie White been picking up clothing for our White Elephant Shop, also call from Advisory Committe Mrs. Earl York for me to come by, she has a load of things for White Elephant Ship, also ideas of fund raising for transportation. Visited two elderly shut-ins; Andrew J. White, W.P. McGee doing all chores possible for each. Talked with Gray Lady at Hospital she has clothing for us. Delivered posponed Head Start Checks to Shirley Worthey, Hattie Farner both of Turtletown Area. Delivered certificate of Summer Intern Program Sponsored by OEO to Geraldine Whitmore, Ducktown she was real grate ful. To drugstore got medicine for Mrs. W. M. Sisson, delivered to home also got clothes for Bill Bramlett took them to Courthouse in Ducktown for police to deliver to jail in Benton. Worked with new participants for food stamps all day monday. As Aguesta Green, Food Stamp worker came up to take new applicats and recertify the ones who needed to be, so more stamps could be sold on following day, I have never seen such a busy time on both days. We worked with at least 30 participants new and old together on these two days. Met with Welfare worker; Syble Morgan, transported Ruby Allen and child Bobbi Lynn illegimiate child to meet with her got their application filled out for Welfare signed for Food Stamps she is renting two room from aged lady (Zella Stille) which will mean much to her for she is sick had no one to stay with her shouldn't be left alone so we feel we did these services in one in this case. Contact with Jewel Bailey keeping 3 illegitimat children in school One senior needing help real bad promised her after taling with Billy Ann, that we would be able to buy her food stamps this month that she might be able to use this money for a few neccesities for Senior (Joe Lynn) Call from Mrs. Blanche Craig for information of Food Stamp Certification answered call from her. To Ducktown Elementary School also Turtletow Schools with Eva Laymon, Sarah Petty also Sandi Holcomb teacher of Tutorial Classes feel they made progress. Walk-in Danny Payne new Mainstream Man for help to get fo stamps. We gave the necessary help. Talked with Kenneth Greene getting permission for Mrs. Clutel Farner to drive county bus to Shriner Circus in Chatt. on Oct. 17, 10a Talked with Shriner Jewel A Newman, also Carl Cheatham on this matter getting name and number of tickets they have and how many more needed if they had bus for half of children. This taken care of after talking with Mildred Daniels, Volunteer worker in program. Call from Mrs. Eldon Cale, Copper Basin Hospital has her new baby, the 4 children at home needing food we went to home got grocery list to the store purchase food, back to home with it using food stamps we had gotten for them no income at pre at all. Many new profiles were made this week, also many home visits. Mr. Wood an Doris Ann Bazzell , the new aide from Benton Mrs. Guy came up on Wednesday going over retirement plan for Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Carden, Mr. Wood feeling he can help with it. Outreach with the Hobart Fincher family helping to see they had transportation specialist in Cleveland, she checked back with us of news she received must go to neruo-surgeon in Chattanooga, promising her we would assist her in anyway we're allowed to in program. Mrs. Radie Chancey resident of Ducktown talked with us of problem set up of elderly lady living alone not capable of doing so, has so many cats, with food for them all over house odor so bad no one can hardly go in, burns kerosene lamp at night to save electricity, more neighbors are worried about this situation, th

house on this street are so close, seems real hazardous of fire, we plan to try to solve this problem realizing it will have to be taken care of in delicate way. Our inkind for last month $335.00 still recruiting for Tutorial classes. Gone through our profiles finding many adults needing dental care.
Success: Clothing-need Heater for Turtletown Center before it can be opened also covering for the floor, also file cabinet, Golden Age Participants calling to know when they can meet. Succeeded in outreach. We feel successful in helping plan for Tutorial Classes in Ducktown and Turtletown schools realizing it will be a great asset to all students who are eligible to participate.

ENGLEWOOD CENTER: Ruth B. Richeson

Mrs. Bryon came by to bring 2 shirts her husband could not wear to give to someone else. Mrs. Roberts came by to see if I might be able to help get her son apartment at Fontonet Building, Minnie Burger called to give me information Russ Cole Medious I went to their home and filled out their medical form for them and got their signature. Mrs. Bryson called, Mrs. Host called about Dulcie Moses case, called Anna Belle to see if Mr. Wood was coming to see her went to Athens Health Dept. , food stamp office wnet to see Mrs. Hines , Mr. Simpson said she needed to see me about their Parent Meeting. Thursday Night at Englewood School. Went to Etowah to get our Tutorial Students that will be teaching in our center, tood him to school introduced to Mr. Simpson, Principal. Mr. Simpson thinds he is a very nice boy will be glad to have him help our children. Went to see Mrs. Hines H. S. to give materials to her for her meeting, Thursday night (Parents) Mark Conn came by brought $10.00 food delivered to Liberty Hill Ave. Mrs. Hart called again about Dulcie Moses case she is in Epperson Hospital (Cancer). Talked to Mr. Simpson about Arnie Buckner. Talked to Don Raper about Education-Johnny Phillips, Thelma Sisson came 10 o'clock to interview H&H aide (Ruby Vaughn) Mr. Hood came by to talk to me about my helping to get Arnie Lee Buckner in special school. Talked to Mrs. Hines about Dr. Fox Monroe being at he center October 15 (1:30) to meet with Teacher and Teacher Aide. Wanda Smith called about Food Stamps she was unable to get I referred her back to Joyce Cox. Worked on family profiles H.S. want to clothing center to get clothing Rae Roberts Family whose house burned 4 wks ago. Billie Ann and Leon came by with vouchers so I could buy food stamps (Walter Bryson). Mr. Bryson is quite ill, went to food stamp office-Englewood to help and buy stamps. Went to Athens Mental Health Center to get Evaluation Paper (Arvil Lee Buckner) he may be able to enter EMR Englewood School Mr. Hood, Welfare is very pleased he might be able to go to school he is almost 9 years old, not in school because of Mild Mental defives, worked on family profiles H.S. Mrs. Hart came by to talk to me . Lucille Deneck called about food stamps. Mrs. Ben Bridges came by to give me money to buy food stamps in Athens the workers failed to bring his card Friday. Also brought for John Burges, Johnny Sommerman came by to see if we could help pay for their food stamps they have had a lot of medical expense. Dallas Cook willing workers Chairman came by. Mark Conn came by, went to school to check on tutorial class. We will have in our center. Was able with the help of Mr. Moore Mental Health. Mr. Simpson, Principal at the request of Mr. Hood, Welfare worker to get Arvil Lee Buckner in E,R,C,, Englewood. He started Tuesday. Will be 9 his birthday and not been able to go to school. Mrs. Hart called about the Barnett Case. Johnny Phillips came by I was able to get him enrolled in Adult Education Class, Englewood. Johnny is in a wheel chair. Birth Defect was only able to get about 3rd. grade at home with home bound teacher. He is very happy to get enrolled in this class.

Englewood (continued)

Worked on H&H applications, went to Athens brought food stamps, Elsie Jeralds food vouchers. Mark also called nMr. Simpson about bus for our trip to Chattanooga Shriners Circus. Mr. Simpson asked me to go get Mrs. Clowers to bring to see him her daughter came by bus to school but did not come in. Which I did we got this thing worked out, she is suspended for a few days this is not the first time this has happened. Had meeting City Hall. Billie Ann , Mr. Wood, Peaches, Lavoy, Ed Johnonn, and Max Reynolds: discussed Welfare cases, Tutorial, Shrine Circus, Vehicle for our town thro PFP.... Worked getting Mark a place to stay he has gone to work Eureka Garment. Contacted Peaches-Harold Duggan about our meeting, Harold sick Peaches Peck had other obligations..... Contacted Ables about clowers case, City Police went to school talked to Mrs. Hines about taking children to Shrine Circus in Chattanooga. She is very thrilled, hopes we can go. Went to home of Ruth Miller, Mrs. Moses about Tutorial Students going here. Called Mr. Richerson, Mrs. Brown about their child this program will be well excepted her because parents today are unable to help their children. Mr. Smith, Mr. Ball came by to discuss food stamp program for other people they know-Will work today. H&H applications also applications for our college work student stayed until 5:30 yesterday he did not show up must have been a misunderstanding.

ETOWAH CENTER: Peaches Harris

Worked on completing family profiles for H.S. Made arrangemnnt with Mr. Wood to change Lild Moores appointment in Chatt. to a day the bus goes. Gave clothing to Bowerman family. Roper family came into center and said they needed c coal heater. Talked with the Rapers conservator and she is going to get a heater for them. Talked to Vera Obrivin, the tutor for towah Area. Billy Ann come by office and discussed the changes of staff personel. Mr. Mitchell Dill come into office giving thanks for the glasses he received through Lions Club, which has worked with us so wonderful helping our participants with eye problems. Mrs. Hardie called needing clothing for herself. Went to Advisory committee meeting in Englewood. Got permission and took emergency food to Butler family. Had meeting with Matney Reed in office concerning Tutorial Program. Called Mrs. Ray Hart concerning Mr. Eugene Hensons light bill. Mrs. Hart said the Red Cross would take care of this. Had a planning session with Ruth Richerson, Billie Ann, and our work students. Vera O'Berian and David Redwine.

VOLUNTEERISM

A. Hunger in Bradley County

Bradley-Cleveland Community Action Corporation
150 Dooley St., S.E., Cleveland, Tennessee
Telephone: 476-8526

News Release

Date: January 19, 1970

For: Cleveland Daily Banner

Does hunger exist in Bradley County? That was a question a group of volunteers from church groups and service organizations found an answer to several weeks ago. The answer was yes! Hunger does exist in Bradley County.

Toward the end of September of 1969 an emergency appeal was made by the Senior Opportunities Services of the Bradley-Cleveland Community Action Corporation for volunteers to make daily deliveries of food to aged and infirmed county residents who could no longer feed themselves. The financial resources and physical reserves of these elderly people had been so taxed by illness and the infirmities of old age that they were no longer able to prepare or provide adequate nourishment for themselves. They had no money to pay for nursing care of any kind. They had no families to take care of their needs.

Volunteers from all over the county responded to this appeal. Meals were prepared in the basement of the South Cleveland Methodist Church. They consisted of breakfast and a hot lunch. They were delivered daily to thirty-five elderly people who otherwise would have had very little to eat.

The tragic circumstances under which these people lived still exist. A few have regained enough of their strength so that they are able to feed themselves. Most of them have not. To make matters worse, the limited amount of money available for these emergency cases is fast running out. Despite the efforts of the volunteers and the contributions of various organizations in Bradley County, this emergency food service program will come to end in February. Requests for funds and commodity foods have been made to various Federal and state organizations. As yet, no positive replies have been forthcoming.

A campaign is now underway to raise money locally for this much needed program. Funds will be solicited by volunteers who have worked with the program since its beginning. Their goal is $4,000. This will feed 35 to 40 people for the next three months. It is hoped that during this period a more permanent source of funds will be located.

A professional cynic of Depression days once said that, "Poor people wouldn't be such a bother if they didn't starve so publicly." Fortunately people no longer starve publicly in our country. They go hungry in private. We have told you about a few of them.

The people of Bradley County now have an opportunity to reduce hunger in their community if not eliminate it. Won't you please contribute to this worthwhile cause.

For additional information regarding the fund raising drive, please attend the planning meeting at the Broad Street United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, Wednesday, January 21, 1970, at 1 p.m.

The public is invited.

[From the Cleveland (Tenn.) Daily Banner, Apr. 1, 1970]

FOOD FUND DRIVE NEARS GOAL

(By Mike Flippo)

A 70-year-old East Cleveland resident who gave $1 out of his company pension was just one of "many sensitive donors" who helped the Elderly Food Program Campaign Tuesday.

Bradley-Clevelanders responded to an emergency fund-raising campaign on a local radio station and gave more than $3,000 in a matter of eight hours, Mrs. William Markiewicz, director for the emergency fund, said.

"It looks like we are going to reach our goal," Mrs. Markiewicz added. "The latest totals were $3 510.78, and all of the pledges have not been turned in."

There are some 30 elderly and infirmed people here being fed under the Elderly Food Program. It is normally financed by federal funds through the Bradley-Cleveland Community Action Program. However, funds ran out Jan. 31.

Jack Smith, executive director at BCCAC, said federal funds will be available on May 1, and will be ample for a 12-month period. "We do not expect to have any more emergency situations," Smith said.

The group needs almost $4,000 to feed the people for the 13-week period. Mrs. Markiewicz said it provides for two meals a day for the people.

Smith explained that the money had been set up in an emergency-fund bank account, but will be run through the BCCAC bookkeeping department.

"It will be credited as part of the local share of funds to finance the program," Smith said.

"Not all of the BCCAC program is financed by federal funds," he added.

Smith pointed out that only 80 per cent of community action here is supported by federal funds. The other 20 per cent is raised in various ways, he said.

In the Food Service Program, it is raised through volunteer workers. "We get credit for all hours of work put in by these workers and there are 75 on this particular program," he noted.

Mrs. Markiewicz started the food fund-raising program about two weeks ago by going to clubs, organizations and churches in the area and asking for money. She has been assisted by Mrs. Bill Marr.

She said no other activities are planned in the program.

B. ORGANIZATION OF VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

[From the Cleveland Daily Banner, Apr. 1, 1970]

VOLUNTEERS FOR COMMUNITY ACTION NAME CHOSEN

(By Mike Flippo)

Volunteers for Community Action (VOCA) is the name for the newly organized volunteer workers of the Bradley-Cleveland Community Action Corporation.

Some 50 to 70 area residents met thing morning at the Highland School gymnasium and organized themselves into a volunteer corporation. The group of volunteers spend on the average of 15 to 20 hours a week in various community action projects.

Officers for the group were elected at the meeting. They are Mrs. Betty Morris, chairman; Mrs. Mary Markiewicz, vice chairman; and Mrs. Thelma Crawford, secretary.

The group decided to name a board of directors at a later date. Representatives from each committee working on projects will comprise the board.

There are approximately 300 volunteer workers in the community action program. Miss Vienna Pugh, Neighborhood Service Center director, explained to the volunteers benefits received from their help in the various projects.

Each hour donated by workers is turned into cash in the bookkeeping department. The hours mount up to help produce the some $100,000 of local funds needed to match federal funds. Jack Smith, executive director, pointed out that food, materials, and building space donated to the corporation is also used to make up the necessary cash equivalent.

The system is referred to by community action personnel as the "In-Kind" Program.

Volunteers are presently operating some 15 to 20 community help programs. They include: baby sitting for people who can't afford sitters so they can go to the doctor or grocery shopping; buddy system, where a worker visits a home

on a long range basis, determines the need in the home, and then solves the problem; crafts, home repair, and office work.

Others include the elderly food program, where volunteers prepare a hot meal for some 30 to 40 elderly residents and deliver them, too. Laundry service is provided to some residents who are unable to do their own laundry and can't afford the convenience of a laundromat. The clothes are washed at the central office washing room. Sock darners, telephone buddies, moving assistance and yard c.eaning are some of the projects.

Transportation to doctor's offices and other vital places in the normal routine of life are a so part of the volunteer's daily chores. The telephone buddy system is devised so that the volunteer can regularly call an elderly or sickly person.

"There have been times when a person told us they were passed out on the floor for hours before they could get a call through for help," Miss Pugh said. "Now they are checked on regularly by their buddy," she added.

"Of course, the most successful program of all is possibly the tutorial program," a group leader said. It is set up so that elementary and high school students, who are not properly functioning in school, can receive tutorially help from college students and teachers.

The group decided to have quarterly meetings, since each member is involved in working on various committees already. The board of directors, along with the executive committee, will possibly meet on a more frequent basis.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for sometime in early July.

C. SIX MONTHS REPORT

[From the Cleveland Banner, Nov. 3, 1970]

PROGRESS GROUP CLOCKS 7,033 VOLUNTEER HOURS

(By Mike Flippo)

Volunteers working in Progress for People, Inc. have clocked up more than 7,033 hours in the past six months, Jack Smith, executive director, noted Monday night in a report presented to the board of directors.

The board met at the Bradley County Courthouse in its quarterly meeting.

Smith said the quantitative report of activities involves the board, Neighborhood Advisory committees, volunteers and staff members.

The Golden Age Club operates in about 10 centers throughout the four-county area with more than 280 volunteers. Golden Age Clubbers have various activities such as band or music, sewing, knitting and crafts.

Transportation workers totaled some 1,075 miles helping residents get to Chattanooga clinics, Cleveland doctors, and other local community services. Transportation is also provided in the Tutorial Program and Laundry Services.

Smith said a total of 5,280 persons have been "touched" in the Outreach, Follow-Up and Referral programs. This includes new contacts, pre-technical classes, educational programs, housing programs, health and community services and job placement.

About 615 persons have benefitted from the Emergency Food and Medical program, which provides hot meals for residents not able to cook themselves. This also involves helping people get on the Food Stamp program, Smith said. PFP-sponsored Senior Forums encompassed some 845 senior citizens in the four-county area.

Smith said some 180 children are enrolled in the Head Start Program with some 158 children in the summer Head Start. The Tutorial Program has some 270 students enrolled with 31 college students working in the program.

Some 1,114 volunteers working in PFP programs clocked up a total of 7,033 hours and 10,307 miles during the past six months, Smith said in the report. He said about 1,500 copies of Volunteer Handbooks have been distributed.

Manpower programs, involving education of various forms, has reached about 50 adults and young adults. Health and Homemaking Aides programs have reached a total of 455 persons. In Food Service, more than 6,920 meals were served by volunteer workers.

Training programs are an integral part of Progress for People's outreach to the communities. About 10 training programs and conferences were conducted by PFP in various phases of PFP programs. The Neighborhood Service Centers also involved more than 200 persons in training programs, he noted.

Smith pointed out that the report is principally quantitative and "does not show in any means what Progress for People has done in the past half year."

PROFESSIONAL STAFF ACTIVITIES

A.Manpower/Education

MANPOWER/EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Some of the specific services offered through the Manpower/Education Specialist are as follows:

1. Determine employment and educational needs of the various neighborhood residents through frequent personal visits.
2. Arrange and/or administer testing, counseling, and enrollment in training programs.
3. Function as a laison person between employment and/or training agencies.
4. Coordinate the Manpower/Education activities with other programs conducted by Progress for People.
5. Schedule job interviews for applicants.
6. Develop resource information of employment opportunities throughout the four counties served by Progress for People by personal contact at the employment sources.
7. Develop vocational training and prevocational training programs and other programs, which are available through federal, state, local or private fundings.
8. Exploit services available through other employment agencies as Department of Employment Security, Associated Industries, State Department of Rehabilitation and private organizations.
9. Solicit available sources of technical training as offered by Cleveland State Community College, M.D.T.A. Classes and State Area Vocational Schools.
10. Initiate and/or administer educational classes through the departments of education, such as adult basic education and high school review courses in preparation for G.E.D. testing.
11. Administer a Tutorial Program for the Socioeconomically and/or Academically disadvantaged elementary students grades three through eight enclusive, throughout the four county area of Progress for People. This Tutorial Program being staffed with College Work Study students from all three colleges within the area, namely, Tennessee Wesleyan, Lee College, Cleveland State Community College and volunteers.
12. Provide fundamental counseling relative to job preparation or educational needs.

The above services are numerated to show the overall task of only one facet of our Community Action Agency, Progress for People. Consider the fact that we serve a population of 104,000 people living in a geographical area of 1,430 square miles with per cent living below the O.E.O. guidelines. It is quite obvious that no other agency could come close to providing adequate outreach means or personnel devoted to the cause of helping people help themselves as can be and is provided through our seventeen Neighborhood Service Centers placed in strategic locations most accessible to the poor, a place where they can get all of the above and many many other services rendered for them.

To cite one example of a specific individual, who is most anxious to offer testimonial to what the Community Action Agency has meant to her as relates to education and employment please be referred to attached newsrelease -------- Vera Milsaps.

Working with manpower and educational needs of the poor is the only true tyrant of the battle against proverty. The adage "give a man a fish and he can live a day; teach him how to fish and he can live a life time" is the philosophy of the Manpower director of Progress for People. With the advent of more and more Manpower Programs to be made available through new appropriation it is most imperative to the people of this area to supple them with the services available only through the Manpower/Education facet of the Community Action Agency.

[From the Cleveland Banner, Mar. 24, 1971]

She's College Drop-In

An eighth grade dropout is now in college.

Mrs. Vera Lee Millsaps, mother of four children and employee of Progress For People's Unity Center, Cleveland, is now attending Cleveland State Community College.

Her ambition to go to college was realized through Cleveland State's Pre-technical Program, which prepares students for college-level courses. Mrs. Millsaps enrolled in a high school review course, offered in the program, and successfully completed the high school equivalency diploma test.

Subsequently, when the spring quarter term begins this week, Mrs. Millsaps will be taking her first two college-level courses, Introduction to Sociology and Introduction to Social Work.

Both these courses are among those required to receive a certificate as Social Services Assistant which is awarded through the college continuing education division.

"Mrs. Millsaps is a shining example of what people can do to overcome obstacles facing them in pursuit of a college education," according to J. P. Miles, program coordinator.

Al Seals, program counselor, said many others, like Mrs. Millsaps, are discovering the wide opportunities which are open to them through the Pre-technical Program.

Mrs. Millsaps, resident of 18th Street, Cleveland, came to Cleveland almost five years ago from North Carolina.

Since coming here, Mrs. Millsaps has worked as a seamstress in an industry in Cleveland.

"The Pre-technical Program aroused my interest in college. I had no idea that getting into college was as easy as this," Mrs. Millsaps said.

Registration for the spring quarter term Pre-technical Program at Cleveland State will be held in rooms 204 and 205 of the college Administration Building from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. March 25 and 26. Further information may be obtained from either Miles or Seals.

B. Senior Opportunities Services

SENIOR OPPORTUNITIES SERVICES

Senior Opportunities Services Program is a program designed to help meet the needs of the poor and sick elderly people, who are unable to care for themselves.

There are twenty four people employed in this program. Seventy five percent of these are elderly themselves. This income helps to supplement their small income, they in turn care for the needs of those who are sick and unable to care for themselves.

There is one, the Health and Homemaking Coordinator, who supervise the SOS Program. The Coordinator interviews the participants of whom have been referred to the SOS Program after checking the referred participant, (health needs and income). If the participant is eligible according to OEO guidelines an aide is assigned to go to the home to perform services for them.

These services include house cleaning, non professional nursing care, shopping, paying bills, reading, shaves, laundries, hair cuts, carrying wood and water. These are just a few of the services provided for the elderly poor.

A great number of these people have absolutely no one to care for them. Here is an example of some we have served. An elderly couple both very sick, the woman has been an invalid for years. When we found her her hair had not been combed in eight months nor had she had a bath. Think of this. And the man was crippled with arthritis. Although they were receiving Welfare and a grant to pay some one to care for them, the person receiving the grant was not doing anything for these people. We sent the Health and Home maker aides to serve them until we found some one who would care for them. We also transport these people to Drs. offices, drugstores, Health Dept., Welfare and Food Stamp Offices, and Golden Age Clubs etc.

We have eleven Golden Age Clubs operating in four counties. This day provides a social outlet for these disadvantaged people. The day begins with making crafts of all descriptions, a noon lunch, and a short devotion in the afternoon. We have a band made up of elderly people. They provide band music entertainment for the groups we also visit your nursing home each month, transporting a group of elderly people and the band to provide a musical program for the shut-ins. This is enjoyed by all. These clubs are supervised by the Senior Activity Coordinator.

We also have volunteers working in the S.O.S. program. They work with the clubs and some of them provide health care. services. Some go into the forest and cut wood and haul it to the very needy. Sometimes these people are without any kind of fuel to keep them warm. Some of the volunteers do laundries for the disadvantaged also. Without volunteers our program could not be as effective, because we have a limited staff.

There are only two full time employees and twenty-two part time employees (20 hrs.). We serve in some capacity approximately five hundred participants per week. Mr. Tal Fowler from the Regional Office in Atlanta and Gayle Whitworth from O.E.O. in Nashville have just visited our area and rated the S.O.S. program as one of the best in the eight states.

C. Emergency Food and Medical Services

EMERGENCY FOOD & MEDICAL

The Emergency Food & Medical Program came into effect in 1968 through Community Action in which was a very good program. Since the program has came about, it has helped and served a great number of families and individuals.

This program has bought food for the needed low income people that were not able to provide a well balance diet for themselves. This program is for the low income people that is in need of this assistance. There are families that don't make enough money to buy food that will last from one month to another, or don't have enough to last from one week to another, then they turn to the Emergency Food Program for help in getting food.

There are families that don't have enough money to purchase their food stamps at certain times. There may be sickness in the family or other things, such as bills and this causes them not having money to buy food. The Emergency Food Program works much different than some of the other agencies, for example, a person may go to get food stamps, first he will have to be certified, stand in line, plus they have certain hours that they only sell food stamps. They also have certain days that they will sell food stamps. They have also got to have so much varification on a person.

So many of the people live so far out from the Food Stamp Office and don't have transportation and the outreach workers of the Neighborhod Service Centers will transport them back and forth to the office. There is also a Bus Driver that works out of the Emergency Food Budget that transports the low income people also back and forth to the Food Stamp Office.

The Emergency Food Program buys outright purchase of groceries for families, for example, if a family is out of food and contacted our office for help, then Food Stamps would be the first thing on trying to get, because you get much more food stamps in value than buying groceries, but if you can't get food stamps right off hand, then groceries will be purchased in order that the families or person will not starve. This program sees that one is without food. If it comes on the weekend or after working hours and a person need food, then this is done. If this Emergency Food Program was not available, who would the people turn too?

There are now two Meals-on-Wheels Programs operating out of the Emergency Food Program. There are from 25-30 persons served seven (7) days a week. These meals are for people that are not able to prepare themselves with something to eat. There are two meals served to them daily. There are volunteers that carry these meals out into the homes of the people. When the person is better and is able to prepare for himself, then he is remove from the list and another is replaced.

In the winter months, people really rely on the Emergency Food Program, because a lot of them work on construction or sawmill. They look on this for their source of inomce, but doing the winter months, they are unable to work. Some make gardens, raise tobacco, make crops, in the spring, but doing the winter months they will run out of food and don't have enough to last, so who do they turn to, The Emergency Food Program. The ones that are out of jobs, then they don't have money to buy Food Stamps even though they may be certified at the Food Stamp Office.

For the month of December, 1970, just the Emergency Food Program alone served 504 participants with food, either by purchasing food stamps and outright purchase of groceries. If this program had not been available, what would these 504 participants have done and who would they have turned too? If the Emergency Food Program goes out, what will the poor people do, who will they turn too, and who will provide them with Emergency Food!!

The following is a list of public agencies we are working with:

Department of Public Welfare
Food Stamp Department
Health Department

D. Social Services

SOCIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST

The following is a partial list of the pacifics we have dealth with.

Through our outreach workers in the Old Fort Center, we found a family of three. Two sisters and one brother ages 65, 67, and 70, who were all disable to work, had never worked to build up Social Security, had no knowledge of Welfare, and lived way back in the country. We encourage, persuaded and led the people to needed and available services. Now they are living in much greater comfort.

We have been called about, and had referred to us families of six and eight people living in old automobiles. We've been fortunate in helping them to find shelter, food and employment.

We conducted a survey in the target areas for the elderly people, who needed convalescence care or nursing home care. Their meager income was Welfare or Social Security. Ages of these people ranged from 75 to 90 years, plus most of whom lived alone. By our contact with service agents, we've been able to get 35 of the people into nursing homes.

Meigs County with 61% poverty had a neighborhood of nine families of black people, 58 in all, who had lived in that area for years and years without water, carrying and hauling water 2½ miles from a condemed spring. After we contacted County, City, Civic, Church, farm and federal agencies, a community meeting was held and everybody got involved. A well was drilled 880 ft., pump installed, and now there is plenty of water. The total cost was $1,740, all has been paid.

We have worked through Senators, Gore and Brock and now Congressman Lamar Baker, to assist veterans in getting in hospitals and veterans financial benefits.

We make contact with and for people to get their Social Security when they are eligible and don't know how. We have gotten ten (10) wheel chairs through Easter Seals Society. Our role has been helping deserted children to find homes.

Our outreach workers found a aged lady, very poor, on Welfare, in bitter cold winter with no fuel, hovered around a stov burning old shoes to keep from freezing. We got her some coal and food.

We hold neighborhood meeting on housing problems, call in consultants and have them talk to the target area people on how to get the 235 federal home loans. As a result, many have bought and some are building.

In our 4-county area, we do not have many of the health services needed, therefore our task of getting the people to the service is a great responsibility.

We have had a number of veterans to call on us for help. One veteran had been trying to get hospital attention, but the local doctors were reluctant about requesting hospital service. We called the Veteran Hospital and got the patient admitted the next day. He was diagnosed as Hansens Disease, and given a 100% total disable rating. He was bitten by some insect in the South Pacific. Another veteran was getting 70% disability on his way to Veteran Hospital, got delayed a few hours, for being late his disability allowance was discontinued for seven (7) years, we made contacts for the veteran and he got back pay for seven (7) years and $125 a month.

The Progress for People, Inc., Community Action Agency has been instrumental in getting industry, business and many places of employment to upgrade and employ minority or black people. Most businesses have signed the Civil Rights Compliance report.

Community Action has been called on to act in crises, and has been successful in avoiding racial clashes. Community Action encourage and supported black people in setting up N.A.A.C.P. Chapters in Bradley and McMinn Counties. Both chapters have made improvements for the counties.

Social Service Specialist

The following is a list of public agencies we are working with:

Department of Public Welfare
Department of Child Welfare
Social Security
Farmers Home Loan Administration
Small Business Administration
Department of Agriculture
Bachman Presbyterian Home for Children
County Public Schools
City Public Schools
County Judge and court members
City Mayor and Commissioners
City Street Department
County Pike Road Department
Federal Housing
Public Housing
Hospitals
Rest Homes
Legal Services
Easter Seals Society
Civic clubs
Parks and Playgrounds
Churches
Ministers
Veterans Administration
Veterans Affairs Office
Ambulance Services
Red Cross
Associated Charities
Camps
Chamber of Commerce
Clothing Centers
Christmas Basket projects
Emergencies of all kinds

E. Operation Mainstream

The Operation Mainstrem program has three full-time staff members and 50 enrolees. There are no other manpower training programs in the area besides this one. All supportive services for the program(transportation, recruitment, basic education for enrollees) come from the community action agency, local governments, departments of education, and volunteers. It is a program that is criminally underfunded and overextended. To train 50 men out of a poverty-population of 30,000 and expect such an effort to make any headway againat poverty is unreasonable to say the least.

OPERATION MAINSTREAM
M-1162-47

Our Operation Mainstream Program has a geographical area that covers a six county area. We have approximately 140,000 in population and 1/3 are families below the economic income guidelines.

We have 50 people employed which is the maximum number allowed under our current contract. However, we have several hundred applications from people who are potential enrollees.

There is a tremendous need to increase the Manpower Programs in this Area for the following reasons:

1- Approximately 25,000 to 30,000 persons below the poverty level income guidelines.
2- Unemployment is above 5% in the entire area.
3- 30% is either underemployed, handicapped and/or disadvantaged for many reasons.
4- 50% unskilled labor, that could be trained for skilled employment.
5- 25% are semi-skilled because of the need for advanced technical training .

Justifications for increased Manpower Programs:

1- C.A.A. serving the area.
2- CAMPS committee serving the area.
3- Facilities and experienced staff.
4- New industries demanding trained or skilled labor.
5- Several Colleges to provide techinical assistance that have the necessary training facilities.

Mrs. STULBERG. I am Dorothy Stulberg. What a responsibility to say in a few sentences what community action has meant to the rural areas of our country.

First of all, remember that often the information you receive as Senators is in the form of statistics, and remember that these represent an individual, that each one of these numbers is a human being. Translating that statistic into a human being has to happen for you to really fight for the continuance of community action.

The one point not mentioned here is that community action through its structure provides a chance for the more affluent (the people like me, who have had every opportunity this country has to offer—education, good housing, enough food to eat, a stable family) to become aware that there are people not as fortunate. Through community action there is a chance for me as a human being to stop wringing my hands, to stop saying, "I hate poverty, but what can I do about it?"

Community action provides a structure through which elected representatives, a person like me, and a low-income person (the one usually left out) can sit down together on an equal basis and talk and make decisions.

I would like to place my complete statement in the record, Mr. Chairman.

Senator NELSON. Thank you.

(The prepared statement of Mrs. Stulberg follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DOROTHY STULBERG, MEMBER OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ANDERSON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION, ANDERSON COUNTY, TENN.

Chairman Nelson and members of this committee: I am Dorothy Stulberg. I am here because I believe in community action. I have been a volunteer in Community Action since 1964. I don't mean just a member of a board enjoying the privileges of policy making. I have traveled miles in the world of poverty. I know, on a human friendship basis, a good share of the low income people in our county. I have been a participating member of that "other world". I understand Congress is impatient and discouraged with community action. (Sometimes I am impatient with Congress, but I wou.dn't vote to disband it or to reduce its salary.)

Community action is involved in a serious business—the salvaging of lives. It is working. I have seen it work.

Here is one examp'e of how it helped an individual become a participating and productive member of society. Community action looks at the whole person. Joyce is one of these people. She is a mother of five chi'dren, and has a disabled husband. I first met her when she was a headstart aide—she was in need, her family was hungry and unkempt. She looked like she didn't care and had no ability at all. She was hired because of that important guideline of the Economic Opportunity Act requiring hiring of parents of Heatstart children. She turned out to be an exceptional aide. When the summer program was over she had no job. Community action helped her apply for Mainstream, counseled her, interested her in beginning an organization in her low income community, helped her get her high school diploma. Now, she has a good job and has begun taking college credit courses. It wouldn't have happened without community action.

The Lone Mountain community is a beautiful example of how community action supports democracy at the local level—how it provides a means for the community to have a voice in government. Community action looks at the whole community. In 1964, people living in this isolated area were invited to come hear about community action. Four people came the first time. They liked the idea—*they* called the second meeting. This area didn't even have a name—the map called it Heavenly Hollow. The first item of business was to choose a name—Lone Mountain. There had never been any organization of any kind here—no one had ever been an officer in anything. The man elected for secretary could neither

read nor write. That community now has $1,500 in the bank toward building a community center. They have met every month for seven years.

Their accomplishments could have been greater if there had been more resources available. What will happen if the rug is pulled out from under them now? Their accomplishments might seem small to you—they finally got a dump removed from next door to the community church—only one lane of traffic could go on the road because the garbage spread out so far. There were rats and flies and smell so bad that the church windows couldn't be opened. The community formed a committee (a new idea for them) which was able to get the Health Department and the County Court to act. They signed petitions, got agreement for right of ways and finally got a road widened by the road department—a hazardous road that the school bus traveled four times a day. Symbolically, they placed a road sign saying "Lone Mountain" at the entrance to their community.

Community Action provides a mechanism for communication across the various segments of our society. We could give many examples—briefly here is one. The U.S. Congress passed a bill supporting the arts, the state of Tennessee in response established a Tennessee Arts Commission. Propoals were sent in—among them one from the Anderson County Community Action Commission requesting funds to provide art education during the summer in twelve low income communities. It was funded and has been for three years—a successful and continuing partnership of a cultural affluent group, and low income people.

Why can't other agencies do all these things? Because community action is set up to responsd to the whole needs of the whole man; because it is based on the belief that all human beings are valuable; because it is flexible enough to design programs suiting the situation; and because it is the only program beginning with the low income person, with communication on up to the institutions. I have a very good friend, Mary. In 1965 we met her. She was in such bad shape mentally that she was in danger of killing someone. Community Action was able through friendship to get her to mental health where it was discovered that medicine could maintain her health. She had been a welfare recipient for years and well known by local physicians. Before community action nobody had looked at her as a human being—truly a life salvaged. She is a beautiful human being.

Housing is another example. You all designed and funded an excellent program, 235. But you might as well have saved your breath if you expected it to be used by low income people. The connecting piece was left out. Who interprets the law, who carries the person to the loan company, to FHA, to the builder. Who helps with budgeting? Community action of course.

If I were to say one word describing what community action means in rural areas, I would say "chance". It means a chance for an individual to develop into what he wants to be. And a chance for a community to grow and become a good place to live. Removing community action form O.E.O. would be taking away this chance.

Senator NELSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. MCFARLIN. I am Ben McFarlin. I speak from experience since September 1964, when I was elected to be cochairman and later chairman of the local one-county agency. We grew from one county to two, to three, to four. I represented all the Southern States on a 10-man national advisory committee. I was chairman of the Southeastern Regional Planning Group for 3 years. I have a prepared statement but I would like to sum up here what I say, in it, sir.

Senator NELSON. Your statement will be printed in full in the record.

(The prepared statement of Mr. McFarlin follows:)

TOPICS TO TALK ABOUT

EMERGENCY FOOD AND MEDICAL PROGRAM

. . . has filled the gap; watered the pump, enabled thousands of old people, young people, destitute women to get started on the Food Stamp Program. In our area Emergency Food has helped to wipe out the garbage can scroungers and even children who dip into slop buckets for their food. It has far reaching effects -- 150 families have applied to plant gardens this spring with seeds furnished by Emergency Food-O.E.O.; other services from turning the land to the Harvest Fairs furnished by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and private groups. Prizes for best gardens by Chamber of Commerce. (A garden must be 1/2 acre before eligible for services under ASC Program. These will be plugged into for extra large gardens.)

High emphasis priority given to nutrition -- nutrition can be preached and practiced when tied directly into delivery of food. All recipients of Emergency Food vouchers are guests of their County Nutritional Advisory Committee for food demonstrations and eating.

Emergency Food is a practical, functional, on-going program. Every recipient of Emergency Food is automatically exposed to delivery of all other supportive services in our area.

Emergency Food lends itself to linkage with all rural programs: U.S. Department of Agriculture, ASC, FHA, etc.

INCREASING FUNDING LEVEL

(a) When services between public and private agencies and our country's most disadvantaged citizenry are improved, Community Action will do it.

Example: Team Approach of services between agencies to hard-core families.

Give them the funds with which to develop this sorely needed service.

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INCREASING FUNDING LEVEL (Continued)

(b) Programs with 100% involvement of administration; private sector; and program recipients are successful. Community Action has demonstrated this. YOU (the Congress) have had the foresight and vision to do this. KEEP IT GOING! ! !

CAA TO HANDLE FOOD STAMPS

. . . give CAA the chance to make this wonderful and imperative program more publicly acceptable. Pass the legislation that will eliminate strikers on Food Stamps. Give CAA the opportunity to remove the Food Stamp from the burdensome public Welfare problems. We have the staff to go into homes, see conditions as they stand, and bring these people to the services. This is a service that Welfare cannot do.

TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING FOR RURAL AREAS

. . . Rutherford County has 60,000 people and only private cars and a bus line franchise along two federal highway routes to get these citizens to work, to services, to market. Subsidize some rural, public transportation and see it reflected in the employment rate, in the educational level, and in the general health. SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO THE PEOPLE -- RURAL TRANSPORTATION WILL MAKE THE PEOPLE AVAILABLE TO THE SERVICES.

Housing for the elderly who live in rural areas -- some elderly people are still trying to run a farm who really should be retired, but can't give up a farm with no place to go.

ROLE OF NON-PROFESSIONAL IN O.E.O.

. . . again the Congress has had the vision to build into the O.E.O. law economic opportunity for those without formal education and previous work experience; namely, the non-professional. These gains go with employment for

ROLE OF NON-PROFESSIONAL IN O.E.O. (Continued)

these non-professionals:

(a) Income.
(b) Security of Workmen's Compensation, Social Security, Hospitalization, and a Retirement Fund.
(c) Status in the neighborhood, community, and the agency.
(d) Opportunities for advancement through upgradement and Career Development.

The personnel of our agency is 50% non-professional. 50% of these 50% have received advancement in our agency or advancement in other employment and have furthered their informal and formal education through the challenge of their jobs in service training and Career Development Programs.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

. . . our agency has 22 viable O.E.O. Neighborhood Organizations composed of low-income members. These groups have demonstrated their abilities to identify and accomplish their own long and short range goals. These range from water and sewer, day care, community centers, education, employment, ad infinitum.

Community Action has produced a growing number of target area residents who have become increasingly knowledgeable in organizational activities, government procedures, and program operation.

Community Action has developed a model and a standard for citizens participation in government programs which subsequent programs (HUD, EASA) have adopted, modified, and molded to their particular concerns. Agencies other than O.E.O. simply could not ignore the citizens participation developed by Community Action.

COMMUNITY SERVICES THAT OTHER AGENCIES DO NOT GIVE

. . . person-to-person, individualized services in helping the completely deprived individual advantage themselves of all available public and private resources.

COMMUNITY SERVICES THAT OTHER AGENCIES DO NOT GIVE (Continued)

Mobilization of resources is a strong force that runs rampantly through Community Action.

CAA VOLUNTEERS

. . . O.E.O. is to be complimented for providing funds for personnel with which to energize all the terrific volunteer power that goes untapped and co-ordinated for the benefit of the low-income in thousands of communities.

THE OUTREACH CAPABILITIES

. . . that other agencies do not have. Direct quotes and examples:

(a) Department of Welfare says O.E.O. Outreach is best thing that ever happened to their agency.
(b) Farmer's Home Administration has closed loans to 16 applicants from Housing Coordinator's referrals.
(c) O.E.O. Outreach has flexibility to identify and energize those people never reached by U.S.D.A., FHA, Public Health, etc.

ADVOCACY OF THE POOR

(1) O.E.O. has gotten public officials to accept their "poor" constituency.
(2) O.E.O. has changed church and charity participation philosophy from "Christmas Baskets" and workshops which provide real involvement with problems of the low-income.
(3) O.E.O. is the exercising of the low-income being their own advocates.
(4) Personal development that comes from satisfaction in individual and group action on part of poor.

OUTREACH PEERS WORKING WITH PEERS

. . . this is a two-way street -- the non-professional can best identify with problems of the low-income and the fact that the non-professional has gained advantages in society, this both demonstrates and motivates the poor, with whom the non-professional works to do likewise.

DELIVERY OF SERVICES

. . . is easily quantified. An example would be from a Rutherford County outreach monthly progress report in which three Aides and a part-time County Director (enrolled in the University) delivered services to 936 individuals. As noted before, services must be personalized and integrated. One trip to the Neighborhood Service System can result in as many services as possible.

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

. . . indirect gains of any effort are most difficult to quantify. However, our agency can report the following:

(a) O.E.O. Neighborhood Organizations have obtained voting precincts.
(b) O.E.O. Neighborhood Organizations have obtained representation on the Quarterly County Court.
(c) O.E.O. has provided the low-income with true demoncratic action.
(d) O.E.O. has provided a sample of pure democracy with the Governing Board format and function.

IDENTIFY THE UNIQUE THINGS
CAA CAN DO

1. Mobilize public and private resources.
2. Tap foundation funds for the benefit of the nation's poor.
3. Involve program participants in policy making.
4. Provide imperative transportation for delivery of services.
5. Involve public, private, and poor sectors in administration which is an excellent exercise in democracy - when a representative of the poor can vote with or against the County Judge.

EXPANDED PROGRAMS

1. Most O.E.O. Grants have been "seed" money and this is good. CAA has been forced to coordinate, catalyze, and mobilize.
2. O.E.O. is the one agency which has developed Governing Board and staff capability of real linkage -- interaction at funding level with Tennessee Employment Security, Department of Public Health, and O.E.O.
3. Emergency Food Programs are beautiful examples of funding sources that can be supplemented

Attachments: Yellowbook on Stones River OEO

Mr. McFarlin. It has provided thousands the means to come off welfare and get on the tax rolls. We need to have under one Federal head, preferably the OEO, a way or means to take the low-income family as one and make or influence all of that family that are capable to become helpful, self-respecting taxpayers, taking their rightful place in this great society of ours.

The time needed for this is at least one generation, not 1 or 2 years. One generation. We sure thank you for letting us appear with you, Senator Nelson.

Any of us here would be glad to spend days giving testimony from our experience.

Thank the rest of the committee members for inviting us.

Senator Nelson. Thank you. I appreciate your appearance here today. As I said, all prepared statements will be printed in the record and if you have any supplementary material that you would like to submit for the record, if you can have it here within a week from today it will be printed in the record.

(The information referred to follows:)

STONES RIVER

OFFICE

OF



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

FY 1971

The Stones River Economic Opportunity Commission is a four-county Community Action Agency funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, D.C. The counties are Warren, Cannon, DeKalb and Rutherford.

The purpose of a Community Action Agency (CAA) is to enable communities to attack their local poverty problems in a positive, coordinated manner. The Federal Government provides 80% of the costs to implement the programs, with the remaining 20% provided by local in-kind contributions.

CAA's are a means by which bridges can be built between the poor and non-poor; between government officials and private groups; between professionals and laymen; between the poor and opportunities that could help them become self-sufficient, productive and respected citizens.

Stones River EOC is administered by a Governing Board which is determined by population. This Board makes all final decisions on policies and actions taken by the programs administered by the Stones River Economic Opportunity Commission. It has equal representation from elected officials, private and civic leaders and target area representatives. Local County Boards serve in an advisory capacity by making recommendations to the Governing Board.

CAA ADMINISTRATION

This activity is the coordinating center of the program and implements the decisions of the Governing Board. It administers and provides services such as direction, training, materials, budget control centralized purchasing and technical assistance to its operating programs.

The staff includes:

1	Executive Director
1	Volunteer Coordinator
1	General Services Coordinator
1	Executive Secretary
1	Bookkeeper
*1	Fiscal Coordinator

*½ salary paid from Head Start.

The funding level is:

FEDERAL	$48,226
NON-FEDERAL	$12,066
TOTAL	$60,332

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE SYSTEMS

The Neighborhood Service System programs provide services to persons throughout the 4-county area. An office is located in each county seat with aides performing outreach services to most every community through Neighborhood meetings and personal contact. Referrals and follow-ups, assessment of problems, whether health, financial or family become a part of the aides in the field. Many neighborhoods have started sewing, crafts and arts, and family planning classes with the help of the aides.

The staff includes:

1	4-County Director
4	County Directors
16	Aides
2	Secretaries
1	Records Clerk
1	Housing Coordinator
*1	Social Services Coordinator
**1	Manpower Coordinator
*1	Education Coordinator

*½ salary paid from EFM
**½ salary paid from SC

The funding level is:

FEDERAL	$136,478
NON-FEDERAL	$ 42,370
TOTAL	$178,848

EMERGENCY FOOD AND MEDICAL

This program is operated by the N.S.S. personnel and is for the use in emergency by the economically dis-advantaged. It is funded totally by the Federal Government.

The staff includes:

*1 Social Service Coordinator
*1 Educational Coordinator

½ salary paid by N.S.S.

The funding level is:

FEDERAL $33,000

SENIOR CITIZENS

This program is geared for the citizens 55 years old and up. There are 2 aides each in Warren and Rutherford counties, 1 each in DeKalb and Cannon. The personnel work under the direction of the N.S.S.

The staff includes:

6	Aides
1	Secretary
*1	Manpower Coordinator

*½ salary paid by N.S.S.

The funding level is:

FEDERAL	$38,000
NON-FEDERAL	$ 9,500
TOTAL	$47,500

HEAD START

This is a D.H.E.W. program delegated to Stones River E.O.C. to implement. This program offers comprehensive educational, health, social service, nutrition and parental involvement activities. This program is for the economically dis-advantaged pre-school child.

NUMBER OF CENTERS	13
NUMBER OF CHILDREN	480

The staff includes:

1	Director
1	Education Director
1	Social Service Coordinator
1	Volunteer Coordinator
1	Secretary
1	Maintainence Man
1	Bookkeeper
4	Social Services Aides
24	Teachers
24	Aides
4	Cooks
2	Janitors
5	Bus Drivers

The funding level is:

FEDERAL	$320,127
NON-FEDERAL	$ 80,040
TOTAL	$400,167

NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS

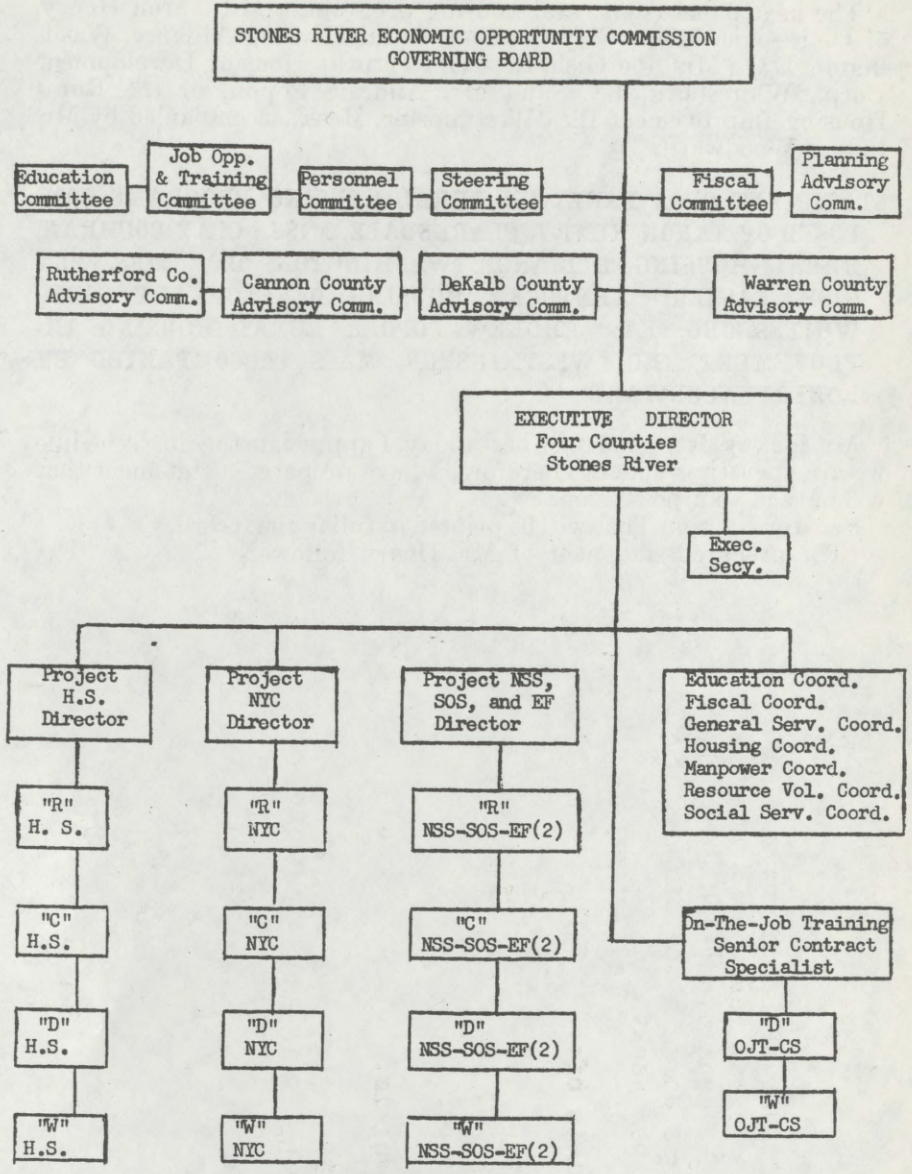
This is a Department of Labor program, delegated to Stones River to implement. It is an out-of-school program for the 16 year old drop out. It provides work experience and training, remedial education, and other supportive services for 60 dis-advantaged youths. The enrollees work in the program for 20 hours per week and attend educational classes for 6 hours per week.

The staff consists of:

1 Director
2 Counselors
1 Bookkeeper

The funding level is:

FEDERAL	$157,270
NON-FEDERAL	$ 16,480
TOTAL	$173,750



KEY

H.S. = Head Start
NYC = Neighborhood Youth Corps
NSS = Neighborhood Service System
SOS = Senior Opportunity Services
EF = Emergency Food (Regional & State)
CS = Contract Specialist
"R"=Rutherford County
"C"=Cannon County
"D"=DeKalb County
"W"=Warren County

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much.

The next panel is on rural housing program, a Mr. Aaron Henry, of Clarksdale, Miss.; Clay Cochran, Rural Housing Alliance, Washington, D.C.; Mrs. Pat Gish, Eastern Kentucky Housing Development Corp., Whitesburg, Ky.; and Mr. Andrew Popoli, of the Rural Housing Improvement Inc., Westminster, Mass., accompanied by Mr. Robert Woodward.

STATEMENT OF A PANEL ON RURAL HOUSING PROGRAMS COMPOSED OF AARON HENRY, CLARKSDALE, MISS.; CLAY COCHRAN, RURAL HOUSING ALLIANCE, WASHINGTON, D.C.; MRS. PAT GISH, EASTERN KENTUCKY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORP., WHITESBURG, KY.; ANDREW POPOLI, RURAL HOUSING IMPROVEMENT, INC., WESTMINSTER, MASS., ACCOMPANIED BY ROBERT WOODWARD

Mr. HENRY. It is good to be here today. I appreciate the time schedule we are operating under. Therefore, I have prepared a statement that you have in your possession.

Senator NELSON. That will be printed in full in the record.

(The prepared statement of Mr. Henry follows:)

Statement of Aaron Henry, Chairman
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
State of Mississippi

Before the Senate Subcommittee on
Employment, Manpower, and Poverty
April 29, 1971

My name is Aaron Henry. I am from Clarksdale, Mississippi. I serve as Chairman for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Mississippi, on the National Board of Directors of the NAACP, and the National Board of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

I want to express my appreciation for being invited to appear today, but I want to set the record straight right here: I did not come to support a simple two year extension of the War on Poverty and its no win policy. There is no question that this war has to be waged by an agency whose single purpose is to win it. In Mississippi we have waited a long time for the promises to be fulfilled, the poor will have to wait much longer if their basic needs are to be met by the established agencies. You and I both know that a simple extension will result in furthering the plans that this Administration has for "disorganizing" the Federal government. I come before you today to urge that you recapture the commitment made by this body seven years ago and make good those promises. To accomplish this, it is essential that we go much beyond merely maintaining the integrity of the Office of Economic Opportunity and extending its life. What is needed are some new authorities and a massive injection of dollars. There is no painless procedure. Fulfilling poor people's basic human needs requires more than rhetoric and more than a mere coordination of services. It requires an honest commitment to people--a commitment backed by Federal dollars.

I understand that today's hearings are centered on the problems of rural poverty. It is understating it to say that it is appropriate for you to hear a voice from Mississippi. This Committee, the Congress, and, indeed, the people of conscience throughout the country by now are aware of the extent of human misery in small towns and rural areas. Other witnesses before you today and in fact scores of witnesses during years past have adequately documented the need.

I understand that you are interested in focusing on the specific problem of rural housing, and I would like to direct the remaining portion of my remarks to that problem and OEO's role in solving it.

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In North Bolivar County, about 15 miles from where I live in Mississippi, less than one house in three has piped water and the rest have outhouses or nothing at all. The people in those houses have lived there all their lives and, in most cases, their parents lived that way before them. To me, Senator, that is not a crisis, it is a scandal. It is a thing that has been with us a long time.

We have had public housing in this country for a third of a century and it still has not reached one-tenth of the people eligible for it. That, too, is not a crisis, Senator, but a scandal.

Moreover, there are families in this country whose incomes are too low to get them into public housing under present procedures--even if there were public housing available. What I am really saying is that the programswe have, if they were executed to their fullest possibility, would not in their present form serve a great number of people who are poor and need housing.

Even if there were public housing available, and I cannot see how that can be regarded as anything but a scandal, that the programs that we have in themselves are not adequate, even if they were executed to the fullest extent. Bad housing in America is a scandal that is not going to be ended until we stop looking at the problem in terms of builders, bankers, "starts," codes, markets, credit risks, subsidy mechanisms, management techniques and all the rest, and start looking at it in terms of people--of human need.

The Office of Economic Opportunity has historically been deprived of the necessary funds and resources to deal effectively with the problems of poverty in this nation, and over the past few years its effectiveness has been blunted by a castration process, whereby in state and local politicians' control has increasingly been imposed over the lives of the poor. Although this is sadly the fact, it remains the only agency which attempted to focus on poor people and human needs rather than institutions.

As I indicated earlier, existing Federal programs do not meet the housing needs of OEO's constituency. OEO's miniscule housing efforts have not been effective in bridging the gap. The examples of OEO supported efforts discussed with the Committee this morning, reveal more frustration than success--because they have been restricted by a paucity of funds and limited because they are to rely on existing housing programs. To this point, OEO has seen its role as one of providing technical assistance and training to local groups to aid them in hustling the existing housing system. That is all well and good, but its not enough. This approach is a classic reaffirmation in real life of the story of the technical assistance agency which

told the grasshoppers to turn themselves into cockroaches and move to town for the winter as a means of survival. I do not think the really poor can be taught how to hustle this cockroach of a housing system effectively. The system is not designed to meet their needs. Let's do a little pioneering into new fields.

You may remember back in 1965 when some of the poor people of Mississippi had been forced from their homes and forcibly evicted from Federal property where they had sought shelter. You may also remember that they came to Washington and pitched their tents in Lafayette Park to demand that the Federal government help them to obtain decent housing. None of them qualified for any existing Federal housing programs then and most of them would not be served by the program passed since then because they are too poor. In the curious logic of the poor, they were asking that their housing needs be met by OEO--the agency which they believed was created to serve them. However, at the time President Johnson was getting ready for another war--a war whose only contribution to the elimination of poverty was the deaths of sons of the poor. The poor of Mississippi were told that OEO was not a housing agency and its fnds were not to be spent for the brick, sticks, and mortar which was needed to provide them with housing.

People like those are still without adequate housing, as are the millions of people in the other Mississippi's in this land, and I am here today to say that it is time that that housing money was made available through the Office of Economic Opportunity.

