

Mr. BOUTIN. I don't have statistics on that so I would be hesitant to answer. My inclination is a definite yes, but I couldn't document it.

Mr. DELLENBACK. How large is the staff of SBA now?

Mr. BOUTIN. Our total staff right now, Congressman, is roughly 4,168.

Mr. DELLENBACK. What number of that is in Washington?

Mr. BOUTIN. 954, I believe.

Mr. DELLENBACK. How many of your staff do you have with you here today?

Mr. BOUTIN. Five, I think I have, including congressional liaison people.

Mr. DELLENBACK. I say this not in any way of criticism; as a matter of fact, I rather commend you. I notice how much lower the number of persons in attendance this afternoon is compared to certain other times. I am glad most of your staff is still back in the shop.

Mr. BOUTIN. Thank you, sir.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Assuming, as we must, and you recognize this, having had experience in Government, that money resources are limited, which do you tend to prefer? Using what funds are available for intensive coverage, say SBDC's, or the coverage which is afforded under the new program? Do you feel that the limited dollars are going further now than they were a year ago?

Mr. BOUTIN. Absolutely. I think under the new program we have absorbed this in reality, Congressman. We have put on hardly any additional people. In other words, we have increased the workload, increased the productivity of our people. This year our productivity factor has increased 25 percent. With another 5 percent forecast for fiscal 1968. So, the additional costs have been minimal, largely in traveling for this outreach, getting out into the rural areas, doing the circuit riding. The SBDC program of course involves paid jobs, non-Government, only quasi-government, at the local level. It would be certainly my thinking that we would be just as well off if minimal funds were utilized for that purpose.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Do you feel that so far as the service in particular under the EOL 1 loans is concerned that the people in this grouping are being better served with loans now than they were back a year ago?

Mr. BOUTIN. I don't think there is any question about it, Congressman.

Mr. DELLENBACK. You feel so far as those in the EOL 1 group particularly are concerned, that they are being better serviced now than was the case in effect when they were being treated as a separate group themselves?

Mr. BOUTIN. Yes, I do.

Mr. DELLENBACK. I am not seeking to lead you into a blind alley on this. I recognize, as Mr. Goodell pointed out, to a degree your answers are predictable, and must be. Let us put aside any attempt to lead you in a certain direction, and your predisposition to answer a certain way, and let me tell you what I am reaching for.

I am interested in your comments as objectively as we can get them from you. An opinion has run through the last week of testimony on the question of whether or not it is better in treating this