

Central to this concept is securing through the neighborhood stations the active participation of the residents of the area, and our overall objective is to bring particularly the young people of the area to the point where they can share in an expanding economy.

Obviously, only an expanding economy with constantly greater job opportunity can supply the final answer to poverty. But the crucial question with hard-core poverty is to prepare the individuals affected to be able to participate in such an economic expansion.

I can only touch upon the basic nature of the St. Louis human development program. We do think it represents a kind of local format, aimed at local conditions, which can provide a basis capable of expansion through the Federal poverty program.

Cities all over the country, with State and Federal assistance, are developing approaches to the problem of poverty. These approaches, however, cannot be significantly implemented from the overstrained fiscal resources of local government.

The magnitude of the task is beyond local capacity, and the root causes of the problem are national in character.

The essential strength of the proposed Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 lies in its provision of Federal support for basic programs which can be flexibly related to local efforts. It would provide the vital impetus to assure success for local programs which seek through enhanced coordination and refocusing better to utilize private and public funds devoted to social and welfare services.

Mr. Chairman, both as mayor of St. Louis, and as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, I support most strongly the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The U.S. Conference of Mayors is prepared to march with President Johnson and Congress in the war against poverty.

Thank you.

Mr. LANDRUM. Thank you, Mayor Tucker. May I ask of you if this part of your statement relating to the position of the U.S. Conference of Mayors represents an official action that you have taken in any meeting?

Mayor TUCKER. The executive committee, yes.

Mr. LANDRUM. It is the executive committee?

Mayor TUCKER. That is right.

Mr. LANDRUM. The conference does endorse this program?

Mayor TUCKER. That is right.

Mr. LANDRUM. Thank you, Mayor Tucker. Mrs. Green, do you desire recognition?

Mrs. GREEN. May I congratulate the mayor on a very forceful statement in support of what I think is a very desirable program. I have listened now for several days to some of the people who oppose it and who bring up all the arguments that we should delay and study and analyze. We can plan a war on poverty and illiteracy and disease in other countries of the world and we can plan on a trip to the moon but somehow there are those who believe we offend the gods if we plan a war on poverty in our own country that would help the people who are at the bottom of the economic ladder. So I am delighted with the statement you have made to the committee.

Mayor TUCKER. Thank you.