There is no use beating around the bush. I am urging that at least a quarter of a billion dollars a year must be made available to OEO to meet the housing and sanitation needs of the poor in rural America. And I am putting you on notice that a quarter of a billion is not nearly enough. In Mississippi we have heard that OEO is to serve as a demonstration agency. O.K., let it demonstrate with a quarter billion dollars a year how the poor can be decently housed, and what it takes in organization and advocacy and deeper subsidies than currently exist.

I propose that this initial quarter of a billion dollars be used not only to take advantage of existing housing programs where they may apply, but be used directly to finance and subsidize the capital costs of housing, community centers, health centers, water and sewage systems and other community facilities where needed by the rural poor. The allocation and use of these funds must be made on the basis of need--the requirement being that those with the lowest income be served first.

Let me quickly add, that I am not an advocate of revenue sharing--a term which is just an euphemism for "states rights" and a concept with which we in Mississippi are quite familiar. Therefore, I am proposing that this housing money must flow from OEO directly to local groups, without being subjected to a governor's or a regional official's veto.

What I have given you is the concept. I will leave it to you to fill in the details. But let me offer one caveat: Don't promise something you can't deliver that's been done too many times already. Don't come on with a couple of million dollars to show how the poor can make the system work. We've demonstrated that it won't work for people without money and I'm telling you again that it won't. Keep the new housing law simple: tell OEO to spend a quarter billion dollars to house the poor next year. Tell them it must go to the people to build houses. If you tell them that, I have enough faith in the people that they'll hold OEO to that mandate.

Mr. HENRY. I would like to make a few comments on some of the things we had to say.

It might be somewhat astounding to you, but I have not come here today merely to ask for a 2-year extension of the OEO. We feel that perhaps others have convinced you that OEO has to be extended for 2 years or longer, but when we deal with the problems of rural poverty, as I understand that this session is dealing with, one of the clear absences of what we have been able to do is to do hardly anything about housing of the poor in our Nation.

The poor feel that OEO is its vehicle out of poverty. Yet it has little, if any, role in providing bricks, mortar, et cetera for people who don't have homes or have very inadequate housing.

In North Bolivar Country, about 15 miles from me in Mississippi, less than one house in three has plumbing, and the rest have outhouses, or something less. To me, Senator, this is not a crisis. It is a scandal.

We have families who are too poor to measure up to the high standards that public housing now requires.

The OEO has been deprived of resources and funds to deal with the problem of housing in this Nation, and we have been told time and time again that we have to be concerned with codes, starts, and other intricacies of biulding that the poor find difficult to understand.

You may remember back in 1965 when some of the poor people from Mississippi moved, or were evicted from homes, moved to Government property and squatted, and we came here and squatted in Lafayette Park. Most of these people are still without housing today, and this took place back in 1965.

I am saying that we need at least a quarter of a billion dollars to be placed in OEO for the express purpose of making housing adequate for the poor of this Nation.

I propose this initial quarter of a billion dollars be used not only to take advantage of additional housing programs where they may apply, but be used to finance directly and subsidize the cost of housing, community centers, et cetera.

I do not advocate revenue sharing, a term that is just a euphemism for States rights, because this puts funds that could be used for the poor directly back into the hands of those determined that we will not get it.

All I am giving you is a concept and leave it to you to fill in the details, but let me offer one caveat. Don't promise what you can't deliver. Too many times and too many places this has been the case.

Don't give us a couple of million dollars, and say to the poor, "Show me how a housing program can work," when you have underfinanced it from the beginning.

Keep the new housing law simple, tell the OEO to sepnd a quarter of a billion dollars to house the poor next year, tell them they must go through the people who the houses are to be built for and if you tell them that, I have enough faith in the people that run OEO to feel that this mandate will be carried out.

Fortunately, OEO has been blessed with some administrators who have seen it as their job to eradicate poverty. Unfortunately they have been hamstrung from the lack of funds, from the lack of administrative ability, from the lack of will in this country to carry it out.

Thank you.

Senator NELSON. Thank, you, Mr. Henry.

Mr. Cochran?

Mr. COCHRAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Rural Housing Alliance has produced a great deal of the data which has floated this problem of rural and small town housing in this country to the surface.

The first foundation grant was conditioned on an OEO supplement, so our contributions can in fact be attributed to OEO. The gist of the problem you know. The nonmetropolitan areas have a third of the population, and two-thirds of the substandard housing. So the problem out there is continuing and tragic.

This country really does not have a housing program for the rural poor. HUD approaches rural areas with the same enthusiasm as a cat taking a daily swim, and when Farmers Home Administration, malnourished over the years and a fairly old agency, tries to look at a new approach, you can hear its joints pop and muffled cries of pain. That is the reason that it is absolutely essential that OEO not only be there to continue to work on that problem and limber up those joints, and maybe perform a social lobotomy on that cat, but that it have enough money to really staff up a housing program and carry on some more meaningful experiments.

With the limited funds available—and housing has never been high on OEO's agenda—it still does very significant things. It established the self-help housing program. It has worked on using HDC's as an institution in the rural areas, although most of them are urban, to organize people and give them a voice.

Unfortunately the HDC's, except for a few like Pat Gish, have attempted to use programs that were aimed at an income group above the poor.

What OEO needs to do is carry out really worthwhile demonstrations and have the ability to replicate demonstrations that are shown to be good and to continue to reveal the deficiencies of the existing house agencies. We did not know how deficient they were until OEO made the voices of the poor audible, trying to get things done and suddenly we find that the programs don't fit the rural areas, and they don't fit here the really poor.

Everybody thinks public housing can serve the poor, but it can't serve the poor, the really poor. As Aaron Henry says, the really poor are so poor that they are not eligible for public housing. We did not know this until recently. In looking at the continuation of the OEO program, if all we can do is continue it and keep what voices are there, if what is what we have to settle for, all right. But a quarter of a billion dollars, as suggested by the NACD and the National Housing Coalition, would provide not only technical people, but brick and mortar and on a scale that Puerto Rico has tried, would have a tremendous effect on people elsewhere and on housing agencies, which are not geared to serve people in small towns and rural areas; are not provided by Congress with the necessary money, or lack the moral fervor in some cases to do the job assigned to them.

Thank you.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much.

(The prepared statement of Mr. Cochran follows:)

Statement Of

Clay L. Cochran, Executive Director, Rural Housing Alliance

before

Subcommittee on Employment, Manpower, and Poverty
Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee

April 29, 1971

Chairman Nelson and Members of the Subcommittee: I am Clay Cochran and I serve as the Executive Director of the Rural Housing Alliance, a non-profit educational and informational organization which began as the International Self-Help Housing Association, and which has operated for more than four years on a combination of Ford Foundation and Office of Economic Opportunity funding. We are grateful for your invitation to come up here and talk about that experience and what it has said to us regarding the role of OEO in rural housing.

The Need For Rural Housing

Let me begin with what may be some familiar figures on the extent of the problem. The most recent figures published by the Census Bureau show about 10 million households, totaling over 24 million people, below the offical poverty line. Roughly half of these live inside metropolitan counties and the other half outside. Thus, it is clear that rural areas and small towns begin with a substantial income gap -- having less than one-third of the total population, but one-half of the poverty population.

These same areas also suffer from a disproportionate share of the nation's substandard housing, and the prevalence of such housing among low-income households is more than twice as high in the non-metropolitan areas as in the metropolitan areas. We won't have really good figures until last year's census data is available, but in the meantime it is a fair assumption that between a third and a half of those poverty households in the non-metropolitan areas occupy housing which is rated substandard by the official definition -- in round numbers that would be about 2 million units. This could be considered the hard core of the rural and small town housing problem. Given the level of housing costs, it is a pretty safe assumption that another 2 million of those poverty households are living in housing which is "standard" only in the most narrow sense of the term, or are living in standard housing only at the price of putting an exorbitant portion of their meager income into it, or both.

It is also important to remember that the rural housing problem is by no means confined to those below the poverty level. The indications are that in non-metropolitan areas 10% or more of those between the poverty line and the middle of the income distribution also occupy substandard housing. And it is largely this group which is served by the housing assistance program of the Farmers Home Administration. (FmHA

figures for Fiscal 1970 show that 11% of their initial Section 502 homeownership loans went to borrowers with an adjusted income of $3,000 or less. Since the $3,800 income level for a family of four which is specified in the OEO guidelines would "adjust" to $3,010, this can be regarded as a rough indication of the share of the program which is going to OEO's constituency.)

Thus, the numbers make it clear that there is a role for OEO in rural housing. The nature of the problem also makes it clear and indicates what sort of a role it needs to be.

The basic cause of the problem is the maldistribution of income

It is a truism, but one which needs to be constantly repeated and constantly stressed, that America's housing problem (like its other poverty-related problems) stems basically from the appalling maldistribution of income and wealth which exists in our country. Our experience is that in rural and small town areas, a couple of other maldistributions are also operative, resulting in what we call the credit gap and the institutional gap. I think it is fair to say that both are general problems for poor people and special problems for rural people.

There is also a rural credit gap

To illustrate one aspect of the credit gap, we would hazard the guess -- on the basis of partial data -- that almost 90%

of mortgage credit extended by savings and loans and commercial banks is extended in metropolitan areas. In short, there is an absolute lack of housing credit in the non-metropolitan areas. It was in recognition of this that Congress has made the Farmers Home Administration the residual source of such credit in towns of 10,000 or less. But, the other aspect of the credit gap is that what is there is generally unavailable to the poor. This is true, not only because their low incomes keep them from being "credit-worthy," but also because they are generally in the worst position to deal with the procedural requirements that accompany the extension of credit -- and other resources, for that matter.

Rural institutions are inadequate

This brings us to the institutional gap. Again, it is generally true of rural areas and small towns that they are short of the expertise needed to "hustle the housing system." This shortage not only runs to such things as potential non-profit sponsors for low- and moderate-income housing, and to the people to put such sponsorship together; it runs to such things as public housing and to the use of other existing programs for increasing the supply of adequate housing. While the combination of rising costs and of court decisions which question the continued creation of Federally-subsidized ghettos are turning the program's eyes increasingly to the non-metropolitan areas, this is a recent phenomenon and one which

is uneven at best. The last time we looked, there were still nearly 40% of the nation's counties which had no public housing program in operation.

Hostility to the poor

And again, this shortage poses a double-problem for the poor, since the institutions which do exist and which do have the skills required, are all too frequently not responsive to the poor. In some instances it is because the institutional skills are for hire and the poor simply can't afford them. In other instances it is because there is an abundance of work for them serving those above the poverty line and they have little interest in seeking additional -- and probably more difficult -- chores to do. (This may frequently be the case with public institutions such as the Farmers Home Administration.) In all too many instances, those who know how to hustle the housing system are just plain hostile to the poor.

There is a role for OEO

It seems to us that these aspects of the situation underline both an experimental and a continuing role for the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Experimentation

Its experimentation should include the development of special subsidy arrangements to overcome the income and credit gaps

and to make it possible to reach the lowest income families with adequate housing. It should include demonstrating the ways in which existing housing assistance programs can be used, the ways in which particular modifications of them will make them more usable, and the ways in which they just can't be used by OEO's constituency. OEO can and should also be demonstrating the ways in which new institutional arrangements can have some effect on the rural housing problem -- including the creation of organizations designed specifically to bridge the institutional gap.

Demonstration

But, just as important as demonstration -- and a lot more controversial -- is the need for OEO to play a continuing role as the catalyst and advocate which sees its responsibility as offering expertise to the poor and monitoring the work of the regular agencies in their dealings with the poor. The parallel to legal services seems to us very clear. Just as the poor need access -- on a continuing basis -- to legal expertise and assistance, they need access to housing expertise and assistance. They need it to make the maximum use of the existing system and of whatever assistance mechanisms Congress establishes. They need it also to reduce the degree to which institutions are responsive primarily to those with economic and/or political power. As long as we are going to put up with the kind of income distribution we have in this

society, our obligation to the principle of equality of opportunity demands that we at least make that gesture.

To what extent has OEO played these kinds of roles? On the basis of our experience, the answer has to be "Some -- but not much".

OEO needs a housing policy

In the first place, the agency has never had a clear and coordinated housing policy. It has operated pretty largely on an ad hoc basis, responding all too often to local initiatives and demands rather than providing national priorities and leadership. This, combined with the fact that by the time the local community action agencies came to recognize housing as a pressing need, the program's total funding levels had leveled off, has meant that the resources going into housing have been paltry and have not been focussed -- either in terms of geography or of types of problems.

OEO does very little about housing

The lack of overall commitment to housing, for example, is reflected in the fact that the community action program, as of mid-1970, was providing only about $12-1/2 million under the two program accounts which refer to housing. Roughly half of this was going into Program Account #37, housing development corporations. A look at the HDC's funded

indicates that 60-75% of the funds are going into those serving metropolitan areas, despite the fact that, as we have indicated, half of the nation's poor and two-thirds of its worst housing are outside the metropolitan areas.

There has been retrogression

A further reflection of the lack of commitment and of focus is the fact that the operations division at the national headquarters of OEO currently has -- as far as we know -- no one assigned specifically to the field of housing. Thus, the situation is one of too little money, going out on an ad hoc basis, and receiving little or no national coordination and review. In this regard, the situation has retrogressed in recent years, with the limitation of national OEO's housing staff to program development and the regionalization of technical assistance responsibilities (which results in fragmentation rather than coordination).

Many of OEO's housing grantees do not serve the really poor

We're concerned also about a tendency of housing development corporations to emphasize such HUD-assisted programs as Section 236, Section 221(h), Section 235(j), and -- to some extent -- rent supplements. With the exception of the latter, these programs serve almost exclusively those who are "over-income" for public housing. (HUD statistics indicate that less than 15% of all Section 236 units, for example, carried

a basic rent of under $100 -- a rent level which would require $6,000 adjusted income if the family paid one-fourth in rent.)

If OEO-funded agencies are to concentrate on the needs of their real constituency, it seems to us that they must give a good deal more attention to public housing and to other programs which carry a deeper subsidy than those that many of them are now utilizing.

OEO can rightly claim some success

I do not wish to sound totally negative. The Office of Economic Opportunity has done and is doing some things in housing which are not only innovative, but are highly significant -- and your Subcommittee will be hearing about some of them this morning.

Examples:

Self-Help Housing

Three major examples come to mind. One is self-help housing, in which the indirect subsidy of OEO-funded technical assistance (through sponsor organizations) is combined with the labor of the families themselves and with credit at below-market interest rates to make adequate housing a reality for quite low-income households. Operating primarily through its Migrant Division -- which provides about $3 million in funds (one-fifth of the agency's total housing effort) for the

purpose -- OEO has demonstrated that this combination can work. Its efforts led to the authorization by Congress of a continuing source of funds, through Farmers Home Administration, in the 1968 Housing Act. (Getting that agency to really take advantage of the authority is proving to be more of a job than you might think, I would add, and points in itself to the need for a continuing role for OEO in the field of self-help housing.)

Housing Development Corporations - ?

The OEO-funded housing development corporations are another example. Even though we are critical of their too frequent preoccupation with the moderate-income programs, we would point out that the funding of their administrative and technical assistance costs by OEO enables them to serve lower-income levels than is true of sponsor agencies which must fully recoup these costs in the mortgage -- and therefore from the occupants. We would emphasize also the activities of such OEO-funded HDCs as the Eastern Kentucky Housing Development Corporation which has shown what can be accomplished when still another combination is put together -- in this case, special grant funds from the welfare program, free labor from manpower programs, and the technical supervision of its own OEO-funded staff -- and tailored to the immediate needs of people whom none of the existing programs by themselves were, or could be, serving.

Rosebud's transitional houses

A third example is the demonstration, on the Rosebud Indian Reservation, of the practicality of building minimal, but at least decent, safe and sanitary, housing for very low-income Indian households. Here again, OEO served as coordinator for a combination of resources to achieve ends which none of the individual agencies had been achieving by themselves.

Successes are not replicated

My three examples have something else in common. Their success has not led to large-scale imitation or replication (to use the preferred jargon). Self-help has been given a statutory base, but, as indicated, Farmers Home Administration is moving with extreme caution to exploit it and HUD remains evenn more resistant to the technique. OEO-funded HDCs have demonstrated still another, and more flexible, institution for providing the indirect subsidy of free technical assistance; and here, too, Congress has authorized the regular housing agency (HUD) to follow OEO's good example, but it is plainly reluctant to do so and won't even ask for funds when the 1970 Housing Act specifically invites the request. As for the Rosebud demonstration, everyone connected with it seems to agree that it was a great success, but it might as well have been Citizen Kane's childhood sled for all of the use that's been made of it as a model.

Beyond significant demonstrations of particular techniques, such as these examples, OEO has confirmed -- in a much more general way, and through grants such as that to Housing Improvement, Inc. in Massachusetts -- that the provision of help in hustling the system can be the key element to the housing of low-income people. This is perhaps less spectacular, but it may also be the more significant of the agency's demonstrations.

OEO should do more

From what has gone before, our policy recommendations must be fairly obvious. The first is that OEO formally recognize both the nature and the importance of its housing role and that it assign it the clear and categorical priority it warrants. To do so, will require that it assign appropriate staff resources at the national and at the regional levels and that it begin to develop and implement housing programs on a rational and coordinated, rather than on an ad hoc, catch-as-catch-can basis. It will require also that the agency provide -- either directly or thru funding -- for training and technical assistance support for those programs on a national basis. This type of back-up is particularly crucial to the rural areas and small towns, where, as we have indicated, the institutional gap is greatest, and, as we have also pointed out, the housing need is most severe.

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But it cannot do it with peanuts or bottle caps

The necessary corollary to that recommendation is, of course, that something approaching a decent amount of funding resources be committed to housing, and especailly to rural housing. We note that the National Rural Housing Coalition and the National Association for Community Development have both called for the earmarking of a quarter-of-a- billion dollars a year for the purpose. When one thinks of the estimated 2-million poverty-households we estimated are living in substandard housing in non-metropolitan areas, that amount -- representing only $125 per household -- can hardly be characterized as exorbitant. It could, however, make possible an OEO role more commensurate with the need -- especially if it were available for use in a wide variety of ways, including so-called brick-and-mortar purposes. That kind of flexible authority, combined with the commitment of both funds and agency responsibility, is what is required if we are serious about keeping our promises.

To put it plainly, Congress evades its responsibility

Let me conclude as simply and bluntly as I can without resort to Anglo-Saxon explectives:

The twenty year old rhetoric on the commitment of the Congress to a "decent home and environment for every family" is just that, rhetoric. HUD has no plans for housing the poor: it has statistics and a bedlam of conflicting, uncoordinated agencies

which make like they are working on the problem, but we question both the statistics and the capacity of the agencies to deliver, and there only marginally in small towns and rural areas. FmHA lacks administrative staff, operates under a Presidentially imposed lending ceiling which is pitifully low, and FmHA lacks both the depth of subsidy required and any Congressionally imposed fervor for doing the job for low income people. OEO operates in housing only marginally.

There is no program for housing the poor in this country, and it seems that the least the Congress could do would be to admit this and if the inertia of affluence and the power of bureaucratic and commerical and intergovernmental conflict is too great to launch an adequate program out of the established housing agencies, the Congress should impose on OEO the responsibility for an expanded and improved role in providing housing for the poor and demonstrating the ineffectiveness of the programs which enable us to pretend that we are just about to solve this problem.

Poor housing in which the rain falls and through which the winds blow and insects travel with a minimum of difficulty: poor housing which frequently means contaminated water and the diseases that come from water and lack of sanitation are an obvious threat to human health and even to life itself,

but, more important to us, poor housing is degrading to the human spirit; it is a continuing source of shame and proof of the social and personal inadequacy of the poor. There is nothing more important to the creation of a society in which equality of opportunity approaches reality than decent housing, and by this time the reiterated pledges are really "sounding brass" and are no longer pleasing enough to be damned as tinkling cymbals.

la 4/28/71

ADDENDUM TO COCHRAN STATEMENT

I would like to take a moment to relate an incident involving an OEO funded housing organization in Wisconsin which has recently come to our attention. I believe it makes a clear case for the need to authorize OEO to move boldly in support of low income housing efforts. We believe it also illustrates the fact that a mere housing advacacy role is insufficient in view of the substantial obstacles confronting the poor.

In the southeast of Wisconsin, a nonprofit organization has been funded by OEO to assist farm workers and former migrants in a four county area obtain decent housing. The group has been effective in arousing public opposition to the adoption of local zoning and building codes which would have prevented the construction of low cost housing in the community. It has also set about to develop modestly priced rental housing for low income people in the area through Farmers Home Administration's Section 515 rental loan program. In this instance, the OEO funded staff has provided the technical skills to develop the project and prepare the loan application, however, at nearly every turn their efforts have been frustrated as a result of the overly cautious and reluctant

attitudes of the responsible Federal housing agency.

After a considerable delay following the submission of the application, FmHA's initial reaction was to suggest that the group seek funds through HUD's 236 program or from the public housing authority. When it was made clear that neither of those were practical alternatives, Farmers Home urged that the house designs be changed to efficiency and one-bedroom apartments, apparently in the belief that such units could be more easily rented to the elderly in the event project ran into difficulty several years from now. Additionally, Farmers Home insisted that the local organization's Board of Directors be altered to insure that a majority of the directors resided in the community in which the housing was to be built. This has been a persistent problem with FmHA. Throughout the country they have insisted that a separate corporation be formed to sponsor such projects in each local community. In this case, despite the existence of a broadly based, OEO supported applicant agency, FmHA insisted that the organization re-incorporate itself for the purpose of serving a single community.

Although no less justifyable, it might be more understandable if such close scrutiny and concern involved a

project of 100 units, or 50, or even 25. However, the proposed project involved only four units--the maximum Farmers Home would allow a new sponsor to construct. With a conservatively estimated housing need in rural America of 3 to 4 million homes, the agency is not willing to permit the construction of more than 4 at a time, and those only most reluctantly.

My point in presenting this illustration is to re-emphasize the need for OEO to move boldly in this area. OEO's constituency cannot be adequately served by existing agencies which appear to be more interested in protecting a private investor than in assuring decent housing for all. As in this illustration, their needs go beyond advocacy and the provision of technical assistance. They need to have access to an agency with sufficient funds and a commitment to see that adequate shelter is obtained by this generation's people.

* * * * *

Senator NELSON. Mrs. Gish?

Mrs. GISH. I am Pat Gish, of the Eastern Kentucky Housing Development Corp., Whitesburg, Ky.

I am director of the Eastern Kentucky Housing Development Corp. This agency serves low income families in four counties in the Kentucky Mountains, Leslie, Knott, Letcher, and Perry—and receives its funds from the Office of Program Development of the Office of Economic Opportunity. It is a delegate agency of the LKLP Community Action Council.

I would like to tell you about the work we have been doing for the past 3 years to improve the living conditions of poor mountain families by making needed repairs to their homes and of our attempts to get new housing under existing Federal programs.

Our four counties are situated in the heart of central Appalachia. They are coal mining counties which have suffered extreme depression for nearly 2 decades. They are the part of Appalachia which drew national attention and sympathy a few years ago, and their economic and social problems are so great that no one has yet found a solution to them.

The insured unemployment rate for the counties as a whole is 9.9 percent, and nearly twice the national average. Leslie County has the highest unemployment—33.6 percent.

Knott County has 17.6 percent. Perry County has 8.3 percent and Letcher 7.6 percent.

These figures show just the insured unemployment—those who still come to the unemployment office to register in the faint hope they might be able to find work. The real unemployment, taking into consideration those who are not included in the formal statistics is estimated by the Kentucky Employment Security Office at 12 to 15 percent.

Since 1964 many of our men have had to depend on some kind of government program as the main source of income for their families. These have included work experience and training, mainstream and concentrated employment programs, and a variety of Office of Economic Opportunity efforts.

Housing conditions in the counties are pretty much what you would expect after 20 years of enforced neglect. Nearly half the housing is classed by the census bureau as deteriorating or dilapidated, and more than half the homes lack some or all plumbing.

Fifty-six percent of all the housing was built more than 30 years ago, and 56 percent of the owner occupied housing is valued at less than $5,000—80 percent is valued at less than $10,000.

More than 57 percent of the families in our four counties have annual incomes of less than $4,000, and nearly half that number have incomes of less than $1,000.

The worst homes are occupied by elderly men and women, whose homes often are literally falling down around them, and by families with schoolage children who must depend on public assistance to stay alive.

The home repair work of Eastern Kentucky Housing Development Corp. involves an effort to promote safe and sanitary housing for low income families combined with an effort to put older men into meaningful jobs which will enable them to support their families.

The home repair project uses the resources of several agencies at the Federal, State and local levels. Since June of 1968 the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has granted $935,910 to the Kentucky Department of Economic Security to be used in making grants of up to $500 each for the purchase of materials needed to repair homes of public assistance recipients who own their own homes.

For the first 2 years of the program's operation grants were limited to elderly, blind, or disabled public assistance recipients. During the past year, the program has been broadened to include homes of families who receive aid to families of dependent children.

The grants are made under the provisions of section 1119 of the Social Security Act and one purpose of the project is to demonstrate the usefulness of that section.

The Office of Economic Opportunity has awarded $1,163,231 to the LKLP Community Action Council to be used to employ older men to do the necessary work to install the materials purchased with the HEW funds.

LKLP delegated the operation of the program to Eastern Kentucky Housing Development Corp. For the past 3 years we have employed 69 older men to work on home in poor or dilapidated condition which are owned by persons receiving public assistance.

The agerage age of the workmen is 56; all the men were unemployed when they came to us for jobs, and most of them had no real training in carpentry work.

In addition to the funds provided by OEO and HEW, the Farmers Home Administration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has provided loans of up to $1,500 at 1 percent interest to be used for additional materials when they are needed.

In most cases the Department of Economic Security can raise monthly public assistance checks enough to take care of the payments on the loans.

The U.S. Department of Labor assigns 85 of its Operation Mainstream enrollees to work with EKHDC crews and in addition assigns additional crews to work on homes of low income families who are not entitled to the grants.

Houses to be repaired are picked by a committee in each county which includes representatives of DES, EKHDC, local health department, Farmers Home Administration, LKLP Community Action Council and a public assistance recipient who is not eligible for repair work.

The committees act on the basis of survey reports made by outreach workers of public assistance or the LKLP Community Action Council, personal knowledge and pictures of the homes.

A memorandum of agreement approved by the various agencies involved in home repair program governs the project.

Each quarter members of an ad hoc committee representing all the agencies meet to go over past activities, problems and future plans. The fall meetings are held in eastern Kentucky. All others are in Washington, D.C.

Obviously the operation of the home repair project would be greatly simplified if the Office of Economic Opportunity could provide funds for the entire operation, thus eliminating the need for so many meetings and so much coordination between agencies.

Given the circumstances as they are, however, the project has operated amazingly smoothly. Day to day coordination is handled by the local staffs of Economic Security and EKHDC, and telephone communications with Frankfort and Washington is frequent and easy.

There has been some problem with timing on Farmers Home loans, caused mainly by the shortage of staff in the FHA offices and by the amazing amount of paper work it is necessary for FHA to do in order to make a $1,500 loan.

Our crews have been held up by this problem to the point that we now try to work some way so that we can do without FHA money if we possibly can.

Sometimes lumber dealers are willing to extend credit to the families we are working for, but seldom to the extent of $1,500. The end result is that some families don't get as much help as they really need simply because we can't wait for the loans to come through. That problem would not exist if we had our own grant or loan fund.

During the first 32 months of the operation of the home repair project a total of 1,208 houses has been repaired. By June 30 a total of 1,450 homes will have been completed.

Of this total $1,200 are owned and occupied by elderly, disabled or blind public assistance recipients and 250 are owned and occupied by families receiving aid to families of dependent children.

In addition to the work on grant homes, the Nelson Mainstream crews have repaired the homes of 460 low-income families not entitled to grants during the past 2 years. These families have furnished their own materials or have used salvaged materials.

The 1970 Housing Act passed by Congress permits Farmers Home Administration loans for home repair to go as high as $3,500 when addition of a bathroom is included. EKHDC and the Haxard Area Vocational School are cooperating in a program of upgrading the plumbing skills of some EKHDC employees so that the housing agency can make greater use of available funds to improve living conditions of the families it serves. The vocational school will provide teachers and classroom space and EKHDC will provide tools for the use of the students.

During the past 2 years, the home repair project has cooperated with the Kentucky State Department of Health and its southeastern Kentucky environmental sanitation project in the installation of experimental sewage systems in the homes of 20 home repair grant recipients.

The project, financed by the Appalachian Regional Commission, is still under evaluation and hopefully will result in the acceptance of some of the experimental systems as answers to the problem of getting indoor toilets and other sanitation facilities into mountain homes.

The homes of AFDC families present some problems which were not encountered in the homes of the elderly. Many AFDC homes are badly overcrowded, and a principal item in the repairs has been the addition of bedroom space.

But once the space is added, there are not beds to occupy it. Steve Edwins, a Robert Kennedy Memorial Fellow who is working in eastern Kentucky this year, is a graduate of the Yale University of Architecture. He has designed a simple bunk bed, desk, and closet which can be built easily by home repair crews.

Mattresses for the beds can be made of inexpensive padding, covered by fabric. Several of these beds have been built this year.

When the home repair project began, we had ambitions of completing work on 900 homes the first year. We soon found out that was an unrealistic goal, and work has settled down now to an average of 40 houses a month.

Many of the houses turned out to be in far worse shape than we had anticipated. Often our work crews spend more time getting a house in shape to repair than they do in the installation of new materials. Sometimes the houses are so bad that the homeowner and the crew elect to tear down the existing structure and use what can be salvaged together with what can be bought with the $500 grant to build a new house.

The home repair program has provided a variety of changes in the homes of the families involved. It has repaired leaking roofs, built ramps for persons confined to wheelchairs, installed pitcher pumps at sinks so water no longer has to be carried from the outside, rebuilt porches and railings to make them safer, widened doorways so that wheelchairs can get through, replaced rotting floors, sealed cracks and installed insulation, underpinned houses, replaced dangerous wiring, replaced falling or steep steps, installed new windows and doors, repaired chimneys and flues, rebuilt privies, installed light switches and sinks at levels where wheelchair patients can reach them, painted inside and outside where necessary, and installed dry wall.

More than two-thirds of all the houses which have received repairs are located on paved or all-weather roads, but occasionally crews have to carry materials up mountainsides by sled or on their backs and in one instance the materials had to go by boat to reach a family which has been isolated by the construction of a flood control dam by the Corps of Engineers.

Recently a crew finished work on the home of an 82-year-old man and his wife who lived in a house which their son had built for them about 10 years ago out of poplar poles which he cut for their mountainside farm.

The home repair crew installed siding on the house, repaired the roof, put new floors in two rooms, built a chimney, installed dry wall and repaired wiring. The crew spent 700 hours of labor on the house, and the materials were bought with a $500 grant, plus a contribution of $100 from a special fund in our grant and $220 from the homeowner. In addition, some lumber salvaged from a railroad depot was used. The total cost of the work, including labor, was $2,360. That man and his wife were warm this winter for the first time in many years.

The costs of home repair work generally run from $1,500 to $3,500 a house, including labor and materials. Our experience has shown conclusively that the $500 grant allowed by section 1119 is not nearly enough.

At today's prices the repairs would hardly be visible if the homeowner had to buy both materials and labor from the $500. We believe that the ceiling on the grants should be raised at least to $4,500 and that the Federal-State matching formula should go from 50–50 to 90–10

We also believe that States should be required to make use of the home repair provisions of section 1119, and that the benefits should be extended to recipients of social security as well as to public assistance recipients.

An evaluation of the home repair project by Spindletop Research of Lexington, Ky., concludes that the program is "highly successful by most standards" and that similar programs could be developed in other areas by reproducing the basic design to fit the particular needs and resources of each situation.

Spindletop concludes that "The economic effect alone would even be sufficient to justify * * * widespread adoption" of the project, but added that the "prime justification is being able to provide immediate assistance to people for whom a long waiting period could be disastrous."

Spindletop pointed out the economic fringe benefits to the communities involved. At least one lumber dealer, employing six men year around, has built his business on the home repair program, and others have benefited greatly.

We do not pretend that this project is the ultimate answer to the problem of poor housing in the mountains because there is not enough money to bring the houses up to standard condition, but it does serve as a holding action until something better can be done.

Recently, I attended a community meeting connected with the White House Conference on Aging at which a number of elderly women said emphatically that they would not want to tear down their homes and replace them with new ones even if the new ones should be available. These women said they needed only some improvements to make their houses adequate to meet their needs and they mentioned such things as a new heating system, a good well pump, an added room, and a footbridge across the creek.

I hope there will be some way to put men employed under the new public service employment legislation to work making such needed improvements.

There is no question that programs similar to the one we have conducted would work well in most rural areas, and if a way can be found to suspend code enforcement for a specific period, such a program could make a difference in urban areas also.

As our project operates now, the men make $1.78 an hour; they began at $1.60 and have had 5 percent annual raises. They also get $10,000 group life insurance coverage, hospitalization, sick leave, and 2 weeks paid vacation.

For many of them this is the first job in their lives at which they have earned regular wages and received the fringe benefits most American workers take for granted. One man nearly cried recently when he got his vacation pay in advance. He said he had never before been paid for a day's work he had not yet done.

The fringe benefits available to our employees are better than those afforded the Mainstream enrollees who do not get annual raises, life insurance or hospitalization coverage, vacation pay, or sick leave.

These differences have created some dissatisfaction among the Mainstream enrollees who work alongside our crews. The lack of hospitalization coverage has become especially critical since the State of Kentucky decided that the Mainstream men were employees rather than trainees and withdrew their State medicaid coverage.

The Mainstream enrollees have felt that they are being discriminated against, and I can understand their concern, but so far no one has found a way to obtain these benefits for them.

In addition to the home repair work, EKHDC conducts activities under another OEO grant related to development of new housing for low-income families. Because of the good performance of home repair workmen, EKHDC contracted with Charles Moore Associates, architects and planners of Essex, Conn., for the design of a low-technology building system which could permit workers with the capabilities of the home repair crews to build new housing for poor families.

The firm has designed a panel which is made up of eastern Kentucky hardwood polyurethane foam and wallboard; tests on the panel are now underway in order to obtain a technical bulletin from the Federal Housing Administration and other Government agencies which have programs for construction of new housing for low-income tenants.

We hope eventually to obtain financing for a factory which could employ the men who now work for us to build the panels and construct new housing for poor families. We would like to arrange things so the men themselves could own and control the factory. We are trying to get them into a position to continue useful work in their own home territory and at the same time help other low-income families.

Our efforts to obtain new housing have been far less successful than our repair program. Federal housing programs were not written for areas like eastern Kentucky, and in order to make them work at all we have to plead for exceptions or rule changes which require great amounts of time and effort to accomplish.

For more than 4 years I have been involved in an attempt to construct 50 units of rent supplement housing in Whitesburg, the county seat of Letcher County. First we had to convince the Department of Housing and Urban Renewal that there was a market for the housing, and that took 6 months.

Then we had to obtain special concessions because of a difficult site; ours is a hillside, because that is the kind of land we have, and if we are going to build in our counties, we are going to have to build on the hills.

Then we had to have a special design to fit the hillside land, and our architect, who is eminent in the field, decided on modular housing as the only logical solution within the cost limits of the rent supplement program.

That meant we had to become an experimental project, since although the modular housing concept is trumpeted by the experts as the best solution to the current housing crisis, not everyone has accepted it as a valid method of construction.

Then we found we had to have an 18-foot-wide paved street; the only other one in town is Main Street. Several zoning changes and innumerable conferences and extensions of time later, we are about ready to begin construction of these 50 housing units.

During all this time the interest rate has risen and building costs have increased phenomenally, and the rent which must be charged to make the housing economically feasible has gone up correspondingly, so that what started as an attempt to provide decent new housing for families on public assistance now will have to become housing for families higher up the income scale.

We also are taking advantage of a seldom used provision of the

Appalachian Development Act which permits conversion of a loan for housing seed money to a grant when it is needed to make a project feasible. The Federal Housing Administration says there has never been another loan closed just like this one, and the FHA manuals don't cover the situation, so no one is sure just yet how the final procedures should go. Hopefully we can work it all out together.

The Federal Housing Administration's section 235 interest credit program for home ownership for low-income families has been accused of abuse in some parts of the country, but it has not been abused in our counties because it has not been used at all.

FHA's requirements in our area for public water and sewer services, lot size, location near a town, and so on have prevented us from taking advantage of the program, but we still have hopes.

Kentucky's Federal Housing Administration director has been up to take a look at our situation and says frankly that his agency is virtually helpless when faced with the kinds of housing needs our people have.

The Farmers Home Administration also has an interest credit loan program leading to homeownership. The Farmers Home Office which serves three of our four counties made 14 loans for new housing during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 1970, and of these only five involved interest credits.

Farmers Home is the Federal agency charged with meeting the housing needs of rural areas, but restrictive legislation, a staff totally inadequate in terms of numbers, an apparent reluctance to accept innovative building techniques and design and rigidly conservative administration have combined to prevent the agency from accomplishing its task in eastern Kentucky.

Public housing programs should perhaps provide a major part of the answer but they don't. Letcher County with 22,590 people, has 40 low-rent public housing units already built and 60 in the design stage, all within the county seat in Whitesburg.

It took 6 years to get that first 40 units and is taking 6 more to get the next 60. Perry County has 129 units already built to serve a population of 24,373.

Another 100 units for the elderly have been planned for more than 5 years, but were held up because the Atlanta office of HUD had to put all its resources into the housing shortage created by a hurricane.

Knott County is now building 60 more units to serve a population of 15,306. Leslie County does not have any public housing units at all; it established a housing authority and tried, but the Housing Assistance Administration could never find a site which met its criteria.

So the 11,383 citizens of Leslie County have to continue to cope with inadequate housing because the Federal Government is not flexible enough to adapt its programs to the conditions which exist where the needs are.

Put these 389 public housing units against 14,000 substandard houses in the four counties, and it is obvious that public housing is not going to do the job soon either.

The Appalachian Regional Commission has a special program of housing assistance which provides seed money for housing projects,

and it is not large enough or flexible enough to meet the needs of rural Appalachia and in fact it is restricted to communities classed as growth centers.

This means the housing sites have to be on water and sewer lines, and these amenities are not too plentiful in our part of the country.

During the nearly 5 years the ARC has been in existence, this program has provided funds for a total of 7,093 housing units in the 13 Appalachian States; 50 of those are in one of our counties. But when you divide the ARC total by the 13 States you come up with only 545 housing units per State.

Kentucky has 49 Appalachian counties, so our portion would average out to about 11 a county, or about two houses per county per year built by use of Appalachian funds.

Francis Moravitz of the ARC staff, who has ben responsible for developing the ARC's housing program as far as it has gone commented recently that despite the ARC's efforts "Appalachia 's housing situation, particularly in central Appalachia, is appalling."

"Too little has been done and there are few prospects that much will be done," he added.

We would not have been able to make what little progress we have made toward new housing if it had not been for Office of Economic Opportunity funds to pay for staff training and salaries, architectural, and engineering consultants, experimental housing, office expenses, land options, and other things necessary to the development of housing in rural areas.

However, OEO's rural housing efforts have been pitifully small in terms of need. Of OEO's entire budget this year only 1½ percent goes to housing programs of any type and rural housing programs get only a small amount of that.

OEO's principal housing activity comes through the housing branch of the Community Development Division in the Office of Program Development, a part of OEO's headquarters operation here in Washington.

For the current fiscal year the housing branch has a budget of $6 million. Of this amount, about $1 million goes to rural programs. The rest goes to urban areas. That $1 million represents one-sixth of OEO's innovative housing efforts.

But two-thirds of the bad housing in the country is located in rural areas, so if funds were allocated proportionately $4 million of OEO's $6 million headquarters housing fund would be spent for rural housing. OEO's rural effort, based on its current budget, is only a fourth of what it ought to be.

OEO housing branch directors have all been fine people, but to a man they have been most interested in urban areas and have admitted freely that they knew little of rural problems. Only in the past 2 years when all of the headquarters rural housing programs were assigned to one analyst have rural programs begun to enjoy some coordination and receive the benefits of a headquarters advocate.

But rural areas ought not to have to fight constantly to keep from being overwhelmed by more sophisticated urban lobbyists. OEO should set up a separate organizational unit devoted to rural housing and should provide adequate money for it.

Such a unit should have enough money to permit OEO to equip its grantees with development funds large enough to finance rural housing projects from conception through construction. In rural areas, where public facilities are lacking, considerable expenditures are necessary to get a building site to the point that some Federal agency will consider it.

A rural housing development corporation needs enough money to build or improve roads or streets to housing sites, to bring water and sewer services to its property, to grade land to make it buildable, to pay the cost of importing specialized labor which is not available locally.

Some of these funds could be recovered through permanent mortgage loans because the property involved would increase in value, but there would have to be writedowns to take care of those funds which could not be recovered.

If someone does not absorb these costs they have to be passed along to low-income tenants as part of the cost of constructing housing, and this makes it impossible to build houses at prices poor families can afford.

The Federal Government is writing down costs like this every day in model cities and urban renewal programs, but has not yet extended this kind of aid to rural areas, where it is perhaps the only answer to the problem of obtaining building sites at a price which can be carried by a federally assisted housing program.

The need for writedowns is particularly great in rural Appalachia, where steep terrain makes site development more difficult and more expensive than usual.

An OEO rural housing unit also should make use of OEO's unique opportunity to bring together Federal agencies which might help solve rural housing problems and get them all working together toward a common goal.

OEO should play the advocate's role in getting the Federal Housing Administration, the Farmers Home Administration, the public housing people, the Appalachian Commission people, the people who have water and sewer funds, the people who might have some road money, local housing interests, and others who might help in housing development together to talk about rural housing problems and to find some cooperative solutions to some of them.

This is the kind of coordination that has made our home-repair project successful, and I see no reason this same kind of working together could not extend to new housing programs.

But nothing is going to improve as long as rural housing continues to be everybody's unwanted stepchild, clothed in the ill-fitting castoffs of urban programs.

Thank you.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much.

Mr. Popoli.

Mr. POPOLI. Senator Nelson, rather than go into the statistics of rural poverty in Massachusetts, I have a few pictures you might be interested in seeing. These are of some of the buildings that were occupied by low-income families. The rental for this bathroom was paid by a local welfare agency to a slum landlord for 12 years.

This is the bathroom in the same rental unit which was rehabilitated by our construction company. This is a particular 515 rural rental program that is combined with the local public housing authority so that families are paying what amounts to public housing rent.

We also have another picture of a kitchen, inadequate wiring, inadequate heating, kids—five or six in this particular apartment. Once again, the public welfare department in Massachusetts was paying the tab to a slum landlord.

Here is the rehabilitated kitchen, a new heating system, and new wiring, done with our crews, combined with neighborhood youth corps trainees who are now learning how to do something meaningful.

I think it is interesting to consider the question of why OEO is even needed in housing, and I will give you one simple example of why it is needed in our area.

Local public housing authorities, who have had access to housing programs in our area, have produced zero units of family housing—zero units in the last 20 years.

Yet, in Massachusetts every single year, the Farmers Home Administration, the Federal Housing Administration, and local housing authorities turn back moneys unused that are never spent, because the bureaucracy that is built up around these programs makes it practically impossible to squeeze money out of them.

We have been able to make a contribution because OEO has given us the tools to act as an advocate and force Farmers Home Administration to make this money available in the community of Winchendon for over 515 rural rental program.

Unless OEO continues to play this role, Farmers Home, FHA, housing authorities, are not going to produce any units for families.

We have applicants who, because they were receiving welfare assistance, were turned down flatly by Farmers Home Administration. We went back to Farmers Home Administration and got them to change their minds on these applicants.

These families have moved from slums into decent apartments because we were able to go back to Farmers Home Administration and play the role of an advocate.

I think there is a money game that is played in housing with the Farmers Home Administration, FHA, and housing authorities. That is just what it is: a game. Money gets appropriated; so much money is going to be spent on housing; and at the end of the year the money is returned unused and people don't get housed.

In our area in the last year we have had some results. No. 1, the pressure that has been put on the Farmers Home Administration county office has forced them to request additional help to process applications when they come in.

This 515 rural proposal that is combined with the housing authority is the first time this program was utilized in our area.

Yet the program existed for several years before this. In rural areas, as mentioned before, the main problem is that there is a lack of political pressure and clout, and I would like to see in some legislation requiring that OEO balance their expenditures to where the needs are.

If the needs are in the rural areas, as we feel they are, then the money should go proportionately to the rural areas.

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Our grant from OEO was made possible only for one reason. Only rural areas were allowed to compete. If we had to compete with Boston, Cambridge, Worcester, or Springfield, our rural area would have been out of the ball game.

Second, I think a lot of good programs get started in OEO's R. & D. division, and once it is determined that the programs are not research and demonstration any longer, then the programs are left on the vine to die.

There is no place for them, because there are no new funds. I think that legislation should include a provision that if something is a success in research and demonstration, then there should be some new money in OEO to continue the program. If anything is a success, it should not be killed.

The second thing is that I feel a separate housing branch, specifically directed to rural housing, should be established within OEO specifically to work within towns of 10,000 population or less.

Finally, I would like to address myself to the administration's proposal to transfer community action funds to local and State officials.

First of all, I am totally opposed to this concept, and I think that this would turn the CAA program into a political football. One of the reasons that we were started was out of necessity: because the established agencies were not getting housing produced for low-income families.

If they were doing the job, then there would be no reason for us to be.

I think that without OEO's continued and much expanded involvement in housing there is absolutely no reason to expect the established housing agencies who have been relatively or totally inactive for the last 20 years to suddenly come alive and start producing for low-income families.

The established procedures at Farmers Home Administration and FHA and Public Housing offer an easy out for the old agencies to become lost in the maze of paperwork, and just say it is too complicated to get this housing produced.

What I would like you to do is try to imagine what would happen to our program if it were operated by the selectmen in our town. A month ago the Woodward family with 14 children approached our office for housing. This family had been living in three motel rooms for 88 days. This tab was paid by welfare.

Bob Woodward will tell you what happened before he came to Rural Housing Improvement; I would like to tell you what happened after he came to Rural Housing Improvement.

Through the efforts of a VISTA volunteer RHI got a local banker to finance a house for this family, and this house was insured under the FHA 235i program. While we were completing the paperwork on this loan, I received a call from the local selectman The chairman of the board inquired about the status of the loan, and then he said, "I want you to do everything in your power to stop this loan from going through. Get this family to move someplace else."

This was followed up the next day by a citizens' delegation who stated they had talked with the board of selectmen, and they demanded that the loan for this family be stopped; and if it were not stopped, they would write to Senator Kennedy and Senator Brooke and make sure Rural Housing would get shut down.

I think that any transfer of OEO programs to local agencies would be nothing more than a political payoff that would fatten up the existing bureaucracy, a bureaucracy that is full of people who are not willing to produce low-income housing for families.

This would be no more than a reward to these local groups for not producing any housing. Bob Woodward has had first-hand experience in going to these local agencies and asking for help.

His desperate housing needs and frustrations in dealing with the agencies motivated him to call the President of the United States to ask if there was anybody around who could help him out.

He would like to share his experiences with you.

Mr. WOODWARD. Senator Nelson——

Senator NELSON. Would you identify yourself for the record?

Mr. WOODWARD. I am Robert Woodward. I am a recipient of the chapter 235i mortgage program.

I can only tell you the value of what I have by explaining that which I did not have at one time. We are a family of 16, just getting by, living in a six-room, second-floor flat of a three-story building. This building was sold in the latter part of December 1969. In January 1970, the landlady told us we would have to move, as she wanted two floors for herself.

We looked, anywhere and everywhere, full time, until there was no other place to look. All agencies, State and Federal, were contacted to no avail.

The bank insisted on too large a downpayment. There was no help anywhere, and there was no place to go, which brings us to July 16, 1970. It was a Friday. At 8:30 in the morning, the sheriff and the moving vans were at our door. A social worker came at 9 o'clock, and was disgusted. He told us that the Department washes their hands of the whole matter.

The Rural Housing Improvement of Westminster came and offered to find storage for our belongings. This is the first of many good, good deeds from RHI.

We drove around until 4:30 in the afternoon looking. Then we called the welfare district office in Worcester. They admitted their people were wrong and called Fitchburg to rectify that mistake. At 4:50 in the afternoon the Department told us that they would put us in a motel for a weekend. That weekend lasted 88 days.

It would seem to me that there is a grave mistake and misunderstanding about who and what these various agencies are dealing with. You are dealing with flesh-and-blood people, not some unknown quantity, but rather people: small people, unknowing people, people with families, responsibilities, and feelings.

Some of these feelings are just plain frustration. There have been too many billions spent outside of this country, too many billions spent on defense, too many billions spent on programs that never reach the people they are designed to help.

Here is a program that does go out into the masses. It does reach the people; it does work. It is a good example of something constructive rising up out of the ashes of neglect and mistrust.

It is now the time, rather, gentlemen, it is almost too late, for the countless numbers of families who need just this mortgage program.

With respect to the solution of my problem, I am overwhelmed, and

this solution, this great relief would not be possible at all except for a small group of dedicated people who are making a superhuman effort to alleviate the misery of people who have no place to go, no hopes, no ambitions, no reason to try to pull themselves up.

I have that hope, that ambition, that reason. Gentlemen, if you would want an example of the success of the program look no further than this speaker, who would dare to invade Congress and try to talk to you.

Thank you.

Senator NELSON. Thank you.

Mr. Henry, you said that the real poor were too poor to qualify on housing, and you also suggested, and I think it was necessary, a substantial expansion in the availability of funds in rural repair of housing and construction of housing.

In addition to getting more money into the field, which is clearly necessary, are there any changes that you would suggest in the law to make it easier, to make the program more effective?

Mr. HENRY. Senator Nelson, I can see changes that I would recommend providing there were the means to make the changes effective.

When I speak of people who are too poor to meet the public housing standards of this country, I am talking about people who don't have the funds even with rent supplements to meet their part of the rent.

You see, in some areas you have what is known as general welfare. I listened to Pat discuss her program about how she was able to help various people. In Mississippi we have no general welfare.

If you are a man, you are sick, and can't find a job, there is no welfare for you.

Senator NELSON. You have no welfare budget in which an evaluation is made on what amount of money is needed to sustain the family?

Mr. HENRY. We have four categories that the person must be in in order to receive any form of welfare. They figure out how much it takes you to live, and they give you 27 percent of that.

Senator NELSON. Twenty-seven percent.

Mr. HENRY. Yes.

Senator NELSON. You only live one-quarter at a time, then.

Mr. HENRY. In these areas are children in the home where the mother or the father has left. If the father decides to live at home with his wife and children, can't find a job, automatically there is no welfare for him. Either of you must be blind and have less than $500 in real property; over 65, and have less than $500 in real property; you must be a dependent child; or you must be physically and totally disabled, and own less than $500 in real property.

So you see, a program that does not take into consideration these inequities in our country will not give us a housing program that will help anyone who is living in destitute conditions.

So it is going to take mortar and brick money. We are going to have to come to the conclusion that we are not dealing with a problem that is insoluble. It is not a question of can we do it, it is a question of having the will. Do we have the will to make housing available to poor people?

Do we have the will in this country to appropriate a house for a person who cannot afford to purchase one? This is what it gets down to. I say if we can send two men to the moon, three men, rather,

with one watching the other two pick up rocks while they are there, we certainly have in this country the greatest national product any country has seen since civilization has begun.

We do have capacity and ability to provide housing and other necessities of the poor. The thing we lack is the will to do it.

Senator NELSON. The current housing program would not help the people in your State at all that you are talking about.

Mr. HENRY. That is why I advocate a new program. I say let's do something about OEO internally as we extend it for 4 or 6 years. The housing programs are of no benefit to the poor people in my State. You are exactly right.

Senator NELSON. You are saying even if the house were built and available there would not be adequate rental payments available from the welfare department to pay the rent?

Mr. HENRY. Yes. You are talking about a State where 51 percent of the people earn less than a thousand dollars a year.

That is the 1970 census.

Senator NELSON. The problem you are talking about, you are talking about, then, since the State won't participate in paying rent except in the categories you mentioned, the housing would have to be made available without charge to anybody by the Federal Government.

Mr. HENRY. That is right. That is exactly right.

Senator NELSON. How many States is that true in?

Mrs. GISH. I think that is true in Kentucky.

Mr. COCHRAN. It is true in a lot of States, but not on the scale it is true in Mississippi.

Mr. HENRY. Following this up to some degree, we have had two or three disasters. We had Camille, and a few weeks ago we had tornadoes. We are trying our best now to figure out what to do with people that have been placed in mobile homes, trailers, for a year, rent free, by OEP standards, but don't have the funds to run the utility lines, the sewer lines, electricity and water; and these people—many of the people who live in mobile homes now—prior to the disaster were living in plantation shacks without paying any rent, et cetera.

So the storm comes down and blows the shack away. Certainly the landlord is glad to get rid of the shack. Then the persons are moved into mobile homes without any means on God's earth to pay the utility bills.

Now, we don't know how we are going to make out with this, because OEO has not found a way in its legal mumbo jumbo to underwrite the cost of utilities bills that people accumulate and if paying utility bills is going to be a prerequisite of continuing to live in the trailer house or get out, then this is going to be a problem that we will be back here with in a few days, because it is at that point right now.

It has been about 3 months since the last tornado, and many of the people have paid no utility bills yet, and the utility companies are threatening to cut them off. OEP has no money in their budget to pay this kind of bill. We are going to have to make up our minds that nobody should starve, nobody should go homeless, nobody should be naked in America.

A nation as wealthy as ours is, that is as concerned and adequately prepared in the total picture as we are.

Mr. COCHRAN. Puerto Rico started wrestling with this 25 years ago, and they had the will, giving the family the land as long as the family needed it, and building very modest houses——

Senator NELSON. You are talking about their cooperative housing.

Mr. COCHRAN. It was a self-help program. They have been able to rehouse 70 percent of the rural population, a population that was as poor as Aaron Hewn was talking about.

Here on the continent, nobody has looked at this long enough and smelled it strong enough to really say, "something has to be done out there, the existing agencies can't do it. Let's put whatever it takes in there to do it," and pretty soon.

Senator NELSON. Have you looked at that housing?

Mr. COCHRAN. Yes, I have.

Senator NELSON. I remember when it started, about 7 or 8 years ago. I remember getting an explanation of it, although I never saw the housing. How many units did they build that way?

Mr. COCHRAN. Somewhere close to 35,000.

Senator NELSON. That was a program where they would have some technical people, that is, some qualified, skilled people available, and the family worked?

Mr. COCHRAN. In that case, they created a housing development corporation which bought the materials, organized the families, furnished the minimum of mechanical equipment they used, organized the people on a community basis. The families do all the work, and they are selling those houses to the families for about $550 apiece, repaid at about $5 a month, interest free, for 10 years.

I don't know the rate of foreclosures, but I suspect there were none. That is, if a family were in temporary difficulty, they were not battering on the door.

But Governor Munoz-Marin saw the squatters were out there. We are spending 60-odd billion on space gamesmanship, and nobody has gotten down ot Mingo County, W. Va., or Kentucky, until Pat got in there, and faced up to what it would take to do it.

Instead, we establish categorized programs, and they don't work, and we come back in a generation. The Resettlement Administration was building houses in Mississippi, a generation ago, and then we went to sleep again.

Mr. HENRY. What bothers me is this. Persons representing such a destitute area in the Nation's Senate and House, certainly ought to be concerned that these conditions exist.

What convinces me that it is a question of will rather than ability is that in every piece of social legislation that makes living for the poor a little easier, both of our Senators and all of our Representatives, all from the most impoverished State in the Nation, have voted against everything every time.

They voted against OEO every time, the minimum wage every time, medicare every time, aid to education every time. They voted against all the social programs that make life for the poor easier.

Our total congressional delegation is against it.

Now that can only be a question of will, rather than ability.

Senator NELSON. Would the Puerto Rican type experiment be a valuable example?

Mr. HENRY. Yes, I think it would be valuable, providing the funds

are provided and OEO serves as the conduit to the housing authority that does the building—I don't think it would be of value if it came through the State or local government because here you have got veto power by the Governor, who has vetoed 90 percent of the anti-poverty programs since he has been in office.

Of course, fortunately, we have the override power on this level, and they have constantly overridden him every time, but a housing development unit that was organized similar to the way OEO puts its boards of directors and local units together in the South, providing OEO was the funding agency, and the funds came directly to the unit it was funding, not from the Governor, it would work.

Senator NELSON. It would work, you say?

Mr. HENRY. Yes, sir, it would work. Mrs. Gish.

Mrs. GISH. I think you would have to be careful not to build something that was "poor peoples" housing. You want doors on closets, and windows, and this sort of thing. Presently when we build for people, we say, "we will build it this way, it is good enough for them," and expect them to fix it up later.

There is no reason poor families should not have good housing. In Kentucky we provide 80 percent of need on welfare payments, 80 percent of what is considered the minimum need, and rather than the 27 percent Aaron is talking about in Mississippi, but even that is not enough to pay the rents that are needed for rent supplement housing, for example, or for public housing.

There is just not enough in the welfare housing allowance to pay for new construction, the rents that are necessary for new construction.

Subsidies are not deep enough to permit people to live in adequate housing. They live in shacks they get for free, or pay $10 a month.

Senator NELSON. Also in the cities in Puerto Rico at least, they built large housing projects in which a person paid only a certain percentage of his income.

Mr. COCHRAN. I am not familiar with their urban program.

Senator NELSON. No matter what your income, you would end up with an apartment. You might spend $20, or $80 or $60.

