

Generations of people have lived there, life has always been the same, they have not seen the alternatives, there is not necessarily satisfaction but there is not a real discontent. It is a sense of alternative, the sense of the better life, a sense of the route to better life that I think is the only way that people can be motivated to change.

This is the fundamental problem, to my way of thinking, that the OEO has to face in rural poverty in this country. The sufficient emphasis is probably being made in cities, not in terms of results but in terms of manpower and the ideas.

The rural areas since they do not represent a threat, there will not be any riots where I have worked, there will not be any social action which is going to go and threaten the State or the Nation.

Chairman PERKINS. I will interrupt your statement to say I feel you are stating all together the facts. You and I both know there will not be any riots in the rural areas even though they are in much worse condition than the condition that presently exists in many of the cities of the Nation.

I wholeheartedly agree with your statement that not only are we failing to make an adequate contribution to the rural areas but in most of the rural areas we have not even touched with programs so far.

Am I correct?

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. It is true; that is right, Sir. It is more serious because of the fact that since each of these areas, as you know so well, is isolated from the next similar area it is very difficult to develop, as is done in the cities, a community service area which reaches out and touches thousands and thousands. Each individual hollow which contains anywhere from 250 to 1,000 people, each of those is surrounded by hills, each is cut off from the next hollow.

If it is to be affected by a community action program it must have its own. What does this mean? It means in order to get results, then, it must have its own community action worker. Now you describe here an almost impossible situation. In Appalachia you know very well, Mr. Chairman, there must be literally tens of thousands of hollows of this sort.

Chairman PERKINS. I envisioned VISTA as being constituted to provide the technical assistance and knowhow to get programs started in many of these rural areas, but we have never found, except in a very few instances, enough highly-trained people to provide needed technical assistance.

I know that in my area of Kentucky we were fortunate to have one lady who came in and really performed such outstanding service everybody regretted to see that lady leave. But by and large we have not been able to get assistance for these rural areas except in a community of maybe 5 to 6 thousand or a county of 30 to 40 thousand. In a small rural county of 8 or 10 thousand we just have not touched the surface.

I am delighted that you have so accurately described the situation in pointing up the need of why we have to have so many separate programs and services.

Go ahead now and give us your views.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Many people I know feel that because of the difficulties of rural poverty that really in the long run nothing can be done. In your State and in mine there is a very sharp difference between the powerful and rich cities and these isolated areas.