

Mr. QUIE. Mr. Chairman, could I ask one question here?

Mr. PERKINS. Yes.

Mr. QUIE. You say there is a need for top personnel with experience for working with youth and with the educational qualifications. Are these people available?

Mrs. BAKER. I could not say that today but I believe that in our country we have resources that can be made available within reasonable time.

Mr. QUIE. Thank you. That is all.

Mrs. BAKER. 3. By encouraging many-faceted approaches to community problems, the program recognizes that "poverty is a web of circumstances, not the simple result of a simple condition.

The declaration of purpose of the act recognizes that "education and training, the opportunity to work, and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity" are the several problems that must be tackled if we are to fight poverty effectively. We support the multiproblem approach. Poverty is more than an economic phenomenon.

From one of our field staff comes this supporting material.

There is no poverty in the abstract, only poor people with many problems. If programs are set up to tackle only the problems of education or of housing, or of jobs, only people who fit into those programs will benefit. If instead, or in addition, programs are aimed at the problems of poor people, working through these problems in whatever way they arise, many more can be brought along to the point where they can participate in broader programs already existing.

We have many illustrations of this principle. To select one at random: Our contact with one American Indian family began when they came to our project for some emergency relief. The husband had been out of work for over a year. They were about to be dispossessed. The family had exhausted any help the Bureau of Indian Affairs could give them. They had not been in California for the 3 years necessary to get general welfare assistance. Through our caseworker, the confidence of the family was gained, emergency aid found. But as the contact deepened, other problems were revealed: With the probation department; with medical and dental needs of the children; the attitudes toward the school on the part of the parents who kept one of the older children home frequently to look after the smaller ones; alcohol, housekeeping, and so on. In other words, a typical set of problems which keep occurring with variations. It would be wonderful to report that all the problems had been solved. They aren't, but the husband does now have a job, much of the pressure is off the situation, and the other needs are being tackled one by one.

At one point this morning, we discussed rather thoroughly the much needed emphasis as to the need of the rural American. I would like to refer you to our written statement for that. 4. The act supports the principle of direct loans to the Government for the poor. I refer you to page 8 for that material.

Here I think on page 8 will be found an answer to one of the questions asked earlier this morning of Mr. Graham.

On page 9, I think you will find a delineation of the way in which the Farmers Home Administration came to the rescue in one of the cases in which we were working.

We would like to point out, however, or call your special attention to our project in Tulare County and emphasize with you that our emphasis has not been with the farmers as was the emphasis of the previous persons who testified this morning but rather with farm laborers, particularly in Fresno, in Tulare County in California.

We share these illustrations with you to point up three things: The wisdom of involvement of the poor, their capacity to plan, the need for skilled personnel, and the need for experimental approach.