

I said—

I understand exactly what you mean. We don't want you to put a plant on the reservation because of social conscience, because we recognize your problem; but if you go to the community action agency director, a man paid out of OEO funds, on that reservation, he will have a list of all the benefits that any industry can get by going on a reservation, all the various programs such as on-the-job training by the Department of Labor, that can benefit your industry.

He said that was the first time in his history of dealing with the Midwestern Indians that he ever had the ability to go to one person for all the information.

I cite this as an example of what the community action agency can do. We have had other examples in which OEO as a new agency, without prior concern of ways of doing business, have been able to pull together other Federal agencies.

There is an interesting program of homebuilding. I mentioned before that 75 percent of all houses on reservations are not decent, safe, or sanitary. Seventy-five percent of the people are poor. How do you put this together? We have had programs on reservations in which OEO funded the administrative component, funded a few people to bring the program together. The Department of Labor provided manpower funds to train people into being carpenters, homebuilders, brick masons. These funds were used to provide expert training by union craftsmen. The Department of Housing and Urban Development, under their housing and assistance agency, provided the money for brick and mortar and lumber to put these buildings up. We have the Bureau of Indian Affairs providing heavy equipment. We have the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Public Health Service, providing sewerage. When it is all finished, we have Indians who build houses, Indians who live in those houses, and unions who give a job ticket or apprenticeship or master's license to the Indian who has finished a house, so that he can get out and get a job.

These are the types of programs that we find to be, as someone said some years ago, more bang for the buck than we have seen, because they can pull together various facets, they can bring industry on reservations, and they can help the Indians.

These are some of the programs.

I would like to conclude the Indian portion by reading a very short statement out of the testimony of Mr. Wendell China, who was president of the National Congress of American Indians and president of the Mescalero Apache Tribe in New Mexico. This statement was made on April 4 before the Clark subcommittee investigating the war on poverty.

Community action programs have given the Indian tribes a tool with which they can begin to identify, attack and solve their own problems in their own way. They have provided a training ground for future Indian executives, work on problem areas not being adequately met by others. Their ability to communicate with Washington has made action timely and effective. They have acquired flexibility to meet many of their problems which others have not been able to solve.

There are many other statements. There are so many that I would be embarrassed to read them all. I would hope that this committee could invite some Indians during their public participation.

Chairman PERKINS. Let me take this opportunity to compliment you on your statement and the great work that you have done on behalf