

Have we had problems? Indeed we have. I think the problems that one has as you conceive and build a program from scratch. Partially, our problem stems from the racial makeup of our area. Partially, because we have found in some cases that the regulations under which we have to operate are incompatible and sometimes because there has been some confusion and lack of cooperation between agencies.

This, then, is a comprehensive and condensed view of the anti-poverty program in my own area at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity of making this statement.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you very much, Mrs. Small.

We are all going to be questioning the panel in a few minutes as to how we can improve the programs, essentially in the rural areas.

It is a pleasure for me at this time to introduce Jim Templeton, director of the Northeast Community Action Committee, Olive Hill, Ky.

I have made the statement on numerous occasions and I have no hesitancy in making it again. He is the most outstanding director that we have in Kentucky. He has displayed much administrative ability and has taken great advantage of the programs for his section.

I am delighted to welcome you here, Jim.

STATEMENT OF JIM TEMPLETON, DIRECTOR, NORTHEAST COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE, OLIVE HILL, KY.

Mr. TEMPLETON. Thank you, Congressman Perkins.

I would like to say this is a pleasure, of course, to have the privilege to appear before this committee.

In behalf of Congressman Perkins may I say that it also is a pleasure for me to have 15 months ago returned after being absent from the area about 30 years to become the executive director for the Northeast Kentucky Area Development Council and, of course, it is a pleasure and I am very happy, of course, that my area is in Congressman Perkins' district, which I might say makes the work a little easier, Congressman. Thank you, sir.

I would like to describe just a little about the area. This is six counties. I would call it a rural area because we have 1,800 square miles to cover with a population of approximately 93,000. So, you can see that we are very scattered. The job is very difficult to get to.

I think, as I have heard others speaking of the cooperation and coordination of other agencies, that surely in this area of ours I can see where there has been a disadvantage possibly to other agencies in giving services back in the remote areas in what we call down there the hollows. This is understandable to me. I think this is why this so-called community action lends very much to particularly the rural America in providing personnel to go into the remote parts to contact and involve the people.

Now, we have been very fortunate, of course, and I feel, too, in the cooperation of many of the Federal agencies and State agencies. But as a director, an executive director, of an OEO funded area, let me say that we have had the cooperation and we have spent a lot of time in talking to and meeting with the various agencies of not only State government but Federal agencies, too.