

1. You should provide for participation by low-income people in the planning, development and operation of projects being conducted by existing old line agencies. This will accomplish three purposes. First it will provide encouragement, willingness to participate and the necessary self-confidence in the low income people, second it is an opportunity for administrators and other people to listen and begin to understand the real nature of the problems that they are trying to help solve.

Third if we listen carefully to such people, we will avoid the waste of much government money and fruitless efforts.

2. I would recommend that somehow you provide for longer range financing of community action programs. The nature of the problem is such that we will not get the results that we want by short programs. For the most success, we must be assured of a continuity of action and adequate followthrough.

This short range hit or miss program and it should be financed for what it is, a long-range effort to change a situation which has developed over many years.

3. I oppose the suggestion that OEO authorities be spun off and given to other governmental agencies. We are designed to work with OEO and it is designed to work with us. The willingness of other long-established Government agencies to work closely with a CAP group is quite uncertain. Some will and some won't. And believe me when some won't it is close to impossible to make any headway. Our innovations and approaches many times run counter to the long-established concepts of existing agencies. One is concerned with health, one is concerned with education, one is concerned with job training, one is concerned with employment. The old established agencies try to work on the problems on a piecemeal basis.

In contrast, we are in a position to, and do, try to work on an individual's entire environment as well as a particular problem.

I recommend that you give community action agencies more power to compel cooperation from other agencies in the development of their program.

4. I would like to see more flexibility in the OEO Guidelines. By this I mean priority as to types of programs should not be established for an entire region and programs should be judged on their individual productive merits. I mean that we should have more leeway in which to develop programs for our own local needs and ideas.

In conclusion, should any of you become discouraged or doubtful about the ultimate value of rural CAP programs I invite you to visit us in southern Oregon and talk to our many people who have been so helped.

Please always remember that these people, 20 percent of our population, who we are trying to help, represent one of the greatest potential resources that our Nation has.

Thank you.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Mr. Day.

Mr. Steiger, do you have any questions?

Mr. STEIGER. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.