STATEMENTS OF A PANEL COMPOSED OF D. M. McELROY, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, LUBBOCK COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE, LUBBOCK, TEX.; DONALD FLANDERS, SECRETARY-TREASURER, FOND DU LAC AREA ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION, INC., FOND DU LAC, WIS.; BEN DAY, ESQ., PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JACKSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COUNCIL, INC., MEDFORD, OREG.; MRS. ANNIE LEE SMALL, DIRECTOR, ACTION, INC., ATHENS, GA.; AND JIM TEMPLETON, DIRECTOR, NORTHEAST COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE, OLIVE HILL, KY.

Mr. McELROY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for those kind words from Mr. Mahon. I have a little alliance in that I am married to a Kentucky girl. I am director of the vocational technical college and president of the Community Action Board of Lubbock County, Tex.

You already have volumes of statistics and analysis that are evidence of the effectiveness of the various programs operated under the aegis of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

I do not know whether Lubbock, Tex., has been part of those statistics or not. If not I would like to say that we also are evidenced of the effectiveness of these programs.

The implementation of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 has been termed "the war on poverty." It was never intended from the outset that this would be of short duration.

We all know that it will take a long time. It is a strange type of war in that the enemy is elusive. Our weapons, which are dollars and qualified personnel, are limited.

We do not have academies such as the Naval Academy, Air Force Academy, West Point, or war colleges that we can send our people to to find the experience and techniques of war or conflicts such as we are engaged in in the war on poverty.

Our school has been trial and error, and experience, and from this school there has emerged knowledgeable leadership that is now furnishing expertise in treating these problems.

There has been criticism of this program but I believe I will submit that this criticism has been actually of programs that are not related to the war on poverty.

The enterprising American is opposed to professional beneficiary of wealth in programs. Yet the fellow who rides the employment rolls is charged to the war on poverty, in the provision of the Economic Opportunity Act.

This is something that we and our own communities have to combat and inform the people. Nevertheless this criticism has existed. True, there has been criticism that has been active. But as the distinguished gentleman from Florida, Congressman Rogers, spoke a few minutes ago, corrective actions have been taken in these cases.

The very things for which the OEO has been criticized represent circumstances that the war on poverty and the program through the community action agencies would eliminate or greatly reduce by motivating our people to improve themselves to where they will not be perpetual beneficiaries of various welfare programs.

I would be disappointed to see any phase of the OEO programs reduced, curtailed, or channeled off to another existing agency. OEO