Mr. GOODELL. Have you been active in organizing meetings to get the investment of these people in the rural areas of Appalachia in selecting representatives?

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. When you talk about these assertive people I am talking about people in that community.

Mr. GOODELL. I understand. I will give you an example. Your observations are in accord with my own based on my travel in the Waynesville area of Western North Carolina and some other areas. Some of the community action workers found they could not get true representatives of those people without having at least two or three meetings.

The first meeting was completely dominated by some who were very vocal and assertive. Subsequently at the second or third meeting they could begin to induce the others to speak up.

The result was, as he put it in one case, that inevitably the person who was elected the representative in the first meeting was completely set aside at the second or third meeting and they elected somebody else.

That is just a parallel example of what I think you were talking about. Would you comment further on that?

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. If it can happen in two or three meetings that is extraordinary. It took me close to a year. Then you see here what happens is when I went into the community I hoped to make it very clear why I was there, to help people with particular problems. Your middle class takes over automatically.

Then there is a period of alienation, which is usually personal. They withdraw. Then in the meantime the action is going on.

In other words, the community meetings are being held, progress is being made, some of the others are speaking up.

What has happened is that for the most part that middle class has come back into the community organization on the terms of the community action which is then oriented towards the people you are really trying to reach.

Now some will not come back in. Either their personal dislike of me is so intense that they won't but usually they will come back in on the terms that you want them to.

Mr. GOODELL. I take it that you believe very much that this is perhaps, the critical element for success is involving them in their own decision-making.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I certainly do.

Mr. GOODELL. In this respect, are you aware of the way the present poverty law is written, in respect to the community action phase of earmarking funds for different types of programs?

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I stressed then at the beginning of this that I am not thoroughly acquainted with the broad OEO picture or the alternatives presented. I am speaking from a very small one community rural point of view.

Generally I understand the position about the number of poor who should be represented on the board.

I understand it very well.

Mr. GOODELL. Actually at this stage there is very little difference in the alternatives that involve the poor. This was put in as the Quie amendment last year requiring at least one-third of the poor to be represented on the board, but that would not be changed by any of the