

First, let me compliment you on your patience and vigor, your endurance and your helpful contributions which you have made to this committee is work by your testimony.

I am quite mindful of all the programs and the good work that is flowing from all the programs under the Economic Opportunity Act, but I am still concerned about a group of individuals that prefer not to be on relief, chiefly in mining communities. They do not want to go back on relief.

There is nothing in many of these communities for these families. I am speaking about the hard core 45 years of age that because of age discrimination and so forth no employer is readily willing to hire.

I am wondering if you planned under the Nelson and Scheuer programs to pick up this type of individual that has really been overlooked until this poverty program came along. We have not gotten all of them that should be receiving some kind of training. Even though they are not likely to be gainfully employed by a private employer I am wondering if your planning takes into consideration programs to give this type of individual a program that will let him work instead of being on relief. Do we have sufficient funds to do that under the programs that are now in existence or is it going to take further expansion?

Secretary WIRTZ. I think it will eventually be a larger program. I don't know how much larger. I think we are improving our understanding of that situation. I find the situation this year much better than it was a year ago. I know the need is not yet fully met. I know that there are additional programs to be developed, additional understanding to be gained. I have to say to you that I think at the present point there is provision in terms of dollars about the maximum usefulness that we can put it on an assured responsibility basis.

I know that if we had more money we would spend it but I can't say to you how wisely or well we can spend it beyond the present rate.

We know the situation you are talking about. We have been greatly helped by your advice from time to time about the section of the country which presents this problem in perhaps its most acute form.

It is in our thinking all the time. I think we are reasonably well equipped to meet it. I can't say more than that.

Chairman PERKINS. I certainly am wholeheartedly in support of all your training programs because you are doing a great job, even in my area. We have so many applicants that should be gainfully employed but the funds are not available under all these programs to reach them.

I would like to see further expansion personally in that area. I know we are handicapped about funds. I know you are doing a great job, doing more than any other Secretary in the history of the country in my judgment, about getting people employed throughout the Nation.

I certainly want to cooperate as much as I can to see that we do something about this hard core because it is a problem that gives me great anxiety.

I think you have strengthened the case. I have given our opportunity crusade members all the opportunity that they needed today to interrogate the witness and I will continue to do that. I think we are