

realizing that the worst thing about poverty is not that it deprives the poor of physical needs. Far worse than this is the fact that social, educational, and cultural deprivation too long continued can produce a terrible poverty of the mind—a poverty of the soul.

I thought of the profound statement in the "Book of Proverbs": "The destruction of the poor is their poverty."

Just a little bit more money, education, and training can make such a world of difference.

Among those who are being reached by OEO type programs—like Charlie Hamlin—I found a new spirit—a spirit of pride in doing for themselves and of hope for the future.

It is summed up, I think, in what a local banker in Centerville, Iowa, said. He remarked that the people were angry when Centerville was labeled a depressed area but it got them working to get rid of the label. With the new spark of community spirit and the Federal and State help, he said, Centerville progressed from an attitude of gloom and doom to one of zoom and boom.

Spurred by this new spirit, rural America is changing. True, there are still too many young people leaving in search of city jobs; there is too little business opportunity in the towns and villages; and there are still too many of our farms that are underdeveloped and unprofitable; there are still too few local processing plants for farm products; there is still too much rural unemployment and underemployment; there are still insufficient opportunities for vocational training; there is still need for more recreational facilities; there is still inadequate sanitation, water supply, and disposal facilities and there are still hungry people.

But the poverty straitjacket is loosening. And if we continue to wage our war on poverty and wage it ever more effectively the time will come—perhaps sooner than we now have grounds for hope—when the bonds will burst and the prisoners of poverty will be released.

Part of American is affluent—part is impoverished. But a new note is now emerging. Once again the voice of hope is being heard in rural America. It is in our hands to help that voice be heard at full cry.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Secretary, first I wish to compliment you on what I feel is an excellent statement. I personally agree with you that we have neglected rural poverty too long.

You suggested in your statement a special impact program for the rural areas. Do you feel that that type of program to arrest certain situations that we have in rural communities today could better be under the direction of the Office of Economic Opportunity than under your own direction?

Secretary FREEMAN. Yes, I think it could better be under the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Chairman PERKINS. I mean more effective direction.

Secretary FREEMAN. Through the medium of the machinery already established and moving ahead it can coordinate then across the entire Government and focus on specific targets in a fashion that it is difficult to do by trying to loosely coordinate between different departments of the Government.

Chairman PERKINS. If programs were removed from the Office of Economic Opportunity, would they get lost with the other established