

What kinds of programs do you have in mind for the participation of older persons in section 832 of 8311?

Mr. CROOK. Of the volunteers now serving in VISTA approximately 11 percent are above the age of 50. As I said in my earlier comments, the oldest is 86. We are making more and more appeals to retired people who have a great accumulation of experience and talent and who would come out of retirement to perform a service. At the same time a great many of our projects are related to the elderly. I think 12 percent of our volunteers now work in some capacity with the elderly. We have not devised or designed any specific further plan than that but we do feel that this bill will give us again some some latitude as we concentrate more and more on this problem.

Mr. STEIGER. Can you give me any indication as to what the length of training for a VISTA volunteer is?

Mr. CROOK. The length of training is 6 weeks.

Mr. STEIGER. For all volunteers a basic 6-week program?

Mr. CROOK. Mr. Congressman, if I may ask, I have now a copy of the bill which I did read and I still see only the two paragraphs. What is the page number of the several pages on VISTA?

Mr. STEIGER. Pages 71 through 76.

Mr. DELLENBACK. All of title VI.

Mr. CROOK. This mainly is a repetition of the present title with the HEW.

Mr. SHRIVER. You see, five pages except for two paragraphs is what we already have. In other words, the five pages is what we already except for two paragraphs. Do I make that clear?

Mr. STEIGER. I would assume that is the case. I looked at both of them to find out where there were differences and the differences are not great.

Mr. CROOK. I was referring only to the differences which I saw. I have read it all.

Mr. STEIGER. That clarifies it a little bit.

The one difference that I did find besides the obvious difference of where the program would be operated is the 15 percent which is provided in the opportunity crusade against the 10 percent that is proposed in your program, what your counsel talked about as attempting to bring in and use some other funds for non-VISTA related programs and operations.

Those are all the questions I have.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question?

Chairman PERKINS. Go ahead, Mr. Dellenback.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Mr. Cook, while we are speaking in terms of this and in the realm of just searching for information on it, what would be the impact upon VISTA if we were to face, as 10682 does, the basic concept of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare—would you have any idea as to the impact on the VISTA program if the provisions of 10682 were to be incorporated in law? Would this cripple you badly?

Mr. CROOK. It would cripple us. For one thing, VISTA relates across the board to other agencies and proposals. I think there would be some difficulty there.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Would you not be able to work effectively with them if the general administration were changed?