Mr. COCHRAN. The program was not nearly so effective in the cities. The cities are still full of terrible shanty towns, but in the rural areas, it really swept across the land, and you can drive through the Commonwealth and see their handiwork on every hill.

But in the cities, there are still terrible slums. So they must not have had funds adequate to handle the costs of construction.

Mrs. GISH. If you have to pay a percentage of your income, that means you have to have an income. There are many people who don't have any cash. They have food stamps, but they don't have any money.

Mr. COCHRAN. The percentage falls down in places like Indian reservations, Mississippi, the backlands——

Senator NELSON. Not unless you have a welfare program that pays rent.

Mr. COCHRAN. Yes.

Senator NELSON. Thank you all very much for being here.

If you have any supplementary information you would like to present in the next 8 to 10 days, we would be glad to have you submit it.

(The information subsequently supplied follows:)

RURAL HOUSING ALLIANCE

International Self-Help Housing • Low Income Rural Housing

Dupont Circle Building, 1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

Telephone (202) 659-1680

Clay L. Cochran *Executive Director*

May 12, 1971

The Honorable Gaylord Nelson
The United States Senate
404 Old Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

At the 1971 Annual meeting of the National Association of Community Development, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

> "We urge Congress to appropriate $250 million to OEO, earmarked for housing, counseling, technical assistance, grants for materials and labor and other housing as local Community Action Agencies may decide."

Another resolution urged OEO to increase its housing activities, particularly an ombudsman role on behalf of poor people in getting housing.

Coming from the broadest based group in the country working directly with the poor and in many instances being immediately out of the ranks of the poor, I think these resolutions are of significance to the Congress.

Please include them at an appropriate place in the hearings.

Sincerely,

Clay L. Cochran
Executive Director

Senator NELSON. The next panel is on the rural neighborhood youth programs, Mr. McBride, of Columbus, Mo.; Mr. Freeman, of Marshall, Tex.; Mr. William Briggs, of Portsmouth, N.H.; and Mr. Edward Wightman, of Troy, N.Y.

STATEMENT OF A PANEL ON RURAL NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORP PROGRAMS COMPOSED OF JACK McBRIDE, COLUMBUS, MO.; DOW FREEMAN, MARSHALL, TEX.; WILLIAM BRIGGS, PORTSMOUTH, N.H.; AND EDWARD WIGHTMAN, TROY, N.Y.

Senator NELSON. Please identify yourself for the record.

Mr. WIGHTMAN. Senator Nelson, I am Mr. Wightman from New York. Mr. McBride will speak first, and will give a summary of a statement which we wanted in the record, and Mr. Briggs will make a summary of his presentation which will be in the record, and we would hope for specific questions that we might respond to that are of concern to you.

We will start off with Mr. McBride from Columbia, Mo.

Mr. MCBRIDE. Senator Nelson and the committee, my name is Jack McBride and I am the project director for the Neighborhood Youth Corps in Columbia, Mo.

The project serves 25 counties in central and northeast Missouri with a population of 469,000 in an area covering some 13,712 square miles.

I have submitted copies of my testimony to the committee and my presentation will be just a brief part of the summary.

Senator NELSON. Your testimony will be printed in full in the record. Mr. McBride.

Mr. MCBRIDE. Thank you.

(The prepared statement of Neighborhood Youth Corps by Mr. McBride follows:)

TESTIMONY ON NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS

The Neighborhood Youth Corps., sponsored by the Central Missouri Counties Human Development Corporation, Columbia, Missouri, serves 25 counties in Central and Northeast Missouri, with a population of 469 thousand, and an area covering some 13,712 miles.

The Project administers three programs: In School with 254 slots, NYC II with 95 slots and Operation Mainstream with 45 slots. Projected Summer 1971 slots are 675. Within the twenty-five county area served by the NYC Project there are no other youth employment programs. MDTA training is provided on a very limited basis with few slots available.

The JOPS Program, administered by the Missouri State Employment Service, is currently being developed in the area with a limited number of slots and an age requirement that will not include youth age 16 and 17.

As a result of no training programs and limited job opportunities for youth without work experience or some skills, the need for the Neighborhood Youth Corps in rural areas exist in a high degree. The Neighborhood Youth Corps is the only program in rural areas that offer any opportunities to disadvantaged youth for training, personal growth through meaningful work experience, and future employment possibilities. The Neighborhood Youth Corps has also been used as a vehicle in breaking discrimination patterns against blacks and poor whites that have been practiced in most of our public agencies, communities and by employers. The programs are well accepted by communities in general and the question most frequently asked by participating agencies personnel and others is "Why can't you receive more slots and more money?"

When we talk about problems in a rural area concerning NYC, one of the major problems is inadequate funding. Rural programs cannot provide with *a*

number of dollars the same services as an urban program can provide. There are transportation problems, lack of resources, and lack of free supportive services that may be found in an urban area, and additional funds must be allowed rural areas in order to provide these needed services to the enrollees.

Since July 20, 1970 we have operated an NYC II program in the twenty-five county project area. I would like to share with you some information concerning the operation and implementation of the program in rural areas.

Based on our experience with NYC II during the past nine months, I am thoroughly convinced that this program was designed for urban areas, and to try and implement the program as designed in a rural area has presented a large number of problems that were not anticipated in the redesign.

But the basic concept of NYC II is good, and with modifications and some flexibility, NYC can be a workable rural program that will provide more tangible benefits and results than did the old NYC I Program.

One of the first things that we must do in NYC II is a good selling job of the program to the applicant. When he comes to us his immediate need is a job and money. He has rejected the traditional schools or they have rejected him for one reason or another, and as NYC II priorities now stand, we must try and sell him on the idea of returning to school or participating in an educational program with a high school or General Education Development diploma as his goal. In some cases if the applicant is a recent dropout he will return to school. But most will not or cannot return.

We are faced with the problem of most vocational schools not having an open class. If a vacancy is available, instructions in vocational courses must begin on the onset of the semester. One cannot begin a class in the middle of the term. Most vocational schools have a waiting list and In School youth have the first priority for vocational classes. The next step is to develop an education program in order for the enrollee to fit into the NYC II mold, and this in turn creates a problem. Program standards and priorities need to be changed in order to fit the program to the enrollees needs and not the enrollee to the program. The program guidelines need to be changed to allow flexibility that would include using a combination of the old NYC I Out of School Program and NYC II based on resources and the availability of employment after NYC training.

Flexibility should also be alowed in guidelines so as to include applicants who do not fit in either of the three priorities. Work experience hours should be increased and education participation should be based on the enrollees training plan. Program priorities are (a) Return to school (b) General Education Development, skill training, work experience (c) Skill training, semi skill training and employment. One negative factor concerning these priorities as they now stand, is that a number of applicants are not concerned about receiving a high school diploma or the General Education Diploma. With limited skill training sites available and since only one third of this participation time may be spent in work experience based on current guidelines, this type of applicant is screened from the program. This is of great concern to project staff because guidelines and priorities require us to screen out a large number of individuals that the program were originally established to help.

WORK EXPERIENCE AND SKILL TRAINING SITES

Also a major problem in rural areas is the development of skill training sites and appropriate work experience sites. These facilities in most rural areas simply do not exist.

Skill training is defined by NYC II Standards as nonproductive work. It may be possible to develop skill training as defined in an urban area, but this is almost impossible in our rural areas. Therefore, some consideration must be given to modify the existing standards for determining worksites and skill training eligibility. Work experience and skill training should not be separated. One of the best ways to improve skills, if skill training facilities are limited, is to allow the enrollee to do productive work, work that is meaningful to the enrollee. It does not encourage or provide a clerical training with much incentive if she types for two hours daily and the results are not used or her work is pitched into the wastebasket.

The employer or supervisor would also take more interest in the enrollee if she was doing productive work. It is rare that an employer can provide supervised nonproductive skill training from 10 to 20 hours per week.

One possible solution to improve the development of skill training and work experience sites is the use of private industry. In areas where nonprofit agencies are limited, private industry or employers should be utilized.

The use of private industry or employers as training sites should be left to the discretion of the Project Director depending on location, lack of nonprofit resources, possibility of full time employment after training, and with the approval of the Department of Labor Regional Office.

Any linkage with private industry would be co-ordinated with local CAA Manpower Programs.

EDUCATION

Education participation as scheduled in the guidelines should not be compulsory if the enrollees training plan indicates that his primary interest or goal is a particular job and if that job does not require a high school or General Education Diploma.

As an example, we have an enrollee on the program who dropped out of school in the sixth grade. He functions educationally on about the fourth grade level. With this situation it would take much longer than the two years allowed by the program for him to receive his high school diploma or pass the General Education Development exams. His goal is to become a truck driver. Based on his stated goal and training plan he was placed with a city utility department working with a truck crew. But before he can drive a truck he must have a chauffeur's license. He must learn to read road signs, know load limits and general truck driving procedures. He cannot receive skill training in truck driving because he has no chauffeur's license. Again work experience and skill training should not be separated because he will gain valuable knowledge and experience about trucks and truck driving by working daily with trucks and with other drivers. So, his program training plan should include education assistance in obtaining a chauffeurs' license, basic reading and math skills, and work experience which would assist him in receiving some of the necessary skills required to reach his goal.

Another major education problem is the state law concerning youths taking the General Education Development examination. At the present time enrollees cannot take the exam until they have reached their 18th birthday. Some enrollees are prepared to take the exam at age 17 or before, yet they must wait another year. At this point we canont increase work experience hours, and skill training is limited, so we need the flexibility to provide additional work experience hours and to develop other types of participation in order to hold the enrollee's interest and to improve enrollee job readiness until he is eligible to take the test.

Another major problem is enrollee pay rates. Pay rates for all enrollees need to be equalized. Present guidelines require three different pay rates. NYC I enrollees transferred to NYC receive $46.40 per week. NYC II enrollees who are heads of household receive $49.00 per week plus dependency allowances. NYC II enrollees with no dependents and not heads of households receive $36.75 per week. All must participate in the same number of hours per week and enrollees in all three pay classifications may be working on the same job site at the same time. As we have previously stated, one of the primary reasons for the enrollees participating in the program is money, and this unequal pay rate causes a number of enrollees to feel that the pay rates are unfair and they drop from the program.

This type of pay system for enrollees also presents problems for the finance staff. Each enrollee may have a different pay rate based on scheduled program participation and as a result each time an attendance sheet must be computed on a different scale.

In summary, based on our experiences we feel that the following modifications should be seriously considered:

1. Expansion of age requirements to include 18–21 year olds without enrollment limitations.
2. Flexibility in work and class hours. Perhaps a maximum of 30 out of 40 hours spent in work experience and skill training based on the enrollees training and goal plans.
3. Flexibility to allow linkages with private industry or employers based on resources and the possibility of full time employment after training.
4. Develop standard rate of pay for all enrollees, based on federal minimum rate. Dependency allowances should continue to be allowed for enrollees with dependents.

5. Skill training and work experience participation should not be separated but continually upgraded.

6. Adequate funds be provided for program operation. As an example of inadequate funding—In School enrollee pay was increased February 1 from $1.45 per hour to $1.60 per hour, with no fund increase in the program budget. As a result most projects were forced to reduce enrollee work hours or reduce the number of weeks of enrollee participation.

7. Age requirements for enrollees taking the General Education Development test should be changed to include 16 and 17 year olds.

8. In School and Summer funding patterns need to be changed. As previously stated, the current number of In School slots are 254 with the projected number of Summer slots 675. In August we are faced with the task of reducing the Summer enrollment figure to less than one half for the In School program. A more consistent In School and Summer program enrollment ratio is needed. This ratio would remain at the same funding level for both programs.

9. More flexibility should be allowed Project Directors and staff to explore all resources to implement and adapt the program to the enrollees needs and goal plans, based on local situations and available resources in the community.

I would like to state again that the basic concept of NYC II is good, but modifications must be made, and flexibility allowed if the program is to provide meaningful services that will benefit the enrollee.

MANPOWER REVENUE SHARING BILL

As previously stated, the Neighborhood Youth Corps is the only program that has and is providing critically needed training, assistance in enabling youth to continue their education, counseling, other supportive services, and valuable work experience for disadvantaged youth in rural areas.

Before the Economic Opportunity Act authorized the development of the Neighborhood Youth Corps, no programs, concern or consideration for disadvantaged youth was evident in most rural areas. NYC has provided this, and what assurance if the Manpower Revenue Sharing Bill passes do we have of continuing programs for disadvantaged youth? What will be the function of C.A.A. in the funding process for NYC?

Due to federal regulations regarding Department of Labor funds and program implementation, NYC has broken down discrimination and segregation barriers that had been endorsed by leading public officials in the project area. What assurance do we have of receiving continuation of funds for the programs based on these changes and attitudes of some officials?

Based on experiences with O.E.O. Programs and with rural communities and their problems, if the proposed Revenue Sharing Bill is adopted, a federal monitoring system must be established to insure that youth programs for disadvantaged are continued.

Mr. McBRIDE. I would like to share with you just for a few minutes some information concerning the operation and implementation——

Senator NELSON. Is that under a CAP?

Mr. McBRIDE. Yes. It covers 25 counties. The CAP covers nine counties.

Senator NELSON. We have two other CAP's.

Sentaor NELSON. What population is in the area of the 25 counties?

Mr. McBRIDE. A 469,000.

Senator NELSON. That is not all rural, is it?

Mr. McBRIDE. All rural; yes.

Senator NELSON. All rural. I see.

Mr. McBRIDE. Since July 20, 1970, we have operated an N.Y.C.–2 program in the 25 county area, and I would like to share, with you some information concerning the operation, implementation problems, and recommendations for changes that we feel would improve the NYC–2 program in a rural area.

Based on our experiences with NYC–2 the last 9 months, I am thoroughly convinced that this program as designed for urban areas,

and to try to implement the program as designed in a rural area has presented a large number of problems that were not anticipated in the redesign. But the basic concept of NYC–2 is good, and with modifications and flexibility, NYC–2 can be a workable rural program that will provide more tangible benefits and results than in the old NYC–1 program. The following recommendations have been submitted, and we feel that these recommendations would improve NYC–2 in the rural area.

Senator NELSON. What recommendations are you talking about?

Mr. MCBRIDE. I would like to read them.

Senator NELSON. All right. Go ahead. These are proposals to modify the guidelines?

Mr. MCBRIDE. Modify the guidelines; yes.

No. 1, expansion of age requirements to include 18- and 21-year-olds without enrollment limitations. As I said, I have submitted complete testimony on these two programs, but this is just part of the summary due to time.

Senator NELSON. That prepared statement will be printed in full in the record.

Let me ask one question at this point. Were you or are you, aware of any neighborhood youth directors who were consulted by the OEO on the guidelines?

Mr. MCBRIDE. No, I am not. I am not aware of any directors being consulted concerning changes in N.Y.C. guidelines.

Mr. WIGHTMAN. The executive committee of the national association met with Frank Carlucci in July, 1970, and he at that point became aware for the first time that the Department of Labor had published a register change in the age restrictions?

Senator NELSON. You mean they changed the age without consulting with OEO?

Mr. WIGHTMAN. Mr. Carlucci and his staff were not aware of it until we made them aware. They were just beginning to even become aware of it, and we spelled it out for them in detail at that time, in July of 1970.

We were meeting with the Department at the time, we knew what was going to happen, and as a matter of fact, the day it was published we were sitting in the office with the Department. We petitioned for a formal hearing. We thought it was contrary to the extent of the legislation.

Senator NELSON. You mean to say that the national organization was not consulted in the formulation?

Mr. WIGHTMAN. That is correct.

Senator NELSON. Whom did you meet with?

Mr. WIGHTMAN. We met with officials of the Department of Labor, including the Malcolm Lovell, who was then manpower administrator, and——

Senator NELSON. And they published the guidelines the day you met with them?

Mr. WIGHTMAN. The day they were published, we were metting with staff people, Mr. Murray Hans, who was on Mr. Lovell's staff at that time.

That was in December. It was published December 2, 1969, and sub-

sequently we met with Mr. Lovell after the fact. We petitioned the Secretary for a hearing on this, and he interpreted that the hearing was not a matter of right, and we could not have a hearing during this time.

Senator NELSON. So, so far as you know, nobody operating the programs was consulted on the guidelines at all.

Mr. WIGHTMAN. That is correct.

Senator NELSON. That is one of the problems.

Mr. WIGHTMAN. We are working on it.

Senator NELSON. They don't consult us, either, I must say.

[Laughter]

Mr. MCBRIDE. We would also like to recommend that flexibility be allowed in working class hours, approximately 30 or 40 hours spent in work experience. At the present time, only 13 hours can be spent in work-experience training.

Senator NELSON. Thirteen hours?

Mr. MCBRIDE. Per week.

Senator NELSON. What is the maximum hours per week allowed?

Mr. MCBRIDE. 40.

Senator NELSON. Was there any limitation—was there——

Mr. WIGHTMAN. It was a work-experience program, and the totals varied from region to region between 30 and 40 hours.

Mr. MCBRIDE. The average is 32 hours a week of work.

Mr. WIGHTMAN. It was a work experience program. With the change in guidelines, we were restricted to one-third of participation time being worked. My area is 10 hours a week, and Jack's 13, depending on our discretion of what is a full week's program, 30 hours or 40 hours.

Senator NELSON. Was there any indication to your group——

Mr. WIGHTMAN. The NYC–1 which is the work experience program, is still in effect in the rural areas except where Jack picked up the NYC–2.

Senator NELSON. The rest of the time has to be spent in education?

Mr. MCBRIDE. Education and skills training, and this is one of the big problems, because in rural areas, skill training as defined by NYC–2 standards is almost impossible to develop. It is a little hard to talk about my summary here without going into the meat of my presentation.

I know time does not permit that.

Mr. WIGHTMAN. When they talk about skill training, they talk about formal instructions, not OJT kinds of skill training. That is a no-no. That is work experience.

Senator NELSON. No, that is a different ballgame.

Mr. MCBRIDE. Skill training is described as nonproductive work, and it is hard in the rural areas to expect an employer to provide 20 to 25 hours of supervision for nonproductive work.

These are some of the recommendations for changes we have made in our testimony.

Senator NELSON. Go ahead.

Mr. MCBRIDE. Flexibility to allow linkages with private industry or employers based upon resources and the possibility of full-time employment after training should be made. An expanded rate of pay for all enrollees based on Federal minimum rates, dependency allowances should continue to be allowed for enrollees with dependents.

At this time we have three rates of pay for enrollees, for enrollees transferred from the NYC–1 program to NYC–2, the pay is $36.40 a week.

For enrollees that have been enrolled since July 22, 1970, with dependents, the rate is $49 a week with $5 a week for dependents.

For enrollees since July 20 with no dependents, the rate of pay is $36.40 a week. All enrollees may be working on the same jobsite, performing the same duties, going to the same classes the same number of hours a week, and yet there is this basic difference in pay. So we are recommending that the rate of pay, a standard rate of pay, be developed for all enrollees. As we realize, when the enrollee comes to us, he comes to us for one reason, and that is a job and money, and he is very conscious of the fact that he does not receive as much as the next enrollee who is doing the same work.

So we are suggesting and recommending a standard rate of pay be developed for all enrollees. Skill training and work experience participation should not be separated but continually upgraded. Again, skill training as defined by NYC–2 standards is almost impossible to develop in rural areas.

There are no resources to develop it. Age requirements for enrollees taking the general educational tests should be changed to include 16- and 17-year-olds. The program is limited to 16- and 17-year-olds with the exception of 10 percent of the total enrollment that can be above 18.

Senator NELSON. Eighteen and above, 10 percent. At this time, in the State of Missouri no enrollee, if he or she is prepared to take the general education and development test, can take that test until they are 18 years old.

So we have the problem of an enrollee prepared to take the test at the age of 17, and yet they have to wait another year.

We cannot increase work experience at this time, because we are not allowed to go above the 13 hours per week. Skill training is limited, so we have a problem of providing something for the enrollee until he or she is able to take the test.

The in-school and summer funding patterns need to be changed. The current number of summer slots in our in-school program is 254 slots, for the entire area. The projected summer slots for 1971 are 672. In August we are faced with the task of reducing the enrollment figure for less than one-half for the in-school program.

So we are asking that a more consistent in-school and summer program ratio be designed for the summer in-school program. The ratio would remain at the same funding level for both programs.

More flexibility should be allowed project directors and staffs to provide more resources to implement and adapt the programs to enrollees' needs, based on local situations and available resources in the community.

At this point we are trying to fit the enrollee into the program mold, and we would like to have the flexibility to fit the program to the enrollee.

I would like to state again that the basic concept of the NYC–2 is good, and at this point, even without changes, Senator Nelson, I would not want to return to the old NYC–1 program.

But there are changes that need to be made. There are modifications that if made would greatly improve the program.

Senator NELSON. That are again particularly involved with rural areas?

Mr. MCBRIDE. Yes; in rural areas. When we talk about the manpower revenue sharing bill, I am totally opposed to that bill, because I know what has happened in the past.

If some of our Governors and mayors are in complete control of OEO, funds, these funds will not reach the disadvantaged as they have been in the past 3 or 4 years.

Thank you very much.

Senator NELSON. Thank you.

Mr. BRIGGS. My name is Bill Briggs, and I am from Portsmouth, N.H.

Some of the things I will be testifying may be a little repetitious, but I think they are very important, so I would like to continue with the text as I have it prepared, so I will be reading from it.

Traditionally, the discussion of manpower problems concerning unemployment among the rural poor has been focused on the development of work training, work readiness, and industrial retraining programs to meet manpower needs.

Congress has written, legislated and funded many such programs: the Manpower Development and Training Act, on-the-job training programs, the title I B programs of the Office of Economic Opportunity Act—new careers, operation mainstream, neighborhood youth corps, concentrated employment program, and many others.

Manpower programs are developed with two basic premises: 1. That once a person has completed his training, employment opportunities would be available to him and, 2. That the trainee's attitude will upon completion of training be conducive to the holding of such employment.

Both of these premises are usually faulty. Rural America's economic base, tenuous at best, is usually not healthy or viable enough to assimilate trainees once they have completed their training; and secondly, a training period is usually not of sufficient time or intensity to reverse the trainee's pattern of social and developmental behavior.

Consequently, in any further consideration of rural manpower and employment needs, we can no longer afford to think of these restrictive and unsubstantiated premises.

Rural manpower unemployment problems are directly related to economic and social problems so complex, so comprehensive, and so complicated that the discussion of solutions must far exceed approaches now normally considered to fall under the framework of current manpower guidelines.

Any new manpower programs or legislation must reflect in a comprehensive and realistic way the unique and distinctive characteristics of rural America.

These rural distinctions must become an integral part of a national rural planning system which will correlate information among other corporate agencies, offer solutions, and coordinate action to deal with the larger more pervasive problems of rural poverty.

When we look at rural Americans and their economic and social conditions, we must look at these things:

1. Basically and generally speaking, rural America, especially the

rural poor, have suffered from the lack of access to technological advancement, causing:

(*a*) Economic underdevelopment, and in turn social deprivation.

(*b*) Marginal employment and low wages.

(*c*) Inadequate and dilapidated housing.

(*d*) Substandard education.

(*e*) Hunger and malnutrition.

(*f*) No central transportation system.

(*g*) Political, legal and social injustices.

(*h*) Conservative, traditional and antiquated systems of values concerning social change and problems of the poor.

(*i*) High incidence for social ills among the poor, i.e., alcoholism, suicide, and mental health.

(*j*) Lack of medical facilities and agency services.

2. Rural economies are vulnerable to insular poverty of economic dependence. This is caused when a single industry controls the economic and social growth of a total area, thus resulting in:

(*a*) A poor local tax base.

(*b*) Inadequate services.

(*c*) Vested political interest.

(*d*) No competition in local labor market.

3. Most rural areas lack inherent competitive local advantages to attract industry, due to the paucity and inadquacy of:

(*a*) Geographic location to markets.

(*b*) Natural waterways or seaports.

(*c*) Natural power resources.

(*d*) Highway and transportation systems.

(*e*) Proximity to research centers and institutions of higher learning

(*f*) Labor force

(*g*) Educational, cultural, and recreational facilities.

4. Rural America's educational institutions and communications systems are inadequate, causing:

(*a*) Isolation and separation of inhabitants

(*b*) Unaware and uninformed general public concerning the magnitude of rural poverty

(*c*) Politically unorganized and politically voiceless rural poor.

Rural America has received an inadequate distribution of our nation's economic weath. In the distribution of our nation's wealth, both in private governmental contracts and public allocations of funds, rural Americans have received a disproportionate share in comparison with the urban industrial centers.

There is no need to fund highly concentrated programs geared to keep rural Americans "cool and off" the streets. As a result, most rural areas and rural Americans have been left to fend for themselves economically with the end results being the conditions listed above.

In short, what is suggested is a planned rather than an on-planned system of comprehensive economic and social development in meeting rural Americans manpower and employment needs. Manpower problems cannot be easily separated from the fabric of rural poverty or underdevelopment, rather, they are an integral part of that fabric.

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The first step in any new legislation is to establish a separate rural component which recognizes the rural differences, both economically and socially, and further realizes that we must:

(*a*) Be funded at an adequate level

(*b*) Be given the flexibility to respond to localized area needs consistent with national policies.

(*c*) That manpower training programs in rural areas should not be geared totally toward industrial preparation or training but should likewise be geared toward correcting the social inadequacies

(*d*) Then that much more emphasis be placed on the development of cooperative, both agricultural and industrial. These cooperatives could become the provider of services, benefits, political power, dispensers of information, education, communication in rural areas.

(*e*) In rural areas where currently few jobs exist, the government should become the employer of last resort and the consumer of last resort, for products from local cooperatives.

Programs such as Neighborhood Youth Corps, Operation Mainstream, new careers, public service careers, manpower development and training programs, on-the-job-training programs should continue to work closely with community action agencies on a local level, but only as component parts of a larger overall plan for social and economic improvement of the area.

Neighborhood Youth Corps youngsters, alongside members of all manpower training programs, could then be building low income housing units, building and installing sewerage systems, working on ecological and antipollution projects, building day care centers, making additions and improvements to schools, hospitals, libraries, and other public and private buildings, working as nurses' aids, teachers aids, mental health aides, paraprofessionals in all areas and generally working toward improving the social fabric of rural America.

1. Such a system would be more equitable in that it would:

(*a*) Stimulate the rural areas economics development by providing an alternate source of revenue to its present economic base.

(*b*) Train large numbers of people to be assimilated into the local economy as it grows; interim governmental employment should be made available.

If these types of recommendations were followed, programs such as the Neighborhood Youth Corps would become even more important than they are now in rural areas.

The importance of Neighborhood Youth Corps and other OEO programs is undeniable. In most rural areas Neighborhood Youth Corps is one of few, if not the only, organized agency operating to meet the acute needs of our low-income rural youth.

In rural America, there are at best limited facilities for the care, treatment, rehabilitation, training or retraining of any teenagers, to say nothing of the school dropouts and the low-income youngster.

It has become commonplace for most rural school departments, juvenile courts, police departments, welfare departments, public officials, churches, and other agencies to refer youngsters to and to request supportive assistance from the Neighborhood Youth Corps.

On numerous occasions, representatives from the juvenile courts have informed the Rockingham County community action program that placement in its Neighborhood Youth Corps program is the only alternative to a youngster's incarceration at New Hampshire's State Industrial School which is the only residence detention center within the State.

In most rural areas the Neighborhood Youth Corps serves as the only employment opportunity available to youth. Neighborhood Youth Corps has become an integral part of the social fabric of many rural areas.

At this point, an examination of current manpower programs would be helpful in determining the direction of any future rural manpower programs.

Under current national policies and guidelines, program administrators have experienced difficulties in the following areas:

1. Inadequate and unrealistic funding levels.
2. Little or no program flexibility in program expenditures.
3. Poor job and economic development.
4. Poor program administration on the part of some State agencies.
5. Programs operate in isolation.
6. Unresponsiveness on part of national and regional Department of Labor officials in allowing local project participation into the planning, allocation, and expenditure of funds on a national and regional level. However, some inroads into this area of program concern have been made by the National Association of Neighborhood Youth Corps Directors.
7. Poor coordination and communication between private, public, and national levels concerning the cooperation and coordination of programs and services in a concentrated and planned effort.

The strong points of current manpower and OEO programs are:

1. One of the few if not the only organized agency operating in rural America equipped to handle problems of rural youth.
2. Acts as a referral agent to other existing services for youngsters and their families.
3. Works as an agent and catalyst to exert political and social pressure in influencing social change in rural areas.
4. Only employment of training source available to youth in rural areas.
5. Program revenues assist the economic base in the rural areas.

The effectiveness of rural Neighborhood Youth Corps and most rural manpower programs could be increased by:

1. No further manpower programs being written without rural guidelines, funding patterns, contract and proposal procedures, all based on data compiled on conditions of rural America.
2. All manpower programs fully utilizing private employment and the private sector as eligible work and training sites.

Even an item as basic as the development of currently authorized N.Y.C. training sites proves to be a major obstacle in rural areas. Worksites in sufficient quality and quantity to satisfy the enrollment demand simply do not exist.

Therefore, serious consideration must be given to modifying the

program standards which now exist for determining worksite eligibility.

3. Rural funding patterns—another area of program administration that has occupied a critical level of importance to rural Neighborhood Youth Corps projects and one which continues to exist is a funding level and pattern that is wholly compiled from data on urban conditions and characteristics.

It is unrealistic to assume that $2,900 per out-of-school enrollee per annum is sufficient to meet the needs of rural youngsters.

For too long, it has been assumed that what an urban program can achieve with x number of dollars a rural program can achieve with a similar amount.

Rural and urban needs are not the same and shall not be incorporated into the same program guidelines.

4. Rural contract proposals—writing and content—because of unique and distinctive problems evident in rural areas, a new and innovative approach must be taken in the writing and negotating of contracts for rural Neighborhood Youth Corps programs. We have in the past been severely restricted by National Neighborhood Youth Corps guidelines.

One remedy for this problem would be either a State-by-State, or project-by-project negotiation between program directors and manpower representatives to develop on an individual basis programs that are flexible enough to meet local needs.

This might result in shared program services between similar programs and equally as important, other federally funded agencies. These shared program services would be negotiated and decided upon by the project directors and other agencies involved at the time of contract writing.

Shared program services would provide meaningful support to programs which, because of present inadequate program funding, have never had such services available. This would further provide stronger staff component for the full development of trainee potential.

The current system of contract writing must be reevaluated and changed. It is practically impossible to administer an effective Neighborhood Youth Corps program when contracts are written with a few days notice, have constantly changing allocations of funds and last short periods of time.

Programs must be written on a minimum annual basis with the hopes of a 3-year contract ever present. The only way to respond to highly divergent enrollee needs is to plan a program of long enough duration, and that a program administrator is allowed to explore every opportunity available to him in the community.

This would also allow for the employment of professional program personnel with the assurance of some sort of job stability and security.

I am now operating on modification 29 of my existing contract, and this is over a span of 2 years, we have had 39 modifications during this period.

With the incorporation of these suggestions into any future manpower legislation, our manpower thrust into a rural community would be greatly strengthened and expanded.

In closing, I would like to briefly comment on the administration's revenue sharing bill. I am opposed to it on the basis that revenue sharing would return the fiscal controls and policymaking responsibilities for manpower programs to those established State, county, and local political bodies and agencies that have failed the people in the past. If they had not failed, there would be no need for manpower and OEO programs.

You would further be placing a community action agency into competition with existing State and local agencies, political structures, and vested interests for the revenue-sharing dollars coming into a State.

In conclusion, the economic and social problems of a rural area are in their magnitude and complexity staggering, and but they can and must be met. Solutions to these rural problems will not come easily. Until these United States of America make a total commitment to utilize fully all of their vast economic and social resources in the eradiction of poverty and all of the encompassing social ills, there will continue to exist in the 1970's, all of the personal misery and national shame described by Michael Harrington in his "Other America."

Thank you.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much for your testimony.

Mr. WIGHTMAN. Can I have a couple of minutes to wrap up? Do you have some questions?

Senator NELSON. Go ahead.

Mr. WIGHTMAN. I think that what I want to say is that to consolidate and to make a comprehensive system of fragmented manpower system as it currently exists is admirable and desirable except that as the piece of legislation I have seen prepared so far, including the present legislation that did not even make it through the House committee, according to yesterday's paper——

Senator NELSON. Which bill was that?

Mr. WIGHTMAN. The administration bill in the House lost in committee yesterday, the manpower revenue sharing.

I think it was 23 to 9 it got beaten in the committee yesterday. Anyway, my concern is in the prime sponsorship the kinds of language, couple that with laying money on the stump.

Senator NELSON. What was your view of the manpower bill that we passed last year that was vetoed?

Mr. WIGHTMAN. The manpower bill that was vetoed last year, I thought, was excellent, if it can be seen as a transition into a real comprehensive system.

If there can be assurance that manpower services will be delivered to youth, there will be a vehicle for delivering to youth in some kind of way, so that the total efforts can be streamlined and more economically productive and efficient.

However, if there is no legislative assurance that there will be a vehicle for delivering services to youth, then I would insist that we must hang on to this.

The concern of our prime sponsorships from the rural scene is that unless the legislation is written with sufficient language to not only make it allowable to assure that rural kinds of sponsorships can happen, typically they don't happen.

The League of Mayors and the League of Cities, the Council of Mayors, et cetera, were with more sophistication, and having their ear to the ground, they know then what is coming out of the Congress.

Typically the guy who is first with the proposal gets the funding, and often in the rural counties, that kind of expertise is lacking and by the time they do wake up to find there is a program they could have, all the money is gone.

That is typically a pattern. It is everywhere. Not only in terms of who gets programs, but in terms of the kinds of money that goes to the programs.

So far anything that has happened in rural areas in the way of manpower has been kind of an annex for programs that were designed for urban centers.

The only reason the rural people got much of that pie at all was because of persons like yourself who have strong rural considerations.

Mr. BRIGGS. I think the Omnibus Crime bill functions in the same way.

In the State of New Hampshire, the money that has come into the State goes to upgrade the police departments as far as their communications systems are concerned. You know, they are redecorating their buildings, and that sort of thing. They are using very little money for any sort of an effective program, or any sort of a preventive program, or toward deterrence of crime in an area.

This I think, would be an analogous situation with revenue sharing. You have established State agencies that have vested political power. Should all programs be put into a position of competition for this money. I am afraid the money would be going to the established agencies.

Mr. WIGHTMAN. As far as both Jack's and Bill's point on a more equitable distribution between the in-school program and the summer program, as you know, the rationale for the summer NYC came out of the 1967 riots.

The rural kids don't have any streets, and they don't need to keep cool, and you don't need to double, triple, quadruple the rural program just because the cities are.

I had a slot level of 27, and it will jump to 167. Come September, we have to drop from 180 back to 37. I am trying to serve 12 schools with 37 slots. This is typical. It just does not make sense.

Senator NELSON. Do any of you have prepared statements you wish printed in the record?

Mr. WIGHTMAN. Yes; both Bill's and Jack's, we will submit for the record.

(The prepared statement of Mr. Briggs follows:)

THE PREPARED TEXT OF AN ADDRESS TO BE
GIVEN BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SENATE
SUB-COMMITTEE HEARING ON EMPLOYMENT,
MANPOWER AND POVERTY, CONCERNING
MANPOWER LEGISLATION

ON

Thursday, April 29, 1971

BY

WILLIAM P. BRIGGS
DIRECTOR, NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

WB/ml

INTRODUCTION

There is a familiar America, it is celebrated in speeches and advertised on television and the magazines. It has the highest mass standard of living the world has ever known. In the 1950's and 60's, this America worried about itself; yet even the anxieties were products of abundance. The title of a brilliant book was widely misinterpreted and the familiar America began to call itself "The Affluent Society"... "In all this, there was an implicit assumption that the basic grinding economic problems have been solved in the United States. In this theory the nation's problems were no longer a matter of basic human needs, of food, shelter, and clothing. Now they were seen as qualitive, a question of learning to live decently amid luxury. While this discussion was carried on there existed another America. In it dwelled somewhere between 40 million and 50 million citizens of this land. They were poor. They still are."

Traditionally, the discussion of manpower problems concerning unemployment among the rural poor has been focused on the development of work training, work readiness and industrial retraining programs to meet manpower needs.

Congress has written, legislated and funded many such programs: the Manpower Development and Training Act, On-the-Job Training Programs, the Title I B Programs of the Office of Economic Opportunity Act, New Careers, Operation Mainstream, Neighborhood Youth Corps, Concentrated Employment Program, and many others.

Manpower programs are developed with two basic premises. (1) that once a person has completed his training, employment opportunities would be available to him and (2) that the trainee's attitude upon completion of training will be conducive to the holding of such employment. Both of these premises are usually faulty. Rural America's economic base, tenuous at best, is usually not healthy or viable enough to assimilate trainees once they have completed their training; and secondly, a training period is usually not of sufficient time and intensity to reverse the trainee's pattern of social and developmental behavior. Consequently, in any further consideration of rural manpower and employment needs, we can no longer afford to think of these restrictive and unsubstantiated premises. Rural manpower unemployment problems are directly related to economic and social problems so complex, so comprehensive, and so complicated that the discussion of solutions must far exceed approaches now normally considered to fall under the

framework of current manpower guidelines. Any new manpower programs or legislation must reflect in a comprehensive and realistic way the unique and distinctive characteristics of Rural America. These rural distinctions must become an integral part of a national rural planning system which will correlate information among other corporate agencies, offer solutions and coordinate action to deal with the larger more pervasive problems of rural poverty. When we look at rural Americans and their economic and social conditions, we must look at these things:

1. Basically and generically speaking, Rural America especially the rural poor, have suffered from the lack of access to technological advancement, causing:
   a. Economic underdevelopment, and in turn social deprivation
   b. Marginal employment and low wages
   c. Inadequate and dilapidated housing
   d. Substandard education
   e. Hunger and malnutrition
   f. No central transportation systems
   g. Political, legal, and social injustices
   h. Conservative, traditional and antiquated systems of values concerning social change and problems of the poor
   i. High incidence of social ills among the poor; i.e. alcoholism, suicide, mental health
   j. Lack of medical facilities and agency services

2. Rural economies are vulnerable to insular poverty of economic dependence. This is caused when a single industry controls the economic and social growth of a total area, thus resulting in:
   a. A poor local tax base
   b. Inadequate services
   c. Vested political interest
   d. No competition in local labor market

3. Most rural areas lack inherent competitive local advantages to attract industry, due to the paucity and inadequacy of:
   a. Geographic location to markets
   b. Natural waterways or seaports
   c. Natural power resources
   d. Highway and transportation systems
   e. Proximity to research centers and institutions of higher learning
   f. Labor force
   g. Educational, cultural and recreational facilities

4. Rural America's educational institutions and communications systems are inadequate, causing:
   a. Isolation and separation of inhabitants
   b. Unaware and uninformed general public concerning the magnitude of rural poverty
   c. Politically unorganized and politically voiceless rural poor

Rural America has received an inadequate distribution of our nation's economic wealth. In the distribution of our nation's wealth both in private governmental contracts and public allocations of funds, rural Americans have received a disproportionate share in comparison with the urban industrial centers. There is no need to fund highly concentrated programs geared to keep rural Americans "cool and off the streets". As a result, most rural areas and rural Americans have been left to fend for themselves economically, with the end results being the conditions listed above. In short, what is suggested is a planned rather than an on-planned system of comprehensive economic and social development in meeting rural Americans manpower and employment needs. Manpower problems cannot be easily separated from the fabric of rural poverty or underdevelopment, Rather, they are an integral part of that fabric.

The first step in any new legislation is to establish a separate rural component which recognizes the rural differences, both economically and socially and further realizes that we must:

a. Be funded at an adequate level
b. Be given the flexibility to design and develop programs that effectively respond to localized area needs consistent with national policies.
c. That manpower training programs in rural areas should not be geared totally toward industrial preparation or training, but should likewise be geared towards correcting the social inadequacies.

d. That much more emphasis should be placed on the development of cooperatives, both agricultural and industrial. These cooperatives could become the provider of services, benefits, political power, dispensers of information, education, communication in rural areas.

e. In rural areas where currently few jobs exist, the government should become the (employer) of last resort and the (consumer) of last resort, for products from local cooperatives.

Programs such as Neighborhood Youth Corps, Operation Mainstream, New Careers, Public Service Careers, Manpower Development and Training Programs, On-the-Job Training Programs would continue to work closely with Community Action Agencies on a local level, but only as component parts of a larger overall plan for social and economic improvement of the area. Neighborhood Youth Corps youngsters, alongside members of all manpower training programs, could then be building low income housing units, building and installing sewerage systems, working on ecological and anti-pollution projects, building day care centers, making additions and improvements to schools, hospitals, libraries, and other public and private buildings, working as nurses' aides, teachers' aides, mental health aides, paraprofessionals in all areas and generally working towards improving the social fabric of rural America.

1. Such a system would be more equitable in that it would:
   a. Stimulate the rural areas economic development by providing an alternate source of revenue to its present economic base.
   b. Train large numbers of people to be assimilated into the local economy as it grows; interim governmental employment should be made available

If these types of recommendations were followed, programs such as the Neighborhood Youth Corps would become even more important than they are now in rural areas. The importance of Neighborhood Youth Corps and other OEO programs is undeniable. In most rural are s Neighborhood Youth Corps is one of few, if not the only, organized agency operating to meet the acute needs of our low income rural youth. In rural America, there are at best, limited facilities for the care, treatment, rehabilitation, training or retraining of any teenagers, to say nothing of the school dropouts and the low income youngster. It has become commonplace for most rural school departments, juvenile courts, police departments, welfare departments, Boy Scouts, mental health clinics, county commissioners, public officials, churches and other agencies to refer youngsters to and to request supportive assistance from the Neighborhood Youth Corps. On numerous occasions, representatives from the juvenile courts have informed the Rockingham County Community Action Program that placement in its Neighborhood Youth Corps Program is the only alternative to a youngster's incarceration at New Hampshire's State Industrial School which is the only in-residence detention center within

the state. In most rural areas the Neighborhood Youth Corps serves as the only employment opportunity available to youth. Neighborhood Youth Corps has become an integral part of the social fabric of many rural areas. At this point, an examination of current manpower programs would be helpful in determining the direction of any future rural manpower programs. Under current national policies and guidelines, program administrators have experienced difficulties in the following areas:

1. Inadequate and unrealistic funding levels
2. Little or no program flexibility in program expenditures
3. Poor job and economic development
4. Poor program administration on the part of some state agencies
5. Programs operate in isolation
6. Unresponsiveness on part of national and regional Department of Labor officials in allowing local project participation into the planning, allocation and expenditure of funds on a national and regional level. However, some inroads into this area of program concern have been made by the National Association of Neighborhood Youth Corps Directors.
7. Poor coordination and communication between private, public, and governmental agencies on local, state, regional and national levels concerning the cooperation and coordination of programs and services in a concentrated and planned effort.

The strong points of current Manpower and OEO programs are:

1. One of the few if not the only organized agency operating in rural America equipped to handle problems of rural youth
2. Acts as a referral agent to other existing services for youngsters and their families.
3. Works as an agent and catalyst to exert political and social pressure in influencing social change in rural areas
4. Only employment or training source available to youth in rural areas
5. Program revenues assist the economic base in the rural areas

The effectiveness of rural Neighborhood Youth Corps and most rural manpower programs could be increased by:

1. No further manpower programs being written without rural guidelines, funding patterns, contract and proposal procedures, all based on data compiled on conditions of rural America
2. All manpower programs fully utilizing private employment and the private sector as eligible work and training sites. Even an item as basic as the development of currently authorized Neighborhood Youth Corps training sites proves to be a major obstacle in rural areas. Work sites in sufficient quality and quantity to satisfy the enrollment demand simply do not exist.

Therefore, serious consideration must be given to modifying the program standards which now exist for determining worksite eligibility.

3. Rural funding patterns - another area of program administration that has occupied a critical level of importance to rural Neighborhood Youth Corps projects and one which continues to exist is a funding level and pattern that is wholly compiled from data on urban conditions and characteristics. It is unrealistic to assume that $2,900.00 per out-of-school enrollee per annum is sufficient to meet the needs of rural youngsters. For too long, it has been assumed that what an urban program can achieve with "X" number of dollars a rural program can achieve with a similar amount. Rural and urban needs are not the same and should not be incorporated into the same program guidelines.

4. Rural contract proposals - writing and content - Because of unique and distinctive problems evident in rural areas, a new and innovative approach must be taken in the writing and negotiating of contracts for rural Neighborhood Youth Corps programs. We have in the past, been severely restricted by National Neighborhood Youth Corps guidelines. One remedy for this problem would be either a state by state, or project by project negotiation between program directors and manpower representatives, to develop on an individual basis programs that are flexible enough to meet local needs.

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This might result in shared program services between similar programs and equally as important, other federally funded agencies. These shared program services would be negotiated and decided upon by the project directors and other agencies involved at the time of contract writing. Shared program services would provide meaningful support to programs which, because of present inadequate program funding, have never had such services available. This would further provide stronger staff component for the full development of trainee potential.

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You would further be placing a Community Action Agency into competition with existing state and local agencies, political structures, and vested interests for the revenue sharing dollars coming into a state.

In conclusion, the economic and social problems of a rural area are in their magnitude and complexity staggering, but they can and must be met. Solutions to these rural problems will not come easily. Until these United States of America make a total commitment to utilize fully all of their vast economic and social resources in the eradication of poverty and all of the encompassing social ills, there will continue to exist in the 1970's, all of the personal misery and national shame described by Michael Harrington in his "Other America".

THANK YOU!

Senator NELSON. Go ahead, Mr. Freeman.

Mr. FREEMAN. I am Dow Freeman from Marshall, Tex. I operate an in-school and out-of-school Mainstream program.

One comment on Mr. Wightman's last statement, that we don't need the slots in the summer like the urban areas do, this is, of course, true. I don't want to leave the impression, though, that we don't need the slots, period.

We stay on the same slot level in school in summer that we are at the present time. The increase could be made in some area between what we have in the summer in the in-school—an increase in the in-school and a lowering of the summer, so that there would be an area in between.

Senator NELSON. You think it would be a better expenditure if you had it more equally divided in number between the in-school and out-of-school summer programs?

Mr. FREEMAN. Yes. I have 185 in the in-school this summer, I am going to have approximately 600; it would be better to have 450, or 400, or whatever amount, for the entire year, for the entire year in-school and summer.

It would be easier to operate, and easier on the kids.

Senator NELSON. You could not do that at the same funding level?

One program is 3 months and one is 9.

Mr. WIGHTMAN. The increased hours are in the summer, the increased overhead staff is in the summer.

Mr. FREEMAN. I would like to make one other comment. I know that in most legislation we tend to address the problems, or that this legislation tends to address the problems in the cities, and I think that you will find, sir, that the people in the rural areas believe that at least a portion of the problems in the cities can be solved before, and I underline the word "before" they occur.

If more attention could be given to the rural areas, that is, they could be solved. The poor people in rural America don't necessarily want to move to the cities, but they are forced to because of various and sundry reasons.

Finally, I want to make another point here, that we keep referring to the disproportionate share of the funds that are going to the rural areas.

We don't want to leave the impression here that we want to get into a fight with the urban areas over the money that is available, because we feel we all have problems. The urban areas need the funds to solve the problems the same as we do. All that we request is that we receive a fair and equitable share of the funds that are available.

Thank you, sir.

Senator NELSON. Do you have any breakdown on the funds expended under the program in the rural versus urban areas?

Mr. WIGHTMAN. I don't have them, Senator. The only breakdown we would be able to get would be the distinction between NYC–1 and NYC–2 for the in-school and out-of-school Neighborhood Youth Corps.

You could get the rest of the funding pattern just called "in school, summer" and as far as I know there is no rural urban breakdown of those figures.

Senator NELSON. Thank you very much.

Mr. MCBRIDE. Senator, I can give you a breakout under the NYC budget if that would help any. The total cost of the budget for 12 months for NYC this 2 program is $297,240. Twenty-four percent of that is for project administration, counseling costs and fringe benefits for staff.

Seventy four percent of that is for enrollee participation, wages, fringe benefits, other paid participation, support services and education.

Two percent of that is for operational costs, insurance, bonding, and other direct costs.

Our in-school program the enrollee costs, by percentage, the total enrollee costs are about 77 percent of the total budget. So this is the difference between the NYC–2 budget and the in-school budget, some of it.

Senator NELSON. Thank you all very much.

The next panel is on rural economic development programs, Father Albert McKnight, Federation of Southern Co-ops, Lafayette, La.; Alex Mercure, home education livelihood program (HELP), Albuquerque, N. Mex.; and Geoffrey Faux, Cambridge, Mass, former director, OEO economic development program.

STATEMENT OF A PANEL COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS: FATHER ALBERT McKNIGHT, FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN CO-OPS, LAFAYETTE, LA.; ALEX MERCURE, HOME EDUCATION LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM (HELP), ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX.; and GEOFFREY FAUX, CAMBRIDGE, MASS., FORMER DIRECTOR, OEO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Senator NELSON. Do any of you have a prepared statement?

Mr. FAUX. Yes.

Senator NELSON. Is somebody not here today?

Mr. FAUX. Mr. Mercure, from Albuquerque, N. Mex., is not here.

Senator NELSON. Your statement will be printed in full in the record.

(The prepared statement of Mr. Faux follows:)

Statement of Geoffrey Faux
before U. S. Senate Subcommittee on Employment, Manpower and Poverty

Washington, D. C.

April 29, 1971

Mr. Chairman, I should like to address my testimony to the history and future of the Rural Loan Program authorized by Title III-A of the Economic Opportunity Act.

As you know, Title III-A provides for loans to poor rural families, both individually and through cooperatives, for businesses and housing. The stated purpose of the loan program is to effect a permanent increase in the income and standard of living of such families. Loans to individual families are limited to $3500. There is no statutory limit to cooperative loans. Interest rates are pegged to Treasury obligations of comparable maturity. At present the revolving fund contains approximately $86 million in assets which will be collected as loan payments become due.

The Administration has announced its decision to terminate this program and turn the assets of the fund back to the Treasury. I believe this decision is wrong. It reflects either an error in judgement or a tragic indifference to the plight of the rural poor. I strongly believe that a sensible program which would enable poor rural people to earn a living for themselves rather than be forced to choose between migration to the urban slums and a life of welfare dependency would be a highly effective instrument not only as a way of helping the rural poor, but as a part of a meaningful urban and rural development strategy for the nation as a whole.

In making its own decision regarding the Rural Loan Program, I suggest that the Congress consider the following issues:

First, the program as currently written into the Act and administered by the Farmers Home Administration is not the best possible program to accomplish the purposes of the Act. In fact, it is not what the original framers of the OEO had in mind. The anti-poverty bill that was originally reported out of this committee in 1964 called for a comprehensive program of financial assistance (which included grants as well as loans) to poor farmers and cooperatives whose membership was predominantly made up of poor farmers. In his testimony on the original bill in 1964, then Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman was asked how poor people could be expected to repay loans with conventional terms when they had been judged as too high risks for the regular Farmer's Home Administration rural loan program. Freeman responded:

"The grant is the thing that makes the difference . . . without the grant, you would not have the capital resources to repay any loan . . . But this little bit of capital, which makes it possible let us say, to get seed or fertilizer or a little bit of machinery, or some animals, makes the differences between getting somebody launched on a meaningful kind of operation, or else just being mired in the poverty they are in now.

Thus the original design of the program provided poor farmers with an injection of capital into their business which would have enabled them to use a conventional loan effectively in helping themselves become self sufficient. Secretary Freeman estimated at that time

that two-third of the poor farmers in this country had neither the will nor the ability to migrate to the cities, but with a small investment could have raised their income above the poverty level.

Despite the fact that the committees of both houses reported out the bill with provisions for both grants and loans, the authorization for grants was deleted on the Senate floor after former Senator Laushe objected that if a grant were given to poor farm families eventually every family in the country would have to be given one. The grants were deleted without argument and without a vote.

Thus the grant provision which the Secretary of Agriculture testified was essential for the effective implementation of the loan program was deleted while the loan program remained. Since then we have learned the hard way that Secretary Freeman was right. Poor farmers have found it very difficult to take advantage of loan programs designed for established middle and upper income farmers. Without the grant assistance the legislative requirement that there be reasonable assurance of repayment has made most poor farmers ineligible for assistance. As a result, the Farmers Home Administration has tended to make a high proportion of loans to farmers whose incomes are above the poverty level. A GAO report on the program showed that between January 1965 and February 1968, over forty percent of the borrowers receiving financial assistance were not poor.

This brings me to my second point: the administration of the program. By any reasonable measure the Farmers Home Administration

has been woefully negligent in providing the technical assistance that is vital for success in farming. Despite the fact that poor and minority farmers have lacked access to such assistance, the FHA has not during the course of this program given poor farmers the kind of help they give to the wealthier ones. I quote from the GAO report: "Work measurement studies completed by FHA in 1967 showed that, on an overall basis, Economic Opportunity Loan borrowers were receiving less individual attention with respect to the making of their loans and subsequent supervision than borrowers receiving other types of FHA loans."

How much of this shortchanging of the poor is a result of bureaucratic fumbling and how much a result of racial discrimination I cannot say. After the 1965 report of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission on the Department of Agriculture programs, the Farmers Home Administration increased the number of black employees as well as the number of black members of county committees. Since 1966, however, there has not been much progress. In May 1970, blacks made up only four percent of the FHA staff and only six percent of the membership of county committees.

The third point I should like to make concerns the potential of the cooperative structure as an effective economic arrangement for assisting low-income farmers. Studies made by the General Accounting Office and the Department of Agriculture's own Farmer Cooperative Service indicate that the income gain farmers received through cooperative loans far exceeded the gains they received on an individual family loan basis. The GAO reported net gains that averaged under $100 for farmers under the individual loan program, while a study made by the Department of Agriculture of the cooperative loans reflected a net gain of $328. In addition the delinquincy rate is reported to be lower for cooperative loans than for individual family loans. In

essence by pooling talent and resources and by mounting larger operations which permit economies of scale, cooperatives have turned out to be a more viable arrangement for low-income farmers.

Despite this evidence of the superiority of cooperatives and the fact that cooperatives have been of proven benefit to millions of farm families and an important contributor to the tremendous increase in farm productivity that this nation has undergone since World War II, the Farmers Home Administration continues to concentrate the program on small family loans that have much less potential. In May 1970, there were 27,700 loans outstanding to individual families and only 1,075 to cooperatives. And many of the cooperatives were very small three and four person organizations with no real viability.

Fourth and finally, there remains the issue of where we go from here. We have a program that was inadequately designed and administered, but which is the only program offering hope for economic self-help among the rural poor. The Administration's present answer is to terminate the program and send the proceeds from the loan fund back to the Treasury. And what would take its place? Nothing. Or perhaps the Family Assistance Plan. In effect the Administration would take a million poor farmers with the potential for supporting themselves and put them on welfare.

Mr. Chairman, the Federal Government gave out some $7 billion in Agriculture subsidies last fiscal year, sixty percent of which went to about 17 percent of the nation's farms. In 1967, 817 large farms in the State of Mississippi received an average of more than $45,000 each in subsidies. If the present administration plan is adopted a poor farmer in the same state will not even be able to get a loan. Moreover, the money that those poor farmers

are paying back on former loans will be used to subsidize large corporate plantations.

One public reason OEO has given for cutting off the program is the high administrative costs. But the GAO has reported that the Farmers Home Administration provides less assistance to poor cooperatives than to wealthier ones. Is OEO saying that what is a permissable cost in serving rich farmers is too high for the poor? And why has not OEO seen to it that the Farmers Home Administration concentrate on cooperatives which are not only less costly to administer but which are more effective?

The solution to the current situation is not to abandon the program and, by so doing, abandon poor farmers. The solution is to transform it into an effective rural economic development program for the poor. At the minimum such a program ought to have the following elements:

1. Low cost, long term loan funds.
2. Grants to defray the initial expenses of a new rural enterprise, and for certain administrative expenses of cooperatives.
3. Technical assistance and training for poor rural farmers and cooperative staff, preferably by an organization other than the U. S. Department of Agriculture, but, if by Agriculture, then with assurances that such assistance will be forthcoming.
4. An emphasis on cooperatives.
5. Links with manpower, health, migrant and other anti-poverty programs.

The history of the Title-III-A Program strongly suggests that some organization other than the Farmers Home Administration be responsible for this new rural development program. I personally would favor setting up an independent development corporation with a board of directors composed of representatives of the rural poor, businessmen and bankers, and those

private citizens with a history of concern for rural problems. The development coproration would have authority to make grants and loans and to provide technical assistance and training to low income farmers. I realize, however, that this is a complex notion and its consideration might cause delay in the passage of the bill. For purposes of the legislation immediately before us, the best route might be to require that OEO take direct responsibility for the program by combining it with the other ongoing economic development activities of that agency which are proving so effective in both rural and urban areas -- specifically, the programs of support to community development corporations authorized under Title I-D. OEO could then itself create such a development corporation if it seems wise.

In view of OEO's special responsibility to develop and test innovative ideas for furthering opportunities for the low-income population, I suggest that the committee also consider twoother proposals that have been put forth in recent years. One is for community development banks which would provide low cost credit and technical aid to businesses in depressed areas. Last year Senator Proxmire, and this year Senator Sparkman and Congressman Patmen, introduced legislation calling for development banks. I believe that OEO would be a logical place to establish, on an experimental basis, a few bank models which would give us some experience on which to evaluate these proporals and how they would help the low income populations. A start has been made in the support of the fund for cooperatives headed by Father McKnight. OEO has never given the project priority, however, and as a result the monies for the grant made almost two years ago have not yet been released.

