

small appropriation which would make the training of such personnel possible, particularly when we realize that the personnel involved handling the big public welfare programs, most of them almost entirely completely untrained, are spending over \$4 billion of the taxpayers' money in very complicated programs of public assistance, programs which really require the most competent kinds of personnel. I do hope that the time will come when an appropriation may be made so that we may be able to train these personnel in the same way that we are training personnel with Federal training funds in mental health, child welfare, medical care, and a variety of other programs.

Now, the President, in his poverty message of March 16, described this economic opportunity legislation as "the foundation of our war against poverty." However, it "does not stand alone" he indicated and then went on to describe the critical importance of hospital insurance for the aged, protection for migrant farmworkers, a food stamp plan for the needy, coverage for millions not now protected by a minimum wage, new and expanded unemployment benefits for men out of work, a housing and community development bill for those seeking decent homes.

To these basic measures we would add two more: An increase in social security benefits—too many of our poor are the elderly whose sole income is old-age insurance—and elimination of residence requirements in determining eligibility for public assistance and health services. Americans at all economic levels are a mobile people in search of better opportunities including following the crops, to be closer to family, in search of a better climate, better schools, in search of health care. When disaster strikes we should not deny them food, shelter and clothing, and needed health care because they fail to meet some legal definition of residence.

In this statement we have described this Economic Opportunity Act as pioneering legislation that recognizes that poverty is a social problem that requires a total approach involving community leaders and beneficiaries instead of a series of not related measures. We have underlined the core nature of public welfare programs to this attack on poverty. We have stated our conviction that this legislation provides the outlines of a campaign and sets forth a mission to which Americans will respond.

This proposal is an important and necessary beginning in a national attack on poverty. It provides us with a framework and sets a direction that should command and stimulate the sort of long-range planning that will be absolutely required if we are to truly abolish poverty.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. PERKINS. Thank you very much, Dr. Schottland. I am delighted that you have been interested in securing legislation to assist our Nation's youth as it enables us to hear you again. I recall you were before the committee when we had the Youth Opportunity Act and other legislation. You have had a great deal of valuable experience. I am wholeheartedly in accord with your viewpoint that we need an increase in social security benefits. I am very hopeful that the House Committee on Ways and Means will get around to increasing retirement benefits during the present session.

I have talked to Congressman Mills and I know they are going to consider it.