

I also am sure that the mayors would have many additions to make to a list of likely local projects outlined in the war on poverty working paper as qualified under the bill. They range now from development of new employment opportunities to reducing adult illiteracy and from rehabilitation of the handicapped to improving home management skills.

Mayors will not have to be inventive to keep the project pipeline full. The unfilled community needs are visible from any city hall window.

In my own city of St. Louis, we know from close experience of the impact of poverty upon our citizens.

Generally speaking, the overall St. Louis area shares in the general "affluence" of our present society. However, within the central city, serious pockets of poverty exist.

Our St. Louis community is presently participating in every Federal and State program aimed at combating the effects of poverty. Our local government spends tens of millions on hospital care for the indigent, health care, and other ameliorative programs. Continual efforts are made to provide safe and sanitary housing. Our board of education has pioneered in the effort to lower dropout rates and to upgrade the motivation of young people and their parents.

Fundamentally, hard-core unemployment under present conditions is not seriously affected by good economic conditions. Hard-core unemployment lies largely among the unskilled and untrained, among the semiskilled who are being displaced by technological changes—and most heavily among those deprived of advantages because of racial prejudices.

In St. Louis we are most concerned about the snowballing effects of this hard-core unemployment and poverty. We feel it to be essential to break the grip of poverty upon the youth of today and future generations.

This job can only be done with massive Federal programs dovetailing with State, local, and private efforts.

We have created the St. Louis Human Development Corp. to coordinate an attack on the basic causes of poverty and youth crime in a target area of 110,000 people in the heart of our city.

In this area, family incomes are below the level needed for decent living. Unemployment, disease, broken homes, unsafe and unsanitary housing, school dropouts, and high death rates run together.

Forty-five percent of the people in the target area are under 20 years of age. Fifty-five percent of the residents are Negroes and 45 percent are whites.

The Human Development Corp. heads a program for better coordination and focusing of the existing public and private social and welfare services rendered in this area. However, we have recognized the need for more than coordination. We seek to bring services directly to the people through neighborhood stations located throughout the target area.

These neighborhood stations will provide initial contact points for programs in the fields of employment education, group therapy, family counseling, legal assistance, youth groups, housing improvements, and health services.