

self-respect that these people get by doing something constructive. They know what they are getting, they know what they are being paid for. They are choosing this, even those who might be eligible for some other type of aid. They are choosing this. We are making it a condition although it is not required by the public law, it is authorized by public law. We in Kentucky are making it a condition. There are so many of them. That was the most interesting thing. I came up with the Floyd County attorney and talked to him to see how this program was working. We are finding that the dropout rate has been significantly reduced. These parents are back working. These children sort of lose hope when they know their parents are not working, when they have no income coming in except food stamps and commodities.

Mr. BELL. How many people do you have working under those projects?

Governor BREATHITT. About 1,800. We have nine counties and about 200 people working in each county on the average. That, of course, will go to 120 counties under our total program.

Mr. BELL. It is in just the early stages yet?

Governor BREATHITT. Yes. We are now on a pilot program in nine counties. We started with that so that we could gain experience with the program. We have been real successful. For example, we have a timekeeper assigned to the job. He checks it off just as carefully as if they were working for \$2.85 an hour on a highly qualified construction job. They are working and we are really getting results from it.

Mr. BELL. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

Governor BREATHITT. And when they are back to work it is a working pool where employers can go to and they can go and ask the fellow on the job, he picks out the best people on the job, he can go right to it. Here is a pool of available employable people and they don't do it on the individual basis. They can go and pick up what they need. That has been another benefit. It is a manpower pool that people go to. And they are beginning to learn some skills. You would be surprised how many skills we have found these people have.

Mr. BELL. You mentioned the automation in the mines. Is that going to make a particular dent in the economy there, do you think?

Governor BREATHITT. It already has. The mines are automated. That is what has caused the real problem in eastern Kentucky in two areas. The deep mines which were the original coal mines were automated. That threw them out of work. Then the strip mines are almost totally automated. You have a big shovel that strips the dirt aside. Then the big auger that goes in the side or big shovel that scoops the coal up. The railroads have built spurs right to the mine and they have loaded right at the mine and they ship it to the system plants. The people who work are highly paid technicians but—

Mr. BELL. The market is sizable enough to help the economy I assume.

Governor BREATHITT. Well, the coal market does help the economy on the contract sales but the base is very narrow now. Instead of being paid to a large number of miners it is coming to the operator and