

ful in this area and will do things that we just do not have the ability to do in Kentucky.

Mr. LANDRUM. Is it your feeling, then, that a \$1,500 grant with the possibility of a \$2,500 loan might elevate these farmers into a higher subsistence level?

Governor BREATHITT. Yes, I do, because with our Agricultural Development Commission, with their local county councils which can give guidance and working with the extension department of the university, these loans and grants will give the ability to these marginal farmers to get their operation at a level where they can increase their income, in our judgment, substantially.

Mr. LANDRUM. Did I understand you to say in your formal statement that the farms headed by women in Kentucky, and I assume widowed women, have an annual income of less than \$1,000?

Governor BREATHITT. \$807 per year; for the men the median is \$1,644.

Mr. LANDRUM. Is that gross or net?

Governor BREATHITT. That is their median net income; yes, sir.

Mr. LANDRUM. I want to thank you for coming and giving the committee the benefit of your views and especially thank you for describing the actions which you have already taken to alleviate some of the problems associated with poverty.

I want to ask you one other question. Is it your feeling that this problem of poverty is of sufficient national interest to justify putting all of the Federal programs that we have drawn together under one umbrella here, under the director of one office, so that the information and assistance from all the agencies can be made available at one time to all the States?

Governor BREATHITT. I think that would be helpful just as we have done in Kentucky. Of course, I do think that it is important that all the other programs, when we do this, be given the emphasis that they are now being given, such as Appalachia, the housing programs and other programs. I think it is very helpful to bring them under one umbrella and we have done that in Kentucky. I might say this: This week, groups in Kentucky throughout the State have been supporting this program including our State chamber of commerce which passed a resolution strongly supporting the poverty program in our more regional problem of Appalachia, which, of course, fits more closely together. Every group that I found in Kentucky in our State where we see these problems so acutely, regardless of their political affiliation or general economic outlook, feel that this is a sound program and one that the Congress should pass to help solve this problem.

Mr. LANDRUM. So, you agree that with this program and the program such as your own State is inaugurating, that we are beginning a movement away from the relief and charity phases of our treatment of this disease and moving more intensely and directly against the causes with remedies to rid ourselves of the blight?

Governor BREATHITT. Yes, sir. I have been speaking in the last 2 weeks to a number of local annual chamber meetings as well as the State annual chamber meetings. This is a group of people in Kentucky—of course, they are greatly interested in welfare programs. This direction of Federal legislation and Federal programs and this particular piece of legislation has their strong approval.