

Mr. Chairman, I am surrounded here by some of my best Indians. I would like to introduce them, if I may.

Commissioner Bob Bennett, who is the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and Mr. Barney Old Coyote, who supervises the Department's Job Corps conservation program.

I have a prepared statement. I would like to file it with the committee, and I will read most of it, and summarize some of the highlights, if I may, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Go ahead. Proceed in any manner you prefer, Mr. Secretary.

Secretary UDALL. I am grateful for this opportunity to make a statement regarding the proposed 1967 amendments to the Economic Opportunity Act. We approach this meeting today with a special interest because we now have the experience of 2½ years with anti-poverty programs. We view the proposed amendments to the anti-poverty program for 1967 with particular interest because we can now measure some of the effects of the war on poverty and more clearly see its potential for the future. As we review the antipoverty program, it is clear that the effort to help the poor through the Office of Economic Opportunity needs to be continued.

The Economic Opportunity Act initiated a strong, effective, and coordinated effort to wage the war on poverty. The act further provided means through which the needs of the underprivileged could be more clearly identified. In this connection, I am mindful that not all agencies—Federal, State, and local—have been or are now in a position to share a broad perspective of the needs of our citizens.

It is the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Economic Opportunity Council, which I serve on, whose sole concern is the Nation's poor, that enable us to focus more clearly upon the needs of the underprivileged. This is leading to a more effective application of the Nation's resources in order that the poor can share more fully in the promise and opportunity of the American system.

In discussing the Economic Opportunity Amendments for 1967 and the national antipoverty effort, I would like to direct my remarks to two basic areas of particular interest to me: (a) The continuation of special efforts to assist the American Indian; and (b) the Job Corps conservation center program as it is administered in the Department of the Interior.

It seems to me that we have learned more about poverty and the people in poverty than we had anticipated because of the Office of Economic Opportunity, a vital force that has already improved the lives of the poor and renewed hope for many. We now have a real opportunity to build upon our experience with the war on poverty to strengthen and improve its programs and to continue the development of new and better techniques.

I, therefore, urge the continuation of the Office of Economic Opportunity and the adoption of the administration's proposed amendments to improve the correlation of our efforts and not lose sight of the major objectives in the war on poverty.

EFFECT OF ANTIPOVERTY ON INDIANS

The Economic Opportunity Act program is directly aiding Indians as never before—through the application of greater resources, new techniques, and a concentration of effort. It is complementing