

You are proposing now to embark on Hometown VISTA. I want to say that I endorse the idea and have for some time because I think we are missing a vast reservoir of potential volunteer help by the requirement of a program that they must move to some other area. We have a great many people in the retired category who could be utilized very effectively in Hometown VISTA's. I am sure many of the younger people would volunteer for work but do not because they could not leave their homes.

This is not in any way to be critical of the program where volunteers wish to leave their homes for adventure or whatever other reasons but I do think it is an important adjunct that we need. In many respects I think Hometown VISTA's working side by side with some of your other VISTA's could be extremely helpful because you do have special problems coming into a strange area without the guidance and ability that perhaps could be given by those who have lived there for some time.

How do you plan in a meaningful way to divide your resources between Hometown VISTA's and your ongoing program?

Mr. CROOK. I will say, Mr. Congressman, that the VISTA Citizens Corps, an idea that was expressed by Mr. Shriver a year and a half ago and was mentioned by the President and by others, was something that we were not at all sure could work until we found out that it was working and VISTA already had some 20,000 part-time volunteers working with VISTA volunteers.

Mr. GOODELL. That is what you call Hometown VISTA?

Mr. CROOK. No, sir, we call this the VISTA Citizens Corps.

Mr. GOODELL. We call it a Hometown VISTA, and did a couple years ago. I just wanted to clarify what you were talking about.

Mr. CROOK. We now figure there are more than 20,000 of these part-time citizens at work in the field. By the end of next fiscal year there will be a hundred thousand. We are staggered by the possibilities. We think conservatively on the basis of this Gallup poll that we can say that perhaps 10 percent of the American population would be willing to serve in some capacity in the war on poverty, as volunteers. The cost to VISTA thus far has been nothing except the time and effort on the part of the employees.

Mr. GOODELL. You are not going to pay them anything?

Mr. CROOK. They will not be paid a dime.

Mr. GOODELL. What do the VISTA people receive now?

Mr. CROOK. The VISTA people receive a stipend of \$50 a month which is not paid to them until after their term of service is completed. They receive nothing else.

Mr. GOODELL. What other moneys do the VISTA's receive? Living expense and things of that nature?

Mr. CROOK. That is right. They are supported at the poverty level.

Mr. GOODELL. What is your average outlay for VISTA? I don't mean figuring in your overhead cost. I mean what does the average VISTA volunteer receive?

Mr. CROOK. The amount that goes directly to the volunteer for 12 months of service is \$3,550.

Mr. GOODELL. I take it you are recommending to us that we not provide any kind of expense reimbursement or pay to—what do you call them?