Another proposal that is worth exploring is the notion of a land "bank" for rural areas, which would act as a sort of urban renewal program for rural areas. The bank would buy up land being held for specualtion

and resell it to rural people who would immediately put it into productive use. Like the grant program described above, this proposal was in the original Economic Opportunity Act proposed by the Johnson Administration in 1964.

I would like to suggest that the Congress seriously consider how it can itself get OEO to initiate experiments like these and others that it might want to see conducted. If OEO is to become, at least part, the "social laboratory" for the Federal Government, then a way must be found for the legislative branch to have input into the priorities for both research and evaluation. There is no reason why OEO could not be used to test out legislative proposals so that the Congress could have some better idea of what works and what does not.

The history of Title III-A of the Economic Opportunity Act is a tragic example of how all of us-- the Congress and those of us who were and still are in the Executive Branch-- bungled a program of considerable promise. To terminate this program without putting a better one in its place would be to leave the poor paying the bill for our mistakes. A rational program to provide credit and assistance to the rural poor is desparately needed. Let us provide it, as it should have been provided seven years ago. Let us this time learn something from the mistakes of the past.

Father McKnight. I hope to send in a prepared statement.
Senator Nelson. Can you get it to us in the next 10 days or 2 weeks?
Father McKnight. Yes.
(The prepared statement of Father McKnight follows:)

STATEMENT OF FATHER ALBERT J. MCKNIGHT, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTHERN COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT FUND

I work very closely with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives which is a tax exempt membership organization of over one hundred low income cooperatives located in fourteen of the southern states. The cooperatives run the gamut of cooperative businesses embracing credit unions, consumer co-ops, agricultural co-ops and various service cooperatives.

The Federation of Southern Cooperatives provide technical assistance, management training, marketing assistance and financial assistance in the form of grants and soft loans to the cooperatives.

The Southern Cooperative Development Fund was organized by the Federation of Southern Cooperatives to be a financial institutional providing credit to those cooperatives which could handle hard loans. The Federation of Southern Cooperatives and the Southern Development Fund work very closely in developing loan packages with Southern Cooperative Development Fund providing the credit and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives providing the technical assistance which is necessary to ensure the cooperative capacity to repay the loan.

Today I would like to briefly outline to you how the Federation of Southern Cooperatives and the Southern Cooperative Development Fund combining loans and grants have been able to change an agricultural cooperative facing bankruptcy less than a year ago into the first economically successful low income agricultural cooperative in the south.

Grand Marie Vegetable Cooperative which is a low income agricultural marketing cooperative was organized in 1965 after one of the most disasterous sweet potatoe seasons. It has three hundred low income farmers. It covers four parishes (counties) in Louisiana namely St. Landry, St. Martin, Acadia and Evangeline.

Five years prior to the organizing of Grand Marie Cooperative, St. Landry Parish which had the most black farmers in Louisiana had a fifty per cent decrease in the number of black farmers, from 14,000 to 7,000 in less than five years.

In the fall of 1965 the small sweet potato growers were receiving fifty cents a crate for their sweet potatoes which was less than what it cost to produce them. Many of the farmers found it cheaper to allow their sweet potatoes to

We were able to begin operating in the summar of 1966 with a Farmers Home Administration loan which was finalized on July 29, for $68,000.00 for land, building and equipment but with no operating funds.

We ran into trouble immediately. The small farmers who depended upon their sweet potato crop for cash money had to wait three and four months before receiving their money because the cooperative did not have any operating funds and had to wait until the brokes sold and paid for the sweet potatoes.

Needless to say this long delay in receiving their money did not encourage the membership to patronize the co-op.

The second year we finally succeeded in negotiating an operating loan from the Farmers Home Administration which was finalized on September 22, 1967 for $46,700, almost three months after the sweet potato season had begun. With this money as a revolving loan fund we were able to pay the farmers soon after they brought their sweet potatoes.

The damage however, had already been done. Many of the farmers refused to sell their sweet potatoes to the co-op because of the previous long delay in receiving their money. The total volume of sweet potatoes handled in the second year dropped drastically in comparison with the first year. It took us two seasons to recover the confidence and patronage of the members.

Just as we were recovering from the fiasco of the first year's operation we had a catastrophe in 1969. We began selling sweet potatoes to a new broker in Denver, Colorado who in the beginning paid well. The trouble began when checks totalling six thousand dollars bounced. All checks to the cooperative were forwarded to the local Farmers Home Administration office who in turn deposited the checks. When the checks bounced the local Farmers Home Administration agent failed to notify the manager of the cooperative. The manager thinking that the previous

shipments had been paid shipped additional loads of sweet potatoes to the same broker.

The local Farmers Home Administration agent waited two weeks before he finally notified the manager that the checks had bounced. By that time the broker had increased his account to thirty thousand dollars. This money remains still uncollected today.

In May of 1970, the Farmers Home Administration decided to foreclose on their two loans to Grand Marie Vegetable Cooperative. However, they expressed their willingness to the Board of Grand Marie to settle their accounts for the appraised value of the physical assets of the cooperative provided that the third party who purchased the facilities would make them available to the low income farmers in the area.

Grand Marie then applied to the Southern Cooperative Development Fund for assistance in this matter. The board of the Southern Cooperative Development Fund agreed to make $96,000 available to Grand Marie, $36,000 was used to purchase the physical assets of Grand Marie and clear out their indebtedness to Frmers Home Administration, the $60,000 was made available as an operating loan to be drawn upon as needed.

This was the first time that Grand Marie had sufficient operating funds. The physical facilities were leased to Grand Marie. Part of the loan package approved by Southern Cooperative Development Fund involved replacing Grand Marie's manager. A grant of $11,000 for a new manager was approved by the Federation of Southern Cooperatives. Because we were unable to recruit a new manager the old one was retained but very closely supervised by the Vice President of the Southern Cooperative Development Fund.

At the end of April Grand Marie will end its fiscal year in the black for the first time. This has been a dramatic reversal considering that Grand Marie faced bankruptcy less than one year ago.

A number of factors contributed to this reversal, namely:

a. for the first time Grand Marie had adequate financing at the proper time.

b. it had good management, having been closely supervised by the Vice President of Southern Cooperative Development Fund.

c. the Certified Public Accountant firm who had been keeping inadequate records was replaced and a more accurate and refined accounting system was installed so that current financial information about the operation was available.

d. the field workers of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives with the assistance of a grant from the Episcopal Church conducted a Small Farmers School Program whereby over two hundred small farmers attended nightly classes in farming for several months. This helped to increase the loyalty and patronage of the members.

All these factors have contributed to the success of Grand Marie which is the oldest of the low income agriculture co-op and has become the first agricultural co-op to end its fiscal year in the black. With one day remaining we project that Grand Marie will end with a net profit of over $10,000.00 at the end of its fifth year of operation.

Father McKnight. I am associated with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, consisting of over 100 low-income cooperatives running the gamut of cooperative enterprises, credit unions, agricultural co-ops, handicrafts co-ops.

It covers 14 of the Southern States. I am directly connected with what we call the Southern Cooperative Development Fund which is an attempt to establish a development bank for these cooperatives because one of the problems all the co-ops have faced is the problem of achieving credit.

But today, I would like to give a case history of one of the cooperatives, the Grand Marie Vegetable Cooperative, an agricultural co-op, because it is the first of the agricultural cooperatives in the South, that is low-income cooperatives, that tomorrow, after we close the books, will for the first time be in the black.

This is the first of the agricultural co-ops to make it into the black. Basically, it is a cooperative organized in St. Landry Parish in Louisi-

ana. That parish, between 1960 and 1964, had a 50-percent decrease in the number of black farmers in the 5-year period.

In 1965 the price for sweet potatoes dropped 50 cents a bushel, which was less than what it cost the farmers to grow them, another reason why many of the farmers had to just give up farming.

In 1966, we organized the cooperative roughly with about 400 low-income farmers. After 8 months of negotiations with the Farmers Home Administration we were able to obtain a loan to buy land, equipment, and buildings.

Senator NELSON. Where was this?

Father MCKNIGHT. In St. Landry Parish, La.—county. We were not able to obtain any operating funds; sweet potatoes in a cash crop. The farmers, when they bring in the sweet potatoes, want their money within a few days.

In the first year of operating, we had to wait sometimes 3 or 4 months before we could pay the farmers. The second year, we finally negotiated with the Farmers Home Administration for an operating loan. That loan did not come through until the end of September.

The sweet potato season started in July, so actually, we operated two seasons without sufficient operating funds, with the result that our second-year volume was less than the first year because many of the farmers refused to bring their sweet potatoes to the cooperative, because they knew they had to wait several months for repayment.

It took us 2 years, 1968 and 1969, to recover from the initial bad start because of lack of operating funds.

Then in 1969, just as we were recovering, we had another fiasco, partly caused by the Farmers Home Administration, in which we started selling sweet potatoes to a new broker in Denver, Colo. In the beginning he paid well. On a shipment of the sweet potatoes which we received checks totaling $6,000, those checks were forwarded to the Farmers Home Administration, because they received all the checks from the accounts receivable, and the checks bounced, but the Farmers Home Administration agent did not inform the manager of the co-op that the checks had bounced. He waited over 2 weeks before this information was relayed to the manager, who in the meantime had shipped additional loads of sweet potatoes thinking that the bill had been paid.

When they finally came out, it was almost $30,000 worth of sweet potatoes which were shipped which to this day we have not received money for.

Last year, the Farmers Home Administration wanted to foreclose on the loan. The co-op over the previous 4 years had lost almost $100,000 in the operation.

Through the help of the Southern Cooperative Development Fund, we were able to buy out the Farmers Home Administration, which was willing to settle for the appraised value of the physical assets, which were roughly $36,000. The Southern Cooperative Development Fund provided an operating loan of $60,000, which was the first time that the co-op had adequate operating funds.

With the management assistance that was provided, and adequate field staff, we were able to change that cooperative from facing fore-

closure last year into ending its fiscal year this year, in the black. As of March it was $12,000 in the black.

So even if it lost a couple of thousand for April, which I doubt, it would still be $10,000 in the black.

Senator NELSON. These moneys are then distributed to the co-op members?

Father MCKNIGHT. No. Right now the co-op will have to recover or pay back some of its indebtedness before it will be able to distribute the earnings to the farmers.

But the fact is that this is the first of the agricultural co-ops that has made it into the black. It has, because of the necessary inputs, adequate capital, grants to provide the management and the technical assistance, and an adequate outreach program to deal with this, provided mainly through the Federation of Southern Cooperatives.

This shows that agricultural cooperatives among poor people can be economically viable, providing the proper inputs are available.

Mr. FAUX. Mr. Chairman, I will address my remarks to the history and the future of the Rural Opportunity Loan program authorized by title III–A, of the Economic Opportunity Act. I would like to submit a report on the program prepared by the Center for Economic Development in Cambridge, Mass. I would also like to submit a brief statement which I will try to summarize now.

(The information referred to follows:)

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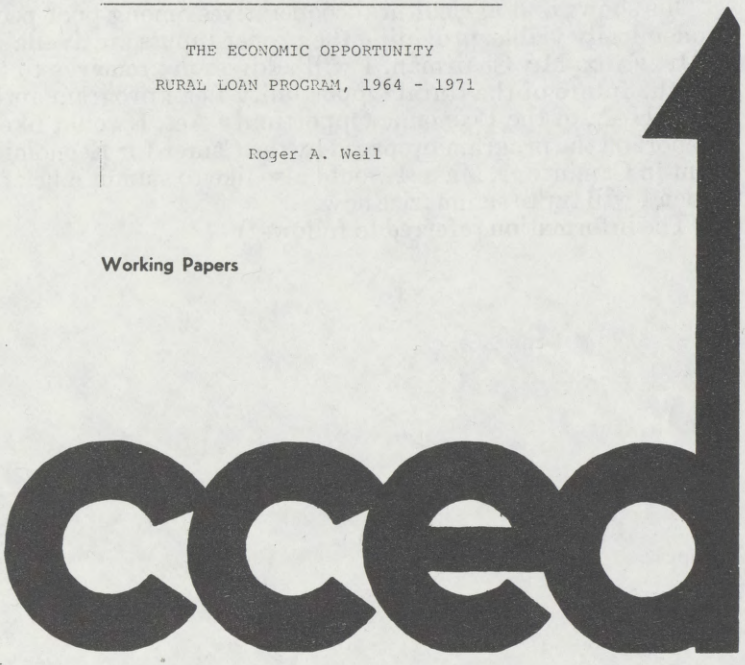
THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY RURAL LOAN PROGRAM, 1964 - 1971

Roger A. Weil

Working Papers



THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY RURAL LOAN PROGRAM, 1964-1971

The Economic Opportunity Rural Loan Program, administered by the Farmers Home Administration of the Department of Agriculture for the Office of Economic Opportunity, was seriously undermined from its inception by legislative compromise. In its implementation, it was further damaged by funding cutbacks and inter-agency frictions over the relevance of its social purposes to program administration. In both conception and execution, it could never have reached its intended constituency, the rock-bottom rural poor. Now it faces outright elimination, although certain program changes could make it effective.

In view of (1) the failure of the program to achieve significant increases in income for recipients of individual loans and (2) the scarcity of resources for supplying the intensive supervision needed to make marginal farmers economically viable, future attempts to lift the living standards of low-income farmers should use grants and loans solely to cooperatives and other community-based economic development organizations comprised of mostly low-income farmers. This would give a sharp focus for aid in the kind of potentially stable economic unit most needed by the rural poor.

A. LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY LOAN PROGRAM

As originally drafted, Title III-A of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 provided for grants and loans to low-

income rural families and loans to local cooperative associations for predominantly low-income families. The grants and loans to low-income rural families were intended to make possible a permanent increase in their income producing capacities and thereby qualify them for FHA's regular line of credit for low-income applicants.[1] Otherwise such families could not qualify for FHA credit under existing law.[2] Similar conditions prevailed for low-income cooperatives, especially in their early, experimental stages.[3] Public and private financing institutions were not serving their credit needs because of the extreme financial weakness of these cooperatives. Despite such weaknesses, it was felt that with the assistance contemplated in the draft legislation, cooperative associations of poor farmers, working together for common goals with pooled resources, could substantially improve their economic prospects and help divert the tide of families being forced off the land and onto the welfare rolls in urban ghettos.[4]

In testimony before the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the War on Poverty Program of the House Committee on Education and Labor, Secretary of Agriculture Freeman and Representative Quie held the following dialogue:

> Mr. Quie: What in this language will permit you to lend money to people who are not a good credit risk, as you mention in your statement?
>
> As I look at section 306, it says that one of the criteria is that there is a reasonable assurance of repayment of the loan. Is that not the same requirement made in FHA right now? You stated that 90 percent

of those, at least, are to low-income farmers, right now.

Secretary Freeman: I am glad you asked that question, because it does get right to the heart of this section.

The grant is the thing that makes the difference, which we do not have now...

Without the grant, you would not have the capital resources to repay any loan, and you could not make any loan...

But this little bit of capital, which makes it possible, let us say, to get seed or fertilizer or a little bit of machinery, or some animals, makes the difference between getting somebody lauched on a meaningful kind of operation, or else just being mired in the poverty they are in now.[3]

Despite Secretary Freeman's admonitions and the favorable action of both the House and Senate subcommittees which passed the proposed section on intact for legislative debate, the bill was altered by Senator Humphrey on the Senate floor to delete the grant feature. A sample comment on his amendment follows:

Mr. Lausche: If we give that grant to a rural family, how can we escape eventually moving into the field of giving grants to all families in the country?...I believe the world and the citizens of our country will laugh at us..If this provision in the bill is adopted, there will be no end to the program. It will spread through the whole gamut of our economy. If we give to one, how can we rationally deny giving to another?

Without adversary debate, the amendment was adopted. The House acquiesced without comment. However, one hint of a more profound Congressional sentiment which may have motivated this compromise is found in the minority report of the House Ad Hoc

Subcommittee which states:

> The purpose of part A is to permit the "poverty czar" to give grants of $1,500 to low-income farmers whose operations are so marginal and unpromising as to disqualify them for an FHA loan...As the American Farm Bureau Federation spokesman, Dr. Harry L. Brown, a very distinguished Georgia educator and agriculturist, pointed out to our committee:
>
> "This grant and loan program would, whatever the intention may be, operate to perpetuate subsistence farming and rural slums..."
>
> To argue that unsuccessful agriculture should be encouraged in order to keep individuals on farms, even in a state of poverty, is to argue against the entire economic and social history of our country.[7]

Without debating what the economic and social history of this country teaches us about encouraging marginal farmers to stay on the land and out of urban ghettos, it may be fairly concluded that giving grants to such individuals in order to provide a capital foundation for accompanying loans was offensive to Congress and that the limited loan program enacted was a half-measure intended to placate supporters of the program by channeling at least some funds into rural areas to meet the needs of hard-hit small farmers.

Lacking the grant feature, the Economic Opportunity Loan program rapidly assumed many of the exclusive characteristics of FHA's regular line of credit, the very line it was intended to extend downwards to the hard-core poor. Secretary Freeman's prophesy that "the grant is the thing which makes the difference" fulfilled itself.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE FRICTION IN PROGRAM CONCEPTS

Given the loan program enacted by Congress without the grant provision for individuals, formulators of program policies in OEO and FHA differed fundamentally from the outset. OEO considered the program as a social effort; FHA saw it essentially as an economic one. That difference of opinion pervades the two agencies to this day. It can be outlined in broad terms and applied as a model to many topics of public interest.

The economic approach stresses the soundness of the investment, its security and collectability. It sees the loan as an effective economic lever when coupled with fundamental strength of character and, where necessary, sound technical and financial supervision. It views as morally wrong saddling an applicant with no entrepreneurship experience and little hope of running a viable enterprise with the added burdens of debt, especially if in doing so, unrealistic prospects of gain are held out to him.

The social approach stresses the need for infusion of capital into woefully depressed environments. It is inclined to view economic hardship as a form of helplessness, not necessarily related to strengths or character or individual initiative. It sees the plight of small rural farmers and sharecroppers as the result of dominant social and political interests which have kept them technically, financially and psychologically dependent

on using established patterns of advancement which actually exclude them. This view would make loans as soft as possible in order to remove as many barriers as it can from the debtor's path to self-sufficiency.

Some dangers inherent in the economic approach are:

(a) that too much emphasis will be placed on an applicant's financial, education, managerial or motivational inadequacies in determining his qualifications for a loan when these are the very inadequacies the loan is supposed to alleviate;

(b) that too much stress will be placed on making and collecting loans, the sheer transfer and repossession of funds, to the exclusion of a well-rounded program of both financial and vocational assistance;

(c) that too little interest will be shown in extra-economic purposes of the loans such as social advancement.

(d) that deeply held beliefs in free enterprise mechanisms for selecting those who will and those who will not rise in the marketplace of human resources will affect the enthusiasm of program administrators.

Some dangers inherent in the social approach are:

(a) that too little attention will be paid to time-proven principles of good business economics in a program where a primarily commercial mechanism (the loan of capital) has been chosen as a means for solving complex human problems which in fact involve a world of non-commercial as well as commercial motives;

(b) that, given the immediacy of the needs the program deals with, too much will be attempted in too short a time and too much success will be expected too quickly. Impatience with modest gains may result in their sacrifice;

(c) that verbalization of promising conceptual solutions will be taken as solutions in and of themselves.

C. ECONOMIC CONSERVATISM AND RACISM

From the start, the EOL Program was administered with a predominently economic thrust. This was assured by placing loan approval authority in FHA. In determining what standards would be applied by FHA loan officials charged with the responsibility of making only such loans as have a "reasonable assurance of repayment," FHA regulations issued jointly by OEO and USDA stated:

> Economic Opportunity loans are made primarily for purposes that will increase income and, therefore, will enhance the repayment ability of the applicant.[8]

It has been the complaint of OEO analysts ever since that FHA is more interested in collecting its debts and preserving a pristine delinquency record than in helping the rock-bottom rural poor. That allegation was supported by the General Accounting Office review of EO loans to individuals. GAO found that in its review of 265 loan approvals made between January, 1965, and February, 1968, "115 borrowers had income indicating that they were not in the poverty category or had assets which exceeded their liabilities by $5,000 or more. The net worth

of 10 of the 115 borrowers exceeded $10,000. Generally, FHA files did not contain evidence to justify the reasons for making EO loans to such borrowers."[9] GAO concluded further that "the lack of precise loan eligibility criteria has resulted in loans being made to individuals whose reported financial condition--net income or asset--and background indicated that they were not in the poverty category."[10]

GAO and FHA differed on the importance of net worth as an indication of a family's "low-income" or poverty status. FHA's position was that "net worth" represents an estimate of what a farmer's property is worth and not its actual cash value in the event of liquidation.[11] It would appear that FHA could have made a much more persuasive argument at the time by contrasting net worth with asset productivity. This is, in fact, FHA's position today. They point out that farmers with large amounts of assets may not be able to make them produce and can easily be as indigent as farmers with few assets.[12] The question still remains whether those farmers with large assets would not better be served by FHA's Initial and Operating Loans rather than the EO line of credit, given the limited amount of EO funds available for loans and their high demand by farmers with limited assets.

In a study of cooperatives financed by EO loans, the Farmer Cooperative Service of USDA reported: "For 232 members interviewed in the Southern States farm income averaged $5,364. Expenses were $3,562 leaving a net farm income of $1,802.

Other income amounted to $1,472 for a total income available for family living and debts of $3,274. Members reported $2,242 spent for family living, leaving a net of $1,032 after farm and living expenses. Assets averaged $17,801, liabilities $7,046, and net worth $10,755."[13] It would seem that such a family would not fall within OEO's understanding of "poverty." The word understanding is used advisedly because OEO, to this day, has no explicit operational definition of what poverty is and is unwilling to clear the murky waters surrounding its so-called "poverty guidelines."[14] Those guidelines purport to define poverty by establishing uniform income guidelines but nowhere explain what the term "income" means. Even after urging by OEO research staff,[15] that agency refuses to clarify its terms.

Consequently, it is not surprising that in administering the EO Loan program,FHA developed its own understanding of who its poor clientele were. While limited by regulations to making EO loans to cooperative associations with two-thirds poor membership,[16] no clear indication was given of what that category meant. FHA developed a "remaining income" concept based on income remaining after farm and family living expenses were deducted and applied OEO's poverty guidelines to that figure in determining poverty impact.[17] OEO, on the other hand, uses the Census Bureau's definition of "cash income" in developing all its poverty statistics. That definition deducts only business expenses and not family living expenses or taxes from

gross family income in arriving at a net income statistic.[18] As a result, OEO's statistical poverty population appears to be far poorer than the targets of the EO Loans.

Apparently, EO Cooperative as well as Individual Loans went to the uppercrust of the rural poor. This proposition is demonstrated by the Farmer Cocperative Service study which breaks out the size of farms operated by members of 226 southern cooperatives receiving EO loans.[19] Their break out shows that a mere 7.5 per cent of the farms reciving Cooperative loan assistance were less than 20 acres, 30 percent were less than 50 acres, and only 58 per cent were less than 100 acres. Approximately 42 per cent of the coop farms receiving EO loans were over 100 acres in size.

While acreage alone does not indicate income yield, it can provide a relative measurement of the commercial farm population being served. The 1964 U.S. Census of Agriculture indicates that in Mississippi (which received the greatest number and dollar amount of EO loans to coops during the period of the study), 44 per cent of the white commercial farm owners and 72 per cent of the non-white commercial farm owners had Class VI commercial farms, or farms with gross sales of farm products totaling $50 to $2,499 a year, averaging 75.6 acres in size. Class VI farms belong to the rock-bottom poor. The average size of southern farms in the FCS study was 125 acres, or equivalent to the average size of Class V commercial farms in Mississippi according to the Census. Although Class V

farms have gross sales of from $2,500 to $4,999 annually and can therefore still be called marginal ventures, they must be considered an upper-crust of the low-income farm. It was here that FHA concentrated the thrust of its cooperative loan program. Mississippi is not an isolated example of FHA's exclusive orientation. Similar patterns prevailed, for instance, in Alabama where 40 per cent of the white and 84 per cent of the non-white farm owners had Class VI farms averaging 75.5 acres.

Dovetailing with charges of economic exclusion were charges of racial exclusion. They focused on two issues: equal opportunity in employment and equal access to FHA services in all loan programs.

It is indisputable that prior to 1965 when the Civil Rights Commission made its devastating report on equal opportunity in USDA farm programs,[20] FHA's employment practices were abominable despite FHA's posture as the champion of the rural underdog. However, from December 1964 to December 1966, FHA's black employees tripled in number from 113 to 311 indicating a positive response to civil rights criticism.[21] The number of blacks serving on FHA's three-man County Committees (which are empowered to make recommendations on loan applications) jumped from 37 to 393 in the same period.[22]

This commendable performance has not been sustained. As of May 1970, blacks held only 334 out of a total of 7,515 FHA jobs; only 414 were on County Committees out of a total of 7,312 Committeemen.[23] There had been little improvement

in these areas since 1966. In September,1969, FHA took what it considered to be a bold step foward to reform the County Committeeman situation. In a daintily worded memo to State Directors, the Assistant Administrator of FHA requested "careful consideration" of (but not compliance with) certain guidelines regarding the appointment of minority representatives to County Committees.[24] Provoked by the fact that minorities constituted only 7 per cent of the Committeemen, the Assistant Administrator indicated that "it is logical to expect that" minority groups comprising 50 per cent or more of a county's farm population should have a majority membership on the three-man committees. From the date of that memo to May 31, 1970, black committeemen declined from 420 to 414 and minority representation as a whole increased only one-tenth of 1 per cent.[25]

In the area of services provided, FHA's improvements have been more sustained. Studies of Farm Ownership and Operating Loans made by FHA during the period 1964-69 show that "over the life of the loan there were more dollars loaned per dollar of net worth to negroes than to white... loans to negroes contained an increase of 14 per cent in the amount of funds planned for capital investments as compared with a 6 per cent increase for all borrowers." Looking at all types of individual loans in the 16 southern states, it was found that loans to blacks increased 339 per cent by dollar and 93 per cent by number as compared to increases of 57 per cent and 7 per cent respectively for whites and others. The average size of loans

to blacks in those states increased by 128 per cent as compared to 47 per cent for whites and others.[26] For the period 1965-1968, when Economic Opportunity money was flowing into FHA at a fairly significant level (funding dropped from $14.5 million in Fiscal Year 1968 to $3.4 million in Fiscal Year 1969) EO Individual Loan dollars to whites and blacks shows an average annual increase of approximately the same percentage.[27] However, contrasting the years 1965 and 1968, EO Individual Loans to whites increased by 29 per cent and to blacks by only 17 per cent.[28] Again, the good rate of increase for blacks in 1966 and 1967 can be attributed to Civil Rights Commission pressure during those years. The example of 1968 suggests that more pressure was perhaps needed.

It is probably impossible to demonstrate conclusively that FHA's loan programs as a whole are administered with a racial bias on a nationwide scale, or for that matter, in the South alone. Participation in FHA loan programs varies so radically among counties with similar socio-economic characteristics, with no apparent connection to per capita demand, that evaluation is very difficult.[29] Even in southern counties which complain most of discrimination it is difficult to show that loan rejections are patterned on a racial factor.[30] For example, the latest FHA statistics show that blacks submitted 24.7 per cent of the applications for EO Individual Loans in the South in FY 70 but received 39 per cent of the total loans made.[31]

Nevertheless, there may still be some question whether

discrimination is occurring before applications are received.[32] Blacks may be told they are not eligible for a loan when they in fact are. They may be discouraged by pessimistic loan officers who contend they are giving "counseling" when in fact they would be abrogating to themselves the function of the County Committee. USDA supposedly has an "outreach" policy which stresses the need to go out into the community and generate interest in FHA programs among the poor. It is possible that, like the Extension Service which was roundly criticized for its failure to reach out to blacks by the Civil Rights Commission, FHA has not responded adequately to the need of blacks to be educated in what federal help is available to them. Comparing the per cent of black participation in southern states in FY 1970 EO Individual Loans applied for and made, we find that all states except Virginia and West Virginia show higher black participation in loans made than loans applied for; and some states, like Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Tennessee show less than 20 per cent of applications received from blacks. Kentucky, West Virginia and Louisiana respectively received an incredible 2.4 per cent, 1.7 per cent and 8.8 per cent of their applications from blacks.[33] Even given the much lower proportions of rural blacks in Kentucky and West Virginia, they did poorly in reaching the black farmer, and certainly the Louisiana record is especially poor.

D. "INTENSIVE SUPERVISION"

Aside from criticism about the direction the EO Loan Program took, there has been much criticism about the administrative commitment made to it by both FHA and OEO. While much of this criticism falls on FHA, since it is charged with administrative responsibility for the program, there is no simple picture.

If we go to FHA Regulations again to get the thrust of program policy, we find:

> The farm families who are to receive loans under this subpart are confronted with such problems as, very limited resources; low incomes; indebtedness beyond their present ability to repay; ineffective management of their operations, income, and credit; lack of management skills; and an unsatisfactory level of living. Therefore, these families will be provided intensive supervision in order that they may be properly assisted in overcoming their problems and thus improve their incomes, levels of living, and financial situations.[34]

FHA Regulations also provide that "intensive supervision" will be provided to cooperative borrowers in order to achieve the objectives of the loan.[35]

It is in this area that both OEO and FHA most clearly failed to fulfill their mandates.[36] Yet here they could have produced the most real good. As one FHA administrator put it, "The most constructive view of the program was to see it as a training device."[37] Accordingly, in the original FHA instructions for the EO Loan Program minimum standards of supervision were prescribed:

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> Intensive supervision consists of (1) annual farm and home planning, (2) farm family records, (3) effective farm and home visits adequate in number to properly assist the family in making the major adjustments and improvements needed in its farm and farming operations, with a visit preferrably within 30 to 60 days after the loan is closed, (4) year-end analysis and subsequent farm and home planning each year, and (5) long-time farm and home planning in cases in which the major adjustments and improvements needed will not be accomplished during the year for which the annual farm and home plan is developed.[38]

This provision was deleted in October, 1966, because FHA had insufficient personnel to meet those standards of supervision. In the GAO review of EO Individual Loans, a history of supervisory neglect was detailed:

> With respect to the frequency of supervisory visits, we reviewed the records of 180 borrowers maintained by the county offices. The county supervisors had made three or less visits to 61, or about 34 per cent, of these borrowers although they had had their loans for periodsfrom 1 year to more than 3 years. The records shows that, in the case of 11 of the 61 borrowers, no visits had been made. Work measurement studies completed by FHA in 1967 showed that, on an overall basis, EO Loan borrowers were receiving less individual attention with respect to the making of their loans and subsequent supervision than borrowers receiving other types of FHA loans.[39]

Apparently, given the general shortage of personnel created by a fourfold expansion of their responsibilities in the period 1961-69 with only a 50 per cent increase in personnel resources available to administer all those programs, FHA chose to give better supervisory support to its older loan programs. The more creditworthy borrowers, better able to manage their affairs than their EO Loan counterparts, received FHA assistance

when things got tight.

GAO recommended that EO Loans should have been maintained at a level commensurate with supervisory capabilities available.[40] FHA and OEO replied that, although they recognized the lack of adequate counseling and supervision available to the hard-core poor, cutting back loan volume was "ill-advised because many families, which could benefit from a loan for which the program offered the only opportunity to obtain resources and some counseling, would thus be denied help."[41]

The matter was left at this impasse. FHA had no funds to expand its field staff; Bureau of the Budget slashed requests for added money. OEO was unwilling to see the size of the program compromised by problems it felt were FHA's and not its own or the poor's. By the time the GAO report was issued to Congress in March,1969, a new Administration had taken office and OEO was cutting back its support of the EO Loan Program from an average annual appropriation of $23.25 million in 1965-68 to $3 million in 1969.[42] Support has been non-existent ever since despite the fact that by 1968 approximately $96 million had been loaned to poor individuals and $14.7 million to low-income cooperatives, much of which was still outstanding and in need of supervision and servicing.

Recognizing that loans in that amount had been made without an adequate commitment by the Federal government to help loan enterprises yield enough additional income to repay their obligations, the government abandoned them for all

practical purposes. The program continued to be administered on a shoestring. While the revolving fund, from which loans were made and into which they were repaid, remained approximately worth $86 million for Fiscal Years 1968-71, its unobligated balance at the end of each fiscal year began climbing rapidly in proportion to the fewer and fewer loans to individuals and cooperatives which were being made. It is evident that, although the phase-out announcement was made only recently,[43] the phasing-out of the EO Loan Program for low-income rural farmers actually began as early as 1968, at a time when the federal government should have been recognizing the extent to which it had done only half the job it had promised to do.

E. EFFECTIVENESS

How should the effectiveness of the EO Loan Program be measured? Some want tangible evidence of economic improvement; others view the economic result as only one of many possible impacts the program could have had--for instance, training, fostering self-esteem, becoming aware of both social and economic alternatives, and in the special case of cooperatives, learning how to work with others for common purposes, achieving a sense of social solidarity, developing on-going institutions.

The economic appraisal of EO Loans is at first glance discouraging. GAO found: "In the first four years, loans were made to about 1 per cent of the 4,6 million families classified

as rural poor in the 1960 census. The program helped a number of individuals raise their incomes significantly; however, the majority of borrowers included in GAO's review had made less or only slightly more income from their loan-financed enterprises during a one-year period than was needed to meet payments on loan principal, which averaged $208 annually per borrower." Although GAO based its findings on an evaluation of only the first year's operation of many of the 128 borrowers sampled, it concluded that "when viewed from the standpoint of permanently bettering the income of loan recipients, the program's contributions, with respect to the majority of loan recipients, was very limited." It found that only 27 per cent of the borrowers experienced gains in net income from loan enterprises experienced gains in net income from loan enterprises amounting to from $1,000 to $7,000 a year and nearly all of these enterprises were nonfarm businesses. Moreover, 56.3 per cent showed increases of less than $400 a year and over half of those had decreased or remained unchanged. The median change for all 128 borrowers was an increase of slightly less than $300 a year. Since repayments of principal averaged $208, GAO concluded that income gains of half the borrowers were either diminished or completely offset by loan repayments.[44]

The Farmer Cooperative Service study of economic effectiveness of EO Cooperative Loans showed some more positive results. Comparing the percentage change in income for farmers between 1964 and 1967 in the South Atlantic and South Central

regions of the U.S., the study found that 232 members of EO cooperatives surveyed in the South made 8.5 per cent more net income than other farmers. Members of machinery cooperatives made 21.6 per cent more.[45] It was calculated that total income per member from farm and nonfarm sources increased by 10 per cent, or $328, over this period.[46] Since none of that increase had to be applied to repayments of principal on the coop's loan (loan amortization was presumably taken into account before income increases were calculated), it would appear that some real increases of income were experienced by coop members participating in the program.

Judging from the results of these studies, FHA could have gotten far more mileage in an economic sense from making loans to coops rather than individuals in the EO Loan Program. However, at no point in the program's history has that proposition impressed administrators at FHA. Despite the fact that EO coops have a better delinquency record on FHA's books than individuals,[47] FHA insists that they are even less viable and harder to provide assistance to than individual farmers. Consequently, as of May, 1970, $105,319,000 had been loaned to individuals and only $19,995,000 to cooperatives, yet active loans to coops as of that date were serving almost as many families as active loans to individuals. FHA has never attempted to evaluate its loan program in these terms however. They have no figures to rebut the Farmer Cooperative Service study and readily admit that much of their dissatisfaction with

poor people's coops in the South is with their social and political emphasis.[48] They adhere to a textbook rationale which insists on purifying struggling businesses of the kind of extra-economic surcharges inherent in community development which are not readily evaluated from a cost-benefit point of view.

FHA has been woefully remiss in neglecting to ascertain the relative economic and social benefits which may be achieved from loaning to "concentrations" of low-income families rather than to those families separately. GAO has now asked FHA to supply figures comparing the effectiveness of individual and cooperative loans in order to get a clear picture of what OEO and FHA administrators should have sought to understand from the program's start. Had the program been properly planned, these kinds of questions would have been answered long ago.

Out of fairness to OEO, it must be said that they have tried to impress FHA in the past with the value of saturating particularly poor, but geographically limited, areas with large amounts of funds instead of spreading them thinly among all FHA's constituents. OEO has always argued that FHA used EO loans as supplements to their Initial and Operating Loans. In a memo dated May 20, 1969, entitled "Responses to FHA Attempts to Subvert the Rural Loan Program" from OEO's Acting Assistant Director and Director of the Office of Rural Affairs to OEO's Director, it was said with regard to FHA's

practice of making loans to small, unincorporated machinery cooperatives comprises of from 3 to 10 members:

> FHA finds the latter most appealing, despite (or may be even because of) the limitations on any permanent antipoverty Impace (sic) attributable to this type of loan, for three apparent reasons: In effect they are collateral loans involving minimal risk from a banking standpoint; they require very little technical assistance, if any at all; and they help foster good relations with farm machinery salesmen who are often influential locally.

Along similar lines the memo pointed out:

> Obstacles to program development have included stringent funding limitations almost from inception; FHA's determination to utilize this program as part of its gamut of loan offerings, without particular regard for obvious target areas or the assignment of specific field staff to work with what amounts to a special clientele group; FHA resistance to operating the program as part of an antipoverty effort, and particularly to concerting its own loan activities with other antipoverty efforts... On OEO's part, it must be admitted there has existed a certain apathy toward Rural Loans which is at best not wholly due to FHA intransigence.

The rest of the memo reads like a bureaucratic cloak and dagger scenario with FHA trying to capture the EO prize for use as a directly appropriated USDA program, or in the alternative, trying to divert its application away from areas of concentrated poverty where it was decided to focus the sharply reduced funds of Fiscal Year 1969.

Again, in its study of individual loans, GAO supports this indictment. It criticized FHA for not matching loan resources with potential needs of States and counties or with income groupings of the rural poor. Wide differences existed

in the rankings of states based on the number of their rural poor and the comparative value of loans made.[49] The same differences were observed in certain counties.[50] Taking the percentage of rural poor in different income groups and comparing percentage of loans made to that group, GAO again found wide discrepancies.[51] Whereas 37.3 per cent of the rural poor had incomes of $999 or less annually, they received only 16.8 per cent of the EO Loans made. The 73.8 per cent with less than $2,000 income received 56.8 per cent of the loans.

Other OEO memos stress the need for program concentration, particularly in order to encourage more private outside aid and ease the difficulty of providing technical assistance. Without belaboring the point, here again cooperatives seem a natural vehicle for such a concentrated approach to community development in rural areas.

F. FUTURE OF RURAL LOANS

In December, 1970, an OEO "internal working document" containing a budget plan for Fiscal Year 1972 that would eliminate the rural loan program was leaked to the press.[52] At the time, OEO confirmed that the memo contained matters which were being discussed by OEO and Office of Management and Budget officials, but emphasized that nothing contained in it was final, that a "dialogue" was still going on and would continue until the President made a final decision.

The phase-out was part of OMB's suggested plan to meet a requested 23 per cent overall cut in OEO-administered funds.[53]

By January, OEO had announced in a Budget Briefing that the program would be definitely phased out. Despite the fact that the GAO report never touched on EO loans to cooperatives, phasing out was justified on the rationale that GAO's findings "went across the whole spectrum of OEO programs," and, further, that "the cost of administering a direct federal loan program of such small loans was very, very high relative to any other comparable loan program. There were some pretty serious problems on delinquencies."[54] This is an odd position for OEO to have taken, especially since the Director of FHA's Association Loans Division expresses surprise at how low the delinquency rates on EO Cooperative Loans have been.[55] They apparently ran far below expectations.

It must be emphasized that "phasing out" is a weak description of what will in fact occur if this program is killed. Approximately $86 million in the EO Loan revolving fund will be collected as loans become due and returned to the Treasury. That money will be lost to rural families unless it is recaptured by OEO and channeled into new rural programs.

Phasing out of this program involves more than a cessation of new appropriations; it involves a loss of all the old. Approximately $83 million will remain in the revolving fund from which EO loans are made at the end of Fiscal Year 1971. When the program is phased out, that money, properly allocated for rural community development, will be lost to the rural poor as loans fall due and are collected.

Since rural people who have used this money over the years have paid Treasury interest on it amounting to $18.8 million through Fiscal Year 1971,[56] it cannot be argued that the program has been a give-away. The onerous administrative costs OEO complains of only ran 1.47 per cent of the total individual and cooperative loans made,[57] although FHA has complained that this OEO contribution covered only one-half of its actual expense. The rural poor have a claim on these funds, if only because they were originally appropriated to rural purposes in a spirit of genuine reform but not accompanied with sufficient resources to make that reform a reality. By draining the EO Loan revolving fund of its capital without reallocating it to other rural purposes, the federal government again disinherits the rural poor despite its persistent claims to the contrary.

This, at least, seems to be the effect of a recent "Rural Policy" memo circulated throughout interested OEO divisions by its Office of Special Programs.[58] This memo proposes that it shall be the policy of OEO to adhere to the

following guidelines, among other things, in the design and execution of programs affecting the rural poor:

> Wherever feasible, assistance should attach to individuals rather than to places or institutions, thus insuring the individual maximum freedom of choice.
>
> Regional economic development assistance involving community infrastructure will be focused on those urban places that because of their size and economic and social momentum appear to have future viability.
>
> The benefits of larger scale and agglomerations are to be captured whenever possible. For economic activity, this will entail movement away from support of small entrepreneurships (including small-scale agriculture) and toward nonfarm wage employment.
>
> A particular role of the agency will be to design means of insuring that basic social services originating in urban growth centers are made available to residents of the outlying areas. (italics supplied)

Disinheritance is a mild description of what this proposed rural policy would promise. Exile may be more accurate. It contradicts the most fundamental premises of a balanced rural-urban development program. Concentrating aid in urban communities will only make life for the poor more untenable in the country and drive them to the cities. It would make sense only in the context of general intent to clear such areas of their poor by herding them into welfare ghettos, on the assumption that the rural problem is insoluble in the rural areas.

G. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Economic Opportunity Loan Program, compromised out of existence by tight-fistedness, unsympathetic administration and poor resource management at a federal level, stands as an example of the failure of government, not the poor, to legislate and guide a worthy rural development program for low-income farmers. Future rural policy should be framed in this context. It should take into account the continued need for meaningful farm credit and subsidy programs for marginal as well as established farmers. With the failures of the EOL Program as a guide, it should attempt to construct a more viable successor. The following ingredients of such a program are recommended:

(1) Combine initial financial support, preferably in the form of grants, to underwrite large, one-time capital expenses with subsequent soft loans for operating costs;

(2) Allocate a fixed proportion of program funds for sustained technical support and training--such funds would not be mingled with administrative resources of other programs;

(3) Concentrate financial resources in areas of greatest need, preferably by channeling them through community-based economic development organizations such as cooperatives and community development corporations, thereby promoting institutional bases of sustained influense; and

(4) Keep administrative responsibility for the program in OEO, thereby protecting it from the influences of other interests.

Such considerations should not preclude the Department of Agriculture from coordinating services provided by its rural

components with OEO-administered programs to extend further training and marketing services to OEO's clientele. This limited alliance would provide USDA with a good focus for its so-called outreach efforts. The Farmer Cooperative Service of USDA, currently operating on a tiny, static budget and able to serve only a few wealthy cooperatives, should be funded by USDA to enlarge its operations. Since 1965, FCS has been eager to enlarge the population of farmers it serves by reaching down to the rural poor. It recently submitted five low-income cooperative program proposals to the Office of Management and Budget for funding approval.[59] They touched essential needs of low-income coops, such as providing resident economic development counsel in strategic coops, interesting more universities in programs to train coop managers, locating qualified managers already being trained and introducing them to needy coops, providing a mass infusion of federal and state resources into a few chosen areas for establishment of demonstration programs, and finally, instituting a Rural Fund for Cooperative Development on a national scale with well-paid administrators working at a county level. All these projects were disapproved, but deserve renewed consideration.

Rural economic development of minority communities will probably continue with or without the further aid of federal government, especially in the South. Nevertheless, continued federal participation can smooth many of its rough edges if properly directed. Rural community spirit is a vital

resource. It is a resource government should continue to develop through imaginative reforms and experiments instead of prematurely abandoning it to struggle for survival on its own.

EXHIBIT A

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION
HEADQUARTERS EMPLOYMENT
MATERIALS

	Dec. 1953	Dec. 1954	Dec. 1963	Dec. 1968	[illegible] 1969	May '70
GS-1 to GS-4	49	46	101	112	93	99
GS-5 to GS-11	30	63	206	206	216	221
GS-12 to GS-18	1	1	3	8	8	11
Total Class Act	80	110	310	326	317	331
Wage Board	0	3	1	2	2	3
County Committeemen	0	37 (plus 100 alternates)	393	403	420	414
State Committeemen	0	9	12	10	12	11
Total: Other	0	49	406	415	434	428
Total: All Pay Plan	80	159	716	741	751	759
County Committee Chairmen	0	0	0	17	29	36

NOTE: "Total full-time employees" includes GS-1 to GS-18 plus Wage Board.

EXHIBIT B

USDA-FHA
Form FHA 209-6
(Rev. 8-14-69)

STATISTICAL REPORT
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY DATA

DATE: May 31, 1970

Includes only Full-Time Employees	Negro	Spanish American	American Indian	Oriental	Native Alaskan	Minority Total	Female Total	Employment Total
GS-18								1
GS-16								4
GS-15	1					1		27
GS-14	1					1	1	72
GS-13	2					2	4	181
GS-12	7	1				8	7	425
GS-11	19	5	2	3		29	11	1429
GS-10							1	1
GS-9	101	6	1	3		111	31	1128
GS-8							3	5
GS-7	67	6	2	1		76	151	859
GS-6	7	1		2		10	67	71
GS-5	27	14	2	5		48	1425	1637
GS-1 to 4	99	21	9	4		133	1596	1667
Wage Board	3					3		8
TOTAL	334	54	16	18	0	422	3297	7515
Loan Chiefs								123
Loan Officer	11	1	1			13	1	184
Engineers	2	1				3		60
District Supervisors						0		186
County Supervisors GS-9	9	2		3		14		373
GS-11	14	4	1	3		22		1305
Asst. County Supervisors	139	7	3	1		150	43	1239
Student Trainees								
State Committeemen	11	1	1	3		16	19	179
County Committeemen	414	50	24	29		517	72	7312
Committee Chairmen	36	17	7	7		67	2	2423
NYC CWSP etc	14	5	1			20	64	72
Appointments FY 1970	126	33	5	11		175	915	4001
Promotions FY 1970	74	17	4	8		103	1882	2612

*Includes Committeemen

EXHIBIT C

FHA Bulletin No. 3406 (236)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Date: September 11, 1969

TO: All State Directors

FROM: Assistant Administrator

SUBJECT: Appointment of Minority County Committeemen

We are concerned about the fact that minority groups constitute only seven percent of our County Committeemen total. Our appointment record in this respect can and must be improved.

We must give more attention to the population base in each county and area which our committees serve. For example, in one western state minority groups comprise over 20 percent of the rural farm population in 23 counties and over 50 percent in 13 counties, according to recent census figures. In one southern state minorities comprise over 20 percent of the rural population in 27 counties and over 50 percent in 12 counties.

It is logical to expect that minority groups should have at least some representation on a Committee when they comprise 20 percent or more of the rural farm population. It is also logical that representation should increase when the 50 percent mark is reached. We want you to give these guidelines careful consideration if it becomes necessary to make a County Committee appointment between now and next July.

Certainly, if you lose a minority committeeman at any time, because of resignation or normal expiration of appointment, you will want to give every consideration to the appointment of another minority eligible.

L. B. Granger

EXPIRATION DATE: June 30, 1970

EXHIBIT D

May 6, 1970

SELECTED DATA ON FHA SERVICES TO RACE-ETHNIC FAMILIES

1. Recent Farmers Home Administration studies of family progress show that over the life of the loan there were more dollars loaned per dollar of Net Worth to Negroes than to Whites. This was true for both Farm Operating and Farm Ownership borrowers who have been on the program for an average of 5 years.

Farm Ownership Borrowers

Negro Borrowers - FHA loaned 1.24 per dollar of Net Worth

White Borrowers - FHA loaned .96 per dollar of Net Worth

Operating Loan Borrowers

Negro Borrowers - FHA loaned 1.55 per dollar of Net Worth

White Borrowers - FHA loaned 1.29 per dollar of Net Worth

Farmers Home Administration policy is to provide supervisory assistance and management guidance for borrower families on the basis of need.

Farmers Home Administration reports indicate that an increasing amount loaned to Negroes is being invested in income-producing capital items. During the 1964-1969 period, loans to Negroes contained an increase of 14 percent in the amount of funds planned for capital investments as compared with a six percent increase for all borrowers.

Farmers Home Administration has dramatically increased in the 16 southern states the number and amount of loans to Negroes as compared to Whites:

Total Individual Loans (All Types)	1964		1969	
	Number	Millions Loaned	Number	Millions Loaned
To Negroes	10,985	$ 21.7	21,166	$ 95.2
Percent Increase			93%	339%
To Whites and Others	54,172	$285.6	57,785	446.8
Percent Increase			7%	57%

From 1964 through 1969 the average size of loans to Negroes in the 16 southern states increased by 128 percent, to whites and other by 47 percent.

Rural Housing loans to Negroes increased from 1964 to 1969 by 1536% in number compared to only an increase of 177% for Whites and Others.

It is also noteworthy that 7,576 FHA individual borrowers' families in the 5 southwestern states of Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas (16.3% of all active FHA borrowers) are of Spanish Surname. In 26 states where census data indicates there are American Indians, records show that some 2,935 American Indians are FHA borrowers.

In the 16 southern states Negro families are some 20.7% of all FHA borrowers--- over 49,370. Negro family borrowers out of a total of 238,000.

February 4, 1969

USDA-FHA
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY LOANS MADE TO INDIVIDUALS, BY RACE, BY FISCAL YEAR
IN THE UNITED STATES, EXCLUDING ALASKA, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO AND VIRGIN ISLANDS

EXHIBIT E

FY	White		Negro		Other		Total	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
1965	6,574	$11,827,390	2,413	$3,639,990	240	$ 461,400	9,227	$15,928,780
1966	9,833	16,568,670	4,441	5,990,640	792	1,385,130	15,066	23,944,440
1967	10,568	19,331,010	3,982	5,707,640	564	946,750	15,114	25,985,400
1968	7,622	15,261,250	3,127	4,258,170	599	1,113,210	11,348	20,632,630
TOTAL	34,597	$62,988,320	13,963	$19,596,440	2,195	$ 3,906,490	50,755	$86,491,250

NOTE: Includes initial and subsequent loans.

EXHIBIT F

TOTAL INDIVIDUAL EO LOANS AND APPLICATIONS FY-70

State	Loans Made: State Total	White No.	White %	Negro No.	Negro %	American Indian No.	American Indian %	Spanish Surname No.	Spanish Surname %	Other No.	Other %	Applications Rec'd. 16 Southern States: Total By State	Negro No.	Negro %
Arizona	42	2	4.76			34	80.96	3	7.14	3	7.14			
California	8	6	75	1	12.5			1	12.5					
Connecticut	1	1	100											
Colorado	10	7	70					3	30					
Idaho	13	11	84.62			1	7.69			1	7.69			
Illinois	11	8	72.73	3	27.27									
Indiana	7	7	100											
Iowa	7	7	100											
Kansas	12	12	100											
Maine	47	46	97.87							1	2.13			
Massachusetts	--													
Michigan	11	10	90.91	1	9.09									
Minnesota	14	14	100											
Missouri	59	59	100											
Montana	5	3	60							2	40			
Nebraska	19	19	100											
Nevada	2					1	50			1	50			
New Hampshire	3	3	100											
New Jersey	1	1	100											
New Mexico	45	9	20	1	2.22	9	20	26	57.78					
New York	15	12	80	3	20									
North Dakota	36	25	69.44			4	11.11			7	19.45			
Ohio	7	6	85.71	1	14.29									
Oregon	11	11	100											
Pennsylvania	17	16	94.12	1	5.88									
Rhode Island	--													
South Dakota	20	16	80			1	5	3	15					
Utah	14	13	92.86							1	7.14			
Vermont	10	10	100											
Washington	4	4	100											
Wisconsin	6	6	100											
Wyoming	10	10	100											
Alabama ✓	117	32	27.35	85	72.15							151	103	68.20
Arkansas ✓	118	82	69.49	36	30.51							159	25	15.70
Delaware	--													

Total ED Individual Loans (Con't.)

State	Loans Made: State Total	White No.	White %	Negro No.	Negro %	American Indian No.	American Indian %	Spanish Surname No.	Spanish Surname %	Other No.	Other %	Applications Received: Total By State	Negro No.	Negro %
Florida	14	7	50	7	50							41	14	34.10
Georgia	49	25	51.2	24	48.98							91	32	35.20
Kentucky	141	137	97.17	4	2.83							247	6	2.40
Louisiana	49	40	81.63	7	14.29							102	9	8.80
Maryland	2	1	50	1	50							8	4	50.00
Mississippi	135	27	20	108	80							129	82	63.69
North Carolina	148	58	39.19	86	58.09	1	.68			3	2.04	221	92	41.60
Oklahoma	54	39	72.22	14	25.93					1	1.85	106	11	10.40
South Carolina	44	10	22.73	34	77.27							53	35	66.00
Tennessee	89	73	82	16	18							119	19	16.00
Texas	52	26	50	22	42.31			4	7.69			134	35	26.10
Virginia	20	18	90	2	10							38	11	28.90
West Virginia	115	114	99.13	1	.87							354	6	1.70
								Total 14 states				1953 1945	480	24.80 24.68
U.S. Total	1614	1043	64.62	458	28.38	51	3.16	37	2.29	25	1.55	2832	515	18.26

NOTE: The above figures show a total of 1145 loans were made in the 14 Southern States, excluding Maryland and Delaware, of which 447 or 39% went to blacks.

EXHIBIT G

FUNDING FOR THE EO LOAN PROGRAM

	Fiscal Year						
	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971(est)
	(millions)						
Funds Available:							
Unobligated balance from prior fiscal year	$ -	$ 4.3	$ 8.1	$ 3.9	$ .5	$ 1.7	$14.2
Transferred from appropriations	24.0	33.0	21.5	14.5	3.0	5.9	--
Loan repayments	.1	4.1	8.9	12.3	14.8	13.4	11.4
Total	24.1	41.4	38.5	30.7	18.3	21.0	25.6
Funds Obligated							
Individual and cooperative loans made	19.7	32.0	32.3	26.9	12.9	3.2	3.5
Interest payments to Treasury	.1	1.3	2.3	3.3	3.7	3.6	4.5
Total	19.8	33.3	34.6	30.2	16.6	6.8	8.0
Unobligated balance at end of fiscal year	4.3	8.1	3.9	.5	1.7	14.2	17.6

Source: Farmers Home Administrati

EXHIBIT H

Income level of rural poor families	Number of Poor families in group	Percent to total	Loans made to group Number	Loans made to group Percent
$ 999 or under	603,070	37.3	91	16.9%
1,000 to 1,999	589,430	36.5	215	39.9
	1,192,500	73.8	306	56.8
2,000 to 2,999	268,300	16.6	144	26.8
3,000 or more	154,580	9.6	88	16.4
Total	1,615,380	100.0	538	100.0%

- FOOTNOTES -

1. Hearings, House of Representatives, Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the War on Poverty Program of the Committee on Education and Labor, p. 257 (1964). See also, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 7, §1833.5(b).

2. Hearings, note 1 supra, p. 257. C.F.R., Title 7, §1833.7(d).

3. Hearings, note 1 supra, p. 258. C.F.R. Title 7, §1823.84(c).

4. Hearings, note 1 supra, p. 253, 259.

5. Hearings, note 1 supra, p. 265 (Italics supplied).

6. Congressional Record, Senate, July 23, 1964, p. 16192.

7. Congressional Record, House, August 20, 1964, p. 20042.

8. C.F.R., Title 7, §1833.6(b) (Italics supplied).

9. GAO Report to Congress, Administration and Effectiveness of the Economic Opportunity Loan Program for Low-Income Rural Families Under the Farmers Home Administration, Department of Agriculture, B-130515, August 21, 1969, p. 33.

10. GAO, note 9 supra, p. 2.

11. GAO, note 9 supra, p. 67.

12. Interview with J.R. Hanson, Assistant Deputy Administrator, and Denton Sprague, Director, FHA Association Loan Division (3/3/71).

13. Farmer Cooperative Service, Report 104, Cooperatives Financed by Farmers Home Administration Under Economic Opportunity Act, May 1969, p. 18. (Italics supplied).

14. OEO Instruction 6004-16, "OEO Income Poverty Guidelines" (December 1, 1970).

15. Off-the-record telephone conversation with member of OEO, Research and Plans Division.

16. C.F.R., Title 7, §1823.83(3). FCS, note 13 supra, p. 18.

17. FCS, note 13 supra, p. 21.

18. Note 15 supra.

19. FCS, note 13 supra, p. 13.

20. Equal Opportunity in Farm Programs: An Appraisal of Services Rendered by Agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (1965).

21. Exhibit A.

22. Ibid.

23. Exhibit B.

24. Exhibit C.

25. Exhibit A. See note 36, infra.

26. Exhibit D.

27. Exhibit E.

28. Ibid.

29. Don Hadwiger, Farmers Home Administration Services to Negroes (1970).

30. Interview with Mike Trister, Washington Research Project (3/10/71).

31. Exhibit F.

32. Note 30 supra. See note 36, infra, for a suggestive pattern of staffing discrimination.

33. Note 31, supra.

34. C.F.R., Title 7, §§18334. (Italics supplied.)

35. C.F.R., Title 7, §1823. 92.

36. See Exhibit No. 11, Hearing Before the United States Commission on Civil Rights, Montgomery, Alabama (1968), p. 769, and Appendix A at p. 775 showing that understaffing in FHA offices in Alabama occurred predominantly in counties with high black populations.

