

are heartened by three factors of this program which have been immensely successful: There has been virtually no absenteeism among the worker-recipients; many of the workers are already obtaining permanent jobs as a result of their work experiences; and community reactions to the work programs have been enthusiastic. The pilot program is a success in Kentucky and I welcome the broadened opportunities for work, job training, and basic education which the bill aims to achieve.

In addition to the specific comments I have made on the program elements of the bill itself, there are some general impressions I hold concerning this legislation as it relates to the total effort which President Johnson enumerated in his poverty message. Some detractors have said that the bill you are considering does not go far enough to make any appreciable reduction in the size of the problem. I do not subscribe to this notion for I am aware that we are not prepared or equipped to attempt to correct all the glaring inequities in our economic fabric. President Johnson, in his poverty speech, named additional bases of legislation which he required as essential to the successful waging of the war. Among these was (1) the completely comprehensive Appalachian program of regional development in which Kentucky has a major interest and in which Governor Combs, my predecessor, served as the first Governor of the Appalachian Congress and (2) an expanding housing program, geared to specific and critical housing needs, the food stamp program, and numerous other programs will make up the total action required for the elimination of poverty in all its respects. These legislative proposals are necessary and I believe they will be enacted to establish the full foundation, for the first time, for the strategic and permanent campaign to continue the development of real opportunity for all Americans to share in the expectations our country and our age should hold.

I am reminded of President Kennedy's admonishment to the American people to bear with patience the burden of the long twilight struggle with the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease, and war. The timetable for overcoming these ills was too distant even for his vision to contemplate; rather, he felt the important thing was to make a start. Therefore, "Let us begin."

(The material referred to follows:)