

Could you come up with some language? Would you suggest that we continue this program beyond 1970?

Mr. CARTER. Do I understand that you are asking us for technical assistance in this regard, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman PERKINS. Yes. Language to leave it in the Economic Opportunities Act making it applicable in those States that have not taken advantage of the AFDCUP field.

Mr. CARTER. We will attempt to get together with your staff to see exactly what you have in mind in an effort to be responsive to that. But as I say, it is difficult for us to formulate policy for the committee in the amendment of the act.

Chairman PERKINS. I want to thank Dr. Carter and the others for coming here to appear before the committee today.

Mr. CARTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Come around, Mr. Boutin, please.

We have copies of your statement, I believe.

Chairman PERKINS. We have with us the Honorable Bernard L. Boutin, Administrator of the Small Business Administration, who has been before this committee several times.

Again let me welcome you here. Do you want to read your statement or insert it in the record at this point?

Mr. BOUTIN. With the permission of the chairman and the members of the committee, I would like to read the statement at this time, and would be glad to have you interrupt at any time.

Chairman PERKINS. You go ahead.

STATEMENT OF BERNARD L. BOUTIN, ADMINISTRATOR, SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BOUTIN. Mr. Chairman, I very much appreciate the opportunity to appear before you this afternoon to discuss title IV as amended of the Economic Opportunity Act—the economic opportunity loan program. This, I believe, is a program which has the ingredients to make a substantial contribution to what President Johnson has called an America in which every citizen shares all the opportunities of his society, in which every man has a chance to advance his welfare to the limit of his capabilities.

We, as a nation, have always proudly identified small business as the backbone of our free enterprise system. It has been characteristic of America that the little man with an idea, or a talent, or an ambition, could enter the stream of small business and, by his talent and his ambition, grow and prosper.

Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, this opportunity has not always been uniformly open to all of our citizens.

Opportunity in the business world has been denied, for example, to some because of race or environment, or poverty, or physical handicap. This unfortunate condition title IV of the Economic Opportunity Act seeks to overcome.

The EOL program was not new to me when I assumed my duties as Administrator of SBA 13 months ago. As you know, I previously served as Deputy Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity and during that time I became thoroughly familiar with this program.

All the members of this committee appreciate this was an experimental program, with no precedent to follow.