

The people in the cities have not had the chance to see and be affected by this rural poverty which most of them have never seen.

Chairman PERKINS. We have stressed the city problems to such an extent, that we have failed to see the present urban problem results from a neglect of rural areas. Practically all the young people on the farm or in rural communities are leaving for the growing areas of the country.

If we do not commence to do more of that at home these problems in the cities are going to get worse.

Do you agree?

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I agree very much. Very often the city people tell—they feel there can be no change in the rural people.

Very frankly my experience has shown that where there is a relationship, where a community action worker will go into a community and will be willing to spend time, in other words not just 1 year but 2 years or more, where he can work with those people, that the prediction of the people from the Appalachia city is that these so called welfare people will not work or cannot be brought from welfare is not an accurate one.

I have seen too many examples in our own community where attention, where care and encouragement but most of all time spent, a community action worker or some sort of VISTA or associate VISTA or community action worker must be there.

There must be a man in the community who is willing to be there a long enough time to reach these youth. It will take much longer, as you know very well, in a rural area to reach the youth.

It will take much longer to convince them that there is need for change. It will take much longer to teach them the ways of change. It will take much longer then for them to feel hope that really there can be a further life.

In my own case, for example, the community went to, 250 people, there had never been once, ever, in that community a meeting of any sort for any reason except in church.

So the relationship was between a man talking to the people but no response. So there was no history of organization. There was no history of the democratic process. There was no history of taking the responsibility.

So the work of the rural community action worker has to start from the very beginning. For example, when we elected our officers after 6 months of my trying to prove that I was there to help them, not to hinder them—

Chairman PERKINS. I want to ask you a question along that line. The rural people that you have observed and worked with are very similar to the rural people that I represent.

You have observed these people who resent some outside worker coming in and trying to make a Buffalo, N.Y., out of the Cabin Creek River, in there or the Kanawaha River in West Virginia. But they will listen to any constructive ideas and will cooperate with any individual who is there for a good purpose and interested in improving their standard of living and willing to work with them on ways and means to bring it about.

Have you observed that and have you convinced the workers in your area who are there in a good faith effort, have you experienced the utmost cooperation from those people?