37. Telephone conversation with James Doherty, Former Special Assistant, FHA EO Loan Program.

38. GAO, note 9 supra, p. 29.

39. GAO, note 9 supra, p. 25.

40. GAO, note 9 supra, p. 27.

41. GAO, note 9 supra, p. 30.

42. Exhibit G.

43. OEO FY1972 Budget Briefing, January 28, 1971, p. 21.

44. GAO, note 9 supra, p. 16, 17.

45. FCS, note 13 supra, p. 25.

46. FCS, note 13 supra, p. 19.

47. See Tables 14(a) and 19 of "Monthly Report of Farmers Home Administration, June 1970." These tables indicate that 24 per cent of Economic Opportunity coops compared to 33.6 per cent of individuals (12,114 out of a total caseload of 36,017) were behind schedule on loan payments.

48. Interview, note 12 supra. Interview with Ray Williams, Farmer Cooperative Service (3/3/71).

49. GAO, note 9 supra, p. 39 and p. 63.

50. GAO, note 9 supra, p. 41.

51. GAO, note 9 supra, p. 43, reproduced as Exhibit H.

52. Economic Opportunity Report, Vol. 5, No. 50, p. 3 (12/21/70).

53. Ibid.

54. Note 42 supra.

55. Interview, note 12 supra.

56. Exhibit G.

57. FHA Rural Loans Program Memorandum dated 10/24/69, p. 6.

58. "Rural Policy" memo dated 1/19/71 from Director, Special Projects, to OEO staff.

59. Interview with Ray Williams, note 48, supra.

Mr. FAUX. The administration has announced its determination to end the rural loan program and turn the assets of the fund, which amount to $86 million, back to the Treasury.

I think this decision is wrong, and that it reflects an error in judgment, or a tragic indifference to the plight of the rural poor. I think the Congress in making its own decisions on the program should consider four aspects of the program.

First, the program as currently written into the act and administered by the Farmers Home Administration is not the best possible program to accomplish the purposes of the act.

In fact it is not what the original framers of the OEO had in mind. The antipoverty bill that was originally reported out of this committee in 1964 called for a comprehensive program of financial assistance (which included grants as well as loans) to poor farmers and cooperatives whose membership was predominantly made up of poor farmers.

In his testimony on the original bill in 1964 then Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman was asked how poor people could be expected to repay loans on conventional terms when they had been judged as too high risks for the regular Farmers Home Administration rural loan program.

He responded:

> The grant is the thing that makes the difference . . . without the grant, you would not have the capital resources to repay any loan . . . But this little bit of capital, which makes it possible let us say, to get seed or fertilizer or a little bit of machinery, or some animals, makes the difference between getting somebody launched on a meaningful kind of operation, or else just being mired in the poverty they are in now.

Thus the original design of the program provided poor farmers with an injection of capital into their business which would have enabled them to use a conventional loan effectively in helping themselves become self-sufficient. Secretary Freeman estimated at that time that two-thirds of the poor farmers in this country had neither the will or the ability to migrate to the cities, but with a small investment could have raised their income above the povery level.

Despite the fact that the committees of both houses reported out the bill with provisions for grants and loans, the authorization for grants was deleted on the Senate floor after former Senator Lausche objected that if a grant were given to poor farm families eventually every family in the country would have to be given one. The grants were deleted without argument and without a vote.

Thus the grant provision which the Secretary of Agriculture testified was essential for the effective implementation of the loan program was deleted while the loan program remained.

Since then we have learned the hard way that Secretary Freeman was right. Poor farmers have found it even very difficult to take advantage of loan programs designed for established middle and upper income farmers.

Without the grant assistance the legislative requirement that there be reasonable assurance of repayment has made most poor farmers ineligible for assistance.

As a result, the Farmers Home Administration has tended to make a high proportion of loans to farmers whose incomes are above the poverty level.

A GAO report on the title III–A program showed that between January 1965 and February 1968, over 40 percent of the borrowers receiving financial assistance were not poor.

This brings me to my second point: The administration of the program. By any reasonable measure the Farmers Home Administration has been woefully negligent in providing the technical assistance that is vital for success in farming.

Despite the fact that poor and minority farmers have lacked access to such assistance, the FHA has not during the course of this program given poor farmers the kind of help they give to the wealthier ones.

I quote from the GAO report:

> Work measurement studies compiled by FHA in 1967 showed that, on an overall basis, Economic Opportunity Loan Borrowers were receiving less than individual attention with respect to the making of loans and subsequent supervision than borrowers receiving other types of FHA loans.

So that the poor farmers, who clearly need more technical assistance than the average farmer, were receiving less from the Farmers Home Administration.

The third point I should like to make concerns the potential of the cooperative structure as an effective economic arrangement for assisting low income farmers.

Studies made by the General Accounting Office and the Department of Agriculture's own Farmer Cooperative Service indicate that the income gain farmers received through cooperative loans far exceeded the gains they received on an individual family loan basis.

The GAO reported net gains that averaged under $100 for farmers under the individual loan program, while a study made by the Department of Agriculture of the cooperative loans reflected a net gain of $328.

In addition the delinquency rate is reported to be lower for cooperative loans than for individual family loans. In essence, by pooling talent and resources and by mounting larger operations which permit economies of scale, cooperatives have turned out to be a more viable arrangement for low-income farmers.

It is important to note, Senator, that there is a limit of $3,500 per family loan for this program.

There is no limit for cooperatives.

Despite this evidence of the superiority of cooperatives and the fact that cooperatives have been of proven benefit to millions of farm families and an important contributor to the tremendous increase in farm productivity that this Nation has undergone since World War II, the Farmers Home Administration continues to concentrate the program on small family loans that have much less potential.

In May 1970, there were 27,700 loans outstanding to individual families and only 1,075 to cooperatives. And many of the cooperatives were very small there and our personal organization with no real viability.

Fourth and finally, there remains the issue of where we go from here. We have a program that was inadequately designed and administered, but which is the only program offering hope for economic self-help among the rural poor.

The administration's present answer is to terminate the program

and send the proceeds from the loan fund back to the Treasury. And what would take its place?

Nothing. Or perhaps the family assistance plan. In effect the administration would take a million poor farmers with the potential for supporting themselves and put them on welfare.

It is exactly the rural strategy that is both implicit and explicit in terminating this program.

The solution to the current situation is not to abandon the program and by so doing abandon poor families. The solution is to transform it into an effective rural economic development program for the poor. At the minimum such a program ought to have the following elements:

1. Low-cost, long-term loan funds.

2. Grants to defray the initial expenses of a new rural enterprise, and for certain administrative expenses of cooperatives.

3. Technical assistance and training for poor rural farmers and cooperative staff, preferably by now an organization other than the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but if by Agriculture, then with assurances that such assistance will be forthcoming. I fully support the view of Mr. Rhode who said this morning that he thought the program ought to be administered by OEO.

4. An emphasis on cooperatives.

5. Links with manpower, health, migrant, and other antipoverty programs.

In addition I would urge that consideration be sirened to the establishment of independent institutions to serve rural needs, such as rural development banks or a land development corporation which might buy land and resell it to the rural poor which they would use for small scale but intensive farming.

Mr. Chairman, several weeks ago John Doar, Frank Thomas, Deforest Brown, and others described before this committee the innovative and effective economic development program they were operating in urban areas such as Bedford-Stuyvesant, Cleveland, Rochester, and Boston. The same kind of concentrated, comprehensive, and above all, grassroots approach is needed in rural areas.

As Father McKnight just described, there are people all over the country in rural areas, blacks and whites and Indians and Mexican Americans, who are recognizing that economic development which can generate jobs and income and ownership is indispensable for solving their problems.

To say that OEO has been slow in recognizing this is a drastic understatement. At this time I think the main thing is for the Congress and the administration to address themselves seriously to the objectives of title III–A and to build a program that will enable the rural poor to be self-sufficient, and if they so choose to, remain rural.

Thank you.

Senator NELSON. Your statement will be printed in full in the record.

We will accept at this time all additional information that has been submitted for the hearing record.

(The information referred to follows:)

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

Serving Cook, Lake and St. Louis Counties

Vincent Gentilini,
Executive Director

John Vukelich,
Head Start Director

Sixth Street and Third Avenue South
Box 48
VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA 55792
Telephone 749-2912

Bruce Eckblad,
NYC Director

Donald Boyd,
Program Planner

SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON

May 6, 1971

Honorable Gaylord Nelson
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Nelson:

Enclosed is a number of resolutions passed by City Councils in our CAP area regarding the work of our Operation Mainstream Project.

Sincerely,

VINCENT GENTILINI
Executive Director

VG:ran

Enclosures

NO J. MARTTILA, MAYOR
ELNA PERALA, CLERK
SUSAN TERRIO, TREASURER

COUNCILMEN { TOIVO KOIVUNEN
RUDOLPH DIMBERIO
ROBERT PETERSON

VILLAGE OF MOUNTAIN IRON

"Birthplace of the Missabe"

MINNESOTA ARROWHEAD COUNTRY

MOUNTAIN IRON MINN. 55768

RESOLUTION # 57-70

WHEREAS, the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, including the counties of St. Louis (excluding Duluth), Cook, and Lake, is conducting a number of programs helping the diadvantaged in our area, and

WHEREAS, these programs include Head Start, for pre-school children; Neighborhood Youth Corps, for high school age youth; Rural Neighborhood Workers-Outreach, for individuals and families, and Operation Mainstream, for low-income men over 55; and

WHEREAS, These programs have greatly benefited the disadvantaged people in our community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the members of the Village Council of the Village of Mountain Iron, Minnesota, wholeheartedly support the entire program of the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, and hereby request that the Operation Mainstream Program be expanded because it truly fulfills a persistent need in our area.

Motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was made by Koivunen; seconded by Dimberio and declared adopted on the following vote:

Yes: Councilmen Koivunen, Peterson, Dimberio; Clerk Perala and Mayor Marttila.

No: None

Absent: None.

Adopted this 6th day of July, 1970.

VILLAGE OF BEAVER BAY

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, including the counties of St. Louis (excluding Duluth), Cook, and Lake, is conducting a number of programs helping the disadvantaged in our area, and

WHEREAS, these programs include Head Start, for pre-school children; Neighborhood Youth Corps, for high school age youth; Rural Neighborhood Workers-Outreach, for individuals and families, and Operation Mainstream, for low-income men over 55; and

WHEREAS, These programs have greatly benefited the disadvantaged people in our community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the members of the Village Council of the Village of Beaver Bay, Minnesota, wholeheartedly support the entire program of the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, and hereby request that the Operation Mainstream Program be expanded because it truly fulfills a persistent need in our area.

Motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution was made by Roland Quinn; seconded by Charles Glass and declared on the following vote:

Yes: Roland Quinn, Charles Glass, Gladys Markley and James Mealey

NO: None

Absent: Howard Larsen

Adopted this 12th day of August, 1970.

James Mealey

James Mealey, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gladys J. Markley

Gladys J. Markley, Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 70-6

WHEREAS, the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, is conducting a number of programs designed to help the disadvantaged in our area, and

WHEREAS, these programs include Head Start, Neighborhood Youth Corps, Rural Neighborhood Workers-Outreach, and Operation Mainstream; and

WHEREAS, These programs have benefited the disadvantaged people in our community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Council of the Village of Grand Marais, Minnesota supports the programs of the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, and hereby requests that the Operation Mainstream Program be expanded to more adequately fulfill the need in our area.

Motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was made by Anderson; seconded by Olsen and declared passed on the following vote:

Yes: Thomsen, Olsen, Eckel, Morck, and Anderson

No: None

Absent: None

Adopted this 23rd day of June, 1970.

Edgar L. Roberts

Edgar L. Roberts, Village Clerk
Village of Grand Marais, Minnesota

RESOLUTION No. 7, 1970

WHEREAS, the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, including the counties of St. Louis (excluding Duluth), Cook, and Lake, is conducting a number of programs helping the disadvantaged in our area, and

WHEREAS, those programs include Head Start, for pre-school children; Neighborhood Youth Corps, for high school age youth; Rural Neighborhood Workers-Outreach, for individuals and families, and Operation Mainstream, for low-income men over 55; and

WHEREAS, These programs have greatly benefited the disadvantaged people in our community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the members of the Village Council of the Village of Buhl, Minnesota, wholeheartedly support the entire program of the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, and hereby request that the Operation Mainstream Program be expanded because it truly fulfills a persistent need in our area.

Clerk Vesel presented the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption. Councilman Healy supported the motion for adoption and the resolution was declared adopted upon the following Roll Call vote:

AYE: Kinsman, Vesel, Klarich and Healy
NAYE:
ABSENT: Battaglia

Adopted this 6th day of July, 1970.

ATTEST:

Daniel Kinsman, Mayor

Louis T. Vesel, Clerk

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, including the counties of St. Louis (excluding Duluth), Cook, and Lake, is conducting a number of programs helping the disadvantaged in our area, and

WHEREAS, these programs include Head Start, for pre-school children; Neighborhood Youth Corps, for high school age youth; Rural Neighborhood Worker-Outreach, for individuals and families, and Operation Mainstream, for low-income men over 55; and

WHEREAS, These programs have greatly benefited the disadvantaged people in our community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the members of the Village Council of the Village of Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota, wholeheartedly support the entire program of the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, and hereby request that the Operation Mainstream Program be expanded because it truly fulfills a persistent need in our area.

Motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was made by Lorch; seconded by Poye and declared on the followingvote:

Yes: Mayor Andrews, Councilman, Poye, Lorch and Helmer

No: None

Absent: Councilman Baudhuin

Adopted this 4 day of Aug., 1970.

Village of Proctor

Proctor, Minn. 55810

July 28, 1970

Mr. Vincent Gentilini
Executive Director
Arrowhead E. O. A.
Box 48
Virginia, Minnesota 55792

Dear Sir:

Please be advised of the following action taken by the Council of the Village of Proctor at its last regular meeting held July 20, 1970:

"Motion by McDermott, seconded by Akeson and carried: To approve the following

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, including the counties of St. Louis (excluding Duluth), Cook, and Lake, is conducting a number of programs helping the disadvantaged in our area, and

WHEREAS, these programs include Head Start, for pre-school children; Neighborhood Youth Corps, for high school age youth; Rural Neighborhood Workers-Outreach, for individuals and families, and Operation Mainstream, for low-income men over 55; and

WHEREAS, These programs have greatly benefited the disadvantaged people in our community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the members of the Village Council of the Village of Proctor, Minnesota, wholeheartedly support the entire program of the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, and hereby request that the Operation Mainstream Program be expanded because it truly fulfills a persistent need in our area.

Passed this 20th day of July, 1970

s/ Leon McDermott
Mayor

s/John J. Dardis
Clerk-Treas."

We trust the above will meet your requirements at this time.

Yours very truly,

John J. Dardis
Village Clerk-Treas.

JJD/s

FRANK J. SISKAR, Mayor
CLARK M. MACKIE, Clerk
JANE PURKAT, Treasurer

DANIEL KEDROWSKI, Trustee
FRANK M. MESOJEDEC, Trustee
JOSEPH A. ROJESKI, Trustee

Village of McKinley

McKinley, Minn. 55761

RESOLUTION NO. 768

WHEREAS, the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, including the counties of St. Louis (excluding Duluth), Cook, and Lake is conducting a number of programs helping the disadvantaged in our area, and

WHEREAS, these programs include Head Start, for pre-school children; Neighborhood Workers- Outreach, for individuals and families, and Operation Mainstream, for low-income men over 55, and

WHEREAS, These programs have greatly benefited the disadvantaged people in our community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the members of the Village Council of the Village of McKinley, Minnesota, wholeheartedly support the entire program of the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, and hereby request that the Operation Mainstream Program be expanded because it truly fulfills a persistent need in our area.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Mayor Siskar and upon his motion was supported by Clerk Mackie and declared adopted by the following vote.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees, Kedrowski, Mesojedec; Clerk Mackie; Mayor Siskar
Nays: None
Absent: Trustee, Rojeski

Adopted this 6th day of July, 1970

Frank J. Siskar
Mayor

ATTEST Clark M. Mackie
Village Clerk

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, including the counties of St. Louis (excluding Duluth), Cook, and Lake, is conducting a number of programs helping the disadvantaged in our area, and

WHEREAS, these programs include Head Start, for pre-school children;

Neighborhood Youth Corps, for high school age youth;

Rural Neighborhood Workers-Outreach, for individuals and families; and

Operation Mainstream, for low-income men over 55; and

WHEREAS, these programs have greatly benefited the disadvantaged people in our community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the members of the Village Council of the Village of Silver Bay, Minnesota, wholeheartedly support the entire program of the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, and hereby request that the Operation Mainstream Program be expanded because it truly fulfills a persistent need in our area.

Motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was made by Councilman Thompson; seconded by Councilman Lund and declared on the following vote:

Yes: Lund, Thompson, Frey, Koepke, Scheuring

No: none

Absent: none

Adopted this sixth day of July, 1970.

State of Minnesota)
Village of Silver Bay) ss.

I, Edward J. Arola, Village Clerk of the Village of Silver Bay, Minnesota do hereby certify that I have compared the attached resolution with the original filed in my office on the 6th day of July, 1970, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of office at Silver Bay, Minnesota, this 7th day of July, 1970.

Edward J. Arola, Clerk
Village of Silver Bay

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, including the counties of St. Louis (excluding Duluth), Cook, and Lake, is conducting a number of programs helping the disadvantaged in our area, and

WHEREAS, these programs include Head Start, for pre-school children; Neighborhood Youth Corps, for high school age youth; Rural Neighborhood Workers-Outreach, for individuals and families, and Operation Mainstream, for low-income men over 55; and

WHEREAS, These programs have greatly benefited the disadvantaged people in our community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the members of the City Council of the City of Gilbert, Minnesota, wholeheartedly support the entire program of the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, and hereby request that the Operation Mainstream Program be expanded because it truly fulfills a persistent need in our area.

Motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was made by Councilman Kauchick; seconded by Councilman Kochevar and declared on the following vote:

Yes: Councilmen Kauchick and Kochevar, Clerk Godich and Mayor Verbick.

No: None.

Absent: Councilman Kramer

Adopted this 6th day of July 1970.

State of Minnesota)
County of St. Louis) ss

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Gilbert City Council of Gilbert, Minnesota, at a regular meeting held July 6, 1970, and that same was spread in the minutes of said meeting.

Martin L. Godich

Martin L. Godich, City Clerk

RESOLUTION No. 7, 1970

WHEREAS, the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, including the counties of St. Louis (excluding Duluth), Cook, and Lake, is conducting a number of programs helping the disadvantaged in our area, and

WHEREAS, these programs include Head Start, for pre-school children; Neighborhood Youth Corps, for high school age youth; Rural Neighborhood Workers-Outreach, for individuals and families, and Operation Mainstream, for low-income men over 55; and

WHEREAS, These programs have greatly benefited the disadvantaged people in our community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the members of the Village Council of the Village of Buhl, Minnesota, wholeheartedly support the entire program of the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, and hereby request that the Operation Mainstream Program be expanded because it truly fulfills a persistent need in our area.

Clerk Vesel presented the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption. Councilman Kealy supported the motion for adoption and the resolution was declared adopted upon the following Roll Call vote:

AYE: Kinsman, Vesel, Klarich, and Kealy.

NAYE:

ABSENT: Battaglia

Adopted this 6th day of July, 1970.

ATTEST:

Daniel Kinsman

Daniel Kinsman, Mayor

Louis T. Vesel

Louis T. Vesel, Clerk

RESOLVED, That the Lake County Board of Commissioners hereby express their appreciation to the Office of Economic Oppurtunity for the service and cooperation they have extended to Lake County in such projects as cleaning and painting a number of county buildings, cleaning highway right of way and cleaning of recreational areas.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Chairman be, and he hereby is authorized and directed to send copies of this resolution to Mr. Vincent Gentilini, Executive Director of the Arrowhead Office of Economic Opportunity and to Mr. Rudolph Koss, Director of the Mainstream Operation in the Two Harbors area.

Commissioner Marklund moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution and the same was declared adopted upon the following vote: Yeas, Houle, Marklund, Hansen, Skoog and Hanson. Total yeas, five. Nays, none.

(Adopted April 12, 1971) 71-89

State of Minnesota)
)ss.
County of L A K E)

I, MelRoy Peterson, Auditor of Lake County, Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing resolution with the original filed in my office on the 12th day of April, 1971, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of office at Two Harbors, Minnesota, this 13th day of April, 1971.

MelRoy Peterson

Auditor, Lake County, Minnesota

Alderman Bubash offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Ely Area was designated as a depressed area as it's main industry, Iron Mining, ceased to exist with the closing of its mines, and

WHEREAS, the Economic Opportunity Agency was made available to this area to help out the economy and help employ those with marginal incomes [illegible], and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vincent Gentilini, Director of the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency gave Ely top priority for this program and assigned employees under the supervision of the Recreation Department with in kind supplies and materials supplied by the City of Ely, Independent School District No. 696 and the Recreation Department, and

WHEREAS, this group of men did an excellent job in building new recreation facilities such as: concrete dugouts at the baseball field, roof over the baseball bleachers, bridges to two islands at Semer's Park, new playground equipment installed at Whiteside's Park, a Hockey Rink at the Lincoln School site, renovated the buildings at Semer's Park, built two new ski hills at Hidden Valley and also built a tobogan chute, skating rink, garage, and tool shed at the ski area and many other jobs too numerous to mention, and

WHEREAS, the entire Community is proud of the accomplishments of this wonderful program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Ely, Minnesota, thank Mr. Gentilini in behalf of the entire Community for his interest and help of its citizens and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Agency in charge of this program be allowed to continue and that all effort be made by the Council of the City of Ely that is necessary to assist the officials of the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency to keep this program in existence.

BE IT RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Senators Walter F. Mondale, Eugene J. McCarthy and Representative John A. Blatnik.

Motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was made by Bubash, seconded by Passi. and declared carried on the following vote:

CERTIFICATION

State of Minnesota)
(ss
County of St. Louis)

I, Frank J. Banovetz, City Clerk of the City of Ely, St. Louis County, Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution now on file and of record in my office, and that the same is a true and correct copy and transcript of said original resolution.

Witness My Hand and the Corporate Seal of the City of Ely, Minnesota, this 8th day of July, 1969.

Frank J. Banovetz
City Clerk, City of Ely, Minnesota

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, including the counties of St. Louis (excluding Duluth), Cook, and Lake, is conducting a number of programs helping the disadvantaged in our area, and

WHEREAS, these programs include Head Start, for pre-school children; Neighborhood Youth Corps, for high school age youth; Rural Neighborhood Workers-Outreach, for individuals and families, and Operation Mainstream, for low-income men over 55; and

WHEREAS, These programs have greatly benefited the disadvantaged people in our community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the membbers of the Village Council of the Village of Kinney, Minnesota, wholeheartedly support the entire program of the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, and hereby request that the Operation Mainstream Program be expanded because it truly fulfills a persistent need in our area.

Motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was made by J. Terrio; seconded by W. Ronback and declared on the following vote:

Yes: 5

No: 0

Absent: 0

Adopted this 7th day of July, 1970.

RESOLUTION NO. 2518

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROGRAMS OF ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

WHEREAS, the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, including the counties of St.Louis(excluding Duluth), Cook, and Lake, is conducting a number of programs helping the disadvantaged in our area, and

WHEREAS, these programs include Head Start, for pre-school children; Neighborhood Youth Corps, for high school age youth; Rural Neighborhood Workers-Outreach, for individuals and families, and Operation Mainstream, for low-income men over 55; and

WHEREAS, these programs have greatly benefited the disadvantaged people in our community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the members of the City Council of the City of Eveleth, Minnesota, wholeheartedly support the entire program of the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, and hereby request that the Operation Mainstream Program be expanded because it truly fufills a persistent need in our area.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Councilman Cossalter and on his motion supported by Councilman Filipovich declared carried on the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Bruce Johnson, Henry Johnson, Cossalter, Filipovich and Mayor Begich

Nays: None

Passed July 7, 1970

Joseph R Begich
Mayor

Attested:

D A Mulledge
City Clerk

Published July 16, 1970.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)ss
COUNTY OF ST.LOUIS)

I, Elmer A. Milbridge, City Clerk of the City of Eveleth, St.Louis County,Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the attached resolution now on file and of record in my office and the same is a true and correct copy and transcript of said original resolution.

Witness my hand and seal of office at Eveleth,Minnesota, this

9th day of July ,1970.

Elmer A. Milbridge
City Clerk
City of Eveleth,Minnesota

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RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Two Harbors, Minnesota, go on record commending the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency for the fine work it has done serving St. Louis, Lake and Cook Counties.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the City Council of the City of Two Harbors, Minnesota, express their appreciation of the fine cooperation given them by the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency's "Operation Mainstream" dealing with older workers, and Neighborhood Youth Corps, working with high school students.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That a copy of said resolution be forwarded on to Joe Chamernick, Hibbing, Minnesota, a member of the Board of Directors for North St. Louis County and also a copy on to Vicent Gentilini, Executive Director, Arrowhead, E.O.A.

ADOPTED This 4th day of January, A. D. 1971.

/s/ Charles R. Christensen
President, City Council

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond W. Gustafson
City Clerk

APPROVED By the Mayor this 5th day of January, 1971.

/s/ David Battaglia
Mayor

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF L A K E)
CITY OF TWO HARBORS)

I, Raymond W. Gustafson, City Clerk of the City of Two Harbors, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of the original resolution duly passed by the City Council on January 4th, 1971, and now on file in my office.

Given under my hand and seal this 6th day of January, A. D. 1971.

Raymond W. Gustafson
City Clerk

Mr. Robert F. Greene
Board Member
Northern Kentucky
Community Action Commission
April 29, 1971

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen:

Introduction

Since 1966 I have been intimately involved in the conduct of the programs of the Office of Economic Opportunity administered in Northern Kentucky. On March 31 of this year, I completed a two-year term as President of the Board of Directors. I am pleased to have this opportunity to share with this committee my observations about our community and the effect our agency has had upon it. I will also cite the problems local people have with the administrative structure of federal agencies, their philosophy, or lack of it, and what happens when funds are cut back.

Background on Area

The three Northern Kentucky counties we serve encompass about 1/3 of the metropolitan Cincinnati area, and include 1/6 of the population (250,000). The largest portion of these persons live in deteriorating urban settings. Our greatest concentration of black residents live there, as well as Applachian migrants. Geographically, however, the area is largely rural.

A peculiar step-daughter arrangement exists between the Queen City and Northern Kentucky. While being basically "bedroom communities" for the Cincinnati work force, our community inherits all the urban ills of poverty, lack of services, underfinanced government and schools. The fact is, poor persons who live in Kentucky receive less public assistance than poor persons in 45 other states. And being in a metropolitan area does not make poverty any easier.

The advent of Interstate highways has brought even more Appalachian migrants to our doors. That is a story well known to every major metropolitan area. But the promise of jobs or more welfare up north is a cruel illusion which devastates and demoralizes thousands of lives.

Range of CAA Services and Participants

It is in such a setting that our community action agency began its operation. We were fortunate to have unusually talented executive leadership during that early period. Our range of programs expanded in a few years so that we presently conduct these programs: Legal Services, Community Organization, Work Experience, Day Care, Emergency Food and Medical Services, Urban Technical Assistance, and Senior Opportunities and

Services, all funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity. We operate Head Start out of Health, Education, and Welfare's Office of Child Development, and Neighorhood Youth Corps and Jobs Optional Program from the Department of Labor.

With the funds sought from regional offices, we have managed to directly serve and substantively help about five thousand persons. We have touched the lives of perhaps another five thousand, but there are nearly twenty-five thousand persons eligible for service

Tokenism

The problems of poverty have deep roots in our community, and cosmetic approaches serve only to mask the problems. We are over and over again appalled by the vast numbers of persons we should serve, and humiliated by the few we can help.

For instance, our Jobs Optional Program, funded by the Department of Labor through Kentucky State Employment Services, is supposed to service the 25,000 eligible poor people, an additional 10,000 near poor, and 3,000 veterans. But the program has places for only 175 - exactly eight-tenths per cent (.8%) of those eligible. The tragic irony about this small program is -

it was cut by 26% in 1971, but expected to train the same number of people. The result was a cutback in staff, a shorter training period, no orientation program, and a smaller area of service. It is additionally encumbered with the condition that there be no job training in public agencies such as schools. It is ridiculous, gentlemen, to think that such an approach is in the national interests. Cutbacks of this nature insure failure due to lack of preparation. training, and incentive of people who need this service.

Additionally, let me allude to an OEO-funded Job Development Program we operate. It is an assessing, training, and referral program that places more than 500 persons each year. Without explanation the program was cut 52% which allowed only nine months of salary for most of the staff. The training subsidy was eliminated, and concurrently, the non-federal in-kind contribution was raised to 39% of the total program. No explanations can account for it; no new idea or program replaces it.

The concommitant effect of this under-funding reveals itself in the kind of administrative personnel such programs attract. Well-motivated persons, highly

qualified to conduct these programs, are reluctant to enter a position which has so little security.

We have no quarrel with the use of the Office of Economic Opportunity as a program laboratory with successful programs spun-off to other agencies. But proof of the success or failure of these programs, as well as the accumulation of experience, cannot be obtained in a nine-month or even two-year trial.

Planning and Funding

In our local agency we spend nearly half a year preparing for the brutal grant application process. An enormous number of staff and Board man hours are consumed in planning. With the help of a wide variety of community resources, we believe we plan well for the coming year's program. Yet we are never able to do long-range planning because regional and federal offices can, and do, scuttle our best ideas about remedies to our problems. Local communities such as ours are told that they can do anything that will really reduce poverty. In practice, however, all communities must conform to so-called federal guidelines.

But more frustrating is the constant hold-up of funds. Four months after our fiscal year began, we

finally received notice of our funding. One-third of a year was, in many ways, stalemated because we did not know what was going to happen. Under these circumstances Board and staff morale is very low, recruiting becomes impossible, and the effectiveness of some programs is tragically reduced. The overall effect is devastating. Year to year funding contributes to the ineffectiveness and inefficiency in OEO, so often criticized by the news media and some governmental officials. A more realistic and equitable funding procedure, one that allows the implementation of long-range planning, attraction of top-flight personnel, and freedom from political interference is the greatest need of our programs.

It is there that we come to the heart of the issue. What will happen to the poor people of our country if the programs such as those we operate stagnate at current levels or suffer larger and more frequent cutbacks?

Effects of Underfunding

In answer let me cite two examples from our own experience, one concerning the young, another, the elderly.

We have two programs for young people, Youth Development and Neighborhood Youth Corps. In 1971, no money was granted us for Youth Development during the summertime. Most of the money we had in Youth Development in previous years was spent for summer jobs for high school people; less than 10% was spent on "fun and games". And the people employed in the recreation aspect of the program were disadvantaged youth or mothers. But this year there is no money -- only hopes.

The other youth program is Neighborhood Youth Corps. We are happy that this program will have a special summer emphasis that will help at least 500 young people who require work. But please note, this is less than 10% of those eligible. We are also encouraged that the minimum pay for these youngsters will be $1.60 per hour. But we are not happy that the total number of hours to be worked in the summer has been cut back. A young person enrolled in the program will make about $377.00, just $8.45 more than he would have last summer. If you take into account the normal expenses of a worker, the net gain for the summer is extremely modest, and hardly in the range to inspire him to go on with other training. The real effect on the enrollees is this: he is self-supporting for the summer months, and just lucky if he has anything saved for the school year.

We cannot expect young people to be unaware of this giving on the one hand yet taking on the other. I suspect that if young people today are anything, they are not resigned to this kind of treatment. We shall never see that day again.

For the elderly poor person the plight of poverty has eroded even more deeply their lives. We have a program called Senior Opportunities and Services. This program lost 33% of its funds in this year's funding, and despite substantial efforts to regain the loss from the Office of Economic Opportunity and other sources, the program is in financial trouble. Staff positions have been dropped and services curtailed to a group of people who, as a group, require major, costly, long-term help. Our program is aimed toward organizing the senior adults into groups which will be able to express their needs more explicitly, and to seek out the hidden oldster who has been ignored by family and society. Nearly 25,000 of these people live in our area and fewer than 10% will benefit from our efforts.

It is probably the cruelest of all forms of poverty that penalizes a person not only for his lack of education because in his day four grades were enough,

that takes advantage of his finances by spiralling costs of medications and food and housing, that assures his unemployability by retiring him early, but also humiliates him because he was fortunate enough to live another day and get a little older.

The effect of further reductions in programs such as operated by our agency will be the reenforcement of the idea among some that the poor should stay that way - out of sight, out of mind. And yet among the poor these cuts reaffirm in their minds that for them our government is breeding "have-not's" as well as "have's"; and that they will finally suffer the oppression of being born a "have not".

Gentlemen, I express to you my own feelings and those of my colleagues of the Board of Directors, that any further diminution of these programs or the elimination of these programs by the government will only alienate to a greater degree an already alienated people. I solemnly urge the total funding to the programs of the Office of Economic Opportunity and other anti-poverty related programs which present cogent and imaginative approaches to the solving of the problems

of poverty. These programs must be tried, tested, and proved before they are cast aside or spun-off.

And when they are proven to be successful programs, they must receive increased funding so that we can finally reach into every situation that causes the indignity of poverty, and not just one-in-twenty homes.

STATEMENT OF

VIRGIL F. OSBORNE

DIRECTOR

EASTERN KENTUCKY CONCENTRATED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM INC.
Box 1035, Hazard, Kentucky 41701 (606-436-5751)

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, my name is Virgil Osborne. I am the Director of the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc., Hazard, Kentucky. This agency which began operations July 22, 1968, has three main objectives: to seek out and develop jobs, to provide adequate training and services for disadvantaged persons within the area to fill these jobs, and to coordinate with other agencies to provide a better and more complete system of manpower services to individuals who are in need of such services.

I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity of sharing with you some of EKCEP's view points concerning the manpower needs in Eastern Kentucky, and briefly explain the problems, successes, and needs of the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program in serving the disadvantaged residents of Eastern Kentucky.

Unemployment is still one of the major problems in Eastern Kentucky. This fact is evident by the high unemployment rates for the area. Kentucky Economic Security figures reflect the insured unemployment rate to be about 10 percent, nearly twice the national average, while the real unemployment rate, considering all those who are not included in the formal statistics, is estimated in the neighborhood of 15 percent. This applies only to applicants who still come to local offices seeking employment and does not include the underemployed, or those who just don't bother to come in to seek help any longer.

The reasons for this unemployment condition is obvious, and yet complicated. The basic reasons are: (1) lack of diversified industry; (2) a large percentage of the labor pool possessing low educational and vocational skill levels; (3) displacement of manpower by automation, especially in the mining field; (4) personal characteristics of individuals in the job market; (5) hiring practices of employers and (6) high and rigid entrance requirements for vocational training.

The new and/or expanded efforts in the field of economic development, specifically highway construction, health facilities and services, and vocational and technical training facilities are the "cures" for the problems stated above. These developments dictate a greater need now, for an effective system of manpower services than ever before. This is true because of the increased skill needs of present employers, and the ability of providing trained manpower for new employers. The ability to provide skilled workers serves as an incentive to prospective employers to locate in the area.

The resources (dollars) and efforts put in the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program since its inception in 1968 have not been wasted, quite the contrary. Since July, 1968, EKCEP has served some 5,434 individuals - the Operation Mainstream component served 2,382, with some 1,471 being transferred from the CEP in november. Skilled training components served 1,603. EKCEP has placed some 1,400 in job entry during this period.

In the 1970-71 program, we have already enrolled some 1,091 disadvantaged individuals in the CEP. However, in accepting this number we have been unable to enroll three (3) times this number because of the inability of the CEP to meet their individual needs within the confines of the present program year. Other than meeting the immediate needs of the unemployed individual and the employer, EKCEP has identified some specific manpower needs of this area and established a base that will be effective and productive in meeting the future increased manpower requirements of this area. (1) We believe that a clear-cut need for increased job training and placement services exists; (2) A public works type program to meet the needs of those individuals who, because of physical defects, age, education, and other inhibiting factors, are not, and can not become a part of the private labor market; and (3) EKCEP has shown that with a more cooperative effort, from responsible agencies, a more effective system of services can be made available to those seeking manpower services.

By the existence of large numbers of unskilled, unemployed, or under-employed individuals who are trainable and are in the labor pool, it is obvious that employability services are needed to bridge the gap between the individual needs and employer demands, now and in the future.

EKCEP's experience over the past three (3) years substantiates the need for a public=works type program. The large numbers of people that were enrolled into the CEP program from the WE&T

program, and those who have been enrolled since 1968, who, after the intensive efforts of the CEP program to make them employable was not sufficient, are still enrolled in Operation Mainstream. Efforts to train them in a saleable skill have been futile due to low education levels, physical ailments - real and imaginery - unwillingness to relocate, age (averaging about 55 years), large families (averaging 5 children), employers who are reluctant to hire these persons. The continuation and expansion of Operation Mainstream, or a similar type program, is imperative for the well being of those presently enrolled and their families and also those who are in desperate need to be enrolled, but there are no slots available for them.

In an effort to develop a more effective system of manpower services, EKCEP has attempted to involve other manpower agencies in a cooperative matter. This effort, while yet in its infant stage, has resulted in services being provided in outstationed areas where there were limited, or no services before, and have, through coordinating out-reach and job development efforts, served more people than would otherwise been possible.

In our efforts to become more "enrollee centered" and provide a full and effective range of enrollee services, a major problem of the CEP comes to light, that is, the problem of inadequate time to provide the needed enrollee services. For example, the CEP is supposed to identify, out-reach, intake, train and place in employment in a year's (or less) time individuals who have little or no trade skills, low educational attainment, and many other personal and social problems. This limited time restricts

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the type and degree of services that the CEP can provide.

What manpower, in general, and CEP, in specific, needs is a multi-year funding plan. We recommend a three (3) year program. This would provide the time necessary to establish a more definite system that would be able to serve an individual regardless of what his personal or employment characteristics are at the time of acceptance. I am aware that CEP is not supposed to be "all things to all people", but why not, if it can be accomplished with a little adjustment. Most of EKCEP applicants' characteristics or qualifications are such that they could not even gain admittance to a MDTA Class, let alone entrance to a Vocational School. Therefore, the first thing in an effective program for individuals who fit the description above would be to provide whatever remedial services that are needed to progress him to the point of meeting skill training entrance requirements. It is most difficult to instill these remedial qualifications, not to mention a proper attitude of responsibility, and then provide adequate skill training in a year or less. Not only is it unfair to the applicant who is rushed through, but also to the employer who will accept this man as a worker.

EKCEP has shown, in my opinion, that the manpower needs of a rural area can be served by a proper program design: A multi-year funding plan and continued flexibility of training resources, characterized by training components of less than class-size to serve employers who have need for only one (1) or two (2) workers at a time, which is typical of employers within the CEP area.

We feel that the future of Eastern Kentucky demands that manpower efforts be intensified and expanded, not curtailed. And, I would remind you that much progress has been made, and would caution you not to let a regression occur by reduction of funds, and the addition of other strangling restrictions.

The attached brochure, although a bit out-of-date, gives a basic description of the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program with the exception of the Operation Mainstream Program which is no longer a CEP component.

Thank you.

THE CEP PROGRAM NATIONWIDE

82 CEP PROJECTS

70 in Urban Areas

* 12 in Rural Areas

***EASTERN KENTUCKY**

Arkansas

Maine

Missouri

Mississippi

Montana

Minnesota

North Carolina

South Carolina

Tennessee

Vermont

Wisconsin

The Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. is a non-profit corporation which is funded under contract with the Department of Labor. The Central Office of EKCEP is located at 569 North Main Street, Hazard, Kentucky. Chairman of the EKCEP Board is Mr. Harry Eastburn. Mr. Virgil Osborne is serving the corporation as Executive Director.

SUMMARY OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

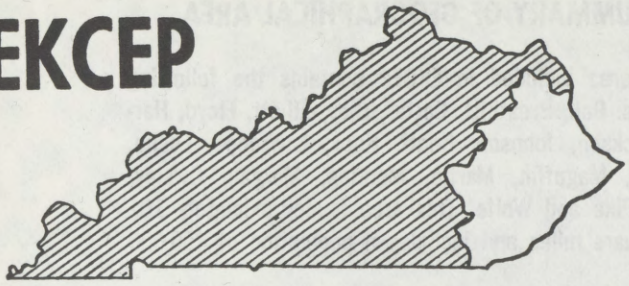
The area included in EKCEP contains the following counties: Bell, Breathitt, Carter, Clay, Elliott, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Lawrence, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike and Wolfe. This area is approximately 10,000 square miles and includes a population of 450,000 people.

The area is characterized by Mountainous or hilly terrain with many small, non-navigable streams.

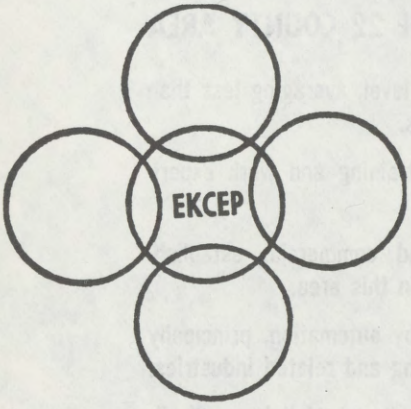
BASIC PROBLEMS OF THE 22 COUNTY AREA

1. Low education attainment level, averaging less than eight (8) grades for adults.
2. Low levels of vocational training and work experience.
3. Scarcity of industrial and commercial establishments providing jobs within this area.
4. Displacement of workers by automation, principally in the mining and lumbering and related industries.
5. The population is scattered, most of it in small villages, up valleys and on ridges, usually remote from job markets.
6. The area is served by only four high-type federal and state highways. Between these highways are broad areas, served only by a few secondary highways and low-type highways.
7. Some 57% of the families living in the area have incomes below the $3,000 poverty level.
8. The target area is woefully short of health and medical facilities.
9. High and persistent level of unemployment.
10. High incidence of underemployment.
11. Need for defining objectives and pooling resources which at the present time is lacking.

EKCEP



Serving Twenty-Two Kentucky Counties



Employment Through Inter-Agency Coordination

CENTRAL OFFICES
569 North Main Street
Hazard, Kentucky

- Bell
- Breathitt
- Carter
- Clay
- Elliott
- Floyd
- Harlan
- Jackson
- Johnson
- Knott
- Knox
- Lawrence
- Leslie
- Letcher
- Magoffin
- Martin
- Menifee
- Morgan
- Owsley
- Perry
- Pike
- Wolfe

12. A need for technical assistance because the basic problems are essentially related to unemployment and economic development. It seems imperative that technical assistance on a long-run continuing basis should be provided in such a manner that it pools the talents of individuals from various operating agencies in the area.

13. Some job positions remain vacant because of the unavailability of qualified people, hence there is a need for expanded opportunities for vocational and technical training, increased emphasis on adult education, expansion of existing school facilities, and a varied curriculum to enable the student to be prepared to enter the world of work.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc., which began training programs July 22, 1968, has three main objectives: to seek out and develop jobs, to provide adequate training and services for disadvantaged persons within the area to fill these jobs, and to coordinate with other agencies to provide a better and more complete system of manpower services to individuals who are in need of such services.

BASIC STRATEGIES

1. Assign individual to most appropriate program
2. Provide supportive services when needed by enrollee and family
3. Move enrollee along in line with interest, attitude, and capabilities
4. Stress orientation to world of work
5. Help bring new industry and jobs to E.K.C.E.P. Area
6. Provide "second chance" opportunities by "re-ycling" trainees
7. Coordinate timing and phasing of manpower programs and services and reporting of results

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The program has three separate types of training under its auspicies:

First is what is known as Operation Mainstream, in which the most severly disadvantaged are involved in experience-type training in the area. This training is designed to duplicate actual working conditions in the private sector as closely as possible, i.e., the trainees receive an hourly wage relative to the hours worked and performance evaluations are made. The training is in areas of work that are consistent with the trainees abilities.

The **second** type of training is called Versatile. This segment of the training program takes many forms. In some cases it is institutional training, basic education classes, and on-the-job training with private employers. In other cases it is work experience, such as heavy equipment operation.

The **third** portion of the program is MDTA (Manpower Development and Training). This training takes place in vocational schools, is in several different fields of work, and is actually a combination of work experience and institutional training. The procedures to implement these activities will be to subcontract the training to local Community Action Programs, the Kentucky State Employment Service, and other agencies and organizations that are equipped to provide these services.

The unique thing aboct EKCEP in comparison with other CEP's is its structure. While a major function of all CEPs is coordination with other agencies of manpower programs, EKCEP is utilizing all available agencies, their resources, personnel, and facilities—thereby requiring fewer staff, preventing duplication of effort, and lowering operational costs.

Seven distinct steps have been built into the EKCEP plan. These include (1) outreach and recruitment (2) intake and registration (3) work orientation and assessment (4) referral to various training, work experience, and basic education programs (5) job development and placement (6) re-cycling and (7) follow-up and evaluation.

1. **Outreach and Recruitment.** Outreach and recruitment will be performed by nine Community Action Agencies, eight Employment Service Offices, and six EKCEP Area Offices.
   Outreach refers to the actual process of isolating the disadvantaged individual and then contacting this individual to ascertain whether he wishes to participate in EKCEP.
   Selection as indicated above is designed to recruit primarily the disadvantaged individual who does not have suitable employment and who is either a school dropout, a member of a minority group, under 22 or over 45 years of age, or a handicapped person.

2. **Registration and Intake.** Registration and intake is the activity of enrolling participants into the program. Its function in EKCEP will serve as a preliminary assessment of the individual's employability needs, after a determination of eligibility has been established.
   All referrals to EKCEP will be made through the 8 regularly established Employment Security Offices and other "outpost" stations located within the 22 county Target Area. E.S. will determine basic eligibility and appropriate referral documentation in the form of a participant file which will be prepared. This initial registration will be brief and uncomplicated and does not include any testing or extensive counseling, except as it applies to the Human Resource Development Programs presently installed in the local E.S. Office.

3. **Orientation and assessment.** Persons not ready for placement will require individually tailored programs to improve their employability. All individuals will be required to spend from one to two weeks of time at the Orientation and Assessment Center to determine his needs relative to employability. The center will offer instruction in job-hunting, employment forms, budgeting, consumer education, safety, hygiene, grooming, etc. Each person will receive a complete health and dental examination. Assessment will be performed initially in the orientation phase and be continued as need determines.

4. **Referrals.** After completing the orientation and assessment phase of the program, the enrollees will be referred to one of the following:
   A. Directly to a Job
   B. To appropriate EKCEP components, i.e.,
      (1) Operation Mainstream (Work Experience)
      (2) On-the-Job Training (O.J.T.)
      (3) M.D.T.A. Institutional Training
      (4) Youth Work Experience
      (5) Adult Skill Training

5. **Job Development and Placement.** Job development and placement may immediately follow the orientation and assessment phase, depending upon the employability of the participant at that juncture. In an expected number of cases, however, final placement will not be possible until pre-vocational services or vocational training are completed. Ultimate job placement of the EKCEP enrollees will be accomplished through a coordinated effort of E.S., C.A.A.'s and EKCEP.

6. **Re-cycling.** EKCEP will be operated on an open-end basis, so that a participant who is ready for job placement can be referred to employment at any time. Similarly, for those enrollees who are unsuccessful in the orientation or vocational training, EKCEP incorporates a re-cycling to allow them a second chance.

7. **Evaluation and Follow-up.** Contact with the employer as well as the employee will confirm that successful placement has been realized, unfavorable terminations may be avoided and information necessary for program evaluation can be obtained.

Cooperation among the concerned agencies has reached a high level. The Community Action Programs in the area along with the Kentucky State Employment Service have done extensive outreach work to identify the people in need of training. Both these agencies are heavily involved in the actual training of the people. This has resulted in EKCEP, Community Action Agencies, and Employment Service being "co-partners" in this attack on long-term unemployment in Eastern Kentucky. It is this "co-partner" relationship that will be the key to EKCEP succeeding in accomplishing its goals.

Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program
Central Offices
569 North Main Street
Hazard, Kentucky 41701

"Employment Through Inter-Agency Coordination"

THE HONORABLE GAYLORD NELSON

Senate Subcommittee on

Employment, Manpower, and Poverty

Washington, D. C. 20000

Agency Name:	Southern Kentucky Economic Opportunity Council
Location:	Bowling Green, Kentucky
Chairman of Board:	Prather Price
Type of Agency:	Rural, Multi-County (6)
Area Served:	Allen County, Butler County, Edmonson County, Logan County, Simpson County, and Warren County
Total Population:	118,000
Percent of Population Served by CAA:	60%
Programs Operated:	Day Care; Job Development, Job Placement, and Follow-Up; Emergency Food; Community Organization; CAA Administration; Head Start (HEW)

SOUTHERN KENTUCKY ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL, INC.

P. O. BOX 845
BOWLING GREEN, KY. 42101
PHONE (502) 842-6571

JOSEPH S. OWNBY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMBER COUNTIES:
ALLEN
BUTLER
EDMONSON
LOGAN
SIMPSON
WARREN

April 27, 1971

Hon. Gaylord Nelson,
U.S. Senator from the State of Wisconsin
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Nelson:

Citizens in our area are very much concerned with the reorganization of OEO which proposes to spin-off the poverty programs to the new Department of Community Development component of revenue sharing.

Funds becoming available to state and local government with "no strings attached" will mean the end of OEO poverty programs in this area.

Past experience has shown the tremendous bickering, jockeying for local political favoritism and complete disregard for problems of the poor until forced to do so with threats of withholding federal funds.

The reorganization plan will strip OEO of all it's powers and funds except research and cause it to fold up because of having nothing left except revenue sharing funds. And in our area to compete with Model Cities, public works programs, and others, means a few driblets of funds at the bottom of the totem pole that cannot functionally do anything.

Another severe blow to our local program will be increasing the local share contributions from 20% to 25%. If this is to be in cash, there is absolutely no way for us to exist. At the present time we are already scraping the bottom of the barrel for 20% In-Kind contributions.

A further cut-back in program appropriations will be seriously felt by our community to the extent that a discontinuance of some programs and services to the poor and disadvantaged will lead to frustrations and loss of hope by thousands of our citizens who just now are beginning to fully realize that OEO is the only active advocate for them in our federal government.

The future of OEO and citizen participation being in question is of great concern to our community and we urge you to use all the resources available to you and act with understanding in your decisions.

Our community sees the reorganization and revenue sharing as the eventual end of the CAP program.

Sincerely yours,

Prather Price
Board Chairman

BIG SANDY AREA COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC.

Court House

Paintsville, Kentucky 41240

Harry Eastburn

Executive Director

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62-792 O - 71 - pt. 3 ---27

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Harry Eastburn, Executive Director for the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, Inc., a six county eastern Kentucky Agency. Our programs cover 2,400 square miles in Floyd, Johnson, Lawrence, Magoffin, Martin and Pike Counties. It is rugged, mountainous terrain with an exceptionally high degree of unemployment and poverty.

I have held my position for slightly over 5½ years and during that time have seen vast changes in the attitudes of the people. I have seen them change from a highly clannish group to a group that works closely together for constructive purposes. The sentinment of most is: "let me work and earn the bread that goes into mine and my families mouths." "Give me an opportunity" is their cry.

The Big Sandy Community Action Program has been fortunate, indeed. It has several Manpower Programs. Included in these are On-the-Job Training, Neighborhood Youth Corps (In-School and Out-of-School), Operation Mainstream and Senior Community Services Program.

We have also been fortunate enough to place from 400 to 600 persons on permanent jobs each year.

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAM

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING:

On-the-Job Training is, of course a program whereby underemployed, unemployed and unskilled disadvantaged persons participate in entry and up-grade on-the-job training. They are placed with people in private industry who supervise and train them. At the end of their successfully completing the training, they are hired. On no job that they train is the salary less than minimum wages.

The cost of this program's training has been extremely low. Figures, including administration, show that our average cost is $425.00 per enrollee. This is far below the $6,000.00 to $10,000.00 it takes to train one man in apprenticeable trades. Many of ours train with plumbing contractors, electrical contractors and for the carpentry trade.

STATISTICS FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING 1970:

1. Number of underemployed, unemployed and unskilled disadvantaged persons eligible to participate in entry and up-grade on-the-job training..... 15,410
2. Number of allocated slots..... 200 authorized Amendment covering 39 additional trainees
3. Number of persons completing training and placed in full-time employment..... 195
4. Number of agencies participating..... 70

REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR - 1971:

1. Average number of weeks per trainee..... 15
2. Number of requested hours of work per week..... 40
3. Number of persons eligible for training..... 15,410
4. Number of sub-contractors requesting participation..... 80

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Local share percentage.....65% (Private Contractors Share)

See attachments 1 through 6.

I. SUBMISSION FOR 1970

1. Number of underemployed, unemployed and unskilled disadvantaged persons eligible to participate in entry and upgrade On-The-Job Training.

   15,410

2. Number of allocated slots:

   200 - authorized
   Amendment covering 39 additional trainees.

3. Number of persons completing training and placed in full-time employment:

   195

4. Number of agencies participating:

   70

II. REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR - 1971

1. Average number of weeks per trainee:

   15

2. Number of requested hours of work per week:

   40

3. Number of persons eligible for training:

   15,000

4. Number of sub-contractors requesting participation:

   80

III. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Local share percentage:

   65% (Private contractor's share)

IV. DOCUMENTATION:

1. Any letter of praise for prior and current O.J.T. Programs:

   See Attached.

2. Any photographs and press releases of O.J.T. programs:

   See attached.

[illegible]

[illegible] you ask [illegible] Federal assistance for training in your establishment.

The Federal Government, under the provisions of the Manpower Development and Training Act (MDTA) of 1962, as amended by the Manpower Act of 1965, is ready to help employers and related groups with the development and cost of on-the-job (OJT) training programs.

On-the-job training may be defined as the actual performance of the work duties in any occupation, under the supervision and guidance of a trained worker or instructor.

The Secretary of Labor has been authorized to encourage, develop, and secure the adoption of on-the-job training programs.

The act was created primarily to give job skills to the unemployed, the underemployed, and workers whose jobs are endangered by changing technology.

The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program is the prime contractor for OJT office in the local six (6) county area. The local OJT office staff writes subcontracts for the training of disadvantaged persons with local employers. The employers may be eligible for reimbursement of job instructor fees, consultation and advice on training problems, assistance in developing training programs, and assistance in recruiting job applicants.

The following chart is a summary of the first OJT contract by county:

County	Subcontracts	Slots---Started	Dropouts	Completions
Lawrence 18	41	29	10	19
Johnson 18	59	54	21	32
Martin 0	0	0.	0	0
Magoffin 14	78	55	20	35
Floyd 22	52	38	14	24
Pike 33	90	38	11	23
105	320	214	76	133

The figures on dropouts and completions do not reflect the true status of the enrolled trainees. Many dropouts dropped out to better jobs, to the Army, to return to school or moved to other areas. Although most trainees completing OJT programs are still on their jobs, some of them, too, have gone to better jobs, to the service, or quit for other reasons. Some subcontracts were never approved for trainees. This was especially true in Pike County.

Considering the contract figures for training 150 unemployed persons, 133 nor have completed training for full-time jobs plus several others have received enough training and work experience to become full-time employed. The OJT program thus figured has been 90% successful. The first contract expired 10/31/68.

In the second and current OJT contract, 200 training slots are available to the industries in the local six (6) county area: Lawrence, Johnson, Martin, Magoffin, Floyd, and Pike.

Thirty-two trainees are now on OJT with various industries scattered in all six counties. Approximately 50 slots are being filled.

Any employer who pays the minimum wage ($1.60) per hour and provides workmens compensation for his employees may apply for OJT through the local office located in the Johnson County Court House in Paintsville, Kentucky. Phone Number: 789-5192.

Mr. Clifford H. Austin, Project Director
Mr. George W. Auxier, Job Developer
Mrs. Victoria T. Preston, Secretary-Bookkeeper

April 23, 1971

Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, Inc.
On-The-Job Training
George B. Auxier, Project Director
Paintsville, Kentucky 41240

Dear Sir:

We would like to express our appreciation for your assistance over the past year, both financially and in training our employees in the performance of their job.

We feel that this has been a great benefit to many disadvantaged individuals since we have been able to train them in a job in which they will be able to follow in the rest of their life. Many of these individuals would not have been able to obtain employment due to a lack of skill.

Sincerely yours,

James Witten

James Witten, Owner
Witten Coal and Mining Co. Inc.

3-1-71

Big Sandy Area C.A.P., Inc.
On-The-Job Training
George B. Auxier, Project Director
R.B. Harrington, Job Developer
Paintsville, Kentucky 41240

Gentlemen:

We desire to express our thanks to your On-The-Job Training Program for you assistance.

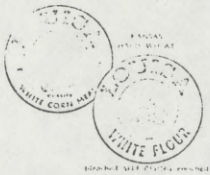
Your program has not only help us financially, but it has also helped us to train a young man in a skilled job which he is now performing for our center.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Price M. Hager

Price M. Hager, Partner
Paintsville Fabric & Sewing Center



CHARLES R. WOOTEN
OWNER AND MANAGER

LOUISA SUPPLY COMPANY

MILLERS AND JOBBERS • • • TELEPHONE: MEDFORD 8-4192

LOUISA, KENTUCKY

June 25, 1969

ON JOB TRAINING
Big Sandy Area Com. Act. Prog. Inc.
George B. Auxier, Job Developer
Clifford H. Austin, Project Engineer
County Courthouse
Paintsville, Kentucky

Gentlemen:

We think this is a good program for our young people. Practical experience is the best teacher. When they learn to work with other people, they begin to have more pride in their job. When they see the experienced worker doing well, they will try. This is what it takes to make good American citizens.

