

Secretary FREEMAN. I strongly endorse that program. I think it would be well to have someone at high level or echelon to supervise that responsibility.

Chairman PERKINS. In what particular area or field would you say the Department of Agriculture specializes?

Secretary FREEMAN. It is difficult to generalize about that because every rural area in this country is different from every other one, but I think the main focus, and the one I think I came back feeling very impressed with, is the importance of technical training in these rural areas.

Everywhere I went there were job opportunities all right for trained people but almost no job opportunities for untrained people. This repeated itself.

At some of the schools I visited, they were unable to fill the requests. For example at Ottumwa, Iowa where they had a vocational and technical school they were training 17 cooks and they had requests for 80 cooks in that area.

I found every school I went to had requests for machinists, for mechanics, for welders, and I could go on. But where you came down to the unskilled common labor, it was itinerant, limited, low paid and with very real communications problems.

So I think an impact program needs to concentrate itself, first of all on a very effective, strongly carried forward placement tied into education, professional and technical training courses.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Goodell.

Mr. GOODELL. Mr. Secretary, I appreciate your appearance here this morning and your testimony. Before I ask a question, I wish to state that I understand the general tenor of your testimony and the fact that this is a good program and needs to be expanded and things are going well but we ought to do more.

My own personal view of the poverty program as it operates in the rural areas is that it is generally unimaginative, short sighted, wasteful, and in some instances self-defeating and in most rural areas nonexistent. But there can be sincere differences of opinion as to how we can make it more effective.

You indicated \$253 of the—\$253 million of the community action program money was going to rural communities and that this figure will rise in the coming budget. You also contrast this with the fact that one-half of the poor are in the rural areas.

What is the proportion of the community action money that is represented by the \$253 million, do you know?

Secretary FREEMAN. I think that is roughly a third.

Mr. GOODELL. A third of the community action money is going to the poor in the rural areas?

Secretary FREEMAN. That is right.

Mr. GOODELL. You also indicate the Job Corps centers run by the Forest Service are populated predominantly by urban youngsters. Do you know the proportion of them that are from urban areas?

Secretary FREEMAN. Frankly, I don't but I will be happy to get that number for the record.

(The information referred to follows:)

Approximately 70 percent of the Job Corps enrollees in centers run by the Forest Service are from urban areas.