

fiscal year 1968 which will provide for the funding of only 50 new rural CAP agencies throughout the country.

In Wisconsin alone we have nine that are awaiting funding. I would doubt that all nine in Wisconsin out of the 50 in the country will be able to secure funding.

Let me follow up because there are a number of things that can be touched on based on what all of you have said.

No. 1, can I get just a simple yes or no in order to conserve your time and the committee's time on the question of whether you all agree that we should have to the greatest extent possible versatile funding?

Mr. TEMPLETON. Yes, I think we should have versatile funding.

Mrs. SMALL. Yes, sir.

Mr. McELROY. Yes.

Mr. DAY. And I agree.

Mr. FLANDERS. I, also.

Mr. STEIGER. Thank you.

Second, it is proposed in H.R. 10682, which is the opportunity crusade which some of you have seen and some of you have not seen, that there be an urban-rural CAP split. I would hope that all of you might take a look at this because I think this does tend to make it possible for a rural CAP agency to stand on its own in determining its own priorities without the degree of competition which I fear presently exists.

Mr. McElroy is quite correct, a part of it I am afraid is based on the fact that there may be more noise in the urban areas than in the rural areas. I don't think that is a sound, valid basis for providing the funds because the needs can be equally as great in a rural area as they can be in an urban area. So I would hope that all of you might go back and review that portion of the opportunity crusade, and, frankly, I would hope you would agree to support it because I think it would do the kind of job that I think all of you think should be done in assuring there is equity in attempting to carry on an effective war against poverty. Would all of you be willing to comment about what is the role of the State technical assistance agency in your State? Is it strong? Is it weak? How well has it done in working with your agency and what ideas would each of you have, if any, on how to improve it?

Mr. TEMPLETON. I think as the OEO has come along they too have come along in improving in such a short period of time. Of course, I see them strictly as technical assistants, not in supervisory capacities whatsoever. I see them in assisting new agencies, the formation of new agencies, the agencies that have been organized, assisting them in preparing programs, or coordinating between the State agency and the local community action agency. This is a very vital, important role. I can see them becoming specialists in the field of manpower and education and so forth.

Mrs. SMALL. Since I am simply a volunteer lay worker I really don't have any experience to answer this question.

Mr. STEIGER. Has your director made any comment to the Board about it?

Mrs. SMALL. Not that I am aware of, not enough to establish a trend.

Mr. McELROY. We have had a very good experience with the State agency. We think they were largely responsible for our getting our