

Mrs. OLIVAREZ. May I turn this over to Mr. Maley since he is the one conducting the program right now?

Chairman PERKINS. Yes.

Mr. MALEY. A great deal of emphasis has been placed on job training in urban areas such as our concentrated employment program. Frankly it is much more difficult in the rural areas because I do not think anyone has really coped with this problem of what do you train people to do.

What jobs are available there or if they are trained for other jobs where are they going then and so on.

Mrs. OLIVAREZ. May I add something to that, sir?

Chairman PERKINS. Yes.

Mrs. OLIVAREZ. As you know there are two different schools of thought on what to do with our rural population. Those who say let us get them out of rural areas and into major communities and those who say we have to keep them where they are because they are cluttering up our urban centers.

Personally I think they must stay where they are. We have to try to make their lives as comfortable as possible where they are. In this context I do not think we have done any really gutsy feasibility tests and studies on what kind of industry can be brought into the rural area to keep those who want to stay there.

This business of imposing our philosophy on them is utterly ridiculous. As a Mexican-American I know some people whose culture is very definitely rural. For me to come in and tell them "You have to get out and move to the city" would create problems on top of problems.

For those who want to stay there we must have some meaningful and realistic work training programs.

Chairman PERKINS. In the first place, we have been bypassed all through the years by all the government spending such as defense contracts, we don't have the universities in our areas and those that are getting any of the research contracts, defense contracts, and all the defense spending has bypassed these areas.

The principal rural areas are in Appalachia. That has been causing us to run a little farther behind all the way along instead of keeping up. Then to be bypassed with programs of this type is just putting us so far behind sometimes I just wonder if we will ever catch up.

That is the reason I want to see an effective rural program. But we have to do something about rural housing. I am confident that we will make progress. We are making progress with some of the programs in the present legislation, some of the programs have meant so much to the rural areas. I am hopeful that we can improve them and make more progress.

Mr. Hawkins. Do you have any questions?

Mr. HAWKINS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First I would like to also join in welcoming Mrs. Olivarez before the committee. I have known her for a long time and I know of the very excellent work which she has been doing in the southwest community and in California as well.

Certainly it is a pleasure to have her before this committee. I have just several questions, Mrs. Olivarez. I note that you indicate or make a disclaimer before the committee that the organization is in support of or in opposition to any particular bill.