

Mr. CROOK. Thank you, sir.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Steiger.

Mr. STEIGER. Mr. Crook, I would join with my colleague, Mr. Dellenback, in indicating my belief that you run one of the better programs of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

I think there is a tremendous amount of value for VISTA. My own experience in talking with VISTA volunteers and seeing the kind of programs you carry on indicates to me that this is something in which we have made a wise investment. There are several things I would like to cover with you.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Would the gentleman yield for just a moment?

Mr. STEIGER. Yes.

Mr. DELLENBACK. You realize, my colleague, we may be doing them harm by praising them under the circumstances.

Mr. CROOK. To the contrary, I was about to invite Mr. Steiger when he completes a long and distinguished career in the Congress to join VISTA.

Mr. STEIGER. In the legislation, H.R. 8311, you have added a new section, section 811(a), in which you add a sentence saying that "This shall include a commitment to live among and at the economic level of the people served."

I assume that this is a new provision and I wonder if you can give us any of the reasons why this came about. Was this a problem previously?

Mr. CROOK. I do not believe that is a new provision.

Mr. BAKER. Congressman, I think that among other things that we have tried to do in drafting this bill, there was considerable feeling that the act as it is does not very aptly or clearly describe many of the programs that are authorized.

One of the things we tried to do was to make it, to put the new English into it, what some of these programs are about so that the people could read the act and come a little closer to understanding what was actually going on. We did not intend that to be a substantive change. It was just a clarification of what VISTA was all about.

Mr. STEIGER. I happen to think it is a good thing.

Mr. CROOK. It has been a policy from the beginning of VISTA.

Mr. STEIGER. But not everyone has always followed it?

Mr. CROOK. Everyone in VISTA has always followed it.

Mr. STEIGER. Without wishing to get into any names I recall one particularly well-known individual, who if I remember correctly, commuted a substantial distance to get into Spanish Harlem where he was a VISTA volunteer. In this case he was not at that point living among and at the economic level.

Mr. SHRIVER. That was during his training period. The person who reported on that was his colleague who was training him and said he ought to stay up there and live up there.

Mr. STEIGER. I think it is a good thing, as a matter of fact, that it be a requirement.

Can you give us any idea as to what programs you may have in mind as this relates to section 821 in which you are allowed not to exceed 10 percent of the sums appropriated or calculated to carry out provisions of this section, to contract for special volunteer programs designed to