

Chairman PERKINS. Do you have presently available facilities that will accommodate more than the 8,000 mentioned?

Secretary FREEMAN. We have indeed endless amounts of conservation work that could and should be done that would be very useful in the Nation's interest.

Chairman PERKINS. Before you leave that point, do you feel this job would be done more effectively under the Office of Economic Opportunity than if you presently had control, lock, stock, and barrel along with all of the other duties you have in the Department?

Secretary FREEMAN. I think there is a good balance between the delegation to use the skill, know-how, and resources that are available in the Forest Service, at the same time coordinating the end product which coordinates the men who leave the camp.

As such, this can be more effectively done under one centralized point than it could be if the centralizing and coordinating machinery were not set up in OEO.

Chairman PERKINS. What would be the effect on rural CAP's if the non-Federal share were increased from 10 to 20 percent at—as it is in H.R. 8311?

Secretary FREEMAN. I think it would have a negative effect certainly because it places the load where the rural CAP's are most needed and it places where they have the most limited resources.

The 10 percent is sufficient to insure local concern and careful review in the sense of participation. I think the increase involved here would have a negative effect in blocking projects that otherwise would be carried forward.

Chairman PERKINS. I think OEO spent about 32 percent of its community action funds in the rural areas during fiscal year 1967 and they plan to spend 36 percent in fiscal 1968.

Do you feel this is sufficient emphasis on rural poverty?

Secretary FREEMAN. I would like to see more emphasis on rural poverty and more resources there, but I think that probably is at the level that can be effectively used.

I think it is difficult to be specific about this. There has been a real improvement. Generally speaking our rural programs are expanding and strengthening and we are reaching out into areas where previously there was not any machinery, but I would hesitate to say I think a percentage is enough because the need is so great. I am encouraged at the progress that has been made.

Chairman PERKINS. Would you have any suggestions to offer for OEO along the lines of avoiding or overcoming problems of confusion or duplication?

Secretary FREEMAN. I am increasingly convinced one of the answers to the problem of confusion and overlapping is adequate professional planning.

By the same token, I think it is very important that resources be combined in areas on a multicommunity basis where those areas are tied together anyhow by the physical fact of transportation and communications.

We have only begun to do real multicounty planning and a bill now before the Congress would provide matching funds for such planning provided local people wished to carry it forward.

Chairman PERKINS. Do you support a program for veterans?