

of fact. My question to you was: Why do you have such projects in existence? Do you have any facts you can cite to refute my statement?

Secretary FREEMAN. I thought you were questioning me.

Mr. SCHERLE. The record would seem to indicate, Mr. Secretary, that you do not know what this is all about.

Secretary FREEMAN. If you want me to sit here and listen to you make statements I will sit and relax and listen to you.

Mr. SCHERLE. With all due respect to the position you hold, Mr. Secretary, from some of the evasive responses or answers I get from you, perhaps it would be better if you would listen to me, a respect, I might add, that you fail to show Members of Congress at times. I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman PERKINS. I thank you for your appearance here, Mr. Secretary. In my opinion you have made an excellent statement.

I personally feel that we need more concentration in the rural areas. Your point of view that it is more effective to coordinate all of our efforts through the Office of Economic Opportunity at present than to utilize independently your department on rural poverty problems has been most helpful to the committee.

Again, thank you very much.

At this time the committee will recess until 2 p.m.

(Whereupon, at 1 p.m. the hearing was recessed to reconvene at 2 p.m. the same day.)

AFTER RECESS

(The committee reconvened at 2:10 p.m., Hon. Carl D. Perkins, chairman of the committee, presiding.)

Chairman PERKINS. The committee will come to order.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome Secretary Stewart Udall back before this committee. I personally feel that the Secretary of Interior is one of our great Americans. I had mixed emotions when he left the committee to assume his Cabinet post. I hated to see us lose his intelligent and effective hand on legislative matters but was delighted that the affairs of the Department of Interior would be in able leadership. He has been before this committee so many times, we more or less feel that he still belongs, is still part and parcel of this committee.

It is a real pleasure for me to welcome you here, Mr. Secretary, and we are delighted to hear your viewpoint.

As you know, we are having a debate in the Congress whether to keep the present Economic Opportunity Act under the Office of Economic Opportunity or transfer the functions to the various Federal agencies.

We are delighted to have you here with us today.

STATEMENT OF HON. STEWART L. UDALL, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR; ACCOMPANIED BY ROBERT BENNETT, COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS; AND BARNEY OLD COYOTE, SUPERVISOR, JOB CORPS CONSERVATION PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Secretary UDALL. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

It is a real pleasure to be back before my old committee in these imposing surroundings and, also, as I look at the nameplates, to realize how near the throne I would have been had I stayed.