

increasing the ceiling so that these people can make considerably more than they make now because the ceilings are completely unrealistic.

I find the new congressional district which I have, to be largely rural. One of the problems is with respect to people leaving the farms and the lack of counseling in the various school systems.

The type of counseling that the youngsters are getting orients them to an education or some training other than agriculture in an area where, for the most part, the farmer is better off certainly on the national average.

Most of them are doing quite well. It is not your fault that the dairy farmers are not doing very well. It is the courts' fault in the *Blair* case. I do think with respect to counseling at the elementary-secondary level, more emphasis could be given to agricultural pursuits.

In three counties there is just one elementary level counselor and at the secondary level there are a totally inadequate number whose training is somewhat lacking.

I have no other comment except to commend you for your efforts and to say that I think you have made some very fine and constructive suggestions.

I yield back my time.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Scherle?

Mr. SCHERLE. Mr. Secretary, as an Iowa farmer I realize what poverty means, particularly in rural America. We appreciate the consideration that the OEO and the Department of Agriculture is giving our occupation. I feel quite differently than you, in that farmers do not want handouts.

Agriculture is not a welfare program. If we were allowed to make the kind of money that free enterprise is entitled to without the Government forcing second-hand citizenship upon us, I don't think there would be any need for OEO programs or any other consideration in the field of poverty for rural America.

I attended a meeting not too long ago at the White House and Gardner Ackley made the statement that the farmer is better off today than he has ever been in the history of America. He must be using the same graphs and documents that McNamara is using because they are both completely unrealistic.

I am sure you are aware of the fact that agriculture now is 72 percent of parity, about as low as it has been since the depressed thirties.

I think the prices we receive for our products today are quite reminiscent of those we received back in 1940. If you stop to consider the cost of production today, you will see that farm prices are nowhere near in line with these increased costs.

We have been told many times that as soon as the surplus is gone we would see higher grain prices in America. Well, from all outward appearances the surplus is gone unless it has been re-stored in Texas. Sometimes it appears maybe the administration is hoping that the war will bail out you people in the administration with regard to the farm problems.

Secretary FREEMAN. Is that a question, Congressman? Can I answer now?

Chairman PERKINS. Let the Secretary respond.

Mr. SCHERLE. If you wish.

Secretary FREEMAN. You come from Iowa, Congressman. I think you know the net income per farm in Iowa is nearly \$4,000 higher than it was in 1960, that the price of corn is significantly higher even at this