We do not like to see someone who is a willing worker have to seek other sources for food and clothes etc. We wish it were possible for us to employ more.

Yours truly,

LOUISA SUPPLY COMPANY

Charles R. Wooten

Charles R. Wooten, Owner

crw:hbs

YATES AUTO PARTS

All Parts Guaranteed — 24-Hour Wrecker Service

Phone OV 6-3742 — (Fallsburg Exchange)

LOUISA, KY. — ROUTE 4

Mr. Clifford H. Austin
Project Director
Paintsville, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Austin:

We wish to express to you our appreciation for your help and cooperation in the On The Job Training Program.

The training has helped our men to learn skills for permanent employment, and also helped us financially.

Our deepest appreciation and thanks goes to you.

Gordon Yates
Yates Auto Parts
Owner

November 13, 1970

Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, Inc.
On-The-Job Training
George B. Auxier, Project Director
R.B. Harrington, Job Developer
Paintsville, Kentucky 41240

Gentlemen:

We wish to express our appreciation for your assistance over the past two years which was a great help to us both financially and in securing trained employees.

We began operation as a mine operated mostly by machinery and there was a great shortage in machine operators; therefore, we had to train most of our employees.

We feel that your assistance not only helped us to establish a business but also furnished jobs for several people in our community.

Sincerely yours,

Willard Castle

Willard Castle, President
Tutor Key Coal Co. Inc.

NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS

OUT-OF-SCHOOL

PROGRAM

NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS:

Neighborhood Youth Corps falls into two (2) sections - Out-of-School and In-School. Both segments are extremely important. The In-School is for disadvantaged children who are attending classes but are at the point that they would have to drop out of school and fail to receive an adequate education. The Out-of-School Program is for boys and girls that have, for various and sundry reasons, tragically terminated their education.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL:

The Out-of-School Neighborhood Youth Corps Program deals with one of the greatest problems the Nation faces. It is one of the greatest problems because the future of our Nation rests with its youth. Youth who do not have either a formal academic background or voational educational skills is tremendously crippled. In our area, there is a tremendous number of this semi-educational cripple. Statistically, surveys in the area show a minimum of 5,000 boys and girls who have less than a high school education and no skill.

The number of boys and girls placed upon this program in relationship to the need is quite disappointing. It is even more disappointing to see how the program has been cut continuously. Originally, the program had an allotment of 300. On July 7, 1968, the Labor Department cut it back to 225. On September 1, 1969, it was cut again to 151 boys and girls. It is presently assigned 138 slots. As you can see, we are digressing in terms of our responsibility to the corner-stone of the Nation's future.

We find various other discrepancies:

1. 18 and 19 year olds are no longer eligible. The Labor Department has deleted them. At the same time, they added 13 and 14 year olds. Even upon

completion of the program, a 13 or 14 year old would not be eligible to go to work under the laws of our Nation.

2. While the Labor Department requires us to educate the boys and girls under this program, vocational educational laws and state boards of education will not approve the 13, 14, 15 and 16 year olds for a GED examination.
3. We cannot place these boys and girls with private business but are forced to place them with public and non-profit organizations that leads to a dead-end. As a result, we do not have the opportunity to place but a very few people in this category on well paying jobs.
4. Local share is set at 20% to 25%. This, when you are dealing with public and non-profit is impossible for an area where there is great unemployment and poverty. Local shares or in-kind would become a great hurdle if one-fourth had to be paid.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Monies be appropriated to return all NYC's to at lease the 1968 level.
2. Age groups to be returned to include 18 through 21 years of age as it was in 1968.
3. Local share be set at not more than 10% in-kind.
4. That at least a percentage of the boys and girls on NYC have placement in the private sector in order to have a better percentage of placement.

See attachments of letters of appreciation.

Neighborhood Youth Corps
Regular Out-Of-School

STATISTICS FOR OUT-OF-School NYC 1970 - 6 COUNTY AREA

1.	Number of eligible youths	5000
2.	Number of slots allocated	151
3.	Number of youth placed on jobs	40
4.	Number of agencies participating	20

OUT-OF-SCHOOL NYC 1971

1.	Number of weeks in contract	47
2.	Number of hours work per week	32
3.	Number of youths placed on jobs	17
4.	Number of agencies participating	22
5.	Number of slots allocated	138

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Local share 10% inkind in this area of unemployment and poverty. 10% inkind of local share is hard to come by, and 20-25% is out of the question.
2. It is our recommendation that 18 through 21 year olds be placed on NYC instead of 16 and 17 year olds. This age group is still within the school law.
3. That our allotment of slots be raised to 250 to help more needy young people.
4. Our present allotment of slots is 138, this is only a drop in the bucket as far as need is concerned.
5. Original allotment 300, cut July 7, 1968 to 225, Cut September 1, 1969 to 151. Our present allotment is 138.

[illegible] BOARD OF EDUCATION
[illegible] - [illegible] - TITLE I
[illegible], Director
Salyersville, Kentucky 41465
Phone (606) 349-2010

Aug. 17, 1970

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the Title I Administrative Staff, wish to express our appreciation to those responsible for the in-school student, Ruth Spradlin, working in the Title I Office during this summer - 1970. This girl was very efficient and rendered valuable assistance during the period she worked in this office.

Please, express our thanks to Miss Spradlin for her assistance and to those responsible for her assignment - we again say, "thanks."

Sincerely,

Herald Whitaker

HERALD WHITAKER, COORDINATOR
TITLE I, ESEA and
OFFICE STAFF

HW/pb

WILEY J. SALYER
Sheriff of Magoffin County
SALYERSVILLE, KY. 41465

January 30, 1969

Mr. J. P. Hill, Director
Neighborhood Youth Corps
Paintsville, Kentucky

Dear Sir:

I am impressed with the services performed by the young men and women of the Neighborhood Youth Corps in Magoffin County. I feel that the N.Y.C. has been very helpful to county and state offices which could not hire much needed help due to lack of funds.

The N.Y.C. Program has also been very beneficial to the young people of this county. It has given them a chance to develop personality and increase their value to their community. Young people, who did not have the chance to get a high school education, are given an opportunity to gain experience and develop work habits which would enable them to obtain future employment upon graduation from your program.

As Sheriff of this county, I am acquainted with the family situation of many of the young people who have been on the N.Y.C. Program. In many instances, the only income that a family received was what the N.Y.C. individual took home. I am of the opinion that the N.Y.C. Program has cut down juvenile delinquency and has given quite a few of the young people the initiative to earn a living.

Miss Verlie Russell, a member of the program, is presently working under my supervision. She has been able to rapidly adapt to administrative duties in my office. She has shown a lot of interest in work and has proven herself to be very capable and dependable. If the situation arose, she could take over the administration of my office.

I wish you continued success in working with the underprivileged young men and women in Magoffin County and the adjacent counties in which you work.

Sincerely,

Wiley J. Salyer

Wiley J. Salyer

WJS:R

Mr. J. W. Hill
Director
Neighborhood Youth Corps
Pikeville, Kentucky 41240

10 January 1969

Dear Sir,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to your office for the assistance the NYC Program has been giving to the Navy Recruiting Office in Pikeville.

The young ladies that have been employed through your program have been a definite asset to the Navy Recruiting Service. They have each proven capable and dependable in all phases of the duties that they have been assigned while under our supervision.

Since our appropriations won't allow us to hire a secretary on a local basis, the program has been outstanding in providing us with able assistance which has aided us in fulfilling our assignment on the high plane that must be maintained. It has also freed us to invest more time in the technical aspects of our job with the confidence that the menial time consuming jobs will be completed.

On the other hand, I feel we offer your assignees further training in office practice and a strong desire for self improvement through their daily contact with the public. This has been proven by the fact that a number of potential high school dropouts have returned to school and by others furthering their education through correspondance courses during full time enrollment in the program. I would like to cite a few examples, but I'm quite sure that you keep close tabs on these matters.

If we may be of assistance, please feel free to call upon us.

Yours truly,

Bill D. Tome

BILL D. TOME
Torpedoman's Mate First Class
United States Navy

(Recruiter-in-Charge, NRBS, Pikeville, Ky)

MILLARD-HENSLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Hargis Fletcher, Principal
Salyersville, Kentucky. 41465

August 15, 1969

To Whom it May Concern:

I have been supervising girls and boys in the N.Y.C. School Program since it started in Magoffin Co. I have found this to be a fine program. Girls and boys are taught to work. Many of our teenagers are not taught at home.

This also gives them some money to help them continue their high school. I have had a fine group of boys & girls working at the Millard-Hensley

HILLIARD-HENSLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Hargis Fletcher, Principal
Salyersville, Kentucky. 41465

school. I have tried to teach them how to work and how to spend their money.

I Hope this program will continue. I have enjoyed working with my girls & boys.

The supervisors who work with me have been real nice.

Yours Truly,
Hargis Fletcher

Floyd County Garage
Allen, Kentucky
November 7, 1968

Community Action Program
Courthouse
Prestonsburg, Kentucky

Dear Sir:

I have worked with the NYC boys which you assigned me some time ago, and I wish to report to you that I am pleased with the boys' eagerness to learn. These boys are proud of their work and very willing to do any task they are told to do.

I will be glad to supervise these boys as long as I am asked to do so.

Yours very truly,

Sam H. Fitzpatrick
Floyd County Road Foreman

File

PHONE 835-2200

GRAPEVINE GRADE SCHOOL
WINSTON ADKINS, PRINCIPAL
PHYLLIS, KENTUCKY

November
Twenty
1968

Mr. J. P. Hill, Director
Big Sandy Area Community Action Program
Paintsville, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Hill:

It is our wish to report to you on the help your program has provided in our school. The young people who are working here are providing services we feel are necessary. The work they do releases teachers and custodians to perform duties which here-to-afore they were unable to do. The girls actively assist the teachers in the classrooms with clerical work and supervisory and leader tasks which in the past teachers performed or were neglected. The boys, under the supervision of our custodian, add much to the effeciency and comfort of the teachers and pupils by improved housekeeping services. They also aid the teachers of the lower grades by helping the younger children on hikes, field trips, etc.

Mr. Troy Bevins, your supervisor in this area, has been especially helpful and thoughtful. His relationship with the young people under his direction is exceptionally good.

Again, may I say, your program in our school is meaning much to the school by allowing us to devote more time to our professional duties and in caring for and improving our facilities.

Very truly yours,

William S. Risner

William S. Risner
Principal

CITY OF PAINTSVILLE

J. B. WELLS, JR. Mayor
PAINTSVILLE, KENTUCKY
September 7, 1967

Mr. J. P. Hill
Paintsville
Kentucky

Dear Sir:

As Chief of Police, Paintsville, Kentucky I have helped supervise the NYC out of school workers and during the absence of Mr. Garland, I have had full responsibility to see that they work.

I have not had any trouble with the boys but supervised them close at first and after that they would go ahead and get the job done.

Yours very truly,

Dallas Jackson
Chief of Police
Paintsville, Kentucky

NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS

Summer

In-School

Program

NYC SUMMER IN-SCHOOL:

NYC In-School Program has been assigned 310 children for the programs in the three (3) areas the Big Sandy takes care of - Magoffin County, Pikeville City and Lawrence County. These three (3) systems do not have a full year In-School Program. Therefore, the Big Sandy Community Action Program became the sponsor to aid the needy children through a short summer program.

The boys and girls under the program must meet the guidelines for need. Without the little aid that we give them, many would drop out of school.

The number of slots in this program have remained consistently at 310 for the summer. However, the number of weeks were cut from 10 to 8½. In the Big Sandy area, each child will receive $37.80 less for their summer's work. This may not seem much to you or the average family but it is a tremendous amount to these boys and girls and their families.

The schools receive numerous benefits that would not be forthcoming without the aid of the boys and girls under the program. We have seen schools painted, yards landscaped and many other problems satisfied:

PROBLEMS:

1. Cut back in workable time.
2. Children graduating and wanting to go to college ineligible.
3. Local share request by Labor Department - 20%.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Number of weeks of program returned to 10.
2. Those youth that graduate and have been accepted or applied for college entrance be allowed to work on the program.

See attachments of letters of appreciated attached to Out-of-School NYC.

NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS

Summer 1970 - 1971

STATISTICS FOR SUMMER NYC 1970:

1. Number of youth requesting aid.....325
2. Number of slots allocated.....310
3. Number of youth placed on jobs.....310
4. Number of agencies requesting participation..... 20
5. For Pikeville City, Lawrence and Magoffin Counties

SUMMER NYC 1971:

1. Number of weeks of program..... 8½
2. Number of hours of work per week..... 25
3. Number of youth applying for positions.....325
4. Number of agencies requesting participation..... 30
5. Number of slots requested.....310

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Local share - 10% in-kind only.
2. Authorization for yout to continue in the program immediately after granduating from High School provided they have been enrolled in In-School Program. This we endorse 100%.

DOCUMENTATION:

1. Attached to Out-of-School Documentation Letters.

OPERATION

MAINSTREAM

PROGRAM

OPERATION MAINSTREAM:

Operation Mainstream evolved out of the old Work Experience and Training Program operated by Public Assistance. It is for men chronically unemployed and without skills with which to obtain a job. The enrollee's average age is 56 and their educational level is third (3rd) grade. Many of the men, most, have come from working in the mines. They do not have a skill for private industry and their respiratory systems and bodies are impaired so that they cannot work in the mines. Yet, we find that they do an excellent job in many fields so long as they can work at their own speed. For the most part, they cannot be absorbed into private industry because they lack the speed and dexterity needed for the contractors to make a profit from their work. They, of course, cannot work for nothing.

The jobs that have been completed in the Big Sandy area by the Mainstream men are numerous. They have engineered and built bridges. They, in conjunction with the Senior Community Services enrollees, have repaired 1,200 homes since 1968. These homes belonged to the disadvantaged, infirmed and aged.

Other jobs:

1. Cutting of right-of-ways.
2. Painting of public buildings.
3. Repair of public buildings.
4. Construction of Community Action Clubs.
5. Up-keep of public cemeteries.
6. Cleaning creek banks and creeks in order to cut down on flooding.
7. Laid drainage tile.
8. Improvement and protection of forests and wildlife areas.
9. Maintenance, improvement and protection of Nationak, State

10. Elimination of water and air pollution.

11. Renovated public buildings.

Operation Mainstream program shows a great need in this country for a Public Works Administration Program. There is a vast need among segments of our citizenry that have too much pride or are not eligibile to be placed on the existing hand-out programs. They thank us frequently for giving them an opportunity to earn their bread and provide for their families.

Two of our Counties, Johnson and Lawrence, have but 25 Mainstream men. The need is extremely great and 25 additional people for each of these Counties should be supplied. Even then, we would not be reaching the vast majority of people eligible. Attached is a budget for an additional 50 workers.

See attachments of letters of appreciation.

PROJECTED BUDGET FOR 50 ADDITIONAL MEN

12-Month Projection

ENROLLEE COSTS:

104,000 hrs @ 1.60	166,400.00
4% absenteeism and phase in and phase out	-6,650.00
Total Wages	159,750.00
FICA Fringe Benefits, 5.2%	8,310.00
Workmen's Compensation, 3%	4,800.00
Transportation, 400 mi week at 9¢ mi x 52 weeks	6,550.00
Total Section I	$179,410.00

STAFF COSTS:

2 Supervisors @ $90.00 wk	9,360.00
FICA Fringe, 5.2%	490.00
Workmen's Compensation, 1½%	140.00
Health and Life Insurance	365.00
Transportation - 700 mi week at 10¢ mi	3,640.00
Total Section II	13,995.00
Project Equipment.....(Hand Tools)	300.00
Total Section III	300.00
TOTAL COST TO PROJECT	$193,705.00

NOTE: No additional office equipment or other direct cost will be needed.

OPERATION MAINSTREAM

STATISTICS FOR OPERATION MAINSTREAM - 1970:

1. Number of eligible men.....16,000
2. Number of allocated slots..... 517
3. Number of men placed on the job..... 26
4. Number of agencies participating..... 13

REQUEST FOR OPERATION MAINSTREAM - 1971:

1. Number of weeks for program..... 52
2. Number of requested hours of work per week..... 40
3. Number of men eligible for positions.....16,000
4. Number of agencies requesting participation..... 13

File

July 24-1970
Jeaberg Ky

Dear Sirs
I am writing to think
you all for the good job
your men did on my house
I sure do appreciate it very
much. I think this is a very
good experience for all the men

thanks a lot

Evan & Eggie Jackett

RECEIVED
7-15-70

Teaberry, Ky
May 20, 1970

[illegible] Improvement project
Prestonsburg, Ky

Dear Sir:

Thanks for the work done by the Nelson project. The men have done a good job. The people in our comunity appreciate this project. I hope this project can be continued. It gives the men training as well as employment.

Yours truly,
Walthust Reynolds

CITY OF PAINTSVILLE

PAINTSVILLE, KENTUCKY 41240

PHONE 606-789-3664

JOHN E. CHANDLER
Mayor

SIDNEY B. GARLAND
Administrative Assistant

ANNETTE D. JUSTICE
City Clerk

March 4, 1970

Community Action Program
Paintsville, Kentucky

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We would like to let you know how much we appreciate the help you have given us on the renovation of City Hall.

The trainees have done a excellent job. We believe this to be a very worthwhile program and hope that it will continue. Without their help I am sure we would not have been able to have gotten our building in such good condition.

Sincerely,

CITY OF PAINTSVILLE

BY J. E. Chandler, Jr.
J. E. Chandler, Mayor

11-3-69

To Whom It May Concern;

I would like to mention just a few of the things the "Nelson Improvement Project," has done for our school and Community.

I am a teacher in a two (teacher) room rural school. The Nelson Project has given us a Janitor, he sweeps and keeps our bathrooms in order. He also has a good warm fire for us each morning when we arrive at school. He helps us serve the hot lunch and helps to clean the kitchen. He also cleans the playground, carries in coal and burns the garbage.

The Nelson Project furnishes a truck and two men, each month to haul us a months supply of food from Prestonsburg for our Rural Lunch Program.

They have chopped a year's supply of wood last year and this year for our school.

They fixed a partition in our kitchen and built several nice book shelves for our little Library.

They built an incinerator for our school.

Built a park in our Community.

Cut the weeds and mowed the grass all summer on our Playground.

Cleaned the creeks and mowed the grass and cut the weeds along the creek.

They have made Home Improvements on the homes, of the widows, and the Retired Couples.

So these are just a few of the duties the Nelson Project has done for our Community. I don't see how we could do with out their services in our Community

Teacher Nora Lou Jones

Feb. 18, 1969

Mr. Claude Swiney
Nelson Improvement Program
Prestonsburg, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Swiney:

Recently Mr. Oliver Hall's "Nelson men" did a home repair for my step-grandmother Mrs. Stella Robinette of Harold, Kentucky. All of my family really appreciate the fine job that all of your men did to improve this home. This is not the first time that I have seen the work that these men do. There are many bridges that have been built and homes that have been repaired by these men, in the Mud Creek area. Once again my thanks and the thanks of my family for such a fine program.

Sincerely yours,
Clara C. Mays

Teoberry Ky.
May 15. 1964

To Nelson Main Stream Project.

I Want to take this ~~time~~ time to thank you for the fine job you did on the Painting of my house. I am disabled and can't do any thing and I wasn't financially able to hire any one to paint for me so again I say thanks to this Paint Project that makes people like me to get work done on our homes

Yours Friend
Bert Mitchell
Teoberry Ky
41665

Drift Woman's Club
DRIFT, KENTUCKY

July 17-1964

Mr. Claude Sweeney
Mt. on Project
Prestonsburg, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Sweeney:—

The Drift Woman's Club thanks you for your interest in our park project. We seem to have reached an impasse in our plans, but we haven't given up. Plans may develop that we may continue our efforts in that direction and we will surely call on you again.

We also want to compliment you on the fine work the men did on the Drift Cemetery.

Sincerely
Sophia Baker
Corresponding Secretary

Mrs. Wm. Hoffman, Pres.
Drift, Ky.

Weeksbury Consolidated School
MRS. MARCUS OWENS, PRINCIPAL
WEEKSBURY, KENTUCKY

September 27, 196

Dear Mr. Lunsford,

Sometimes we human beings grope about many things. We seldom see the good things which are being done. But here in Weeksbury, it is very noticeable that some "good" things are happening in the community.

I would like to say a few words of praise about the work being done here by the men on the Nelson Program. Also I'd like to say "thanks" to the men and their supervisors for doing such a fine job.

Sincerly,
Mrs. Liz Owens

Jan. 27, 69

To whom it May Concern;

I am a resident and home owner in Floyd, County.
Our home needed a lot of repair. We could never get ahead enough to hire the labor done. And to pay for the materials needed to repair it with.

Then we were informed of a program, which if we furnished the materials needed. Experienced men would do the labor free.

I filled out an application at the Court House specifying what needed to be done.
We were soon contacted and several men began working on our house. They were eager to try and please us in every way possible. They were capable men of doing the job. We were satisfied with what they did and how they did it. Our house sure looks a little new. We highly recommend the Program of Home Repair.

Mrs. Jack Bill Allen
Rt. 1 Box 51 Floyd, Va.

SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM

STATISTICS ON HOME REPAIR

AS OF APRIL 16, 1971

	COMPLETED FROM 8-20-68 TO 6-30-70	COMPLETED FROM 7-1-70 TO THE PRESENT TIME	APPLICATIONS ON HAND FOR HOME REPAIR
Floyd County.....	338	117	54
Johnson County.....	70	40	95
Lawrence County.....	79	33	47
Magoffin County.....	146	29	164
Martin County.....	176	69	72
Pike County.....	52	51	32
Total.....	861	339	464

SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM:

The Senior Community Services Project is one of the few Manpower Programs which has not been cut back, either in enrollees or funds. The program started out in August 1968 with a total of 40 enrollees. In March of 1969, 20 more enrollees were added, making a total of 60. In November 1970, Big Sandy was given an additional 4 slots. After a review by NCOA, it was found that there were sufficient funds in the budget to allow an over-enrollment of 10% up to the end of the current contract. This was approved in December 1970. Therefore, the Senior Community Services Program now has a total of 70 enrollees.

There is, however, a tremendous need for more slots on this program. The Big Sandy Community Action Program alone has over 400 applications for people desiring to work on the program. NCO A and the Labor Department are aware of the vast need.

This program is for people 55 years of age and older. Most of them are on a set income. As stated before, there is a very great need for more slots in this program in the Big Sandy Area.

One enrollee told the Executive Director: "For the first time in years, I feel as though I am a part of things. I am alive".

SUMMARY:

Mr. Chairman, Committee Members. This has been but a brief attempt to give you a very minute idea of what is happening in one agency. The cut-backs are detrimental because we do not have manufacturers in which to place our enrollees as they become competent.

We, in the Big Sandy, have heard the cry from federal agencies and Congress to involve the private sector. This is well and good. We would like to do this. You, though, must take one step to enable us to accomplish it in the Appalachian area of eastern Kentucky. Make it possible for us to give 100% loans, not grants, loans, to private industry to expand and build added plants in our depressed areas. Make these loans at an interesting interest rate of not more than 5%. If this were done, I could place two (2) such plants in the Big Sandy area within the next 30 days. Within 18 months, 200 hard-core poor would be on permanent year-round jobs.

We hav explored every avenue of financing and find that in one way or another, the door is slammed in our face by barriers:

FOR INSTANCE: Small Business Administration's 502 loan allows a local development company to put up 20% of the money needed to establish a Manufacturing Company. The Agency will then loan up to $350,000.00 to the local industrial development corporation. Businesses could get this particular portion done and it would seem that in a few cases, a plant could be put in operation. There is one deficiency, though. The 502 loan has no provision for working capital. This is its weaknoss and where it fails.

This past week, our local newspapers carried a notation that they wished to place 26 billion dollars on the calendar for foreign aid. Much of this, I realize, is ear-marked loans, but gentlemen, it is 100% loans. Can we do less for our own people than we do for the people of other countries?

Last week, also, the papers carried an article saying that our Navy and segments of our Army were standing by and patrolling the waters in the vicinity of Haiti in the event some Nation tried to take advantage of that island empire after the death of its leader. Thousands of dollars, hundreds of thousands of dollars, was spent in this effort. Can we do less in protecting our own citizenry from much more real invaders - poverty, hunger, ill health and misery?

We do not say it is wrong to aid other countries. We do not say it is wrong to give away the tax moneis of the American public for worthwhile causes. We do, however, advocate and recommend that more attention, 100% effort, be placed in taking care of our own domestic problems first.

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before this Committee and testify on behalf of a forgotten segment in our population.

62-792 O - 71 - pt. 3 ---30

STATEMENT OF

JESSE L. AMBURGEY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LESLIE, KNOTT, LETCHER, PERRY
COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL, INC.

P. O. Box 748 - Whitesburg, Ky. 41858
(Tel. No. 606-633-4458)

Before the

Subcommittee on Employment, Manpower, and Poverty

April 28-29, 1971

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Jesse Amburgey. I am director of the LKLP Community Action Council, Incorporated. This agency serves the low-income families in four mountain counties in Eastern Kentucky. These are Leslie, Knott, Letcher, and Perry. This agency administers programs funded by the Regional Office of Economic Opportunity in Atlanta, the National Office in Washington, D. C., and the United States Department of Labor.

I would like to tell you about some of the problems of the area and some of the things that LKLP is doing in cooperation with its communities to alleviate and eliminate some of these problems. Our four counties are situated in the heart of Appalachia. They are rugged counties with steep hills, crowded so close that they leave little flat land for development. This makes it extremely difficult for us to realize any industrial potential that the area might have. Transportation is a major problem largely because of rugged terrain which greatly hampers road-building and results in tremendous costs per road mile. The topography problem makes it impossible to build a road out of every hollow, so many of our people do not even have access to a good road, and some have no road at all.

Unemployment and underemployment are major problems. These four counties are coal-mining counties and have suffered from mechanization which has caused severe depression for nearly two decades. The unemployment rate for these four counties is projected at 12 to 15%, which is over twice the national average. Approximately 60% of the families in our four counties have annual incomes of less than $3,000. and nearly half of that number have an income of less than $1,000 a year.

Lack of housing and the presence of inadequate housing is a major concern of the area. Approximately 50% of the housing is classed by the census bureau as deteriorating or dilapidated, and over 50% of the homes lack some or all plumbing. Fifty-six percent (56%) of all housing was built more than 30 years ago, and 56% of the owner-occupied housing is valued at less than $5,000.

The education level of the population presents a problem. The median level of school years completed by persons 25 years and older on a national average is 10.6. In Letcher and Perry Counties, the level is 8.0; in Knott, it is 7.6, while in Leslie County it is only 6.9.

The magnitude of our problems are great and programs conducted by LKLP are just beginning to have some impact. I would like to tell you briefly about a few of our programs and what we are trying to do.

The priorities as set out by our community action councils in our communities are manpower opportunities, economic development, health, and housing. These are areas that our committees and boards feel that we, as staff, must concentrate on to effectively get at the roots of poverty.

The first priority of the community action program is manpower opportunities. Under manpower programs, we have Operation Mainstream, On-the-Job Training, and the Neighborhood Youth Corps.

The Nelson Mainstream Program not only provides an income for the heads of 545 households plus supportive staff, but also assists in many activities in community development. Our LKLP Chairman and Perry County Judge, Harve Hensley, will be more specific in regard to accomplishments of the program.

The purpose of the OJT program is to develop jobs with private employers in coordination with the employment service in order to place needy trainable men and women in permanent positions. Funds are provided to reimburse the employer for a portion of the training costs. In our previous year's program, 112 persons were placed in training slots, of which eighty-six completed the training cycle.

The "Out-of-School Neighborhood Youth Corps Program" is directed at school dropouts of 16 and 17 years old. Twenty percent (20%) of the total enrollment can be 18 and 19 year-olds providing there is an extreme need for NYC type of help for these individuals. During a work training program up to 24 months in length, each enrollee spends 24 hours at the worksite and 6 hours in special education

classes operated by NYC. These classes seek to upgrade the educational level of the enrollees. Depending on the individual situation, the program attempts to either direct the enrollee back to public school, into vocational training, or into full-time employment.

Our Economic Development effort, directed by Jack Johnson of Knott County, is one of our most promising programs, primarily because it gives our low-income people a chance to help themselves.

As an example, Buckhorn Community in Perry County last year received a $5,000 low-income loan (2%) from our revolving fund. Buckhorn residents used the money to start a sawmill, and are repaying the loan with the proceeds. As the money comes back, it can be made available for new businesses. In the meantime, that single $5,000 loan has given eleven men a chance to earn an income and support their families. It has also given them a higher level of self-respect.

In addition, the following economic development projects are in operation or soon expected to be:

Knott County - a greenhouse, a yarn shop, a sewing project, a craft shop, a movie theater and skating rink.

Perry County - a tire and battery shop; an upholstering shop and a wood-working shop.

Leslie County - a bakery and two TV-cable projects.

Letcher County - a rest home for the elderly, and also a rabbit-production project which involves thirty to fifty area families.

One of our most urgent needs is for improved health services. The rough terrain, the inadequate road system, and the wide distribution of people in small communities all compound the basic problem of too few physicians in South-eastern Kentucky.

We are just starting a four-county health program here, one which is intended to be a pilot project from which we can expand later.

This program will provide health services..including X-rays, drugs, medicines, surgery and hospitalization to 4,000 low-income residents. Funds, made available through OEO's Office of Health Affairs, will enable us to contract with area health facilities on a capitation basis. The contracts call for regular evaluations to ensure that needed health services are actually being provided.

The purpose of the Emergency Food & Medical Services Program is to see that low-income residents are adequately fed. This is done by encouraging and assisting in self-help projects when possible, by directly providing food (funds for food) when necessary.

This program served 1,218 families (a total of 5,070 individuals) during the month of March, 1971.

To encourage and expand home-production of food, a trailer-type cannery is being built to can foods for persons who will grow a garden. This cannery will be equipped to can either in tins or glass jars. It will be a do-it-yourself project, with supervision provided.

Considerable work has been done to promote gardening. The program has bought seeds for target people and worked with the agricultural Department, the Mennonite Central Committee, and other groups in getting seed potatoes, plants, and garden seed at a reduced price for distribution to low-income people. We have had a greater demand for seeds, plants, and fertilizer than we anticipated.

To help the incapacitated and very low-income residents, this program has purchased one garden tiller that will be operated by Operation Mainstream persons.

G.S.A. buses will be used to provide transportation to low-income residents who otherwise would be unable to bring produce to the cannery. We have used all news media to promote the cannery.

Nutrition classes are held in all four counties each month. The Nutrition Advisor works with the Consumer Education Aides in planning these classes which are taught by a volunteer professional person such as the Regional Nutritionist

or a nurse from the Health Department or local hospitals.

In addition to planning classes, the Nutrition Advisors make home visits to encourage persons to serve balanced meals and to stretch their food dollar.

Our housing program is providing our low-income families living quarters which are more sanitary, warmer in winter, and less likely to be destroyed by fire. The program also employs some of our older men, enabling them to support their families while holding meaningful jobs.

Administered by the Eastern Kentucky Housing Development Corporation (a delegate agency of LKLP), the home-repair project brings together the efforts of several Federal, State, and local agencies. For example, since 1968, H.E.W. has made available to the Kentucky Department of Economic Security $935,910. for $500-and-under grants to buy materials needed to repair homes. OEO has made available funds to hire older men to take the material and repair the homes. The average age of the workmen is 56. In its first 32 months, a total of 1,208 homes have been repaired and improved.

The mountain people of Eastern Kentucky have been exploited so many times that they have finally become somewhat suspicious. There have been rays of hope from time to time during the past, but these have faded as the promises did not materialize. When the Economic Opportunity Act was passed and programs began to be established, this hope became stronger. For the first time, poor people began to feel that they were really going to have a voice in some of the things that affect them.

There are already many examples that they can look to as successful accomplishments made possible under the Economic Opportunity Act, but this is just a beginning of things they could do. However, rumors are now making those hopes and dreams fade.

Jobs to enable a man to feed, clothe, shelter, and provide health care and education for his children are very important, both in immediate and long-range effects on our efforts to eliminate poverty. Last year, we were cut in our

versatile budget by $100,000. This cut meant that many men would be denied the opportunity of providing for their families. Our funding level this year is approximately $60,000. less than last year. If we are really trying to eliminate poverty, these funds need to be doubled and tripled...not cut. Rumor also has it that there may be a requirement of 25% local matching of OEO dollars. This is causing grave concern, because this would be impossible for an area already so economically depressed, especially if some of this percentage is required to be in cash. There is also talk of eliminating some programs, especially the Emergency Food & Medical Program. In our four counties, we issued approximately 1,000 minimum vouchers per month and about 400 emergency food vouchers. This indicates that there are 1,000 families that we have records on that have little (under $30. per month) or no income. It also means that there are many emergencies which could not be met each month.

It would be especially tragic if the emergency food program were to be cut just now, because a real effort is being made by our staff to increase home-production of food by low-income people. We are working closely with all other interested groups in the area, and there are clear indications that we are succeeding. If the program is cut now, we will not only decrease the amount of food available, but we will also take away hope.

Gentlemen, that's a brief look at our program. Our people work hard; we are proud of the headway we're making, and we are certainly grateful that Chairman Perkins and the rest of the committee have been so helpful in providing resources needed to do this work.

Most grateful of all are the people you have enabled us to help. We have made some jobs available to them, given them better food, better clothing, and a better chance to help themselves to greater independence and self-respect.

On behalf of our low-income people, we very respectfully ask that you continue to help us help ourselves.

Thank you.

Jesse L. Amburgey, Area Director
LKLP Community Action Council
P. O. Box #748
Whitesburg, Kentucky 41858

STATEMENT OF

GILMER SLONE

MEMBER OF LKLP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LKLP COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL, INC.
P. O. BOX 748 - Whitesburg, Ky. 41858
(Tel. No. 606-633-4458)

Before the

Senate Subcommittee on Employment, Manpower, and Poverty

April 28-29, 1971

Mr. Chairman, Committee Members, Gentlemen:

My name is Gilmer Slone. I was born in Southeastern rural Kentucky, in a community called Slone Fork. As a boy growing up in Knott County, I attended a two-room school, and saw at first-hand the poverty and depressed conditions of the area. When I got to high-school age, I was discouraged by the lack of anything to look forward to except possibly a job in the coal mines.

Like most of the other boys in my class, I left Kentucky as soon as I was old enough, or thought I was old enough, to make my own way. In the eleven years from 1959 to 1969, I moved around the country holding a variety of jobs in many different places. I came back to Kentucky twice during that period and twice I had to leave to find a decent job. Last summer, I came back for the third time. I am working in television repair, and am actively working with community action groups. I hope to stay in Knott County this time, and for the first time, I am encouraged by some things I see happening in Southeastern Kentucky.

In my opinion, the poverty program now being tried there is a new dimension in social effort...for the first time, the people themselves are being given a hand in designing and running the programs which are supposed to help them. I know, because I am a low-income member of the Board of Directors of the LKLP Community Action Agency. As such, I have an equal voice in deciding how the programs will be run.

For the first time in my experience, a government group is trying to show that welfare handouts by themselves are not the answer to our problems, but that education, information and opportunity <u>are</u> the answer. In short, we are really being given the chance for self-help.

It is impossible for one person to tell another how to live and what he should try to do. No human being should have another's ideas and ambitions imposed on him. If any person--or any government agency--really wants to help someone, the only way he can do it is to hold out a helping hand to increase that person's

knowledge, to help him to have a better chance to get a decent job and a good education, and to eliminate unemployability and prejudice.

Doing these things takes time and money. In the few short years of its existence, the present program has taken great strides in combatting welfare and broken dreams, in letting our people look at their position in life with understanding and without shame - to let them look forward with pride and with hope for a better life--on their own terms--in the future.

I am glad to have the chance to be here and tell you what I think about the programs. No concerned person can, with a clear conscience, stand by passively and allow this program to be cut without trying to tell how important it has been, and is, to Southeast Kentucky. To negate what has been done there would be a crime against humanity.

The Appalachian Region is like a set of teeth..no matter how much we try to polish them up, they can never be strong as long as there is a chance of internal decay. If the dentist (the government, in this case) stops before the cavities are drilled and filled, nothing will be accomplished. If this program is reduced or cut off before it is completed, then the Appalachian tooth will be in real danger of decaying to the point that it will need to be pulled.

I sincerely hope that you and the other concerned people of the country will see that this fight against regional poverty is not stopped. Poverty (or we could call it lack of opportunity) in the Appalachian region is not a myth, but is a cold, hard fact. Our people are unemployable because there has been no employment to teach them the job skills they need. The lack of work over a long period of years has created a hopeless, despondent attitude which can only be overcome by hard work on our part.

Gentlemen, we want to continue to work hard to help ourselves. I humbly and sincerely request that you will continue to give us the chance to do this.

Thank you.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF CARL SHEARER, MAYOR, MONTICELLO, KENTUCKY

I appreciate the opportunity of being allowed to present this statement to The United States Senate Subcommittee on Employment, Manpower, and Poverty. I am concerned today about what I read and hear through the news media in regard to some programs in which our community has been involved and helped. There are considerable news articles and commentaries about changing or restructuring the Community Action Program and the Spin-off of OEO programs to other Departments and Agencies. Some articles imply that the Community Action Program may be phased out altogether. I profess my knowledge concerning these possible actions is limited to what I read and hear, and I do not wish to imply I have any information or knowledge other than these sources.

I have been involved with the Community Action Program in two ways: first, as Mayor of Monticello our city with a population of 3600 in a county of 14,500, has participated in Community Action Agency sponsored programs, and second, as a Board Member of the East Lake Cumberland Area Improvement Council, Inc., the local CAA for our area. Our CAA comprises 5 counties, being in addition to Wayne, Clinton, McCreary and Pulaski. I will not elaborate or give statistical data to try to justify the need for a CAA, however, much is available and very convincing. Monticello is a small community likened to other Eastern Kentucky communities and Wayne County is always included among the nation's poorest counties. I will,

however, try to justify the need to continue the Community Action Agency and what it means to a community such as ours. We seemingly tend to look solely at programs a CAA operates and either laud its accomplishments or criticize its inefficiencies. For a mayor to support a CAA, I'm sure one would expect example after example of how the city has benefitted and saved money through the use of CAA programs. We have indeed benefitted greatly from the CAA programs such as Operation Mainstream, Neighborhood Youth Corps, etc. I am sure the committee is quite familiar with CAA programs and the benefits derived by the Community and program participants; however, the CAA's role goes much further than that. The CAA must serve, as the catalyst and innovator in developing plans and bringing together people and resources to cope with our problems. In other words, getting people involved and especially those whom we are trying to help. Our community has neither the personnel nor the funds to do this. Other agencies tend to administer their particular programs and have neither the mission nor the capabilities of going further. To solve the human equation, if you please.

In support of the theme concerning the role of the CAA, I can recite many examples where our particular CAA has gone beyond that of merely operating programs. In the past few years our city has installed water and sewage systems through loans/grants from the Economic Development Administration. The CAA was instrumental in that it assisted in bringing the sources together and doing most of the justification and survey work needed. The CAA's role was similiar in obtaining and

constructing 54 public housing units through HUD. An application for a grant was developed and submitted by the CAA on behalf of the city to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for a Neighborhood park and playground our city now has. Two years ago a manufacturing concern was interested in locating in our community, pending the outcome of a labor survey. The CAA was instrumental in conducting the survey by publicizing and even transporting potential employees. The concern, Larand Leisurlies, Inc., did locate here and currently employs 150 people in temporary quarters. By mid-summer, building facilities should be completed and 300 people employed. In addition, the CAA has worked with two flooring manufacturers in expansion programs which will increase employment by approximately 100 persons. These will be men which helps more than ever in our community. One involved the obtaining of a Department of Labor On-the-Job-Training Contract. These examples are just a few which pertain to the city of Monticello. Similiar efforts and projects have been undertaken in the other counties and communities covered by the CAA.

The role of a CAA as an innovater can be illustrated by a project which is currently in its third year of operation. Recognizing the need for jobs and income-producing activities in relation to the many low income farmers in our area, to the loss of income from tobacco, for years our sole source of cash to farmers, the CAA worked with the Farmers Home Administration in the development of a fresh fruits and vegetable production and marketing cooperative known as the Cumberland Farm Products, Inc., located in Wayne County,

Kentucky. The project involved securing jointly, an FHA loan of $200,000 and an OEO grant of $100,000. The loan was used to purchase the land, the equipment, and for building construction. The grant was for administrative and overhead costs plus operating capital. The cooperative covers 6 counties and has a current membership of approximately 350 farmers. Last year's audit revealed the co-op generated $199,234 which was either returned to the farmers or dispersed in the local economy. Indications are that the cooperative will develop into an annual million dollar business. A similiar project was undertaken in McCreary County involving the Kentucky Hills Industries' Cooperative. This cooperative produces and markets arts and crafts. This project differs in that production is done in a factory-type operation. The local community raised $25,000 for the facility and OEO awarded a $75,000 grant for operating capital. Currently 12 people work full-time earning approximately $2.00 an hour and are not subsidized by Federal, State or local funds. The project should employ 20 people by the end of the year as well as accommodate individual producers. Other small projects worthy of mention are the creation of two locally owned businesses created by the CAA: The East Lake Cumberland Industries Wood, manufactures camper units and shells for pick-up trucks. The East Lake Cumberland Industries Fabric, manufactures stuffed toys. They employ 6 and 7 people, respectively, and should soon expand. The businesses are owned by the East Lake Cumberland Community Development Corporation and initially

financed through OEO Special Impact funds. The above examples indicate the role of the CAA and its value to the local communities. These are efforts which are attempting to take us away from a welfare society and making low-income people self-sufficient.

I feel changing or restructuring CAP or the Spin-off of OEO programs would be detrimental to our local community. I cannot visualize other agencies or a new agency doing as an effective job as we have experienced in these few short years of existence. We all know that Congress has passed and initiated many good programs but somewhere along the line they don't reach the local people. Last year alone, the local CAA documented over 1 million dollars received from other agencies and programs by individuals through outreach activities. This leaves one to suspect other agencies' delivery capabilities of programs and services to the poor.

I have read and heard of other proposals which could seriously effect the future and fate of Community Action Agencies. One being the revenue sharing proposal where local communities could finance their own CAA's, and the other being an increase in the non-federal share requirements by OEO itself. As for revenue sharing, a great deal would depend on how the funds were allocated. Should they come to the state would they be ear-marked or versatile? How would they be allocated? Would there be enough for local needs and a CAA? In multi-county CAA's such as ours, local governments might differ on where and how to apply funds. These and many more questions must be answered and resolved. This necessitates that Congress continue OEO and Community Action Programs as they presently exist.

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As for increasing the non-federal share, I simply ask where will local communities such as ours, which is one of the poorest in the nation, get the money or resources?

I personally feel that CAP should continue as is and that there should not be any spin-off of OEO programs. I also feel that I can speak without reservation for the majority of other elected public officials in the area covered by our local CAA.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity of being allowed to present this statement to the committee.

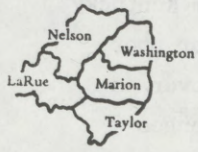
Carl C. Shearer, Mayor
Monticello, Kentucky

Phone 692-4280

Central Kentucky Community Action Program

406 West Main Street
LEBANON, KENTUCKY 40033

STEPHEN M. SAMUELS, Chairman
JOHN F. BRENNAN, Director



Statement of Mr. Stephen M. Samuels, Chairman of the Governing Board, Central Kentucky Community Action Council, Inc. appearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Employment, Manpower and Poverty, Washington, D.C., April 28, 1971.

Mr. Samuels was born in Fairfield, Ky. His early education was at the Fairfield Elementary School and Central High School in Louisville. He earned his B.S. Degree from Kentucky State in 1933 and his Masters from Indiana University. He has done advance work toward a PhD at Indiana University, University of Louisville and Western University.

He has taught at Columbia Kentucky and for the past 31 years has been teaching at the Bardstown High School. He has served on the City Board of Fairfield and at the present is the City Clerk there. He is Vice-Chairman of the Nelson County Human Relations Board, Board member of the 4th District Teachers Association, a member of the KEA Evaluation Board, 3rd Degree Mason, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Fraternity, a Sunday School teacher at the 2nd Baptist Church, Fairfield, Ky. He also is a member of the Executive Board of Kentucky State Alumini Association.

He is married and has one son.

Gentlemen:

I appreciate the invitation to come before you today.

The delegation of Community Action people from Kentucky has come here to ask that you support their work for poor people. We who have been involved with this work over an extended period of time have witnessed dramatic changes for the better. I am aware of much good that has been done in our five county area in Central Kentucky by our local Community Action Council. We are presently funded for programs in Community Organization, Family Planning, Emergency Food and Medical and Head Start.

We are told that all Emergency Food moneys will be cut from our next year's budget. The Governing Board of our agency at the February meeting prepared a statement asking that this cut in funds not be made, but as of this minute our request has fallen on deaf ears in the Atlanta Regional O.E.O. office. We in Central Kentucky would like to see the Emergency Food and Medical program refunded.

However, I was not asked here because of the proposed cuts in the Emergency Food budget. Because of my background as a High School teacher for over thirty years I am interested in the High School age group. This age group has many problems which if worked on now can be cured. Their life styles are not set, their attitudes toward work are still in the formulative stage and they have not yet selected a career.

This is a time of life for these children when they are susceptible to many influences in the community - for better or for worse. We here today must consider the needs primarily of the low income youth, the children from families who may not consider education important. The influences on many of these children too often tend to cause them to drop out of school before they are prepared for any productive career. This is a concern to us and in the past it has been a concern here. The Congress has created the Neighborhood Youth Corps to deal with this particular problem for this particular age group.

Last summer our agency was funded for $36,000 for an N.Y.C. program. This amount allowed us to employ 100 youths over our five county area, or twenty in each county. We can easily demonstrate a need for 1,000 job slots. We had well over 500 applications for the slots we did have, despite the fact that we were not funded until after school was dismissed for the summer. These students were placed in supervised positions with non-profit or governmental units. Please allow me to read two letters of reaction to last summers program:

1. Mayor Brown - Hodgenville
2. Superintendent Hugh C. Spalding - Marion County

Mayor

CITY OF HODGENVILLE
HODGENVILLE, KENTUCKY 42748

City Judge

JAMES T. WHITLOW
City Attorney

COUNCILMEN:

W. T. Gardner
Steve Marcum
Mrs. Louise Reed
William Q. Shaw
Oval O. Turner
Charles L. Wyatt

Birthplace of Abraham Lincoln

August 13, 1970

Neighborhood Youth Corps
Lebanon, Ky.

Gentlemen:

I want to say that I am well pleased with the results of the Neighborhood Youth Corps in our city this summer. I am sure that it has been a lot of help to the young people who have worked both in a financial way and through the experience of actually working on the different jobs. It has been our pleasure to have them working with us. I hesitate to praise one more than another but I do want to say that the seventeen year old who has been operating our police radio has done an excellent job which has been a real service to us.

If this Project can be available next year we certainly do want to be a part of it and you can count on us to assist in any way that we can.

Respectfully yours,

R. Jewell Brown

R. Jewell Brown
Mayor, City of Hodgenville

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MARION COUNTY

LEBANON, KENTUCKY

August 13, 1970

Neighborhood Youth Corps
406 West Main Street
Lebanon, Kentucky 40033

Gentlemen:

We wish to state that the assistance given to Marion County by the 1970 Summer Neighborhood Youth Corps has been very valuable.

The work performed by the young people for the County was very helpful, and the financial assistance and social encouragement given to the young people was most beneficial.

We wish to request twenty-eight similar workers during the summer of 1971, in the fields of Secretarial Work, Maintenance Work, and Custodial Work.

The need for this program can easily be justified from the standpoint of the young people, because we have many needy, idle, unemployed young people who are literally begging for something to do. The need for this program can also be easily justified from the standpoint of services provided for the Marion County Board of Education. The Board is levying the maximum school tax permitted by law, and it has sold all school building revenue bonds it can legally issue in order to provide capital outlay facilities. The Board, in other words, is in debt up to the legal limit, and it needs all of the assistance it can get.

Very truly yours,

Hugh C. Spalding, Superintendent
Marion County Schools

HCS:tb

However much work is performed and the good done for these agencies is secondary to the benefits to the enrollees.

I personally feel that the N.Y.C. Program we have means much to the boys and girls of school age. These young people of the minority group are literally begging for something to do. We feel the experience these youth gained from the N.Y.C. has been beneficial to the youth and those agencies that they served. Some of these students were almost at the point of dropping out of school. If we are not able to get funds for this program it would be a great let down to some of these boys and girls. I am quite aware of the fact if some of these young were not working last summer we would have had a number of social problems. The enrollees changed their social status very much. Young people like to work and earn their own money. They like to be on their own. As I see it this is one of the top community programs.

These parents are so grateful for their children to work during the summer months. Young people in our section are not able to get any work. I am sure if we can get the proper funds there will be a great program for the youth in this state. Let me give you some data of the five counties of Central Kentucky.

Statistics For Summer NYC - 1970

1. Number of eligible youth:
   Approximately 1000 eligible, 510 applied in 1970

2. Number of allocated slots:
   100

3. Number of youths placed on the job:
   132

4. Number of Agencies participating:
   40

I would like to read two brief letters from last summers enrollees. (These letters follow.)

My purpose here today is to encourage you to not only refund the N.Y.C. program, but to extend it to more adequately serve youth in all communities. I believe that federal money invested here will repay and repay and repay not just this summer but over the entire productive lifetimes of todays students. This is not "Welfare". This is not a "handout". This is no "giveaway". The young people want to work - they NEED to work. Please help them.

Thank you.

AUGUST 18, 1970

Dear: Mr. Spalding

I think that the C.K.N.Y.C. program that washington County got togeather this year helped me and the rest of the gang out a lot. I started a little later than the rest, but what time I have worked has helped me out a lot. This job has learned me more about taking responsibilities, ~~and~~ to work with others, and work under a Supisisor.

This program has helped me buy my own clothes and help me in buying things sor school. Even though this is my last year I would like to see the C.K.N.Y.C. keep right own mooening with more hours, higher wages, and more jobs for the students of washington County.

I really engoyed working with the people and this program. So lets help to keep this program right on robling.

Thank You

SINCERELY YOURS
PAUL GERTON

1008 Melavin Circle
Springfield, Ky.
August 21, 1970

Dear Sir:

During the past few months the N. Y. C. program made it possible for me to work for the Board of Education. This job has not only enabled me to buy clothing and supplies for the coming school year, but it has also given me a feeling of responsibility and confidence in myself to know that other people were interested enough to start such a program has this one. And I hope that it will be continued.

In turn, I would like to express my appreciation to you and to all who have made this possible.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Janice Barbee

Dear, Mr. Charles S Slading

I would like to tell you what the job meant to me working for your money instead of asking your mother for it and buying your own clothes, school things and following order and obey them get up in the morning coming clean Teacher how to do certain thing how to come to work on time how to get along with other people and get pay by check instead of money put in your hand and going to bank cashing them saving some for a need thing have tax taken out on you this is all I got say about what the job meant to me.

Daniel L. Ellery

April 26, 1971

Gentlemen:

There are two issues I would like to respectfully bring to your attention. One is the effect of "spin-off" of programs now funded under OEO, and the other is cut-backs in programs.

The Hopkins-Muhlenberg CAA is located in Western Kentucky, in the heart of the Western Kentucky Coal Field, where there is supposed to be no poverty. Gentlemen, I have lived my 46 years in this area, and feel I know it as well as any man. Let me assure you that poverty does exist here--not only exists but abounds.

Our area is rural, (61.2% of population living in rural areas) with only one town in the two county area having a population of 10,000. Out of a total of 17,694 families, 7,590 or 43% live below the poverty guidelines. Of this number, 2,558 families live (or exist) on incomes less than $1,000! In our area we have affluence neighbor to poverty.

I am alarmed at the prospect of spin-off of all programs under OEO that have proven successful. If OEO becomes only an agency dealing in research, I am afraid it will become so weakened, it will lose its effectiveness. Programs, such as Head Start, have survived the transfer to HEW in our area, but only because of a strong CAA to monitor its progress and to see that it fulfills its mission.

Those who expected to see the war on poverty won without firing a shot should be rudely awakened at this point. Not only has the war not been won, but it is time now to bring on the heavy artillery.

The poor in the beginning were skeptical, (and rightfully so), of OEO and CAP programs. After all, who had ever bothered to involve them in decision making before? Only now are the poor beginning to respond to this program. To spin it off would only remove the last opportunity for the poor to have a voice in their destiny.

My other concern is a cut back in programs. I am thinking here of one specific program that I consider very necessary. In January of this year (1970), we initiated an Emergency Food and Medical Services Program. Our goals were to monitor the school breakfast and lunch programs; monitor and improve the food stamp and commodity distribution programs in each county; and to see that the hungry were fed through self-help programs such as home gardens, meals-on-wheels, home canning. These programs are in operation at this time, but there

is a possibility that there will be a "cut back" in this program. These programs will be spun-off within two years, but if funds are not provided for the coming year they will fail for the lack of a chance to succeed.

Gentlemen, I implore you not to cut back programs at this time. There should be no retreat. Take not a backward step, but let us together put our shoulder to the wheel and make every effort to stamp our poverty wherever it exists.

I sincerely thank you for your time and consideration.

Joe Lovell

Joe Lovell
Director
Hopkins-Muhlenberg Community Action
Committee, Inc.

STATEMENT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE
FOR COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES AND THEIR DELEGATES

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, the Kentucky Ad Hoc Committee for Community Action Agencies and their delegates are honored to have an opportunity to share with you some of the problems that are facing the poor in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

We are aware that this Committee is now considering alternatives and measures that will effectuate positive solutions to the problems facing the poor in our nation. Furthermore, we would like to go on record as being in firm support of the concept of public service employment where the Community Action Agencies (CAAs) have a definite role in the placement of the hard-core unemployed employables in jobs.

To illustrate the condition of unemployment in Kentucky, we would like to cite three (3) geographic areas: Eastern, Central, and Western Kentucky. Northeast Kentucky Area Development Council, serving six counties with a total population of 100,000, has an unemployment rate of 18.7 per cent, according to the Kentucky Department of Economic Security. Community Action Lexington-Fayette County, Inc. (CALF), serving one county with a population of 175,000, has an unemployment rate of 10 per cent. Henderson, Union, Webster Area Development Council (HUW), serving three counties with a population of 63,000, reported that the local managers of the Department of Economic Security stated that these three counties are experiencing the highest unemployment rate for this area during the last ten (10) years.

These cited percentages are indicative of the growing plight of the poor. For example, the Economic Opportunity Report of March 29, 1971 states: "Government officials whose specialty is to know the statistics on the nation's poor generally believe that the figure is increasing, but differ sharply on the amount."

For the above stated reasons and those which will be presented by the other members of our committee, we therefore submit the following recommendations:

1. The continuation of the Economic Opportunity Act as amended.

2. The total cessation of spin-off of anti-poverty programs to established existing agencies that are over burdened with programs and lack sufficient budgets and staff to meet the needs of the poor.

3. While we are in favor of research and demonstration, we abhor the siphoning of program operational funds for this purpose.

4. With the continuation of the Economic Opportunity Act, we would recommend that funding of local agencies be established on a minimum 2 year basis which would provide more comprehensive planning and administration of programs and lessen administrative costs.

5. That the local in-kind contribution remain at the present level or reduced because of financial burdens on rural and urban areas.

6. The CAA has demonstrated that it is the viable vehicle for the administration of Manpower Programs. To change this administrative vehicle would severly damage our efficient operational machinery for administrating these programs in Kentucky.

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY ACTION LEXINGTON-FAYETTE COUNTY, INC.

866-A Georgetown St 40505 Lexington, Ky.
Tel- 606-254 9354

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, we are honored to appear before you to speak on behalf of a large segment of our population--the needy, the sick, the unemployed.

For over 5 years, Community Action Lexington-Fayette County, Inc. has served as the Federal arm for the "War on Poverty" in Lexington and Fayette County. Throughout this period, we have attempted to help the recipients of our programs to receive the full measure of health and medical assistance, adequate housing, job training and more recently, emergency food through organizing themselves in groups to bring the "Haves" and "Have-nots" together in a planning-action process.

We present the following evidence for your consideration:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Community Organization is an on-going process whereby residents of target areas are encouraged in their efforts to establish self-sustaining, self-help groups. Out of the Community Organization process, 25 neighborhood groups in 5 community centers were formed in 1968. About 15,000 people were served. Approximately 300 people were involved in the groups at that time. The goal of this program in 1968 was to increase the number of neighborhood groups and the number of people served. In 1969, the program served 20,000 people and the number of neighborhood groups increased to 40 and involved 500 persons as members.

The number of groups in Community Action grew to 43 in 1970, at which time 525 people participated; 33,000 people were out-reached by the program. The goal of Community Organization then became that of strengthening existing groups and the corresponding Advisory Boards.

In 1971, our focus has been to emphasize Community Organization. Presently there are 575 active participants involved in group organization. Through these neighborhood groups, an increase in unemployment has been identified. Three years ago these groups indicated a 4 percent unemployment rate; today they report an unemployment rate of 10 percent in Fayette County.

