

out any very specific authority in the law. The director has new authorities we grant under this act for special projects. Obviously, to be effective it must be dovetailed with the ongoing existing programs.

One of the finest is the vocational rehabilitation program. I notice you say \$20 million will do the job to start with the first year. You recommend two or three things which are very important; one, that there be a State allocation formula for that \$20 million; two, that the money go to HEW and thereby obviously to the present Vocational Rehabilitation Administration.

Both those points I agree with very strongly.

I would like you, if you would, to expand for a moment on the importance of those two points and why you stress them so.

Mr. WHITTEN. Mr. Chairman and Mr. Goodell, let me say that we assume that rehabilitation agencies, both public and voluntary, would participate to whatever degree they could in any kind of community undertaking underway. But the reason for our specific proposal is this: The State rehabilitation agencies have been in the poverty business for 40 years. They are the agencies that know more about the problems of poverty and they have been dealing with it more effectively than any other in the country. These are statewide organizations, operating in all the States, in the territories, and in every political subdivision of the States. They have programs going on now of experimental, special project nature, including experimental extension improvement projects that are ready. In other words, this would be a very simple thing and I am confident that more would be accomplished for the money spent for this particular group of people for whom we are concerned than any other way you could spend it.

It is just that simple to me, Mr. Chairman, I hope it will be to others.

Mr. GOODELL. I agree with that point that you have made. You are saying, in effect, that they have had since 1920 the experience of building up, rehabilitating these individuals with one form of disability or another, and that a very large segment of our impoverished in this country belong in that category, perhaps not technically under the present Vocational Rehabilitation Act but they are disabled.

You make the point that it is cultural deprivation that disables them but they are disabled in making their own way in society today. They are beyond the immediate reach of the programs that are there for those who can help themselves.

I do think that the faster, the most effective way of launching a new attack here is to utilize the framework of such organizations as the vocational rehabilitation, trigger them with some more money. They are all ready apparently with a lot of plans, particularly the Vocational Rehabilitation Act amendments that we put there a few years back that authorized this experimental type of program.

Mr. WHITTEN. In fact, Mr. Goodell, some of the things that people are calling experimental are not experimental to us at all. It just happens that this section 3 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act is ideally tailored to accomplish the objectives of this bill. This is nothing contrary to the spirit that we are suggesting and the purpose, I think, of those who proposed the bill. We think our knowledge as to how this is operated puts us in a position to say that in addition to approaches that other people have taken that this is the way to