

Mr. CROOK. We have no further information to give except the Gallup poll which we are going to have 33 copies made tonight.

Mr. SHRIVER. Has this been brought to your attention yet? This is what Congressman Scherle claims nobody had shown him. The entire extent of the VISTA presentation is in here.

Mr. QUIE. What about community action? Is community action there as well?

Mr. SHRIVER. I don't think so. We have some charts but I don't think—

Mr. QUIE. Are the charts being duplicated so that we can see them?

Mr. SHRIVER. Yes, they will be.

Mr. QUIE. Could we have that when we resume the hearings on Monday?

Mr. SHRIVER. You can have it before Monday.

Chairman PERKINS. Go ahead.

Mr. CROOK. Today VISTA volunteers are working in 1,100 communities throughout the United States. In my office are requests from an additional 2,300 communities. Today VISTA has 3,238 volunteers in service and requests for more than 17,000 volunteers. There are presently 235 volunteers in training courses; an additional 21,600 people are awaiting invitation to training.

Since VISTA began, 190,000 inquiries have been received; 70,000 preliminary applications have been submitted. From this number, 35,000 reached the final application stage, but the number of volunteers actually permitted to serve is 6,700, either as regular volunteers or as associate volunteers.

This kind of public acceptance and response is gratifying. It says something, I think, about our country, about our citizens, and about the success of the Office of Economic Opportunity in making this Nation aware of the presence and plight of her poor.

It is the arithmetic of hope for 32 million deprived Americans and, we are sure, for the poverty agency that has been established by the Congress to assist them out of their poverty.

It is impossible to argue with these statistics of hope. Very few Americans are indifferent toward the war on poverty. Nearly everyone is either for or against it, but the statistics that VISTA has are not just opinions, they are people. Tens of thousands of American citizens of all ages, races, and walks of life believe in this effort enough to offer a year or more of their lives toward the solution of poverty. They are requesting, in the best tradition of American voluntarism, the opportunity to involve themselves in the tough and sometimes dangerous business of assuring the opportunity to work, the opportunity to learn, and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity to all Americans.

For the past 6 months VISTA has met and exceeded every manpower goal. In the past 6 months we have received 30 percent more final applications than during the same period of last fiscal year, and have put one-third more in training than during the equivalent period of fiscal 1966.

Last year at this time there were 2,000 regular VISTA volunteers; by the end of this month there will be more than 4,000, an increase of 100 percent.