

few days, that one of the Senators whose name is well known in the other body has come out in effect making a very strong pitch for exactly this concept, which was laid out months ago in the Opportunity Crusade. Saying that in large part, the strength of America lies in the private sector of the economy, and if we really are going to be fighting this war on poverty the private sector should be involved instead of acting as if the whole war should be waged by the Government, and by Government agencies. We are ignoring one of the most potent weapons in the arsenal, if you want to stay with that metaphor, in this war on poverty, if we don't seek in every way to bring the private sector into the battle. This is in large part what the Opportunity Crusade seeks to do, to wrap this into the program, and bring private industry into the battle. I was glad that the Senator on the other side of the other political party spoke out so very strongly for this very principle, and I gather that from your testimony you have also embraced this principle and spoken approvingly.

Mrs. BENSON. Yes, we have, a very strong point.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Of this very idea.

Mrs. BENSON. Yes.

Mr. DELLENBACK. And as I say, this is one of the major points that is involved in the Opportunity Crusade. You are aware of the fact, of course, that since the concept of the Community Action program is maintained, it is not a case of disbanding whatever coordination is already existent in this area, but rather a case of saying that there should be a change in the extra layer which is above this, above even the coordinators for the Community Action program, which role the Office of Economic Opportunity in part is considered as playing, and that is the role that the principal backers of the Opportunity Crusade have felt is not the essential role. I hope that you do realize that this is not a case of either substituting another agency in the place of OEO, nor of disbanding and fragmentizing the whole operation by saying every little program, the Legal Aid program, and the Headstart program, and the Upward Bound program, and the Follow-Through program, and all of these will walk their own directions uncoordinated.

Mrs. BENSON. No; we do realize that.

Mr. DELLENBACK. You are fully aware of that, I am sure.

Mrs. BENSON. Yes.

Mr. DELLENBACK. So that what you are speaking in favor of is maintaining close coordination of the various individual programs that make up the war on poverty?

Mrs. BENSON. Yes, that is true. I think we should say that we should increase coordination. I think we do not think there is enough coordination, that the OEO, we believe, should be strengthened so that it will have greater ability to coordinate. We don't see, as I did say in my statement, why transferring the Community Action program to HEW would improve the possibilities of coordinating. We do not see why moving it to HEW would make coordination among the various departments any easier than it already is now, and it is not easy for people to coordinate, let alone big Government agencies.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Correct. And again, I don't really mean to be beating it too hard, because I think we are coming closer and closer together in what we are saying on this. That what you are saying, as I read you, is that it is the element of coordination which is essen-