

OEO has concentrated and necessarily so and importantly so on reaching a group of poor that legally, and as a matter of tradition, and practice, and resources, have not been reached.

What we really need to do now is mesh both of these kinds of program efforts into a common approach so that you will have an alleviation on these miserably poor conditions with food if that is what is called for, opportunity for training and education and some progress and the jobs that make it possible for people to use the training. This in turn requires resource development, protection of water, the development of the public services, health, education, recreation, highways, and the whole thing.

Now, to put a program together that is comprehensive and basic, reaching in effect from the very, very poor to the overall community working to develop resources and provide jobs, is obviously a mammoth operation.

It is not going to lend itself to any clear and dogmatic organizational plan all over the country but is going to come about from a whole host of diverse and varying influences coming to bear upon all the different things that need to be done.

Mr. GOODELL. Many of us are deeply concerned that the war on poverty has not directed enough attention to the problems of the rural poor.

In the first place, the community action programs were designed with the guidelines and standards for urban situations. These did not automatically or easily fit into the unique problems of the rural area.

We are concerned about it because it is the rural areas that are one of the primary sources of the urban problems.

Secretary FREEMAN. That is correct.

Mr. GOODELL. I refer to the migration of the very poor from the rural areas into the urban areas. There is a very steady and increasing migration going on that causes the tremendous problems in the urban areas.

When they get to the urban areas it is much more expensive and much more difficult in many instances to reach them and help them than it would have been with an imaginative rural development program which kept them in an area where they had some opportunity and where many of them would have preferred to stay generally.

I take it you generally agree with that?

Secretary FREEMAN. I do generally agree with that; yes.

Mr. GOODELL. I was wondering if you ever responded to the President's National Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty that there be established in the Department of Agriculture an Assistant Secretary who would be solely and exclusively concerned with rural development.

Secretary FREEMAN. I was not particularly impressed with that recommendation because in effect we have that now. The Assistant Secretary for Conservation and Rural Development, Mr. John Baker, is focusing constantly on precisely this. So, for all practical purposes, we do have such a concentration at this time.

Mr. GOODELL. Did you respond to Mr. Resnick and indicate to him it was your viewpoint when he made that suggestion?

Secretary FREEMAN. No.

Mr. GOODELL. Apparently after he chaired the hearings on this whole question and had given some thought to it, he felt your present