

"We have nothing for you, you are unacceptable to the Army, you are unacceptable to our vocational training programs, you are unacceptable to the job opportunities that we have coming into this area and you are not apparent, so you can't fit into this other program we have." So we honestly feel that this is a very important program. The States that have the greatest problem, of course, will avail themselves of this program.

Mr. PERKINS. There is usually someone in these employment offices who knows who the dropouts are, who the unemployed are, what families they come from, and you have someone that consults with the schools and other interested people and institutions. As a usual rule a good job is being done by the employment service in Kentucky.

Governor BREATHITT. Yes; I find that there is a new caliber of school superintendents, a younger group all over eastern Kentucky, in this area working closely with these officers and the community leaders. But we still have this large category as demonstrated by the fact that Kentucky has one of the higher percentages of rejections of any State in the Nation by our Armed Forces. It is an alarming situation. We are doing all we know to meet it. We think this program will take care of that other category.

Mr. BELL. Do you think that is primarily due to the longer period of time in which families have been struggling in poverty?

Governor BREATHITT. Certainly, that is a major contributing factor. The whole economic distress problem of Appalachia has contributed to it. This has brought about many things. We first had the timber industry, then we had the coal industry in this area. Now coal is being automated. They have switched now to stripping, which is creating a byproduct of problems as well as the problem of putting people out of jobs. They have automated deep mines. It is also laying waste to our lands and clogging our streams and we are having to deal with those problems in the area. That is what these corps are going to do, our jobless parents corps, probably one of the first assignments. We are going to have them go in the old strip areas to recontour, plan, rehabilitate, and conserve that area. Then with the new law and new regulations we are going to try to control the operation that goes on now. If it does not work, we will pass more laws, more regulations. But we are really attacking the routes and bases of the problem rather than merely responding to the problem with relief programs. That is where Congressman Perkins is doing such an effective job as our Congressman in the heart of that area, for this area.

With all due respect to every other Congressman here, I don't think there is any Congressman who is more sensitive to the needs of an area and is going about it, in my judgment, in his support of programs any better than Congressman Perkins is doing.

Mr. BELL. I certainly concur.

Governor BREATHITT. Thank you, sir.

Mr. PERKINS. I would like to see this bill cover many other areas that are necessary to do this job. This bill is no more than a skirmish, in my opinion, but it is an important one to start with.

Governor BREATHITT. You are also supporting the Appalachian bill, the housing, and all the other bills.