riders out visiting all the small communities, small counties, working with the chambers of commerce, working with community action agencies. I think the best rule of thumb I can give you is prior to the amendment by Congress last October almost a hundred percent of the EOL loans were made in large communities in urban centers. Since the change in the program, 52 percent of our loans have been in rural areas.

Chairman PERKINS. I certainly want to compliment you on your administration. I think anybody that looks at the record would have to compliment you as being a great administrator.

Mr. BOUTIN. Thank you, sir.

Chairman PERKINS. To my way of thinking, you are the best administrator we have ever had of SBA because you know what is going on and are trying to give this program not only better stability but where the program is weak to give it strength in those areas of the country where it was just about nil, doing nothing. I know the program has been tremendously strengthened in eastern Kentucky during the past year or so. What was the figure that you gave us on the increased loans during the past fiscal year?

Mr. BOUTIN. Just in the EOL program alone, Mr. Chairman, I think that I could state it another way that would be very clear to the committee, up until the first of December we made a total of 734 loans covering the entire country under the EOL program. Since the new program went into effect, which is only a 6-month period we have made 1946 loans. So, the productivity has increased to a marked degree.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Quie.

Mr. QUIE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I note you say at the end of your statement, "Thanks, specifically, to the improvements voted by the Congress last October in title IV." I wish OEO had been as cognizant of how the changes would actually improve the EOL. As I recall, they were strongly opposed to the changes. I was happy when Congressman Dingell, if my memory serves me correctly, offered the amendment on the floor to transfer this operation over to the Small Business Administration, and that the employees working under it would actually be responsible to you. It has greatly strengthened and improved the program. I have a feeling, if we can be successful in making similar changes in other parts of the programs, we will find the Commissioner of Education and Secretary of Labor coming in and saying the same thing a year from now, "Thanks for the changes you made in the amendment to the act."

Mr. BOUTIN. Could I just make a correction, Congressman?

Mr. QUIE. We made some positive steps last year to give SBA a greater responsibility in operating this program so that it could function better.

Mr. BOUTIN. I appreciate that very much, but I would like to make one correction. The supervision and control of the employees of SBDC's of course remain with OEO. But the loan function itself—the processing of applications, the approval and the servicing of applications—is within the province, solely, of SBA. But we did not get any more control over the SBDC's or their employees, nor am I suggesting it, please, than we had before.