

Mr. CROOK. May I itemize part of the selection process? When we receive an application from an individual we immediately ask for some seven or eight letters of recommendation from pastors, priests, professors, acquaintances, and so forth. We also begin looking for a pattern of success in the background of that individual. We want people who have succeeded even if they were only president of the junior class. We want people who are not obvious failures. We have a highly technical screening device broken down from grades 7 down to 1. I could give you information on exactly what each point means.

Finally, we accept 1 out of every 5 or 6. But even then the selection process does not end until that person has finished 6 weeks of intensive training during which time the instructors are able to observe them in a personal way for such things as maturity, flexibility, responsibility, and emotional stability.

Mr. DELLENBACK. You touch on an impressive statistic when you say you think there are more than 3 million youngsters of college age who would serve in some capacity.

Of course we are getting quite a few now. Where do you really hope to go in this program so far as the number of persons you have involved?

Mr. CROOK. However, we want to grow slowly so that the program will not get away from us, so that we can continue a qualitative program. Are you asking me what size I would eventually see VISTA? Are you asking me what size I would eventually see VISTA?

Mr. DELLENBACK. Yes.

Mr. CROOK. I will see VISTA doubled or tripled with no difficulty at all. I believe the impact would be more than tripled if we should do that someday.

Mr. DELLENBACK. You indicate that there were \$46 million in VISTA's fiscal 1967 budget.

Mr. CROOK. \$26 million.

Mr. DELLENBACK. I was concerned that what we were talking about was a reduction in request here. Actually are you talking about \$26 million authorized in fiscal 1967, or appropriated?

Mr. CROOK. Appropriated in 1967. We are asking for \$31 million for next year. Under the other bill of which Mr. Quie is speaking they are asking to hold VISTA to \$26 million in fiscal 1968.

If this should happen it would mean that we would conclude the year of 1968 with only 3,000 volunteers. We will not be able to maintain our current strength. We will actually have to cut back 1,500 volunteers.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Whereas if you have the \$31 million which you are asking for under the budget you will be able to increase your strength from what figure to what figure?

Mr. CROOK. We will be able to increase our strength from approximately 3,500 in the field today to 4,250 at the end of this fiscal year, which we will maintain for 12 months in fiscal 1968.

On top of that we will have approximately 2,400 VISTA associates working in the summer months. Most of these being comprised of college students and students from the areas, people from the areas.

On top of that we believe, sir, that we can have additional 100,000 part-time volunteers who will give 4, 6, 10 hours a week working alongside of the regular volunteers.