

This is VISTA's role, as I see it. CAP brings to bear on the problems of poverty the power of the dollar and the impact of a creative Federal-State-local relationship. VISTA brings to bear on the problem of being poor the same creative relationship plus the equally powerful impact of the skill, energy, and imagination of thousands of private citizens who are outraged enough about the irony of poverty in America today to live and work wherever they are needed most—regardless of the conditions they must share with those they have come to serve.

Today more than 85 percent of all VISTA volunteers work with local CAA's or with CAP-funded programs. The VISTA volunteer is rapidly becoming the "cement" for the entire war on poverty in many areas, working in support of and as a community idea extension of CAA's, Job Corps, legal service, migrant opportunity programs, work study, Neighborhood Youth Corps, Neighborhood Health Centers, Upward Bound and other war on poverty programs.

This is a viable and productive relationship. For just as there is more to poverty than being poor, so there is more to being poor than being without money. CAP, Job Corps, VISTA, and other war on poverty programs are making a simultaneous assault on the conditions which cause poverty and on the conditions which poverty causes. Neither effort can succeed alone.

VISTA volunteers live and work in the poorest neighborhoods and communities of the entire Nation. They are there—24 hours a day, 7 days each week, 52 weeks a year. They are not there for money, because they receive no salary. They are there because they believe the existence of poverty is the shame of the Nation * * * because they are unwilling to pass the buck of responsibility on to a future generation.

Wherever they go, they bring with them a knowledge of the 20th century America and sense of urgency about the need to do something about poverty. They bring with them a hope for the future and a sure sense that the rest of America does care about poverty and is determined to do something about the conditions on which it thrives.

They stand, in a very real sense, as surety for us all * * * as guarantors of our humanity and of the willingness and the ability of this administration and this Congress to redeem in good faith the promise made to the poor of this Nation in the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

At that time the Congress of the United States pledged in clear and ringing language that—and I quote—"It is the policy of the United States to eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty in this Nation * * *"

This represents, I believe, we must all agree, a clear and unmistakable promise to the poor of this Nation to do something about poverty and to do it now.

Gentlemen, this represents a national commitment that is every bit as valid and binding and that affects our Nation's honor every bit as much as our commitments to the peoples of faraway lands.

It represents a promise that must be kept.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Goodell.

Mr. GOODELL. Thank you very much. I will be brief and defer to my colleagues who may have other questions.