

taken up with due attention to the underlying facts: that what is happening today is that democracy's authentic tradition is being purged of the fallacy that some people have to fail so that others can succeed, and that being created equal is enough; that every established institution is being put to the test, particularly under youth's stern questioning and through such instruments as the Community Action Program in OEO, of how fully and directly it serves the individual—instead of the other way around; and that a great deal of today's proper self-criticism results from the new realization of man's own competence to perfect the human condition for all who enter it, and from his consequent substitution of the human potential for human experience as the measure of social achievement.

Mr. Chairman, I hope greatly that these hearings will be the occasion for strengthening this nation's human redevelopment program, and that I can in this connection meet your inquiries fully with respect particularly to the manpower aspects of this program. It is by no means perfect, or complete. I hope no less greatly that this will also be an opportunity for recognition that greater progress is being made right now in the improvement of the human condition in this country—for all who share it—than ever before in history.

II

Now about H.R. 8311 itself.

My testimony relates particularly to those parts of this Bill which relate to functions being exercised, under the present Act, by the Department of Labor.

This includes four work-training or work-experience programs which are provided for now in separate parts of the Act and which would all be covered, with some modifications, in a new title I-B of H.R. 8311:

The Neighborhood Youth Corps, now under title I-B;

Operation Mainstream, the community improvement program added by the 1965 amendments as section 205(d);

The New Careers Program for adult work experience sponsored by Congressman Scheuer and added by the 1966 amendments as section 205(e); and

The Special Urban Impact program added by the 1966 amendments, now under title I-D.

The major improvements made by the proposed modifications in the authority for these programs will:

Allow local communities increased flexibility in designing projects which will be most responsive to local needs and problems.

Provide a basis on which these programs can be combined in new ways to deal more effectively with the complex problems of unemployment and underemployment in slum areas.

Require community employment and training programs under section 122 to include, where necessary, related supportive services such as basic education, occupational training, health services and special counseling.

Authorize section 122 programs to include projects involving both adults and youth age sixteen or over. At present youth age sixteen through twenty-one years may be enrolled in only those adult work programs which are funded through the special impact programs of present title I-D.

Open section 122 programs to unemployed, underemployed or low-income persons, thus broadening the present eligibility requirements of some of the programs which are now open only to unemployed persons or chronologically unemployed persons.

Broaden and increase the flexibility of programs in special impact areas through authority to initiate or expand with special impact funds any type of work and training program authorized under the new part B of title I and to expand any other type of program under other Acts related to improving or restoring the employability of individuals.

More clearly incorporate the concept that individuals must be assured "careers" rather than just "jobs", by making sure that the road to self-sufficiency is not blocked by unrealistic and outmoded job requirements.

Make it very clear that the goal of the manpower programs should be and is self-sufficiency for the people who are crippled by poverty. We cannot accept and do not want to operate programs that stop short of this goal. We do not want hand-out programs, "keep them off the streets" programs, temporary palliatives of any kind. H.R. 8311 not only gives a clearer and more sharply defined direction to the anti-poverty strategy, but also it provides the legislative basis for the operation of programs to accomplish the objective.