

Governor BREATHITT. Gentlemen, we Kentuckians have come to know our State as a land of striking, and sometimes ironic, contrast. Mountain ridges and bluegrass plain; thoroughbred horse and stubborn mule; the greatest bourbon distilleries and strong adherence to temperance; the Nation's gold at Fort Knox; and startling cases of human beings in dire need exist together in Kentucky to proclaim that, here, great difference is the rule rather than the exception.

And nowhere, more than in our State, is better demonstrated the ironic and intolerable contrast that concerns you here today—the persistence of poverty and underdevelopment in an America of prosperity and unlimited progress.

We know both of these situations in Kentucky. For each of the past 3 years, Kentucky has received an award recognizing our programs of development as being one of the top 3 among all the 50 States and great industries are bringing new jobs to many areas of the State. Yet we must face some of the Nation's most difficult and unyielding development problems in other areas of Kentucky where many of our people—like the other Americans who concern you—have not had the opportunity to gain the productive job-holding, comfortable-level-of-living positions which we think of as typifying today's American citizens.

It is no secret that Kentucky is not now the Nation's most prosperous State. But we hope it is just as well known that Kentucky is becoming one of the Nation's most progressive States.

It is a privilege for me to appear here before you today in my official capacity of Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I am happy to have the opportunity to tell you how we believe the legislation, which you are considering as part of President Johnson's "War on Poverty," is viewed in my State.

Kentucky, like every other State in these United States, has the rather sharp contrast between the affluent society and those who must endure, in one degree or another, denial of the evidences of the good life. There is not a single community or political subdivision within Kentucky that does not exhibit this contrast. The significant fact to remember is that we have certain geographical areas which have greater concentrations of wealth or poverty than other regions within the State and, in relation to the several States, we are less well off economically than many of our sisters.

With some of the Nation's most difficult economic problems facing us in Kentucky we have had to develop the most effective programs for their treatment. We have learned much in devising new approaches to meet our intense and unusual problems. But we have only begun to apply the kind of action we must take.

We in Kentucky endorse strongly, and knowledgeably, the economic opportunity program as the central weapon in the arsenal of new programs now recommended to you for use in the strategic war on poverty inaugurated by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Our Kentucky endorsement of this program is not lightly given. Our need for more extensive and effective action in Kentucky is so critical that we would be reluctant to settle for a program which was inadequate in strength or unsuited to our problem. We frankly believe we are qualified to judge the weaponry of a war for development because we have declared and waged our own war on poverty