

genuine, constructive relief to the poverty stricken than can be accomplished anywhere else with similar expenditures. In saying this, however, we recognize fully that other programs are necessary for other groups of economically deprived individuals.

13. Question. Is this amendment consistent with the purposes of H.R. 10440, its administrative framework and drafting procedures?

Answer. The answer is yes in all three instances. This amendment will help achieve the purposes of the bill by stepping up the war against poverty in that portion of the economically deprived who are physically and mentally handicapped. It will do so by using an experienced, successful program already devoted to the alleviation of poverty. It will be administered in a manner consistent with other provisions of the bill; that is, the transfer of funds to an already existing department of government. The drafting form is similar to other titles and uses almost the same language as found in the present title V. The Federal share of expenditures is also consistent with the provisions of title V.

Mr. WHITTEN. I will come directly to the point with respect to the chief purpose for our being here. We are in general support of this legislation but our organization is concerned specifically with its relationship to the rehabilitation of physically and mentally impaired persons.

Incidentally, this is a most significant part of the total number of impoverished people in this country.

You may have noticed that the Secretary of Labor says that 12 percent of the individuals who are applying for manpower development and training programs are physically handicapped people. We have every reason to believe that if the mentally retarded, the mentally and the most severely handicapped who would not necessarily apply for such benefits were added, that this might mean 20 percent of the total number of individuals that you are proposing to help through this legislation.

Now, frankly, we want to use this legislation in order to speed up efforts to rehabilitate handicapped people in this country. They are generally the most poor of the poor. In fact, disability itself is the cause of poverty in a large number of instances and poverty compounds disability when it is the other way around. So, we think this is the most significant part of the total purpose that legislation of this kind ought to have.

Now, in the hearings up to this point, there has been slight reference to rehabilitation, to this particular part of the poverty load. None that I remember at all by any administration witnesses, and any other references have been in the sideline fashion.

We have been afraid that, unless there is special emphasis given to the special problems of handicapped people in this legislation, we are going to find handicapped people falling again through the cracks, so to speak, of these programs just as they have in so many other programs that have been started in this country.

Mr. GOODELL. Mr. Chairman, may I interrupt the witness for a moment?

Mr. PERKINS. Go ahead.

Mr. GOODELL. I am going to have to leave. I want to tell you, Mr. Whitten, that I have read your testimony and I would just like to ask you—I think it is very impressive—it seems to me, however, that in a sense you are proposing something that, for some portions of this bill, should be an alternative rather than a supplemental suggestion.

I am deeply concerned that we are setting up a new director with some sort of implied authority over ongoing, existing programs with-