

tribute to the full extent of their capabilities and to participate in the workings of our society, then their children will be better able to take advantage of this bill's educational opportunities.

In title II and in title V of this bill, mention is made of adult education but no specific recommendations are made. In our opinion, the need for making the basic educational opportunities available to adults is equally as important as making these opportunities available to the 16- to 21-year-old group.

Illiteracy is a major cause of poverty and, if first things come first, illiteracy must be eliminated before the problem of poverty can be solved. With the increase of technological unemployment, it becomes more and more important that the unlearned and the unskilled be given a basic education in order to prepare them for other jobs. We ask you to consider seriously the possibility of writing into this bill a provision which would provide educational opportunities to the illiterate, unemployed adult.

For the past 2 years the General Federation of Women's Clubs has conducted its own battle in the war on poverty in the form of an adult literacy program which has been aimed at this very problem of adult illiterates.

This program has been taken up quite enthusiastically by our club members across the country and the results have been very gratifying. We published and distributed this book which I hold in my hand entitled, "Teaching Adults the Literacy Skills," which was prepared for us by experts in the Office of Education. This book is designed to teach volunteers how to conduct courses in the basic literacy skills.

Another highly successful tool to combat illiteracy which has been used by our members is "Operation Alphabet"—a series of 100 television lessons designed to take the student through the third grade.

"Operation Alphabet" has been televised in many States and in those areas where it has been shown for the second and third times it seems to be gaining a wider and wider audience. An enlargement of educational television programs of this kind is certainly worthy of consideration.

Since 1955, clubwomen throughout the country have fought their own war on community inadequacies which lead to poverty through the community improvement program, a program sponsored jointly by the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the Sears, Roebuck Foundation.

At the present time, close to 10,000 clubs—an estimated 300,000 clubwomen—are working in this program which examines community needs, organizes for action, and works to solve local problems. Their successes cut across a wide range of community improvements including health, welfare, employment, education, and industrial development.

Acting as community catalysts, clubwomen have brought about change in defunct coal mining towns in Appalachia, in complex metropolitan areas, and in small towns throughout the land. Their work is testimony to the fact that community problems relating to the perpetuation of poverty can be attacked and solved.

If the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 is passed and if the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity believes that the members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs can be of help in