

STATEMENT OF HON. EDWARD T. BREATHITT, GOVERNOR OF KENTUCKY; ACCOMPANIED BY MISS KATHERINE PEDEN, COMMISSIONER, KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE; AND JOHN WHISMAN, ADMINISTRATOR, KENTUCKY AREA PROGRAM OFFICE

Governor BREATHITT. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I would like to file this prepared statement. Mr. John Whisman, who is my special assistant for the Kentucky Area Program Office, was to meet me at 3 o'clock but we had a tailwind and I am a little early.

I brought with me today some information which shows some of the examples of poverty in Kentucky. There is no time to repeat these for you here. Rather, I will leave them here for later reference if you so choose. Simply stated, this information shows that 38 percent of Kentucky's families live on incomes of less than \$3,000 per year. The immediate cost of this poverty is enormous. A quick look at the State budget over the years will show this in the best manner. More importantly, the long-run costs are incalculable because there is no way to measure the accumulative waste of human resources.

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, which my testimony supports today, relates to and enhances what we have been doing in Kentucky.

Each title of this proposed legislation offers solutions to examples of poverty we find in our State. Governor Combs, my predecessor, established an area program office with Mr. John Whisman as its director and special assistant. He has been working with the Governor's Commission on Appalachia and is their executive director. We have a program specifically designed for that particular area.

This bill—the poverty bill, or the “Economic Opportunity Act” as it is more properly entitled—will supplement greatly the efforts which the State of Kentucky has been doing for a number of years. First, with the creation of a Job Corps, we will begin to reach some of the young men of our State who experience one of our greatest problems. I am talking of these men who are short of the minimum requirements for drafting into the Armed Forces. In Kentucky, the magnitude of the rejection rate for our draft eligibles is great. Recently the Selective Service released data showing that 50.9 percent of all examinees were turned down during 1963 and more significantly—

Mr. PERKINS. Let me interrupt you. If you do not mind, the committee will recess for a couple of minutes to get a picture.

(Short recess.)

Mr. PERKINS. Proceed.

Governor BREATHITT. I would like to present, to the members of the committee, Miss Katherine Peden, our commissioner of commerce, formerly the national president of the B.P. & W. Club and on the President's Commission on Equal Status for Women. In her department, she is coordinating with my area program office head, special assistants, John Whisman, and Congressman Perkins and our congressional delegation in the Federal agencies.

Mr. PERKINS. We are delighted to have the gentlelady who is a distinguished member of your cabinet.