Through group cooperation and action, Community Organization has been able to:

1. Enable people to approach problems with tools for dealing with common problems with a degree of success. Community Organization is designed to provide people with alternatives to problems whose causes are voluntary. That is, if resources are available, but denied, Community Organization brings people together to confront voluntary denial.

2. Bring water to Jimtown (a low-income rural community). The process of CO unified rural (and concerned city) residents to confront the water company over its 15-year denial of service. Enough of the CO process (exerted by poor people) resulted in water at Jimtown.

3. Evaluate a proposed highway through southwest Lexington. Organized groups are exploring their legal rights and alternatives relative to the loss of their neighborhood to dislocation and loss of their neighborhoods with no plan for relocation.

4. Outreach to 33,000 people in the target areas in the past 12 months. Of this number, 27,500 are below the OEO poverty line; only 14,700 receive any kind of welfare. CO organized and is working with two welfare rights groups to advocate for the needs of recipients and applicants.

5. Assisted in breaking a 4-month backlog of Food Stamp distribution authorization. CALF served as a catalyst to secure the services of the Urban League, Salvation Army, Welfare Rights, the League of Women Voters, Housing Aid Corporation and the Lexington Bluegrass Army Depot to assist the state DES in erasing this backlog. Through this cooperative venture, state and federal officials became very aware of the need for much greater P. A. and Food Stamp budgets in Kentucky.

6. Sponsor jointly with CORE the 1969 "Cool Summer Project" which resulted in the involvement of 700 adolescents and prevented a confrontation similar to those experienced in other cities. Cool City eventually gave way to CALF's Micro-City Government delegated to CORE. CALF has always encouraged the involvement of youth through programs, job placement and in group organizations. Youth have sat on CALF's Board since 1967.

7. Struggle with the Health Department to hire paraprofessionals for family planning and general health care. In 1967, the Health Department and CALF colloborated on the writing of the CHEW program, which was delegated to the Health Department upon its funding in 1968. An essential part of the CHEW program is its employment of paraprofessionals.

8. Establish the Northeast Lexington Council out of a recommendation of a CO group in east Lexington. CALF has been a catalyst in lining up support from the Health Department, the University of Kentucky Medical School, the AMA, the City Commission, the Fayette County Fiscal Court and a host of private agencies for the Hunter Foundation, a private non-profit organization designed to supply medical facilities to the county's 40,000 poor people.

9. Establish a working relationship with the Bluegrass Army Depot and involve them in the anti-poverty program. In 1967, CALF approached the Depot. The Depot was positive, but it wasn't until early this year that their Domestic Action Council was established and asked us into a meeting. Since then, we have gotten tremendous cooperation from the Depot in the form of moving equipment and sponsoring a summer recreation program for youth.

Credit Union

It was deemed necessary by neighborhood groups to organize a credit union because low income people are subject to numerous abuses when they try to get loans. High interest loan corporations, hidden charges and service charges, and discriminatory loan practices are unavoidable. Inflation and increasing unemployment make the problem of financial solvency ever more pressing upon low income people.

The Community Action Federal Credit Union was organized in 1968. Its purpose was to enable target area residents and employees of CALF including delegate agencies to save and borrow money at a reasonable interest rate.

In May of 1968, there were 37 members with a shared balance of $259.25. By the end of the year the shared balance had grown to $3,675.85, and 14 loans had been made for a total of $3,019. By 1970, the total shared balance had doubled ($6,484.11) and the number of shareholders had increased to 145. At the beginning of this year, the total assets were $9,953.91 with 186 shareholders. Since May of 1968, a total of 164 loans have been made for a total of $21,505.63.

The preceding illustrations (by no means all inclusive) indicate why CALF considers Community Organization an essential part of local programming. Through such a mechanism as CO, the majority of the "Haves" and "Have-nots" are actively involved in solving their own problems. Thus, any program which brings together these two groups in solving their own local problems is essential to the OEO program.

HOUSING

A recent study by the City-County Planning Commission showed that of 62,000 total housing units, 7,862 of these units (12.68%) were structurally substandard. These figures are based on an estimate. Neighborhood records show that the number of substandard units is probably between 10,000 and 12,000 units.

The greatest single concentration (5,305 or 70%) of structurally substandard housing can be found in a semi-circular area to the north and west of the central business district which encompasses most of the target areas. This problem can probably be attributed to the fact that landlords refuse to have necessary repairs made to substandard housing units.

Overcrowding occurs not only in substandard units, but also in structurally sound units. The 1960 Census disclosed that approximately 11 percent of all occupied housing units were overcrowded. Of this number, 60 percent was concentrated in the target areas.

This problem could reflect the effects of a tight money market, demolition of substandard housing units, an inadequate amount of public housing, the rapidly increasing cost of housing construction, and many other factors.

According to the building permit records, there are many apartments being constructed at $1,000 or less per unit. However, after checking listings with the Chamber of Commerce, local newspapers and checking by phone with the offices of several apartments, it was found that the lowest price for new 2-bedroom unfurnished apartments is about $125 per month excluding utilities. Unfurnished apartments in older neighborhoods where large old homes have been divided into apartments, decent, unfurnished 2-bedroom units rent for at least $100 per month excluding utilities. Although occasionally, a decent apartment can be found for

a little less than $100 per month, they are extremely rare and in most cases would not be available to families within the income brackets being studied even if they could afford the rent.

To alleviate the problem of structurally sub-standard housing, overcrowding, etc., Housing Aid Corporation has been processing applications for 235 interest subsidy loans and 235 existing loans; doing 237 counseling and rehabilitating substandard houses.

Over 50 percent of the 206, 235-interest subsidy loan applicants processed by Housing Aid during 1970 are now in new houses. In some instances, Housing Aid Corporation has better success in promoting 235-interest subsidy loans than local mortgage companies. One hundred percent of the 45 applicants for 235 existing loans during 1970 are in houses and 100 percent of the ten applicants that were counseled by 237 counselors from Housing Aid Corporation are in houses. Three houses were rehabilitated during 1970.

We recommend a higher level of funding for OEO so that the other 98.7 percent of the substandard housing problem can be attacked effectively rather than merely scratching the surface.

MANPOWER PROGRAMS OF COMMUNITY ACTION LEXINGTON--FAYETTE COUNTY

On-the-Job Training

Problems related to operating the OJT contract:

1. Present operational guidelines of the Department of Labor are handicapping the program by restrictions on placing people in public agencies, i.e., University of Kentucky, public hospitals, local government agencies, educational television. Every opportunity should be taken advantage of to train unskilled people.

2. Economic conditions such as inflation, lack of employment in private industry, slow industrial expansion, high rate of layoffs and unemployment have made job development in private industry extremely difficult at this time. Many more entry level job openings are needed.

3. Limited number of job opportunities and reluctance of private industry to hire young people--18, 19, and 20 years of age--in entry level jobs.

Recommendations:

1. Department of Labor guidelines should be amended to consider extenuating circumstances referred to above, which distort the normal record of operations, when evaluating manpower training programs.

2. All OJT programs in one area should be coordinated to prevent duplication and confusion.

3. Since OJT is the most direct and economic type of manpower training, certain groups should be given training for a limited time at program expense with the assurance that they will be employed after satisfactory performance.

4. That the concept of CAA sponsored On-the-Job Training programs be endorsed and the number of programs enlarged.

Program Performance: March 7, 1967 to March 31, 1971:

Applicants for jobs interviewed	3,428
Job slots - quota for this period	780
Subcontracts written	286
Applicants placed in training	1,099
Trainees completing training	773
Paid to subcontractors for training	$151,092.39
Average cost per trainee	$ 306.00
Persons placed in jobs not under subcontract	204
Total cost of program for this period	$336,600.00

Trainee Wages (Sample - 175)

Average wage before training	$1.32 per hour
Average wage at completion of training	$1.88 per hour
Average time worked during previous year	29 weeks
Average yearly income before training (based on actual time worked during year)	$1,531.00
Average yearly income after training	$3,910.00
Income taxes (Federal & State paid per person before training based on claim of self and two dependents	$0
Income taxes (Federal & state) paid per person after training based on claim of self and two dependents	$ 216.76
Total income taxes paid for sample of 175 persons before training	$0
Total income taxes paid for sample of 175 persons after training	$37,934.00
Total training costs of sample of 175	$53,550.00
Difference in total amount of training costs and the total amount of Federal and state income taxes paid	$15,616.00

Neighborhood Youth Corps

The following statistics indicate the need for the growth of the Neighborhood Youth Corps programs operated by Community Action Lexington-Fayette County, Inc.

Summer NYC. In the summer of 1970, 305 slots were allocated. With very careful budgeting, 468 youth were employed during this period. 2,200 eligible youth applied for summer employment. As such, a bare 23.4% of the eligible youth were served in the summer NYC program of 1970. Approximately 90 percent of these youth have returned to school.

The following agencies provided job slots in the summer of 1970:

FEDERAL	CITY-COUNTY
U. S. Naval & Marine Reserve Training	Lexington-Fayette County Human Relations Commission
U. S. Marine Corps Recruiting	Lexington Public Library
U. S. Army Recruiting	Board of Education
U. S. Navy Recruiting	City-County Planning Commission
General Services Administration	

PRIVATE NON-PROFIT

Hub Community Action Outpost
West End Community Action Outpost
CORE Micro-City Government
South End Community Action Outpost
East End Community Action Outpost
Housing Aid Corporation
Rural Community Action Outposts
Community Action Day Care Center
Urban League
Joint Apprenticeship Program
International Book Project
Salvation Army
YMCA
YWCA
Bluegrass School

COUNTY

Fayette County Court House

CITY

City of Lexington

STATE

Eastern State Hospital
University of Kentucky

In addition to these agencies, another 24 public and non-profit corporations have made available 500 job slots for summer employment for needy youths of Lexington and Fayette County.

Well over 2,200 eligible youths have already requested summer employment. If 500 NYC enrollee slots are granted to Community Action Lexington-Fayette County, only 25 percent of the eligible youth will be served in the summer of 1971.

In-School Neighborhood Youth Corps. About 1,180 eligible youths applied for employment. With 100 enrollee slots, Community Action Lexington-Fayette County has been able to serve 150 youths. Hence, only 12 percent of the needy youths have been served.

If 200 slots are made available for the next In-School Neighborhood Youth Corps Program, approximately 16 percent of the eligible youths will be served in the eligible youths will be served in the school year 1971-1972.

Out of School Neighborhood Youth Corps. Statistics indicate that during 1969 and 1970, 1,150 youths (16 - 18 years old) dropped out from the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades of the Fayette County School System. A very

great portion of these youths are now applicants for employment through the office of Community Action Lexington-Fayette County.

To commence work, it is recommended that Community Action Lexington-Fayette County be granted an Out of School Neighborhood Youth Corps program for 125 job slots immediately. Well over 200 jobs are available immediately through 100 public and private non-profit corporations in the Lexington-Fayette County area.

Recommendations

1. We recommend that more Neighborhood Youth Corps enrollee slots and funds be allocated for the state of Kentucky.

2. We recommend that Community Action Programs continue to be prime sponsors for Neighborhood Youth Corps programs and all manpower programs.

3. We strongly recommend that each enrollee be authorized to work 260 hours this summer and that administration not be forced to cut the working period to 212 hours or from 10 weeks to 8 1/2 weeks.

4. We recommend that the local share of program costs of 10 percent remain the same or be reduced.

5. We further recommend that all In-School Neighborhood Youth Corps enrollees graduating from high school be permitted to continue work in the summer Neighborhood Youth Corps program.

Neighborhood Youth Corps enrollees in the state of Kentucky need greater financial aid wherever possible. Given the close relationship that the Community Action programs have to the poor youth in rural and urban areas, we see the CAP agency as being the vehicle through which these programs should be funded if we truly want to meet the needs of the youth.

MICRO-CITY GOVERNMENT

Micro-City Government is a youth-run, youth-planned organization that deals primarily with the problems of youth.

During the past year, Micro-City Government (Funded through CALF) has accomplished the following results:

1. Had 1,200 youths to participate (ages 14-25).
2. Was instrumental in preventing 100 potential drop-outs in school.
3. Had 25 youths probated to them for rehabilitation by the court.
4. Trained 600 youth in operation of city government.
5. Trained 300 youth in courtroom procedure.
6. Trained 12 youths in public speaking.
7. Tutored 50 potential dropouts during the summer to prepare them to return to school.
8. Gave technical assistance to 15 other (youth councils).
9. Established their own TV program (Soul Den). It is produced and directed by the youth and shown on Channel 62 TV.
10. Has established a plan to organize a manufacturing concern to employ young people. The product has been developed but needs funding for production.

We recommend a higher level of funding of OEO with no spin off so that we might have a greater effect on lowering the dropout rate percentage, reduce discrimination and open jobs for the youth of Lexington.

NORTHEAST LEXINGTON HEALTH COUNCIL

For two years, the Northeast Lexington Health Council, which grew out of a racially integrated Community Action Lexington-Fayette County community organization group of poor people, has received a planning grant through Community Action Lexington-Fayette County and two other grants totaling $30,000 for the purpose of writing a proposal for a health center to offer comprehensive health services to low-income families. The proposal included a very small evening clinic and a much needed transportation service. Two proposals were submitted in the name of the Northeast Lexington Health Council but were not acceptable. Dr. Richard Green of Health Affairs OEO informed the Health Council and the doctors that had been assisting the Health Council that in order to receive funds from OEO it was necessary to establish another incorporated body to receive the grants. The composition of the new corporation should be 1/3 consumers (poor), 1/3 providers (doctors, etc.), and 1/3 community-at-large members.

According to the 1970 Census, census tract 3 had a birth rate of 23.73 and a death rate of 15.56. Census tract 4 had a birth rate of 20.22 and a death rate of 10.48.

Records indicate that through March 1971, the health car provided service for 1,341 people; 200 children visited our pre-school clinic; and 36 persons visited our family health clinic. This is a total of 1,577 persons who received service through March 1971.

FAMILY PLANNING - THE COUNTY'S PROBLEMS

At the present time there are 42,608 women between the ages of 15-44 in Fayette County of whom approximately 9,000 are indigent. In addition there are 15,160 children age 1-4, of whom at least 3,800 are indigent.

There were 3,600 births to Fayette County residents in 1970. Sixty-six percent of these births were to women age 20-29 year, 18 percent were to teenagers and 11 percent were illegitimate. Of the illegitimate, 37 percent were multiparous, and 57 percent were teenagers.

Furthermore, 47 percent of all births were to married women between ages 20-29 having their first or second child. These can be called ideal births in that they are the safest births. The second birth is safer than the first, but the safest first birth occurs in the third decade. The third birth to women ages 27-33 is almost as safe as the second, however, it constitutes only two percent of the total births.

Comparing "ideal births" to total births we find that less than 5 percent of women having "ideal births" had less than a tenth grade education. Twenty percent of all other births (those to teenagers, illegitimates, over thirty mothers and women having their third or more child) had less than a tenth grade education.

This is a problem not only as it effects our efforts to communicate with and to educate these people, but also because many of them do not have family planning aspects of health education in school since it is taught in the tenth grade. This is confirmed by a study of V.D. patients which showed that 27 percent of patients did not reach tenth grade.

From the tabulation of Fayette County births, there were an estimated 1,000 "non-ideal" births out of the 3,600 which occurred during 1970.

The following are records of visits for the year 1970 and the first quarter (January, February and March) of 1971.

Pre-natal	1970	1971 Jan. Feb. Mar.
Admissions (new patients)	168	107
Family Planning Services Admissions (new patients)	512	157
Total (new and old patients seen in clinic)	2,277	836

Our clinics have grown and we could use more clinics. We have verbal requests (at least 25 percent) for financial help for tubal ligations and vasectomies.

The CAP agency has the greatest cross section of economic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds within its program and on its Board of Directors. It also has the legal and ethical commitment to guarantee that:

1. The poor and non-poor plan together,
2. The poor have the opportunity to contribute to the full extent of their abilities,
3. The poor participate to the maximum in the workings of our society.

Since such participation is essential not only to enable the poor to become self-sufficient, but also to insure that the community changes and improvements which the CAA promotes are, in fact, responsive and relevant to the low-income citizens to whom they are addressed, all funds should come through OEO and not spun-off to other agencies which do not share these commitments.

DISCRIMINATION

An Equal Employment Opportunity Officer was appointed by the Board of Directors of CALF on April 16, 1970. Since the inception of our program, we have attempted to conform to the Federal Equal Employment guideline. Some of our efforts are:

1. Through its On-the-Job Training program they have succeeded in getting minorities hired in the Lexington business community including both white and blue collar jobs. Of the placements made through the On-the-Job Training program, 40 percent have been filled from the minority groups, including 65 percent blue collar and 35 percent white collar jobs.
2. At present, our Equal Opportunity Officer has begun to work with the Fayette County Police Department in a career development program to up-grade minorities with specific focus on administrative positions. Presently, there is only one black in a decision-making position.
3. When discrimination in various areas such as housing or employment comes to the attention of the CALF staff, those cases are referred to the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, Housing Aid Corporation, Housing Opportunity Center, or other Federal agencies. Discrimination is very apparent in areas of housing and employment, for example: The average minority family in Lexington in 1960 made $2,813; the average non-minority family made $5,833, a difference of 208 percent in income.
4. The ratio of minority unemployed persons to non-minority unemployed persons is three to one. There are 22,000 minority persons in Fayette County residing in over-crowded housing,

receiving smaller pay checks, and experiencing higher unemployment and underemployment as compared to other residents.

The Community Action program is the one program that works consciously with all agencies, public, private and quasi judicial boards, to eliminate the injustices to the poor that are apparent from the information that has been presented. Therefore, we urge the continued funding of OEO and no spin-off of its program.

STATEMENT OF PAUL STREET, CHAIRMAN, COMMUNITY ACTION, LEXINGTON-FAYETTE COUNTY, INC.

Chairman and members of the committee:

I make the following statement as chairman of the Board of Directors of Community Action Lexington-Fayette County, Inc. I am a member of the Board by virtue of being appointed from the Public Sector. I urge your support of Community Organization for two reasons:

1) The principle represented in Community Action is indigenously American in character, namely that <u>those who have a stake in decisions should be involved in the making of them</u>. This principle is a prime value Community Organization is uniquely designed to implement.

2) To survive long, a society must have some renewal system, some means of self-criticism, of constructive review totally and procedure for adapting itself to change--for the body which becomes insensitive to any considerable part of itself will ultimately die.

The poor tend to be an isolated part of our society; they generally do not "belong" with the rest of us; they tend to be the forgotten--the swept-under-the-rug part of our nation. To get the affluent, the poor, and the in-between to communicate with each other, to look each other in the eye across the circle of a board or general meeting, is difficult, often frustrating, and in many instances disappointing. (As I am sure all Congressmen know well indeed, democracy is a slow process at best, even when members of

a group are much more alike in viewpoint than they are likely to be in Community Action groups.) But how else can we make our nation one? What other forum do we have for bringing the different together to seek common ground toward a better life for all? How else may our communities discover their own integrity in full respect for the worth of every person?

If Community Action is slow and disappointing in results, and somewhat expensive, that is because the task is hard! People of means are busy--and their concern for others is too often condescending and impatient--with many exceptions for which we should be thankful! Poor people are likely to be hesitant, understandably mistrustful, sometimes defensive, and unaccustomed to leadership. Those in between find themselves in the midst of differences--not just in income, but in customs, mores, even language and total life style! Yet--who will see the American community whole? What will make it one, if Community Action, the only existing "institution" for carrying on such a difficult task, is not maintained?

I urge, therefore, that you support Community Action by doing anything you can to:

1) Give Community Organization programs continuity (two-year contracts would stabalize programs and strengthen participation.)

2) Protect the authority of local Community Action groups against state, regional, and Federal red tape and policy regulations that often negate the local efforts and discourage their patient consideration of problems by veto of their decisions.

3) Strengthen the function of Community Action groups as "watch dog" of the rights and hopes of the poor in the community. (The channeling of OEO and other Federal funds through such groups will help them in this role.)

If Community Action is weakened, who shall do the job and how shall it be done?

Paul Street

Submitted by Paul Street,
Chairman Community Action
Lexington-Fayette County, Inc.

26 April 1971

April 26, 1971

Signed before me this 26th day of
April 26, 1971.

Mildred S. O'Dell

Mildred S. O'Dell
Notary Public
Fayette County, Kentucky
My commission expires Nov. 11, 1974

Today in Wayne Co. Kentucky there are people without the bare necessities of life. Tomorrow it could happen to you.

What would you do if you were old, uneducated, money gone, not knowing where your next meal is coming from? How would you feel? Low, wouldn't you?

That's what I found, in many instances, in the foot-hills of the Cumberland Mountains.

Before starting in this work, it was hard for me to believe so much poverty existed in Wayne Co. On one of my first visits I encountered a family hovering around a stove which was giving out very little heat, they had had little or no food for 3 days, no money, no transportation to the nearest country store and staggering to get about. It seemed as if they were just waiting to die. I thought of what Abraham Lincoln said in one of his speeches -- "He felt like the barefooted boy who stubbed his toe, 'he said he was too big to cry and it hurt too bad to laugh."

Thursday of last week I contacted a mother and daughter, the husband and father deceased. The invalid mother is 91, the daughter 72 and has had a light stroke, yet she is trying to take care of her mother and herself. Theyhave no electricity and she does the laundry on the board, having to carry water about 300 yds. from a spring.

In some instances, a walk of more than a mile and a quarter oneway is required into back-woods and out-of-the-way places to reach the needy. One family in particular where the mother is 89, bedridden, unable to help herself in any way. Her son, 71 who is not well, is taking care of her. No electricity, no telephone and their nearest neighbor lives at least a mile away and they are elderly.

Many are crippled with arthritis, have heart conditions, T B, some retarded, and so on. Theyare living in delapidated houses, of which many are fire hazards, having to haul water, no transportation and when transportation is necessary, the charges take a big "chunk" out of their funds leaving little or

no money for medical needs. As mentioned, some do not have electricity, no telephone service and in rural areas the nearest neighbor is not just down the block or next door.

Existing programs, in many cases, are not working together, sometimes in conflict. As in the case of a 94 year old woman who was suspended by both. Each thought the other should take care of her. She was receiving $46.00 from Social Security and $7.00 from Old Age Assistance with medicaid card. In July 1970 payments were suspended by both. From July 1970 to February 1971 she was without any assistance. After making many visits, back and forth, to the Social Security representative and Public Assistance office for this 94 year old woman, she was reinstated February 1971.

Some Agencies do not make home visits, especially in the back-woods and out-of-the-way places. And with the lack of transportation, illness and inability to read on the part of many, they do not know how to take advantage of these programs.

In trying to help the Senior Citizen cope with their existance on meager incomes, in poor housing, with limited or no social opportunities and in failing health, my responsibility is to visit and talk with them, arrange and sometimes provide transportation, encourage them to participate and take advantage of available programs and medical assistance, if eligible, through Social Security, Public Assistance and Local Health Departments. To take part in organizing and participating in Elderly Community Clubs. Encouraging them to help themselves in vegetable gardening, if suitable land is available and they are physically able.

Many have been helped but we still have a long way to go.

STATEMENT OF EDWARD W. O'ROURKE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE CONFERENCE

CONCERNING LEGISLATION TO EXTEND THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1964

BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT, MANPOWER AND POVERTY

OF THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE - JUNE 4, 1971

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Edward W. O'Rourke. I am the Executive Director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference which also constitutes the Division of Rural Life of the U. S. Catholic Conference. Our organization has offices in Des Moines, Iowa and Washington, D. C.

I welcome this opportunity to express views regarding the proposed extension of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. Improving the economic opportunities of the rural poor has long been one of the chief objectives of the NCRLC. I was closely associated with members of private organizations and governmental agencies in the task of forming Community Action Committees in scores of rural areas during the early months of the Office of Economic Opportunity. Moreover, many of the activities of NCRLC serve as a supplement to the programs of OEO. We have had a very active role in the formation and strengthening of cooperatives and small enterprises in rural areas.

In spite of its many defects, the Office of Economic Opportunity and the thousands of Community Action Committees have made significant progress toward lessening poverty in our nation. For this reason and in view of the fact that so much unnecessary poverty still persists in this land of plenty, I strongly urge the extension of the Economic Opportunity Act for at least three years with ammendments which will facilitate more effective services to the low income people of our nation.

REVENUE SHARING

It is not my intention at this time to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of revenue sharing as a means to help states and municipalities meet their urgent fiscal needs. However, even if revenue sharing were to be initiated, there would remain a need for the special services and the tools for self determination which the Economic Opportunity Act affords low income people. Proponents of revenue sharing argue that federal money coming into a state or community should be used according to the priorities seen by state and local officials, not by representatives of the federal government. However, this argument loses its validity when directed to poverty programs which serve the needs of the alienated members of our society. The greatest disadvantages of the poor are not economic; they are social and human. For many years, the poor have lacked effective participation in economic and political activities at local and state levels.

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and Community Action Committees were created precisely to meet the need of low income people not only for greater economic opportunity but also for more self determination. Therefore, instead of replacing Community Action Committees supported with federal funds, we should move toward strengthening these Community Action Committees and expanding the federal funds at their disposal.

During the past eleven years, I have worked closely with many low income rural people. I sadly report that the feeling of alienation and political powerlessness has not abated among them. Indeed, Mexican-Americans have asserted repeatedly in my presence during recent months their conviction that Government at local, state and

federal levels represents a threat to their rights and welfare rather than a source of assistance. Countless Blacks and Indians have similar views. In my estimation, the numbers of low income persons who might embrace this very negative point of view would be greatly multiplied if we were to destroy or weaken Community Action Committees.

SPIN-OFF ORGANIZATIONS

To date, a number of OEO activities have been spun off to the main-line agencies of the Government. For example, job development and training programs created by OEO have been made a part of the responsibilities of the Department of Labor. An entirely new office of child development within HEW was created out of the highly successful Head Start activities of OEO. Major improvements in the family feeding program administered by the Department of Agriculture can be attributed to the Emergency Food and Medical Services program.

I plead for emphasis on spin-off organizations at the local level. OEO, through Community Action Committees, has helped create a number of cooperatives, credit unions and small enterprises. Guidelines imposed by legislation and by administrative decisions often interfere with the autonomy of these economic organizations and tend to defeat one of their primary purposes which is to give low income people some control over their economic affairs. I am convinced that the foundation of almost every other right is economic independence. Only when the poor are able to control enterprises from which they derive adequate income will they be able truly to exercise their civil and other human rights.

Specifically, I recommend that any cooperative or credit union

assisted by OEO or Community Action Committees be permitted to enjoy complete autonomy, with all of their affairs determined by their own board of directors. As often as a Community Action Committee or any agency of government has interfered with the decisions of such boards, resentment and confusion has resulted. Moreover, the policy of the Federal Government to retain title to all machines, structures and other real property funded by OEO has caused unnecessary problems for many organizations representing low income people.

RURAL LOAN PROGRAM

For these reasons, I strongly urge that the rural loan program authorized by Title III-A of the Economic Opportunity Act be continued and more adequately funded. With appropriate revisions in administration, this program could become one of the greatest services to the rural poor. They have both the inclination and the opportunity to utilize cooperatives in producing crops and in meeting some of their consumer and service needs. The financial assistance and technical aid which the rural loan program can and should afford such groups are urgently needed.

Rural people's need for transportation is woefully neglected. Because of lack of adequate transportation facilities, many rural poor are unable to avail themselves of training and job opportunities, health services, education and many other services to which they have a right. With slight modification, Title III-A of the Economic Opportunity Act could provide valuable financial and technical assistance to many struggling rural transportation cooperatives.

APPROPRIATIONS

The present level of funding of OEO programs is grossly inadequate. When the poor of our nation observe that we spend many times more

billions for armaments than we do to meet their needs, they are understandably angered.

In my numerous associations with groups seeking OEO assistance, it has become increasingly apparent to me that the inadequate level of funding has created a whole series of unnecessary frustrations for the poor. When the administrators of an OEO program are faced with requests that far exceed the appropriations available, they tend to engage in excessive pursuit of red tape and delaying tactics which are a great disservice to the poor. All too often, the best organized, most aggressive and most politically astute groups are funded rather than those who need help most.

CONCLUSIONS

I repeat my conviction that there remains in our nation today a great need for the special sort of services which the Economic Opportunity Act in general and the Community Action Committees in particular afford. I urge, therefore, that the Economic Opportunity Act be extended for at least three years; that the provisions for Community Action Committees be strengthened; that appropriations for anti-poverty programs be significantly increased; and that special attention be given to spinning off independent cooperatives, credit unions and small enterprises controlled by the poor.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward W. O'Rourke

Edward W. O'Rourke

NAVARRO COUNTY ACTION COMMITTEE, INC.
P.O. BOX 612
CORSICANA, TEXAS 75110

March 23, 1971

Senate Sub-Committee on Employment,
Manpower and Poverty
Senate Office Building 359
Washington, D.C. 20510

Attention: Mr. William Bechtel

Dear Mr. Bechtel:

Your letter and the phone conference with you was appreciated.

The Senate Sub-Committee releases are very useful.

Enclosed is a copy of the Navarro County Action Committee, Inc. Annual Report for PY/D ending October 31, 1970, which may be of interest to the Sub-Committee.

Please advise if we may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Jerome Vacek
Executive Director

JV/vs
Encl: NCAC Annual Report

NAVARRO COUNTY

ACTION COMMITTEE, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT

PROGRAM YEAR

D

NOVEMBER 1, 1969 — BEGINNING

OCTOBER 31, 1970 — ENDING

NAVARRO COUNTY ACTION COMMITTEE, INC.

OFFICERS:

Mr. J.O. Williams	-	President
Mr. Sam McDonald	-	1st Vice-President
Mr. Carl A. Otto	-	2nd Vice-President
Mrs. Pearlie Hall	-	3rd Vice-President
Mrs. Mabel Scott	-	Secretary
Miss Mary Moreno	-	Assistant Secretary
Mr. Zane Stites	-	Treasurer

++

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Mr. Jerome Vacek	-	Executive Director
Mr. Freeman Robinson	-	Assistant Director
Mr. Lloyd Carraway	-	Business Manager
Mrs. Virginia Scholle	-	Office Manager
Mrs. Naomi Eakin	-	Bookkeeper
Miss Pauletta Bowman	-	Neighborhood Services Secretary

NAVARRO COUNTY ACTION COMMITTEE, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PY/D - Nov. 1, 1969 - Oct. 31, 1971

NEIGHBORHOOD REPRESENTATIVES:

Frost Area - Mr. Albert Anderson
Chatfield Area - Mr. Louis Donaldson
South Corsicana - Vacant as of 9/1/70
Southeast Corsicana - Mrs. Pearlie Hall
Northeast Corsicana - Mr. Norris Hart
Pelham Area - Mr. Bitman Henry
Dawson Area - Mr. R.C. Huckaby
Richland Area - Miss Ruth Jessie
Northeast Corsicana - Mr. Booker T. McDonald
Northeast Corsicana - Mr. Ocell Miller
Latin-American Council - Miss Mary Moreno
Kerens Area - Mrs. Winnie Pearl Thompson
North Central Corsicana - Rev. T.A. Turner
Elm Flat Area - Mr. P.J. Walker
Blooming Grove Area - Mrs. Jimmie Williams
Southeast Corsicana - Mr. Worthy Wilson

CIVIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES

Corsicana Women's Civic-Professional Groups - Mrs. Alice Acock
Corsicana Chamber of Commerce - Mr. Walter Erwin
Corsicana Men's Civic Groups - Mr. P.D. Fullwood
Frost-Blooming Grove Civic Groups - Mr. Drew Gillen
Corsicana Social Agencies - Mrs. J.W. McAdams
Eastside Civic Groups - Mr. Sam McDonald
Corsicana Men's Civic Groups - Mr. William L. McKie
Business-Civic Groups - Mr. Dean Milkes
Navarro County Medical Society - Dr. Will Miller
Corsicana Ministerial Alliance - Rev. Sam Mohundro to 6/1/70
Rev. Paul Curry from 6/1/70
Labor Organizations - Mr. Carl A. Otto
News Media - Mr. Richard Parker
Corsicana Ministerial Alliance - Rev. Robert J. Potts
Eastside Civic Groups - Mrs. Mabel Scott
Corsicana Youth Organizations - Mr. William L. Smith
Banking - Mr. Zane Stites
Mr. W.D. Wyatt

Navarro County Action Committee, Inc.
Board of Directors continued
PY/D - Nov. 1, 1969 - Oct. 31, 1970
Page #2

PUBLIC AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

County Commissioners' Court - Mr. Billy Hargrove
Mr. Homer McNabb
City of Blooming Grove - Mr. R.W. McGaha
Corsicana Public Schools - Mrs. Eloise Pillans
Navarro Junior College - Mr. Lary Reed
Social Security - Mrs. Helen Rigdon
District Court - Judge James Sewell
City of Corsicana - Mr. Kenneth Stone
Dawson City Council - Mr. Leonard Tanner
City of Kerens - Mr. E.C. Watson
Frost Public Schools - Mr. Clifford Williams
City of Frost - Mr. J.O. Williams
City of Corsicana - Mrs. Sue Youngblood
Blooming Grove Public Schools - Mr. W.A. Haden

NAVARRO COUNTY ACTION COMMITTEE, INC.

MANPOWER COORDINATION
PY/D D - NOVEMBER 1, 1969 - OCTOBER 31, 1970
ANNUAL REPORT

PROGRAM

This program is designed to coordinate available manpower training programs, mobilize new training programs for the needs of the area residents, provide supportive remedial education, vocational counseling, skill training, and referral services to expand job training and placement for the disadvantaged of the area.

It includes the Training Center facilities for the operation of several education, skill improvement and counseling programs coordinated through several agencies. These include Adult Basic Education, Job Corpsman Follow-Up Services, Office Education, Welding, High School Equivalency Instruction and counseling referral services.

The Manpower Coordinator, Mr. Guy Rushin supervises the GED program and Operation Mainstream.

PARTICIPATION and RESULTS

The Manpower Program served 628 persons during the year in some way such as job referrals, counseling, enrollment in training, training referrals, Job Corps follow ups, etc.

The persons served were in the following categories:

Females -	410
Males -	218
TOTAL SERVED	628
Heads of Household	146
Persons Below Poverty	287

There were 4 Typing I and II classes conducted with total enrollment of 98.

There were 2 classes conducted in bookkeeping with 38 enrolled and 2 classes of shorthand with 23 enrolled.

The Office Training classes are held in the evenings at the NCAC Training Center with 2/3 of funding coming through the Corsicana Public Schools under TEA Adult Vocational Education Division.

An evening practical welding class had 9 enrolled, instructed by Mr. Bill Follis of Corsicana Grader Company.

There were 176 persons referred to the Texas Employment Commission for placement services.

There were 29 persons referred to TEC for placement in NJC MDTA Welding, Clerk-Typist and LVN Training of which 19 were placed all whom were below poverty levels.

NCAC Annual Report
Manpower Coordination
Page #2

PARTICIPATION and RESULTS continued:

Direct referrals are mainly made through TEC but there were 18 persons referred directly to jobs with 6 being accepted.

Numerous contacts were made with business and industry to develop on-the job training situations. Once OJT is developed TEC has primary responsibility for referral of trainees to training available.

The following list of OJT was developed and statistics indicated:

Below Poverty	287
Females	410
Males	218

Total Participants 628 in Manpower

OJT Developed

Shipping Clerks	4	- all filled
Paint & Body	1	- filled
Mechanic	1	- filled
Meat Cutter	1	- not filled
MFG Plant	25	- filled

NABS Developed

Outboard Motor Mechanic	1	- not filled
Welding	1	- filled
Nurse Aide	9	- 3 filled
MFG Plant	35	- no report of final

TOTAL NABS-OJT 78 Contacts or Placements
TOTAL FILLED 35
TOTAL UNFILLED 43

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS

The fall opening of the new area vocational school facility of Corsicana High School assures expanding skill training opportunity for youth and adults. In the first year approximately (1/2) one-half of the 1500 students in high school are enrolled in vocational courses.

Two 20 week full time manpower training classes in welding and clerk-typist started at Navarro Junior College for a total of $39,535 allocated for training expenses on 40 trainees. Many trainees placed received weekly stipends through TEC during training period totaling $31,933. The average cost per MDTA trainee was nearly $2,000 for 20 week period.

In mid-October the second class clerk-typist started with 20 to continue for 20 weeks until mid-February.

Thus 60 adults were provided training opportunity with stipends.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT continued:

Near the end of the year MDTA applications were submitted to TEC and TEA for training 20 adults for mechanics at CHS and 20 adults for nurses aides at NJC. These and a request for a remedial education program for 60 remained pending.

Several employers showed interest in the on-the-job training through NAB - National Alliance of Businessmen which administers the program. All referrals to NABS training go through TEC.

PROSPECTS FOR PY/E

Under existing guidelines of MDTA it will be harder to get TEC to approve MT 1 requests for adult MDTA . This will be caused by the already declining number of job orders for workers generally. Getting MT-1 requests certified in communities like Navarro county was always most difficult as compared to the larger metropolitan areas. In order to obtain MDTA programs a need for training or a shortage of trained workers for abailable jobs must exist. No allowance is made for mobility of the trained workers to where the jobs may be.

Another development offering Navarro County and Corsicana will be the emphasis and priority being given to urban skill centers such as that operated by Dallas ISD. These 22 urban skill are likely to monopolize available MDTA funds for their urban training facilities. Thus, rural areas as ours will be left out and maybe once in a while get a few left overs, if any exist which was the case last spring for the welding and clerk-typist that were held at NJC.

The declining economy is most adverse to the underskilled and unskilled causing unemployment and creating conditions not conducive to provisions for necessary training which could put them in a more competive job hunting position for the economic upturn.

Ironically the state bureaucracy administering adult training does not believe in training for training sake. If the same logic were applied elsewhere, we would not educate just to be educating but we are.

Availability and coordination of various skill classes at the NCAC Training Center is expected to continue at last year levels.

Day time classes are becoming more desirable for warious reasons.

Currently proposed manpower legislation is not likely to effect operations and administrative arrangements until late 1971 and early 1971.

NAVARRO COUNTY ACTION COMMITTEE, INC.

ADULT EDUCATION

(GED)

PY/D - Nov. 1, 1969-Oct. 31, 1970

ANNUAL REPORT

PROGRAM

The purpose is to provide instruction, counseling and testing programs designed to upgrade educational qualifications of adults who do not have a high school diploma, that they may be more employable, qualify for available jobs, or meet requirements for training.

Its primary goal is to assist adults achieve a high school equivalency diploma or establish a grade equivalency based on standardized testing that will result in improved employment or vocational training opportunity.

During this year the project was supervised by Mr. Guy Rushin, Manpower Coordinator, as part of the overall Manpower Program. Mr. L.W. Thomas is Volunteer Coordinator and part-time teacher.

Instructional classes were located in Waxahachie, Terrell, Kaufman, Chatfield, Navarro Junior College and the NCAC Training Center in Corsicana on a one or two session a week basis, usually in the evening.

Morning classes at the NCAC Training Center were quite successful during the year. Additional teacher support was made available from Adult Basic Education Programs of the Corsicana Public Schools and the Cooke County Schools ABE providing teachers and materials in Kaufman County, beginning in September, 1970.

Counseling and testing services were conducted weekly at Navarro Junior College Technical Arts Building by Mr. L.R. Fricke and at Kaufman High School by Mr. Charles Thomas.

The following teachers conducted classes at these locations were:

NJC - Mrs. Margaret Huffman
Miss Gussie Roughton

NCAC Training Center - Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Thomas
Mrs. Birdie Howze

Crockett Day Care Center - Mrs. Bobby Sparks

Chatfield - Mr. Bennie Thomas

Waxahachie - Mr. Billy Hancock
Mr. Paul Galloway

Kaufman - Mr. M.L. Bass

Terrell - Mr. Truman Welch and Mrs. Jean Corley

PARTICIPATION AND RESULTS

Enrollment averaged per quarter one hundred eighty-two (182) with an average of thirty-three (33) completions per quarter.

In this year one hundred thirty-two (132) persons earned a high school equivalency diploma. The average program cost is about $115.00 per completion.

The average grade attainment of enrollment was 9.4 grades, which ranged between grade 6 and grade 12.

A recent survey of the fifty eight (58) persons completing their GED in the last six (6) months of the year showed these results:

There were thirty eight percent (38%) males and sixty two percent (62%) females with the average age of thirty six (36) years.

Of the twenty six (26) reporting, nine (9) received an increase in salary averaging $43.00 per month after completing the GED.

Of the twenty six (26) reporting, one (1) had enrolled in college and three (3) in vocational training.

The enrollment of persons below poverty levels increased from thirty two percent (32%) in the first quarter to sixty three percent (63%) in the last quarter of the year.

The enrollment was previously a majority of whites, but in the last quarter sixty seven percent (67%) enrollment was black.

Of the one hundred thirty two (132) completions in the year, forty five (45) were heads of households.

COORDINATION

The GED Program is coordinated with the Adult Basic Education Programs of the Corsicana Public Schools and Cooke County Schools in Kaufman County. The ABE programs provide teachers and materials for preparatory classes where most students have less than eight (8) years of school, such as at Crockett, the Training Center, Chatfield, Kaufman and Terrell.

The Neighborhood Services and Emergency Food and Medical Programs recruit eligible adults for the program. The Welfare Department, TEC and other agencies refer adults to this program for enrollment.

The Individualized Adult Learning Center was made possible through joint support of ABE, O/M, Manpower and their programs.

PROSPECTS FOR PY/E

Provide facilities, equipment, with materials and schedules for more individualized instruction for upgrading from elementary to the GED level.

The ABE programs hopefully will provide more teacher and material resources to be coordinated with this program.

Enrollment is expected to continue at current levels with expectation that more adults with lower education grade levels will enroll in the future.

The Project is expected to provide adults better opportunities for future employment and vocational improvements.

NAVARRO COUNTY ACTION COMMITTEE, INC.

HOUSING
PY/D - NOVEMBER 1, 1969 - OCTOBER 31, 1970
ANNUAL REPORT

PROGRAM

This program provides supportive service primarily to rural families of the county to promote home improvements and rural developments through counseling, technical assistance and supportive services. It promotes use of available resources in Farmers Home Administration and Department of Welfare for home improvements and rural development. The staff also provides skill support to other Navarro County Action Committee, Inc. programs and neighborhood improvements.

Mr. Donald Williams is Housing Coordinator.

PARTICIPATION and RESULTS

The following data reveals the nature of activities and services:

Number of heads of household contacting service center for help			105
Number of household contacted in the field concerning housing needs			248
Number of houses inspected for repairs			165
Number of applications filed for loans			53
For a total of			280,375.00
Number of general repairs	11	for a total of	$ 2,490.00
Number of bathroom additions	7	for a total of	$ 9,160.00
Number of bedroom additions	0	for a total of	$
Number of new houses	25	for a total of	$25,245.00
Number of applications approved	45	for a total of	291,240.00
Number of applications pending	2	for a total of	15,900.00
Number of applications disapproved	5	for a total of	38,200.00
Number of projects assisted with used lumber and repairs with Operation Mainstream crews			72
Families assisted with self help home improvements			64
Legal Cases involving home improvements and loans assisted			24
Number of houses torn down (27 in Corsicana)			30

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS

There were several major projects in the county area during the year which improved the quality of housing available to low income families.

Dawson PHA completed 14 additional units of low rent totaling $213,327.

Kerens PHA completed its first 32 units of low rent housing for a total of $402,000.

Southpark Garden Apartments in Corsicana completed 160 units of rent supplement housing.

Frost Housing Corporation was approved for 16 units of Senior Citizen Housing for $180,000 which is under construction.

Community Development continued:

Corsicana PHA is constructing 110 units of low rent housing for $1,670,610 located near the YMCA at year end association.

Rural Water Systems were serving 1,496 families on 343 miles of rural water lines in Navarro county which represent an investment of over $2 million,' FHA approved construction the following year.

Emhouse Water -	$ 105,000
Chatfield Extension to Samarian -	83,985
West Navarro Mills -	160,000
TOTAL	$ 348,000

Nearly every area of the county is now served by rural water lines delivering city processed water which has promoted significant residential construction on rural sites or water lines outside the city of Corsicana.

Various NCAC staff participated in the organizational stages of numerous water associations in the county and provided various supportive services including the collection of subscribers.

PROSPECTS FOR PY/E

The towns in Navarro county have shown and are expected to continue on high interest in new home construction and adding of low cost-low rent units to their projects. In addition a continued interest in building residences on rural sites is expected, especially encouraged if favorable interest and loan factors continue through Farmers Home Administration.

The problem of removing rehabilitating abandoned and condemned housing units no longer suitable for habilitation is expected to increase as more units are vacated in favor of rent supplement, low rent and better housing units being wanted by families upgrading to new residences. Thus more blight in blighted areas is expected.

This project has been modified to increased staff support to provide more on site supervision and direct home improvement assistance for low income families, elderly and handicapped which lack the resources and do not qualify for other types of programs for necessary home improvements.

NAVARRO COUNTY ACTION COMMITTEE, INC.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT
PY/D NOVEMBER 1, 1969 - OCTOBER 31, 1970

PROGRAM

The objective of this program account is to maintain regular neighborhood outreach contacts in designated areas to identify residents with specific needs and encourage residents to participate in various opportunity program, develop resident participation in neighborhood problem solving councils to provide means for residents participation in CAA and other Community Programs.

Mr. Freeman Robinson, Assistant Director is the program coordinator. Three community developers are assigned to specific areas of the county

Mr. Arthur Carroll - East Corsicana
Mr. Charles Edmerson - East Navarro
Mrs. Catherine Porter - West Navarro

Two resident workers, Mrs. Juanita Washington and Mrs. Effie Madison are assigned separate areas of east Corsicana.

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Neighborhood Services staff work closely with the low income families of this area and service activities.

The following table from quarterly reports indicate the number and types of contact referrals conducted.

(Attached)

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES
ATTACHMENT

ACTIVITIES BY QUARTER	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
TOTAL OUTREACH CONTACTS	2,592	1,899	2,185	3,410
FIRST TIME CONTACTS	1,503	1,132	1,004	878
FOLLOW-UPS	1,089	767	1,231	2,532
REFERRALS TO MANPOWER	8	14	21	94
EDUCATION	456	334	222	79
HOUSING	66	76	75	117
HEALTH	144	100	690	101
COMMUNITY SERVICE	2,407	1,458	733	2,907
TO JOBS - TEC	39	20	37	37
OTHER	30	672	411	75
NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS	53	56	76	72

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS continued:

Seventeen neighborhood councils meet at least once per month on a regular advertised schedule to discuss area problems, programs available to area residents, planned neighborhood projects, submitted their recommendations to appropriate agencies and determined plans for appropriate courses of action. Many of these councils conduct informative programs on matters of concern to them.

There are 9 neighborhood centers which conduct various group projects of interest to residents. Nine areas conduct weekly arts&crafts activities and several have sewing groups.

Nutritional programs have been conducted in 7 neighborhoods with Home Demonstration Agents providing informative nutrition programs.

Certain program staff are assigned field support assignments toward the development of a consumer cooperative which has 180 members now.

Many community agencies have utilized the capabilities of this program to inform residents of programs, conduct selective surveys, referrals, and for supportive counseling with target area residents concerning problems involving their participants and clients.

PROSPECTS FOR PY/E

Staff will be added to develop outreach and resident mobilization in southwest and north central Corsicana areas.

Staff are expected to become more and more familiar with residents and structure of their respective areas which promotes better use of neighborhood volunteers in neighborhood leadership and more effective referral activities to promote opportunity for residents of their assigned areas.

NAVARRO COUNTY ACTION COMMITTEE, INC.

EMERGENCY FOOD AND MEDICAL SERVICES
PY/D - Nov. 1, 1969--Oct. 31, 1970
ANNUAL REPORT

PROGRAM

The purpose is (1) to provide resources for emergency food and medical assistance to families and individuals with evidence of hunger, starvation and malnutrition; (2) to provide follow-up staff supportive services such as counseling, transportation, and technical assistance to become eligible for available assistance, medical needs, emergency services, and participation in vocational skill upgrading for possible future employment.

Special emphasis is upon long term rehabilitation of hunger and malnutrition and prevention of malnutrition among children of the area.

The staff consists of Mr. W.P. Davenport, Coordinator; Mrs. Johnnie Jackson and Mrs. Earline Miller, case aides, and Mrs. Lummie Walker, case aide-records clerk.

PARTICIPATION and RESULTS

The participation served with household income, age and other characteristics for the twelve (12) months ending October 31, 1970, are as follows:

	Caucasian Mex. Amer.	Caucasian Other Cauc.	Negro	Total
Total Families	27	124	434	585
Total Individuals Assisted	136	396	1670	2202
Individuals Assisted by Age				
0-5	32	74	360	466
6-15	51	120	628	799
16-22	15	41	199	255
23-44	25	81	242	348
45-65	10	64	186	260
Over 65	3	16	55	74
Household Income				
$ 0-499 Below Poverty Line	3	41	85	129
500-1,499 Below Poverty Line	15	85	220	320
1,500 or more	113	247	1300	1660
Above Poverty Line	5	23	65	93

It should be noted that over one-half (1/2) of persons served were children under sixteen (16) years of age.

About three-fourths (3/4) (1660 of 2202) of persons served were in households which had an income of $1500 or more below the poverty line.

NCAC Annual Report
Emergency Food and Medical Services
Page #2

Participation and Results continued:

The following data reflects the type of services and results achieved in the program during the year ending October 31, 1970.

	Caucasian Mex. Amer.	Caucasian Other Cauc.	Negro	Total
Total Number of Individuals Who Were Assisted To Obtain Other Services	9	159	1652	1820
Food Stamp Program	21	66	617	685
Aid to Families With Dependent Children	0	16	180	196
Old Age Assistance	2	14	48	62
Social Security (Survivor Benefits)	0	14	172	186
Medicare	0	12	180	192
Medicaid	2	21	188	211
Other Welfare Services	1	5	70	76
Other Health Services	2	10	148	160
Other	0	1	49	50

The above persons were assisted by staff time providing technical assistance, transportation to points which helped them to become eligible for new benefits to which they were entitled or to better utilize benefits to which they were already entitled. In many cases benefits under Old Age Assistance, AFDC, Veterans and Social Security bring direct regular income to needy households which means several thousands of dollars new cash flow to the commercial community being spent on food, clothes, utilities, etc., adding to cash business volume of this area.

The number of persons receiving direct assistance from this project are as follows:

	Caucasian Mex. Amer.	Caucasian Other Cauc.	Negro	Total	Expenditures
Purchase of Food Stamps	0	20	177	197)	
Outright Purchase of Foodstuffs	132	374	1336	1842)	$46,409
Purchase of School Lunches	21	35	213	269)	
Medical Assistance	2	11	33	46)	1,254
Dental Assistance	1	5	14	20)	630

Ninety (90) families were transported to buy food.

NCAC Annual Report
Emergency Food and Medical Services
Page #3

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The program works closely with other NCAC programs and local agencies in obtaining maximum impact upon the needs of the participants such as Social Security, Department of Public Welfare, Family Service, charities, church groups, Food Stamp Program, Texas Employment Commission and local schools.

This project supplements several trainees while in training for LVN, Welding, and General Office Practice at Navarro Junior College.

Adults are counseled and referred to other skill upgrading programs such as GED, ABE, training programs, Operation Mainstream and Texas Employment for placement.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

In July, 1970, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Stamp Program began operating after approval and financial support of the Navarro County Commissioners' Court. They are to be commended for making the Food Stamp Program available to the people of this county.

The Food Stamp Program has made a significant impact upon the food supply and nutrition of low income households and has relieved the long term demands by the needy on this program.

Numerous nutrition seminars have been conducted in various neighborhoods with programs by the County Home Demonstration Agents, Mrs. Gloria Herod and Mrs. Tressie Langston.

PROSPECTS FOR PY/E

This project was refunded by the Office of Economic Opportunity through October 31, 1971, for the same amount as last year of $64,626.00 in federal funds.

The upcoming School Lunch Program, taking effect in January, 1971, will solve the school lunch dilemma and reduce demands on this program. During the school months this project averaged $1,500.00 per month to area school cafeterias for school lunches to needy children.

The full implementation of the Food Stamp Program and the School Lunch Program will allow this project to focus more attention to rehabilitation of malnutrition cases and promoting some long range projects that will improve food delivery service, production and income in addition to handling more immediate emergencies.

Consequently the total number of persons served is expected to decline as reflected in the fourth (4th) quarter but those being served will require more comprehensive or intense services.

NAVARRO COUNTY ACTION COMMITTEE, INC.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

PY/D - Nov. 1, 1969-Oct. 31, 1970

ANNUAL REPORT

PROGRAM

All six (6) Child Development Centers provide a full year Head Start Program under the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) - Office of Child Development. The eight (8) major areas of Head Start, especially designed for disadvantaged children are as follows:

1. Educational
2. Social Service
3. Health Service (Medical & Dental)
4. Psychology
5. Nutrition
6. Volunteer Service
7. Parent Involvement
8. Career Development

Mrs. Dorothy Wade is the Program Director and Mrs. Eleanor Evans is the Nurse-Social Worker. There are six (6) Centers with twelve (12) teachers, twelve (12) aides, and six (6) cooks, assisted by several O/M trainees for cook aides, maintenance and busing service, Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC), Vocational Office Education (VOE), and Special Education students are employed part-time and in the summer to assist at the various centers.

A Supplementary Staff Training Program, provided through Texas Women's University conducted weekly classes for eighteen (18) staff members. Attending staff earn college credits applicable toward a degree plan at TWU.

Mrs. Mary Allen and Mrs. Bessie Brandon attended a five (5) week Head Start Leadership Training Session at Texas Southern University in Houston.

The Child Study Association of America conducted several staff workshops on Parent Involvement.

PARTICIPATION

Between November, 1969, and May, 1970, the six (6) Child Centers served between two hundred seventy (270) and two hundred ninety (290) children a day because of the necessity to serve working parents.

In late August and September the Centers had a large new enrollment of one hundred seven (107) as children of age went to first grade or the newly funded State Kindergarten, operated by CISD at Lincoln Elementary School.

NCAC Annual Report
Child Development Centers
Page #2

In the last quarter, the program had an enrollment at HEW-OCD approved levels of two hundred twenty (220) for all six (6) Centers.

Crockett Center	- 60 children	
Eastside Project Center	- 30 children	
Day Care #2, Collin St.	- 20 children	(Head Start)
Day Care #2, Collin St.	- 40 children	(Local Effort)
Frost Center	- 25 children	
Dawson Center	- 15 children	
Kerens, Center	- 30 children	
	220 children	

Participation characteristics are as follows at the end of the last quarter:

Caucasian	- 21	0 - 5	- 176
Negro	- 149	6 - 7	- 4
Mex. American	- 10		

Number above poverty lines	- 10
Number $0 - $499 below poverty lines	- 31
Number $500-1499 below poverty lines	- 36
Number $1500 or more below poverty lines	- 103

The forty (40) children under local Maintenance of Effort pay tuitions as families are above the poverty line.

Dental and Medical examinations and services totalling $5,180 were provided as follows:

Dental Examinations	- 25	Physical Examinations	- 173
Dental Services	- 36	Medical Services and Corrective Surgery	- 26

PROSPECTS FOR PY/E

The present program was refunded by the Office of Child Development for 190 children at the same level as last year of $156,801.00.

The newly completed Parkdale Center will provide facilities for fifteen (15) more children when supporting resources for food and staff can be obtained.

Funding sources through the Department of Public Welfare are being explored to support two-thirds (2/3) of costs of a Child Center at the South Park Garden Apartments with one-third (1/3) or about $3,000 required in local sources.

The continued expansion of the State Kindergarten Program is going to reduce demands on present Head Start Child Centers, which will shift to serving children in lower age ranges under five (5)

NAVARRO COUNTY ACTION COMMITTEE, INC.

OPERATION MAINSTREAM
PY/C - NOVEMBER 16, 1969 - NOVEMBER 15, 1970

ANNUAL REPORT

PROGRAM

The program provides direct employment opportunity to 36 unemployed or underemployed adults (over 22 years old) who also meet various guidelines regarding lack of skills, education, underemployment, age, etc.

It also provides supportive counseling, education and various skill training experiences 8 hours per work.

Work stations are arranged with public and non-profit service agencies. Cities of Kerens, Corsicana and Frost, utilize several trainees in their service operations. Blooming Grove Schools have one maintenance position and Corsicana Public Schools have a library aide and teacher aide trainee. The Food Stamp office has a clerk interviewer trainee. NCAC Child Centers have 3 O/M trainees as teacher aides, cook aides and maintenance.

Approximately 18 trainees are assigned to various crews in NCAC Field Operations performing neighborhood improvement activities and services to needy residents. These included lot clean-ups, removal of abandoned houses, helping low income families relocate to better housing conditions, improvements to various NCAC and community facilities, such as, Eastside Park, Jester Park Railroad and Camp Fleming, neighborhood clean-ups and many other similar works.

About forty per cent (40%) of trainees must be over 54 years of age.

Program is funded by the Manpower Administration of the Department of Labor.

PARTICIPATION and RESULTS

There were 94 adults enrolled during the year, of which 40 were active at year end.

Of the 54, one-half (1/2) or 27, went directly to jobs. One went to MDTA welding at NJC and one went to another vocational school.

The other one-half (1/2) or 27, left the program for various reasons such as, illness, moving to other areas, physical handicaps, excessive social problems, or personal problems, retirement, etc.

There were 86 males and 8 females. Ethnically or racially, there were 61 black, 27 white, 5 Mexican Americans and one (1) American Indian enrolled.

