

Chairman PERKINS. Why do you say this?

Mrs. SMALL. Because the rose by any other name—you know, however, I do agree with Mr. McElroy that OEO carries a very fine connotation for our poor people. I personally do not care what it is called as long as it does the job and as long as it is constituted in a like manner to OEO, but I do feel our economically depressed care.

Chairman PERKINS. Do you feel, Mr. McElroy, that we are still in this period of demonstration or experimentation in gaining useful knowledge and experience that would be lost and thrown away if we undertook to transfer OEO to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Mr. McELROY. Definitely I think we would lose momentum if we made that change.

Chairman PERKINS. What is your feeling, Mr. Day?

Mr. DAY. I would like to see eventually OEO dismantled but not now. Further than that I would like to see a process reversed which I believe took place last year where some of the OEO functions were put into the Labor Department. I think those ought to be returned.

Chairman PERKINS. What is your view, Mr. Flanders?

Mr. FLANDERS. I have great trepidations about the length of career of an agency once it is firmly rooted. I think the Office of Economic Opportunity has served a great function in creating the will of the community and the people to go about correcting the problems within the community. I think the goal of all of us should be to continue to upgrade the individual to the point where they can become a worthwhile citizen and contributing citizen to the community. To say that I feel that the dismemberment of the Office of Economic Opportunity by removing its head would ruin this program, I don't feel it would. I really don't. I feel there is enough expertise that has been gained by the people involved on the local level as well as on the Federal level to carry on, no matter where it is. I think our goals are firmly fixed and the method by which we get there is not necessarily of import.

Chairman PERKINS. In selecting this panel I tried to go to different parts of the country—realizing in my own section that we have problems, perhaps other areas of the country had similar problems and different problems—to get you in here to offer your suggestions. This question is general but how can we better improve this program. I will start with you, Mr. Templeton. From the standpoint of the rural areas of America.

Mr. TEMPLETON. As I stated, first, of course, I think the appropriation must be increased. Also, I would recommend that there be part of the Office of Economic Opportunity Branch exclusive for rural America. I think that there are two things that we will move along. I would like to say no doubt rural America is behind. I don't think it is negligence or anything like this. I think it is because Urban did help, they had a city manager form of Government. They had staff that got busy on preparing proposals. Rural America had no one other than volunteers on the local level in which to do the legwork and to do this type of research and so forth that was needed. So, I can fully understand why rural America is a little behind. I would think with an additional appropriations and the establishment within the Office of Economic Opportunity a rural body which would be there to assist us would be advisable.