ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

MONDAY, JULY 10, 1967

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to recess, in room 2175, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Carl D. Perkins (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Perkins, Green, Thompson, Hawkins, Quie, Goodell, Reid, Scherle, Dellenback, and Steiger.

Also present: H. D. Reed, general counsel; Robert E. McCord, senior specialist; Louise Maxienne Dargans, research assistant; Benjamin F. Reeves, editor of committee publications; Austin Sullivan, investigator; John R. Buckley, chief minority investigator; Dixie Barger, minority research specialist; and W. Phillips Rockefeller, minority research specialist.

Chairman PERKINS. The committee will come to order. A quorum is present. We are delighted, Secretary Freeman, to welcome you to the committee today. You have been before this committee on numerous occasions and have made a constructive and helpful contribution to the committee's legislative efforts. I feel this is a most important occasion for another appearance on your part.

I notice you have a prepared statement. You may proceed from the prepared statement or put it in the record or proceed in any manner you prefer, Mr. Secretary.

STATEMENT OF HON. ORVILLE L. FREEMAN, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

Secretary FREEMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

First let me say that I deeply appreciate your courtesy in rescheduling my appearance before you at this more convenient time.

Some of you may recall that when I testified before this committee 3 years ago, I described the plight of Charlie Hamlin and his family:

> Mr. Hamlin was a poor Negro farmer in Mississippi. He was trying to feed, clothe, shelter and educate eight children on a small cotton farm that brought him only $365 a year—a dollar a day.
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> This, plus $500 or $600 he and his family earned doing odd jobs in the community, was the total income of the Hamlin family.
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> Mr. Hamlin needed help. He needed counseling in farm management practices. He needed money to develop his meager farming resources.
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> He had obtained a small loan from the Department of Agriculture for subsistence and day to day operating expenses. But he could not qualify for a larger loan—a loan that would have enabled him substantially to improve his farm and his income.