NCAC Annual Report
Operation Mainstream
Page #2

Participation and results continued:

Specific profiles of O/M trainees are as follows:

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

0 - 499, Below Poverty Line	5
500 - 1499, Below Poverty Line	21
1500 or more, Below Poverty Line	67
Above Poverty Line	1

EDUCATIONAL LEVELS

Illiterate	6
Grades 1 - 4	14
Grades 5 - 8	33
Grades 9 - 12	38
Over Grade 12	3

Other characteristics of trainees are numerous and involve a complexity of problems - often within one trainee. Generally, trainees function at very low basic education skill levels, lack generally accepted job adjustment attitudes, lack satisfactory employment records, lack job stability, lack specific job skills, lack drivers licenses for mobility, have social problems and do not meet the various job requirements common in the area.

In the second half of the year, the number of applicants available increased substantially over the previous period. This is apparently the result of the economic decline which produced shuffles in employment, leaving the less skilled unemployed first.

PROSPECTS FOR FY/D

Program was refunded to at previous levels to handle 36 trainees.

Increasing availability of eligible trainees is expected to continue to increase as declining economy results in fewer jobs in the area.

Job placement for O/M trainees completing this training is expected to be difficult, as it has been for trainees in other projects in recent months resulting from the declining economic conditions.

There is a possibility that this O/M program will be included in the proposed Nixon administration changes shifting to Governors and Mayors. Under this shift, especially to statewide or regional programming, Navarro county could wind up loosing a substantial number of these 36 O/M training stations, if not the entire O/M project. Only a strong board and community support can prevent this program loss and impact dilution.

62-792 O - 71 - pt. 3 ---35

MAINSTREAM BUDGET - NOVEMBER 16, 1969 - NOVEMBER 15, 1970

I. Enrollee Costs	Budget	Expended
1. Wages for work	$79,990	$78,634
2. Wages for other paid participation	$19,950	$15,403
3. Fringe Benefits	$ 7,590	$ 6,162
4. Transportation	$ 1,250	$ 1,129
5. Supportive Services	$ 4,390	$ 4,251
a. Med. Exams.		$ 244
b. Ed. Instructors		$ 2,346
c. Voc. Tng. Instructors		$ 1,661
Total Section I	$113,170	$105,580
II. Staff Costs		
1. Project Staff Salaries	$18,655	$17,642
2. In-kind supervision	$12,490 NF	$12,312 NF
3. Fringe Benefits	$ 1,100	$ 876
4. Travel Staff	$ 1,640	$ 1,161
Total Section II	$33,890 (Fed. 21,400)	$31,991 (19,678 Fed.)
III. Operational Costs		
1. Equipment Rental & Use	$12,000 NF	$24,305 NF
2. Rent	$ 650	$ 598
3. Other Direct Costs	$ 4,290	$ 4,040
a. Tel. & Postage	$ 420	$ 326
b. Desk Top	$ 348	$ 310
c. Building Material	$ 3,000	$ 3,313
d. Xerox	$ 120	$ 91
Total Section III	$16,940 (Fed. 4,940)	$28,943 (4,638 Fed.)
Total Budget	$164,000	$166,514
Total NF	$ 24,490	$ 36,617
Total Federal	$139,510	$129,897

STAFF

E. D. Purifoy, Project Director
Billy Elias, Sr., Counselor-Coordinator
Betty McBroom, Secretary-Bookkeeper

CAP

NORTH - COAST OPPORTUNITIES, INC.

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April 23, 1971

AIR MAIL -
SPECIAL DELIVERY

Mr. William R. Bechtel
Staff Director, Senate Subcommittee on
Employment, Manpower and Poverty
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Bill:

I was very pleased to receive your letter of April 6, 1971 requesting assistance concerning rural CAP programs. I am very sorry that I was unable to respond immediately, as I was being involved in some legal hassles in court and a three day training workshop in Sacramento the week of April 12 through 16.

Actively working on your letter the week of April 19, I have been doing some research and deep thinking concerning witnesses and issues to be developed. I have attached a copy of a paper I have done on rural problems. This was gleaned from many publications of NACD and research reports from OEO. I hope you will find it useful, as it is the identical copy of what I sent to John Steinberg at an earlier date.

The current administration's proposal for rural development through its revenue sharing program creates some problems, I believe. One of such problems is the lack of resources and sophistication possessed by rural CAPs. Rural people have lower educational standards and are undereducated because of the lack of comprehensive schools and competent staff. They also have a lower income level and have fewer mechanisms for maintenance of income. On a national level, housing in the rural areas, dilapidated and substandard, is double the urban housing blight in spite of public propaganda emphasizing the plight of the cities. Part of the housing problem could be alleviated through more adequate staffing and funding of Farmers Home Administration and a greater expansion of their home loan programs, as well as a relaxing of their eligibility standards.

The rural CAP, as pointed out in the attached paper, is generally underfunded. OEO has maintained approximately 27% of its funding for rural CAPs in spite of the fact that 44 to 45% of all poor live in rural areas. Another significant item is the fact that rural CAPs are service oriented and not necessarily institutional change oriented because of the lack of the institutions delivering those services in rural areas. I believe we could achieve equity in rural funding if the 1.1 billion dollars proposed by President Nixon were to be funneled directly through the Title ID section of the Economic Opportunity Act, commonly referred to as 'Special Impact'. If you will please note, Title ID allows special funded programs to go into areas of significant out-migration and very adverse economic conditions in rural areas.

Therefore, Congress would not have to introduce a new bill to go into rural development programs, but could funnel those funds directly through Title ID and local governments in rural areas as well as CAPs could apply for those funds to create a significant impact in the rural areas. If the true meaning of the word 'impact' is 'impact', a sum less than 1.1 billion dollars would be inefficient in achieving the desired impact.

I would be most happy to testify before the Senate Committee and feel that one of the major points to be made is that urban areas have other programs to help them meet their needs, such as Model Cities, Manpower Development Programs, Urban Renewal, Public Health Centers, Community Service Centers, and other such community based and community involved programs. Finding these items lacking in rural areas, I can only go to my previous statement that the only way to achieve economic parity in fighting the problems of poverty would be to funnel the 1.1 billion dollars through the Title ID earmarked for rural programs. This funding level would just about achieve economic parity through the OEO funded programs for urban and rural areas.

I am sorry I could not answer this sooner. I am looking forward to hearing from you in the near future. I am very encouraged by the statement that you will try to supply timely information which is a necessary part of the effort to have community action take place. In keeping with the idea of timely information, I would appreciate receiving a transcript of the hearings being held.

Sincerely,

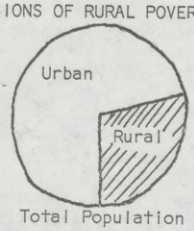
Roy J. Garlit nh

Roy J. Garlit
Executive Director
North-Coast Opportunities, Inc.

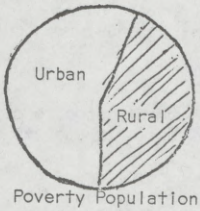
RJG:nlb
Attach.

A CASE FOR THE RURAL
COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

I. DIMENSIONS OF RURAL POVERTY POPULATION *



Total Population

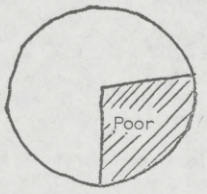


Poverty Population

A. Rural America contains 28 percent of the population of the United States but 44 percent of the poverty.



Urban



Rural

B. In rural America, 26.9 percent of the people are poor compared to 14.4 percent in urban areas. Rural poverty hits proportionately more farm residents (33 percent) than nonfarm rural residents (25 percent). The latter are those who live in towns under 2,500 or in the countryside, but whose principal occupation is not farming.

II. RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. The three types of industry associated with rural areas -- agriculture, mining, and forestry -- have suffered large losses of employment in recent decades. The drop in farm employment has been particularly severe, from 8.6 million jobs in 1945 to 4.6 million in 1965. These changes have been a product of technological and scientific innovations and in some locales a result of depletion of natural resources.

B. Migration to urban areas has siphoned off vast numbers of rural workers. Of those who remain, only one out of four is now engaged in farming as a principal occupation. Of 2,252,000 full-time farms, 665,000 produced so little (gross sales under $5,000 in 1963) that the operators lived in poverty.

C. The function of price support programs for farm commodities is to maintain price stability for commercial farmers, that is, for those who can make a living by farming. Such programs do not reach the rural poor.

In other words, agricultural programs are not the remedy for rural poverty. Rather, other types of economic development must be achieved. For this reason, the poorest rural counties are eligible for assistance under the Public Works and Economic Development Act. However, rural economic development efforts have been quite modest when compared to need.

III. EMPLOYMENT

A. The rural labor force is approximately 20 million persons. About three-fourths of these are engaged in occupations other than farming.

B. The unemployment rate for nonfarm rural residents tends to run about 20 percent higher than for urban residents. In rural areas underemployment is also a major problem, amounting to 2.5 million man-years in 1960. Translated to an unemployment rate, this would represent 26.5 percent unemployment for farm residents and 12 percent for nonfarm rural residents.

C. Even though nonfarm occupations are clearly the prime employment opportunities for rural youth, courses in agriculture have dominated the vocational curriculum of most rural schools. The Vocational Education Act broadens the spectrum of possible courses, but implementation has been slow.

D. About one-fourth of the training programs under the Manpower Development and Training Act have been in rural areas, a reasonably fair porportion, mainly because of heavy concentration in redevelopment areas.

E. The lack of an effective, outreaching manpower service system in rural areas is a major obstacle. Many rural communities do not even have a part-time employment service office.

IV. INCOME SUPPORT

A. Population shifts have tended to leave rural areas with a disproportionate number of persons above and below the normal working age. With fewer workers present to support the others, poverty and problems of dependency are made more severe. For example, in 1960 every 1,000 urban adults of working age (20-64) had to support 727 dependent people (children under 15 and adults 65 and over), whereas every similar 1,000 rural adults had to support 863 dependent people. This represented a 19 percent greater burden on rural workers.

B. Old Age, Survivors, Disability, and Hospital Insurance (OASDHI or "social security") has nationwide standards for benefits, but since these are related to earnings while working, those who worked at low wages receive the least. Moreover, many retired persons in rural areas were not covered when working and received no benefits until the 1965 amendments (Medicare) and a 1966 amendment which blanketed-in all over 72 at a lower benefit schedule.

V. EDUCATION

A. The level of educational attainment is generally lower among rural residents than urban dwellers. Urban adults averaged 11.1 years of education compared to 9.5 years for nonfarm rural people and 8.8 years for farm residents.

B. School dropout rates are higher in rural than urban areas. In rural America school retardation, as measured by the number of children enrolled in grades lower than the expected grade for their age, is 60 percent higher. The rate of college attendance is significantly lower in rural areas.

C. School expenditures per pupil are half as much in rural areas as urban centers.

D. Head Start has been a creative innovation to help four and five year old children in their preparation for school, but so far only 5.6 percent of such children from poor families are in year-round Head Start. The percentage is lower in rural areas where administrative capacity is less. Moreover, elementary curriculum has remained virtually unchanged, and many of the gains of Head Start are lost.

VI. HEALTH

A. Rural residents have access to fewer health facilities than urban dwellers. On a per capita basis, rural areas tend to have about half the number of physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, and sanitarians. This factor combined with isolation and low incomes results in fewer visits to physicians -- an average of 3.3 per year for farm residents compared to 4.8 per year for persons living in metropolitan areas. Metropolitan children ages 5 to 14 visit dentists an average of twice a year, while farm children of the same age average only once a year.

B. Public health programs are not as well organized in rural areas. There are fewer efforts to educate the rural poor about preventive practices and nutrition which are the foundation for good health.

VII. HOUSING

A. Housing in rural areas is worse than in urban areas. Whereas in 1960, four out of five urban homes were in sound condition and contained complete plumbing, only slightly more than one out of two rural dwellings met all these criteria. 44 percent of the bad housing in the United States was in rural areas but rural housing was only 30 percent of the total housing supply.

B. In 1960 about 1½ million rural families were living in houses that were in such dilapidated condition that the health, safety, and well-being of the occupants were endangered. Another 3½ million rural families occupied dwellings that were deteriorating and in need of major repairs. One out of three rural homes did not have complete baths. One out of five did not have running water. Three out of five were without central heat.

C. Lack of financing is one of the major obstacles to the improvement of rural homes and the construction of new rural dwellings. The flow of private credit for housing finance is toward urban areas. Realtors and development builders who help arrange financing for buyers of housing in urban areas are practically nonexistent in rural areas.

D. Financing terms are often less advantageous to rural home buyers. Down payment is likely to be higher. Appraised value, which influences the amount of mortgage, tends to be lower compared to market value in rural areas than in urban places. Because of sparsity of population, the possibilities for resale is less and this influences lenders. Most mortgage loans require monthly payments whereas farmers have seasonal income.

E. Ultimately though, efforts to raise rural income will lead to better housing. Bad housing and poverty are closely associated, and families tend to find better housing as their incomes rise.

VIII. RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. As the previous paragraphs suggest, rural areas lack an adequate network of organizations which can respond to the totality of rural problems. As farming, mining, and forestry have declined, no competent agency has been present to develop other employment opportunities. The cluster of manpower services needed to provide new skills to the unemployed and the underemployed does not exist.

B. Measures of income support are inadequate. Rural school systems are deficient and insufficient health services are available.

C. All existing data tends to substantiate rural housing programs fall far short of the need.

D. Many rural communities lack the civic leadership and professional staffs to come to grip with urgent problems. Very few organizational arrangements exist to pool the talent which is scattered over sparsely populated areas.

E. In many rural communities, the only active organization that responds to the needs of the low income individuals is the county community action program. If the community action program with its local initiative funds is eliminated from the rural American scene, I doubt that any existing agency will be able to step in and assume the community development responsibilities of the rural CAP.

F. The urban areas have in existence several programs including model cities, concentrated employment programs, urban renewal, and other such agencies (including united fund agencies) that could step in and provide the planning and resource mobilization leadership needed in the urban areas. However, we tend to find that the only agency making any efforts in the delivery of services to the low income individuals in the rural areas is the community action program. In considering the existing situation it is my hope that new legislation will take care of the accentuated poverty that has resulted from underfunding and underserving the poorest of the Americans.

G. To accentuate the incident of funds available in urban areas, it is only necessary to quote the funding levels of OEO and the community action programs to show the disparity between federal funds for urban vs. federal funds for rural areas. OEO has given approximately 24.7 percent of its CAP funds to rural areas in contrast to 47 percent of the poor who are rural residents.

*Rural Poverty
Conference Proceedings
National Association for Community Development
January 30 -- February 1, 1967

FREMONT COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.
MUNICIPAL BUILDING - 612 RIVER P.O. BOX 510
PHONE AC-303-275-3342
CANON CITY, COLORADO 81212

REFER: CG-6022

March 23, 1971

RECEIVED
MAR 28 1971
OFFICE OF
SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON

Senator Gaylord Nelson, Chairman
Senate Subcommittee on Employment,
Manpower and Poverty
Senate Office Building 359
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator

Your Sub-Committee on Employment, Manpower and Poverty may be interested in some information we have given our Board of Directors this week.

This is current information and clearly describes the characteristics of a rural county and the problems they have.

I hope it will be helpful.

Sincerely

Frank J. Cervi
Executive Director

Enclosure

FJC/tmv

Fremont County Community Action, Inc. recently surveyed several hundred people to determine what the causes of economic troubles in the area were. Between 500 - 600 persons responded.

The results have shown that 98% of the persons felt employment and job opportunity were the causes of most of the problems. Decent jobs and more job opportunity were mentioned in almost every response. Listed in the employment category were responses such as:

1. Lack of job opportunity
2. Lack of industry,
3. Low wages to force moonlighting
4. Moonlighting itself
5. Employment for the young
6. Vocational training
7. Job programs

Mentioned second was inflationary trends, with hight cost of living.

Third was education and training, followed by housing, health, taxes, Welfare, recreation and community interest.

The Agency must accept this expression as a priority for emphasis the coming year by concentrating on job development, job opportunity, and a living wage for those who can work.

According to the best estimated guess, about 400 young people are forced to leave the area each year to seek employment or education. Few of these even return during their productive years because of the lack of job opportunity.

The Senior Citizen population has a significant relationship.

Over 62% of the population is over 60, under 21, or disabled:

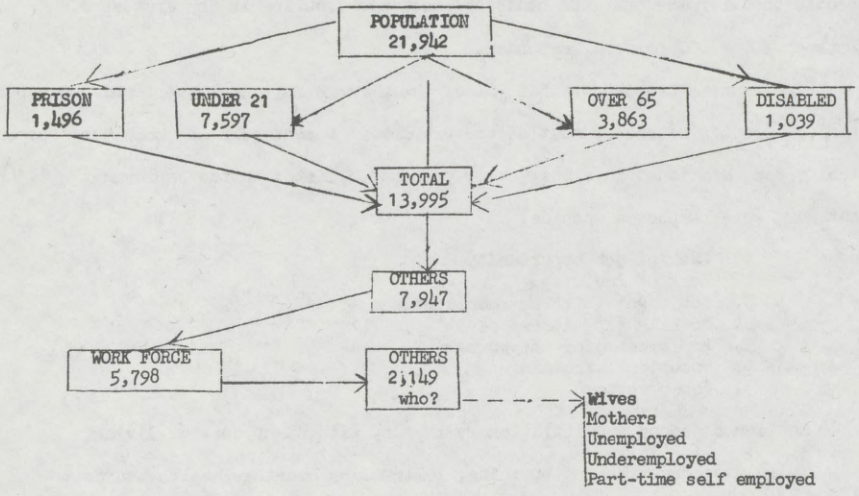
Under 21 - 7,597
Over 60 - 5,117
Disabled - 1,039

Social Security payments for 1970 were for 4,643 persons, Old Age Pension was 1,191. The economic impact of these two groups is of considerable importance.

There must be also emphasis on the elderly of our community.

A population characteristic chart is attached for your analysis.

F R E M O N T C O U N T Y C O L O R A D O



OTHER	
Over - 60 -	5,117
Rec. OASDI-	4,643
Welfare Dept. - all	2,835
Mothers-A.D.C.	187
Children	443
Needy Disabled	145
Old Age pension	1,191

Box 96
Happy, Texas
April 20, 1971

Senator Gaylord Nelson, Chairman
Senate Employment
Old Senate Office Bldg.
Constitution Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20515

RECEIVED
APR 23 1971
OFFICE OF
SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON

Dear Sir:

I am writing concerning the Community Action Program, and am convinced that this is the best program that the goverment has sponsored.

I am a member of the establishment that took the job as Community Center Coordinator - because I liked people. But after working with these low-income farm laborer, I have developed a real love for these people. We have the only rural Center that is funded thru the Texas Panhandle C.A.A. Amarillo. I was told there was not a real need for this Center; I told the people that I am trying to keep these people happy on the farms. The farmers can not produce without them - and these people can not compete in the cities because they have no trained skills & they end up on Welfare.

59%

Welfare has not met the needs of people because they do not educate or train these people to help themselves - The people on Welfare have the same problem year after year - no wonder the tax-payers complain. Teach these people to "be tax-payers" instead of tax-eaters".

The establishment should accept more responsibility for these people being like they are - No one ever showed the low-income people that anyone was concerned about their well-being and wanted them to be responsible citizens. Granted, these people need to be madivated - and that's the biggest problem the Coordinator have. - but this can be accomplished if we can communicate - and show these people that the establishments wants them to have a better life.

We have recently organized an Inter-mation 4-H Club at the Center - with all ethnic groups. The Amarillo office is going to provide money for some projects (pigs, chicken or rabbits) for the low-income people. This will supplement

their income with food, make them keep records & hopefully some can compete in the livestock shows next year. We will also have classes in sewing, cooking & food preservation - all families have gardens.

We have the full support of the Extension Agents and are getting the parents involved as Adult Leaders. We think the program has unlimited possibilities!

This is first-hand information - I am working with these people - not an outside observer.

Sincerily,
Mrs D L Allison
Happy Community
Center Coordinator

58%

Statement submitted to
Subcommittee on Employment, Manpower and Poverty,
Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare
By: Eugene R. Clifford
Director of Public Affairs
Cooperative League of the USA

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Cooperative League of the USA is a national federation of cooperatives of all kinds which include in their combined membership more than 20-million families.

Among the Cooperative League's member organizations are some of the major farm and rural cooperatives of this country. In their behalf, we persist in a keen interest in the problems and potentials of rural development.

Our concern about this rurally-oriented activity is both deeper and broader than this relationship alone suggests, however.

The Cooperative League membership also lists a variety of cooperatives in the areas of consumer goods, credit, group health, pre-school nurseries and housing, mostly established by and providing services to urban-resident owners.

Most of the individuals and organizations in this latter group have become acutely conscious in recent years of the rural beginnings of some of the most aggravated city problems, principally those stemming from congestion, strained civic services and educational facilities, and new masses of city residents who frequently are seriously under-trained for the too-few urban jobs for which they become competitors.

Both areas of Cooperative League membership agree that the current ills of rural America may easily bloom into a national sickness of serious proportions, and that positive moves to cure these ills promptly is clearly in the national interest. The Statement of Policy unanimously adopted by representatives of all Cooperative League member organizations in New York last September was forthright in its treatment of the overall rural problem, as the following excerpts show:

> "We recognize that part of rural America has not kept pace economically with much of the rest of the nation, as evidenced by inadequate health and medical facilities, poor housing and lack of jobs. We support legislation aimed to assist rural development, to provide funds for community water and waste disposal systems, and to develop an effective transportation network, planned to avoid the paving of some of our best farm land. We urge cooperatives serving rural people to expand their services and take a leading part in development programs. We urge urban cooperatives also to support these efforts in every practical way."

A fundamental need clearly seen in rural America right now is for more housing and better housing. It is essential to the welfare of the people, and it may fairly be considered an essential forerunner to substantial rural development of any kind.

We see real hope for the development of a swift and sure route to meaningful increases in quality and quantity of rural housing in the present efforts of the new Wisconsin Rural Housing Cooperative. Until recently, these efforts have been largely a trying and testing procedure to learn whether or not a mutual, non-profit approach to the rural housing problem might prove to be feasible on a statewide basis. All of the evidence up to this point appears to show that it is feasible, that major savings in construction costs can be realized by the cooperative approach and a combination of self-help ingredients such as large investment of "sweat equity" in new homes, pooled purchases of some materials, and organized use of a central, professional planning service.

Most homes resulting from this cooperative activity in Wisconsin have depended on Farmers Home Administration mortgage loans or guarantees, and this appears to be the most likely source of such financial support in the future. However, promising though this mechanism appears to be, it can not produce added rural housing beyond the capacity and the willingness of this federal agency to provide the necessary financing.

The rural housing cooperative is working in Wisconsin. It can easily be exported as a successful pattern, state by state, across the country. If mortgage loans and guarantees are readily available in adequate amounts, this devide may well point the way to a remarkable cure for the housing shortage in rural areas -- and that is where more than half of this nation's substandard housing is located today.

Perhaps more than anything else, development has come to mean the kinds of changes and additions in an area that make it possible for people to earn and live and raise families in a satisfying way. And this reduces fairly directly to a matter of jobs and improved opportunities for other income.

In this respect, the Cooperative League has found that no amount of opportunity for wages or profits offers a benefit to those who are not equipped to reach out and seize the opportunity.

Helping to develop that ability to grasp better opportunities to earn is an important part of the Cooperative League's effort today. The first on-the-job training contract negotiated in this country linked this organization's resources and those of its members to the training programs of the Department of Labor and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

A successful experience during 1970 has resulted in a second such contract, under which the Cooperative League plans to provide initial job training, or to upgrade present skills, of 220 rural residents across a nine-state area of the mid-west.

Having thus provided the ability to grasp opportunity, this effort also includes the opportunity itself, matching these newly-trained workers with productive jobs in a variety of cooperatives across this area.

We believe this effort to develop skills, and then providing the direct chance to use this skill in order to earn and produce, adds up to a lasting bonus for rural America, and for all America. This, perhaps, is the real essence of development, whether rural or urban, for it seeks to upgrade the human element of the total development picture.

When the beneficiaries of this sort of program are given this new leverage to work and produce and earn, to raise families, to conbribute to their communities, to share in the support of their state and nation, then the contribution is both real and lasting and the basis is provided for almost any sort of rural development we may contemplate.

The Cooperative League is proud to have a role in this effort. We are proud of the measurable results we have seen in a remarkably short period, both through our own efforts and those of our sub-contractor allies, Farmland Industries of Kansas City, Missouri, and Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives, based in Madison, Wisconsin.

There is a pattern of success here. There is a formula that is working. The need now is to make it substantial and nationally significant by multiplying this effort many times over in many other places.

We believe that a solid move in the direction of orderly rural development will be greatly assisted by the following:

Provision of realistic loan funds through the Rural Electrification Administration to the nearly 1,000 rural electric cooperatives which now represent an existing network through most of rural America. Their concern about development has been demonstrated repeatedly. They are, in their own areas, the power source without which no real development is possible. They must be kept adequate in their present role, and ought to be used as an economical and effective delivery system for development programs throughout rural America.

Prompt enactment of the 1971 Farm Credit Bill, which will provide greater flexibility and breadth to the lending programs of the Farm Credit System, a $15-billion source of credit owned by about one million farmers and nearly 3,000 of their cooperatives.

Development of a system of health care that will make medical, hospital and health services economically and efficiently available in the rural sectors of the country.

Whatever development programs finally are set in motion nationally, one thing seems certain: Nothing will happen of real import -- as nothing has happened so often in the past in matters like this -- unless a "sell" job accompanies the establishment of the programs. A missionary-type effort must be launched to insure that rural people, and their communities and organizations, know that such a program exists, how to get to it, how to use it, how to collect its benefits and put them to work at home.

TIOGA OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM, INC.
EMERGENCY FOOD AND MEDICAL SERVICES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 14, 1971

President Nixon has not included Emergency Food and Medical Services funds in the OEO budget for next year. Our EF&MS funding ends November 30, 1971.

Since the program started a year and half ago, many changes have taken place, the main changes being the improved cooperation with the Social Services Department and other public agencies. Also, the involvement of community people in working with the poor and making them more aware of the existing problems of poverty.

Through Emergency Food and Medical Services Program the number of new Food Stamp participants in this County has greatly increased. Also Free Lunches have been made available to some needy children who would not otherwise have been reached.

Through our efforts and some EF&MS seed money for supplies, a "Meals on Wheels" was instituted in Spencer area, where the Presbyterian women are involved in maintaining the service. In Owego, EF&MS was involved in coordinating a group of church women with the Broome County "Meals on Wheels" to bring the service to Owego area.

A by-product of cooperation with community people and local organizations was the Hunger Funds which our program received as a result of the Walk for Development last spring in Waverly area. Project Neighbor headquarters which was donated for a Food Buying Club is an example of cooperation. Other examples of In-Kind contributions are the community volunteers including Senior Citizens who have assisted or taught the Community Cooking Classes and the donations by churches and community organizations of their kitchens and space for these cooking classes and Buying Clubs. Since December, 1970, we have received $86.70 In-Kind volunteer time and $1,110.50 for In-Kind space donated for projects.

Innovative programs developed by Tioga Opportunities Program, Emergency Food and Medical Services are the Food Buying Clubs and Community Cooking Classes. You may be interested to learn that we are the only ones to our knowledge (also to the knowledge of our technical assistance trainers, Roy Littlejohn Associates, Inc. out of Washington) who have set up Food Clubs as we have, getting authorization for clubs to accept Food Stamps. We are also the only ones to organize cooking classes for the poor where each is directly involved in making the dish together, not as a demonstration only. We are being written up in the National paper put out by Roylittlejohn Associates, Inc. for our innovative program efforts.

Approximately 12 families (72 individuals) are being served in one club alone. Three other Food Clubs are being organized for a participation of 48 families or 240 people.

Persons being assisted by this Emergency Food and Medical Services Program in Community Cooking Classes since December, total 60. One-to-one work for the year served 655 persons or 131 families.

One of the most important or rewarding phases of our program is to see how these people are actually helping themselves. There is much more of this kind of work to be done in the community. Even though U.S.D.A.'s Nutrition Program is now working in this County, we have separate areas to work in and do not overlap their efforts. They work only on a one-to-one basis, where we are working more in groups with food clubs and cooking classes.

April 29

Tioga Opportunities Program, Inc.

68 NORTH AVENUE • OWEGO, NEW YORK 13827

Phone (Area Code 607) 687-4222

Lloyd G. Strombeck, Executive Director

Community Action Planning
Director — William C. Black
Neighborhood Youth Corps
Director — Glenn A. Hine
Full Year Head Start
Director — John M. Kert, Jr.

Emergency Food and Medical Services
Coordinator — Mrs. Jean Hefft
Senior Opportunities and Services
Director — Robert G. Trumbull
Conduct and Administration
Adm. Assistant — Mrs. Ruth Waite

April 9, 1971

The Honorable Howard W. Robison
House of Representatives
Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Howard:

In regard to President Nixon's decision to eliminate the Emergency Food and Medical Services Program from the OEO budget as of July 1, 1971, we strongly feel this action would be disastrous in this County.

The Emergency Food and Medical Services Program has been in operation here since July, 1969. Until July, 1970 when Donated Foods were replaced with Food Stamps, our program worked primarily on a one-to-one basis with low income homemakers on consumer education and nutrition, getting the best use out of the Donated Foods that were being distributed. Our out-reach workers also provided transportation to pick up the foods, when necessary. Starting in July, 1970, our program worked very closely with the Social Services Department in getting eligible families enrolled in the Food Stamp Program.

As we progressed with these families, we were able to organize Food Buying Clubs to help them save in buying food, to learn how to run a business, and to learn a feeling of independence as well as give them social contact.

Another project of Emergency Food and Medical Services is Community Cooking Classes which have been organized by out-reach aides, using volunteers from the community teaching the poor how to prepare nutritious dishes. Some of the low income persons themselves have taught their favorite recipes to the group. These classes are set up by the aide. Persons are invited to bring in their ingredients and prepare the dish together either baking or cooking there or at home and taking it home to share with their family. Community middle class housewives have mingled with the poor in these groups which serves to break down many of the barriers

between them. As a result, we feel community people are beginning to realize more about the plight of the poor and what they can do to help the situation. Since December, we have received $86.70 in-kind volunteer time and $1,110.50 for in-kind space donated for projects and cooking classes.

Approximately 12 families (72 individuals) are being served in one club alone. Three other Food Clubs are being organized for a participation of 48 families or 240 people.

Persons being assisted by this Emergency Food and Medical Services Program in community cooking classes since December, total 60. One-to-one work for the year served 655 persons or 131 families.

One of the most important or rewarding phases of our program is to see how these people are actually helping themselves. We feel there is much more of this kind of work to be done in the community. Even though U.S.D.A.'s Nutrition Program is now working in this County, we have separate areas to work in and do not overlap their efforts. They work only on a one-to-one basis, where we are working more in groups with food clubs and cooking classes.

I would urge that you consider the merits of this Emergency Food and Medical Services Program and would support the continuance of such an essential program.

Sincerely yours,

Lloyd G. Strombeck

Lloyd G. Strombeck
Executive Director

LGS/ph

Add to April 29

APR

OFFICE OF
SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON

Tioga Opportunities Program, Inc.

68 NORTH AVENUE • OWEGO, NEW YORK 13827
Phone (Area Code 607) 687-4222
Lloyd G. Strombeck, Executive Director

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Conduct and Administration
Adm. Assistant — Mrs. Ruth Waite

April 19, 1971

RECEIVED
APR
OFFICE OF
SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON

Senator Gaylord Nelson
Chairman, Sub Committee on Manpower, Employment and Poverty
Room 404, Old Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator:

We have been informed by William R. Bechtel, Staff Director of your Sub-Committee, that the sub-committee expects to have hearings on April 28th and 29th concerned with rural poverty programs.

We are pleased that your sub-committee recognizes the need for strengthening the rural Community Action Agencies and programs. At Mr. Bechtel's suggestion we are enclosing a report of the activities of our rural Community Action Agency for this year.

We recommend Mrs. Mary Holt, Kattellville Road, Binghamton, N.Y., R.D.4., phone 607-648-4714, to appear at your hearing in Washington, D.C. to discuss the problems of rural poverty April 28th and 29th.

Our Neighborhood Youth Corps Director says that representatives of the National Neighborhood Youth Corps Association will also be present at your hearings.

We recommend that your hearing on rural C.A.Ps and rural programs consider (1) Adequate funding for rural C.A.Ps.

(2) Problems involved in providing rural job opportunities and training.

(3) Economic development for rural communities.

(4) Funding for housing rehabilitation programs.

(5) Strengthening the O.E.O. structure to prevent further "spinning off" of O.E.O. programs and

(6) The implications of revenue sharing for funding local Community Action Programs.

CONTINUED

Senator Gaylord Nelson

April 19, 1971
Sheet 2

Rural poverty is more likely to be well distributed throughout a county rather than in pockets. There is a greater need for more community aides to work with the rural poor. Many of the rural poor live back from the well-travelled roads in the hills and are much less visible.

Guidelines for funding C.A.As appear to be based on population and so many rural C.A.As are under funded for the kind of work they are expected to perform.

Many rural areas now have problems of poverty because of changes in farming. Farming no longer provides a source for large numbers of semi-skilled or unskilled labor. The mechanization of farms has tended toward aggravating the situation. Rural areas need help to provide jobs and job training. Automation in newly established factories in rural areas decreases the job opportunities for semi-skilled and unskilled labor.

Housing programs in rural areas are very slow to develop. People would like to build their own homes but the poor cannot afford this. We believe programs for funding the rehabilitation of houses might come closer to filling the housing needs of the rural poor.

We are concerned that O.E.O. programs are being "spun off" to other agencies. Any weakening of the Community Action structure can only have a disastrous impact on our efforts to solve the problems of poverty and racism.

To increase local share for C.A.As from 20% to 25%, the difference to be paid in cash, could weaken C.A.As and eliminate many from the local scene. It is suggested that an adjustment in local share is an item which merits congressional review. We believe the Administration should be prohibited from removing C.A.A. funding on the basis that such removal would reduce the national priority of fighting poverty and racism.

We do not feel that the national anti-poverty effort should be tied to special revenue sharing proposals. As long as there is a critical national poverty problem there is a compelling need for federal funding, federal guidelines and federal monitoring.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce V. Pierce

Bruce V. Pierce
President, Board of Directors
Tioga Opportunities Program, Inc.

encls.

[From the 10-Progress Edition, Apr. 2, 1971]

Hours of Work Go Into TOP Activities

A wide range of talents and many uncounted volunteer hours of work go into the programs directed by Tioga Opportunities Program, Inc. in Tioga County. It takes people and cooperation to carry out the self help objectives which are a part of the original Economic Opportunities Act of 1964. It is to the credit of a great many people and to public spirited organizations in the county that these objectives are being met.

Tioga Opportunities Program, Inc. is a locally incorporated, non-profit organization, governed by a volunteer board of directors. Meeting legal requirements, the board is composed of representatives from public groups, such as labor, churches, extensions service, business, schools, Chamber of Commerce as well as program participants, Headstart and Senior citizens. It is the function of this board to establish policy, approve programs and review the functions of the organization. Board members serve on committees and contribute many hours of volunteer time in addition to the regular monthly meetings. Committee of the twenty-two member board is: Bruce Pierce, Apalachin, President; Edward Jones, Owego, Secretary; Stella Stephens, Newark Valley, Treasurer; and Wilfred Raymond, Apalachin.

There are such funded programs as Headstart, both full year and summer, Emergency Food and Medical Services, Neighborhood Youth Corps, Planning and Administration—each program involves many volunteers in the course of the year.

The Emergency Food and Medical Service Aides have worked with groups in the county to organize and get buying clubs underway to stretch food dollars. These clubs are independent units and are manned by volunteers entirely. At the present the 30 volunteers are contributing approximately 360 man hours per month in this activity. Also under the EF & MS Program a series of cooking classes are being held by neighborhood groups. Seven volunteer cooks have been involved in this program, donating about 21 hours per month. Nutrition, food buying and preparation to help families improve meals and stretch dollars is an invaluable part of this activity.

Acting in an advisory capacity and source of information and contacts with working groups T.O.P. staff members have assisted in organizing a meals on wheels program. This serves both elderly and temporarily incapacitated with a hot meal in their homes at a reasonable cost. In Spencer, with Mrs. Laura Uhl as chairman of volunteers, a group of thirteen church women prepare and

deliver the meals and at present spend 10 hours per week with prospect of enlarging the program. A similar program is being developed in the Owego area which will involve an even greater expenditure of volunteer time during the coming months.

The High School Equivalency Program in operation for three years has required the services of both professional and student teachers. More than 30 people are involved providing nearly 500 hours of teaching time this year. Schools are held in Owego, Berkshire, Candor and Campville. Last year 28 participants completed the course and successfully passed the state regents G.E.D. examinations and a larger group is anticipated this coming spring.

In the Headstart program the parents take an active part in the day care centers. The fathers have been involved in building equipment for play areas as well as in the centers; by becoming more involved in the activities of the centers much more of the benefit of the program is carried back to the homes to the advantage of the whole family.

The voluntary contribution of supervisors at the many Neighborhood Youth Corps work sites benefit many young people. Skill training, responsibility and incentive to achieve are assets for the future provided by these supervisors. In a number of instances young people have earned permanent work in the same or similar work as a result of this extra volunteer effort by supervisors.

Through the past year volunteer services from the medical and legal profession, from teachers, business and commercial people, from tradesmen and mechanics have contributed. Cooperation from business, industry, social service and public agencies have played a part in Tioga County's efforts to improve its economic climate.

"One of the responsibilities of our staff" says Bruce Pierce, President, Tioga Opportunities Program, Inc. "is to encourage and direct volunteer efforts into activities which will help develop self reliance and encourage individual effort to improve one station in life." It is a source of encouragement to both staff and board members, he continued, that people in Tioga County offering a wide range of talent will contribute generously of their time. It is people who make progress—the growth that will make Tioga County a better place for everyone.

CENTRAL MISSOURI COUNTIES'
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
205 East Ash - Columbia, Missouri 65201 - (314) 443-8706

RECEIVED
MAY
OFFICE OF
SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON

May 11, 1971

Senator Gaylord Nelson
Senate Subcommittee on Employment,
Manpower and Poverty
Room 359, Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator:

After hearing the two days of testimony on Manpower programs, I felt obligated to make some additional remarks regarding the rural crisis.

For some time now it has been my contention that too little attention has been given to the rural manpower dilemma and the struggles of the Community Action Agencies to effectively combat the causes of unemployment in rural America. However, in spite of mounting adversity and apposition, I have discovered that many CAA projects have cultivated very creative and innovative manpower programs often providing the poor, disadvantaged and/or minority citizen his only opportunity for attaining the necessary skilled training that will lead to substantial employment.

Enclosed is a summary of the manpower activities underway in the Central Missouri area, via the Central Missouri Counties' Human Development Corporation comprehensive Manpower program. If you have any questions concerning the document or the program in general, please contact me.

Respectfully,

Jack Gilbert
Manpower Coordinator

JG/jaw

Enclosure

CENTRAL MISSOURI COUNTIES'
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
205 East Ash - Columbia, Missouri 65201 - (314) 443-8706

"STATEMENT ON THE RURAL MANPOWER CRISIS"

Recently while in Washington, D. C., attending hearings on Employment Manpower and Poverty, I became progressively concerned about the plight of rural manpower programs. Testimony presented on April 28th vividly portrayed the impact urban programs (i.e., Neighborhood Youth Corps, Job Corps, CEP, etc.) have had on the problems of crime, ignorance and unemployment. There was no question that the absence of these programs would in many cases end the hopes and dreams for far too many urban dwellers. However, the second day (April 29) testimony, which I anticipated would reveal the multitude of problems confronting the rural unemployed, concentrated primarily on Neighborhood Youth Corps/Operation Mainstream, programs administered by the Department of Labor and dealing on a very restricted basis with the spectrum of problems constituting the rural employment crisis.

The present economic stagnation effecting large cities has reached the farm lands of America and while urban areas receive millions of dollars for employer incentives and programs designed to train and employ the disadvantaged there remains a tremendous void in the opportunities available for the rural displaced. In the nine counties (Audrain, Boone, Callaway, Cole, Cooper, Howard, Moniteau, Osage, Randolph) served by Central Missouri Counties' Human Development Corporation, an Office of Economic Opportunity funded Community Action Agency, the unemployment figures have risen from 3.2% in 1970 to a 4.5% in 1971 or about 2,700 persons. Furthermore, within this area there are some 16,000 families below the poverty guidelines.

Let's briefly examine the rural manpower situation in Central Missouri. While the rural philosophy continues to emphasize "keep 'em on the farm and develop training and employment opportunities sufficient enough to allow the vast majority of residents to become gainfully employed" in actual practices the programs and other opportunities available to the rural disadvantaged are far and in between. Thusly each month we find more and more families unable to sustain, leaving the farm lands and relocating in the already sweltering, depressed ghettos of Metropolis and adding to the unprecedented urban crisis.

Office of Economic Opportunity Versatile Funds

With a strong commitment and limited funds Central Missouri Counties' Human Development Corporation, through its versatile funding package, has launched a comprehensive approach to the manpower dilemma in Central Missouri. Realizing that the community at large must recognize the problems of the disadvantaged to successfully affect change and secondly, individual employers must also be sensitive to the inherent barriers preventing many persons from changing their circumstances, CMC/HDC has focused its manpower effort in three areas. Job Development-primarily negotiating with employers to waive excessive qualifications and requirements for entry level jobs to allow the unqualified, namely the poor, unskilled, uneducated resident an opportunity for gainful and meaningful employment. Job Placement-through careful evaluation and assessment we are often able to place applicants in jobs and/or training opportunities commensurable with their individual ability, skill level and interest (i.e., many applicants only need seasonal employment enabling them to support their families during the non-farming periods). The final aspect of the approach is follow-up or "support". For many of the so called "hard core unemployed" job placement isn't enough but

to assure that the individual remains on the job he will need assistance in overcoming habits and attitudes apparent in the disadvantaged person's life style which severely threatens his chances for job stability. Therefore, periodically throughout the employment process and especially during the first ninety days of employment regular contact is made with both employer and employee to ascertain any areas of concern early enough so that it doesn't jeopardize the employer-employee relationship.

To employ the Job Development, Placement and Follow-Up technique CMC/HDC created a para-professional staff position titled "Job Coach" and recruited within the various target areas to find individuals known and trusted to the community that possessed the ability to "rap" with the most withdrawn and dejected applicant but able to discuss employment trends with the most conservative and institutionalized employer. Presently we have five job coaches available to the Central Missouri nine-county area. After six months of operation the program was directly responsible for the creation of seventy-five newly developed jobs and one hundred fifty-six placements.

Programmatic Efforts of Employment Security

Realizing that the problems of the unemployed were monumental, the Manpower staff of CMC/HDC began looking at other agencies primarily Employment Security to determine what role they were playing in providing services for the community and especially the disadvantaged community. Providing a service that is basically oriented toward employer satisfaction, Employment Security has traditionally in rural areas and most urban been insensitive to the employment problems of the poor and minority population. Furthermore, the Employment Security staff in Central Missouri is so limited that it wouldn't allow for the kind of personalized approach the problem requires.

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It was further revealed that the MDTA classes offered by Employment Security are infrequently attended by the poor. In talking with one applicant about the MDTA program he stated, "that the classes in his area didn't offer the training he desired." Others commented that the classes they were interested in were too far away from their homes and would necessitate maintaining two households, placing a tremendous financial burden on their families. Furthermore previous classes were held at night taking mothers away from their children and finally upon completion of the classes too many of the graduates remained jobless.

The dilemma described above is the rule rather than the exception in many rural districts. There exists a tremendous credibility gap between services professed and services needed and available in depressed communities. Because of this betrayal, the poor and disadvantaged were no longer linking their need for employment and training with the Employment Security. CMC/HDC through its Job Coach program has attempted to cast a new reflection on the Employment Security by first of all assigning three of the five job coaches to local Employment Security offices. The goals for this association are twofold. Hopefully the presence of indigenous personnel will establish a trust factor stimulating the distrustful to seek out and use the services at Employment Security and secondly, the additional staff will permit Employment Security to do a more thorough job of employment counselling and outreach, and begin designing its programs to fit the needs of those residents who need them the most. (This in itself would represent a milestone for institutional change.) At the same time job coaches involved in this activity would gain the necessary experience that will enable them to become permanent employees of the Employment Security system. During the months this demonstration has been functional there has been notable change in the Employment

Security awareness of problems affecting the broader community, emphasizing acute problems of the disadvantaged. It has prompted the Columbia Employment Security Office to institute a HRD (Human Resources Development) unit with a present caseload of over three hundred applicants. HRD, operated by a team of Employment Security technicians including two job coaches, is a tremendous innovation on the part of a rural Employment Security agency. The unit is designed to closely identify the disadvantaged and their employment problems through grouping and indepth evaluation.

CAAs Design Innovative Approaches

Through the resources of OEO versatile funding other innovative approaches to the rural manpower problem have been implemented, for example the CMC/HDC "Project 20".[1] The program is implemented to train and place twenty unemployed women as clerk-typists or stenographers at the University of Missouri in half the time and cost of a regular MDTA Institutional program via classroom and on the job training during prime time hours (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.). The effect that this demonstration of emphasizing prime time classes, developing permanent jobs before the conclusion of training, the use of job coaches for orientation to the world of work and counselling has had on MDTA classess is revolutionary.

Limited Prevocational Training Offered by CAA

CMC/HDC operates a prevocational program geared primarily at assisting the unemployed, unskilled, disadvantaged male head of household. Again through OEO versatile funding the opportunity to deal with the problems of the severely disadvantaged who needs specialized services to prepare for work has been afforded. Through this program many residences having spent most

[1]Project 20 - For greater details refer to the "Review Analysis and Documentation of 20 Rural Manpower Programs." Prepared by Developmental Associates, Inc., submitted under OEO Contract No. B00 5187.

of their lives on farms and jobs oriented toward non-skilled labor have been retrained to acquire skills that are marketable in todays technicalized economy.

Moreover, rural areas like their big sister cities are faced with the problem of providing the basic skills necessary for residence to obtain permanent employment but as mentioned earlier, there is a vast difference in the resources available to rural America. Nonetheless CMC/HDC has both emphasized and developed opportunities for new careers in areas where the need is the greatest. In Osage County a Homemaker Aide Program was initiated to provide help for the shut-in and otherwise disable in performing essential domiciliary tasks. In Columbia, Missouri a Mexican-American is training to be a physical therapist at the University Medical Center. The list goes on with training opportunities ranging from personnel interviewer to bus driver. Unfortunately present funding levels only allow for ten training slots.

The effects that OEO Manpower programs have had on the rural employment crisis have been far reaching. Not only in service delivery of programmatic efforts but in the coordination and linkage of other manpower and related agencies services to provide greater opportunities for area residence. The flexibility of versatile funds have supported and provided the impetus necessary for maximum feasible participation of the disadvantaged and the coordination of community-wide talents and abilities to provide optimum and meaningful programs geared at training and employing the unemployed. Further examples of this activity are found in CMC/HDC's support both financially and technically to a community not-for-profit organization called the "Job Center, Inc.". The Job Center grew from a basic need to develop and place blacks in better jobs within Columbia, Missouri.

Presently the Job Center, Inc. serves the entire community and recently expanded its program to include basic education classes. It has been successful in motivating blacks toward seeking greater employment opportunities within the community.

Other Programs Administered by CMC/HDC

In addition to the manpower effort already described, CMC/HDC conducts two other Manpower programs, the Foster Grandparent Program and the Neighborhood Youth Corps. The Foster Grandparent Program is designed to attack two of the basic problems of the elderly poor; inadequate income and the need to be useful in latter years of life. The program provides an opportunity for thirty-five low income senior citizens to increase their wages, lift their standard of living, to increase their wages and to increase their buying power. Furthermore, about one hundred and ten children will greatly benefit from having individual personal attention given to them by older adults who visit area institutions on a regular basis to see them. This program with its distinctive advantages due to limited funding levels can only enroll 1.3% of the elderly poor; a very small proportion of this particular target group. With medical and technological advances people are healthier and living longer this has presented a national question, "What to do with the senior citizen"? The impact and success of employing the senior citizen in useful and gainful activities is one of the most tangible results to be seen in rural areas. This program is becoming more and more known in the communities in which we work. Institutions which are usually noted for forced retirement at age 65 (60 in some cases) are being shown that the older worker still has much to give and the institution has much to receive through the activities of this program. In the long range, perhaps it can be demonstrated by the productivity and effective-

ness of this age group, encouraging these institutions to use older workers for longer periods of time before forcing them to retire.

The Neighborhood Youth Corps program, also administered by CMC/HDC, presently serves twenty-five counties in central and northeast Missouri, with a population of 469,000 and an area covering some 13,712 miles. Recently Mr. Jack McBride, Neighborhood Youth Corps Director, presented a testimony to the Senate Subcommittee on Employment and Poverty. In his testimony it was stated that the CMC/HDC NYC program consists of 254 in-school slots, 95 NYC II out-of-school slots and 45 Operation Mainstream slots. (Operation Mainstream only available in 16 counties.) The projected summer (1971) slot allocation is 675. Within the twenty-five county area served by this NYC project there are no other youth employment programs. MDTA provides only very limited training opportunities and as mentioned before, these classes are often held far distances from the trainee's home town.

There are obvious and apparent flaws in the existing NYC II concept as it is tried in a rural setting; the vast transportation problem, discrepencies in wages paid to different categories of trainees often working on the same location, however, NYC II remains to be the only program available for youth between the ages 16-17 in the area. With a little more thought and planning it could provide the dropout with his greatest opportunity for education, skilled training and employment.

Proposed Manpower Legislation and Revenue Sharing

CMC/HDC, along with many other rural CAAs, is attempting to develop comprehensive manpower programs oriented toward the problems and conditions prevailing in their communities. If more funds were available the programs could increase the number of people assisted and improve its service delivery. In view of the proposed manpower legislation and more specifically

special revenue sharing there is great probability that these kind of programs, serving both rural and urban communities, will be scraped and in many cases not because the programs have been ineffective but because the administrators and staff lack the political sophistication and clout to compete with the more political assiduous programs. It alarms me greatly to know that there exists continued reluctance to effectively deal with the rural manpower problem which admittedly differs greatly from the urban fiasco and therefore the strategies and plans must differ. The political machinery of rural government doesn't compare with the demagoguery of metropolis, nevertheless no special condition or attention has been given to the rural crisis, therefore the fate of CAAs along with their needed employment programs will be left in the hands of insensitive, agrarian oriented rural governments that have not been intimidated by the riots of Detriot or the fires of Kansas City, and are grossly naive to the deprivation and frustration smothering in the minds of the unemployed and the poor.

I would like to urge your committee, Senator, to explore ways of assisting the poor and disadvantaged on the farm lands of America. It is essential that the existing relevant programs struggling for existence are saved and strengthened through greater financial and technical assistance.

Respectfully,

Jack C. Gilbert
Manpower Coordinator

JCG/ldt

RECEIVED
APR 29 1971
OFFICE OF
SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON

RESEARCH PROJECT
Wisconsin Electric Cooperative
Office of Economic Opportunity

Wisconsin Rural Housing Cooperative

Box 686, MADISON
WISCONSIN 53701

April 27, 1971

Honorable Gaylord Nelson
United States Senate
Old Senate Office Building
Room 404
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

We believe you will be interested in our appearance April 21 before the House Committee on Education and Labor, which is considering legislation to extend the Economic Opportunity Act.

The enclosed statement will provide you with background on the organization and function of our new cooperative, which is funded by OEO as a pilot program to assist low-income rural families in obtaining better housing.

As stated, we are "helping to build these needed homes with individual mortgages financed mainly through the Farmers Home Administration, which is the principal source of funds for housing in rural areas."

Other testimony was offered at the hearing by representatives of similar OEO-funded housing programs in Kentucky, North Carolina and Massachusetts. The four of us will be working together to study mutual problems and thereby suggest improved and additional solutions to rural housing needs.

Sincerely,

George Davis

G.E. Davis, Manager
Wisconsin Rural Housing Coop.

Enclosures: 1

GED:drh

STATEMENT TO HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
On the OEO Pilot Program for Cooperative Rural Housing
In Wisconsin

APRIL 21, 1971
Submitted by G. E. Davis, Project Director and
Manager of the Wisconsin Rural Housing Cooperative

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to describe the unique work we are doing with a statewide rural housing cooperative in Wisconsin, probably the only such organization in the nation. We find that poverty is a problem in rural as well as urban areas, and we are trying to do something about it.

At least 25% of the residents in 23 rural Wisconsin counties live in poverty, according to a study by the National Council on Hunger and Malnutrition. This is about one-third of our counties, and is based on a family of four earning $3450 or less each year. Five of these counties have 30% or more of their families living in poverty.

Rural poverty is evident in a shortage of decent housing, a lack of employment opportunities at livable wages, a loss of tax base and a dwindling of population. The out-migration

of 19 to 35-year-old people is most critical, because this bleeds the labor force, making it more difficult to attract industry.

Our cooperative program was established to do something about the housing shortage, and in this way to help slow out-migration, making it easier to bring industry into the rural areas, and to help restore the tax base.

We know, for example, of a rural city of 3,000 population where the Chamber of Commerce and local leaders worked to get a sizeable industry into town. However, when the management came to inspect available housing, they couldn't find any. The Chamber was advised that the industry would have to locate elsewhere.

Our cooperative is helping to build these needed homes with individual mortgages financed mainly through the Farmers Home Administration, which is the principal source of funds for housing in rural areas. We are working directly for people with poverty-level incomes under OEO guidelines.

We believe these families would not ordinarily be reached by Farmers Home Administration or any other conventional lending institution. Most of these people

have been hardened by experience not to expect that any agency will help to solve their housing problems, or even to show an interest. The only way they have been reached previously is by the census-taker or a survey maker or some fly-by-night operation with high promises and higher interest rates. They were suspicious of our program, and rightly so, until we proved by actual construction that low-cost housing can be available for low-income families.

Some of these people are already homeowners, but of tarpaper shacks, log cabins or other ramshackle construction. These buildings generally are beyond repair, with more problems than the owners can afford. Other families are paying rent to some absentee landlord for housing that isn't worth the cost of refurbishing. State Officials estimate that there are at least 199,000 sub standard or dilapidated homes in rural Wisconsin including villages and cities with a population of 2500 or less.

These rural people need economic help, and need housing badly, if they are to continue living in their present locations. The combination of unemployment or low-paying jobs and substandard housing can easily force them to

move to urban areas, where their problems will only be compounded. These people are unskilled for most work that might be available, and they would only become wards of the city utterly dependent on welfare.

We are visiting homes where the only running water comes from a leaking roof, where air circulates around the cardboard in windows, where doors and screens hang loose on their hinges, where families sit around in outdoor clothing for warmth in window, where walls are bare and floors are dirt or sagging.

The amenities of life are likely to come from a fish pole, a potato patch, a few rows of corn, a chicken coop and a woodlot. And these are the amenties they would lose if they are forced to migrate to the city.

Our program can help these people and their rural areas, so long as they are employed and not too heavily in debt. We can generally qualify them for low-interest loans to help them refurbish their present homes, buy sound older homes or even build new homes. They must show ability to repay the loan, pay property taxes, and carry the other expenses of homeownership.

Needless to say, we cannot help all families. Many of them at poverty-level do not have the resources for better

housing, even with substantial contributions of "sweat labor." One problem is their lack of ready cash or savings to meet unexpected emergencies, whether for essential home repairs, a needed major appliance, a car that will run, or perhaps a medical bill.

The only source of immediate credit is the installment purchase or the finance company, with high-interest rates and mandatory monthly payments. Then another emergency, or a failure to pay other bills, and it is back to the finance company for a larger bill-paying loan, refinance charges and a higher monthly payment. Once on this treadmill, they almost never get out of debt.

It is part of our job to help work out family budgets to reduce debts, hopefully to a point where a bank or credit union will assist the family, and hopefully to qualify the family for a housing loan.

For all eligible families we make up a complete financial statement, with income, expenses, assets, debts, a planned budget, a list of references, and a lien search at the county court house for a clear record. Then we can estimate what the family can afford to pay for a home--whether new construction or older home. We assist the

family to plan or locate a house that meets with their approval, and will fit their needs. We help in locating and taking option on a suitable lot at a reasonable price. We assist in getting firm bids on a house, plus excavating, basement, well, septic system, plumbing and floor covering....and all at prices close to cost because otherwise the work couldn't be done.

We insist on as much self-help as possible, whether in digging the basement or assisting the carpenter. In all cases, the families take care of their own painting, staining and landscaping. These types of work contribute to the value of the property, and help instill the pride of ownership. With careful bidding, self-help and sometimes mass purchases for several homes in one area, we are saving our homeowners between $500 and $1,000 per house on construction costs.

Our cooperative was granted a charter in May, 1970, and our first home was built in September. We now have 18 families in good comfortable homes and we have 14 ready for construction. By waiting until after May 1st, these families will get a tax break, with their first property taxes not due until January of 1973. These homes are located in 12 counties and total loan applications cover 22 counties.

These people seem to have a completely different outlook on life when they get their new homes. This could be a reason for two people from our first homes getting employment at higher salaries.

There are times when our program can be very frustrating and time-consuming, but you simply can't buy the thrill that comes with seeing a family in a new home, with the pride of the parents and the smiles of the children. Thank you.

Senator NELSON. I appreciate your taking the time to come here to testify today.

That concludes the hearings until May 5.

Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, at 1:10 p.m. the subcommittee adjourned, to reconvene at 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 5, 1971.)