

Mrs. BAKER. Thank you.

Mr. PERKINS. Mr. Hawkins, do you have any questions of this witness?

Mr. HAWKINS. No, I will just commend them and let it go at that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. PERKINS. The committee at this time will recess to come back at 1:30 p.m.

(Whereupon, at 11:55 a.m., the committee recessed until 1:30 p.m. this same day.)

AFTERNOON SESSION

Mr. PERKINS. The committee will come to order; a quorum is present.

Our next witness is Mrs. Stephen J. Nicholson, who will represent the American Federation of Women's Clubs.

We welcome you here.

STATEMENT OF MRS. STEPHEN J. NICHOLSON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Mrs. NICHOLSON. Thank you. I am Mrs. Stephen J. Nicholson, executive secretary of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

I should like to read the statement which our president, Mrs. Dexter Otis Arnold, had hoped to present today.

Mr. PERKINS. Proceed.

Mrs. NICHOLSON. The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an organization whose purpose is—

to unite the women's clubs and like organizations throughout the world for the purpose of mutual benefit, and for the promotion of their common interest in education, philanthropy, public welfare, moral values, civics, and fine arts.

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, which would mobilize the human and financial resources of the Nation to combat poverty in the United States, touches on many of the areas of interest of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

As stated in this bill—

The United States can achieve its full economic and social potential as a nation only if every individual has the opportunity to contribute to the full extent of his capabilities and to participate in the workings of our society.

It is, therefore, the policy of the United States to eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty in this Nation by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training, the opportunity to work, and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity.

There is no mention in this bill's purpose of a national welfare dole—and that is good. The most important words are "education" and "training" and "opportunity to work."

The members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs have long realized that the most lasting help which can be given to those in need is the opportunity to learn and the opportunity to become self-supporting. Poverty perpetuates itself so it is the upcoming generation that should be given the greatest consideration if the cycle of poverty is to be stopped.

And one of the best ways to help them is to educate their parents. If a father and a mother are given the opportunity to work and to con-