

I feel that we are having tremendous cooperation. We are fortunate also in having a very fine university, one of the State universities in one of the counties that we serve. That is Morgan State University. The cooperation we find from this university, of course, is very gratifying. We are very grateful for the cooperation.

Although we have not been able to move too much into educational programs, I think that we are behind particularly in basic education, that we are now with the help of the university, of course, in the process of developing programs which can conceivably be, of course, funded through the Department of Education.

I would like to point out also as on several occasions that men on the local level representing the Federal agencies have said to me—and then I will explain what I mean—“Jim, how fortunate that you are not an employee of a particular Federal agency or State agency. Therefore you can knock on many doors and possibly open them whereas we have only one door to go to and we would not dare go beyond that point because someone higher up would have to carry this on for us.”

So, with this freedom of working for a nonprofit agency that is neither Federal nor local government, it has given us the freedom to move in many circles. The results are that we have been very fortunate in getting several programs from other agencies of the Federal Government. Of course, we are hoping that we will be able to develop many more. I surely feel that if this is not the case that we might be tied to dependence on someone higher up to make those contacts for us and to carry the message for us.

Now, this is not taking anything away from our OEO people on the regional and the Federal level. Surely they also do this. But again I see them on the top level as also another agency of Federal Government. They surely are paid by such.

So, they too are handicapped to a degree because of this situation that they are in—their employment.

I just had the privilege last week of visiting another CAP agency in the State of Kentucky—Washington Park. Not only was it a privilege for me to be out there in the lowlands but also to see and to spend 2 days with an agency that is just more or less trying to get off the ground.

I find a board that was made up as our board at Northeast, of people representing not only the many agencies in the area but also civic clubs, businesses, and representatives from the target group which the community action, of course, will be working with.

But I found also a new board that to my amazement was very dedicated from the beginning apparently which, as I remember when the Economic Act first came in, in fact in the latter part of 1964 and 1965 this was not the case, and I might say that I had the privilege—and I was not employed by OEO—of being called in the first week of December 1964 as a rural consultant to the Office of Economic Opportunity. So, therefore, I have followed it very closely since then. I have seen a lot of changes, particularly on the local level, in the attitude of people, people who before, even though in our part of the country they may be small towns of 1,600 or up to 5,000 population, that within a half mile of the town they just did not realize or at least they were not recognizing that their people were having problems, problems of the poor, which now they are doing; they are recognizing it.