

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. McElroy, do you care to comment on how we can improve the rural programs, assuming you had the same amount of money. As to priorities what would be your recommendation to this committee?

Mr. McELROY. I think the first funding would be beneficial. I believe the programs are available within the provisions of the act. The main thing we need is a sense of security that this is going to be perpetuated and we can implement the programs that are provided. I think we can improve them.

Chairman PERKINS. Do you agree with that, Mrs. Small? Do you have any further suggestions, yourself?

Mrs. SMALL. I think the principal suggestion would be concerning the fact it is very difficult to vie for professional help, you know, and, therefore, we need to be funded over a longer period of time, not just on short term.

Chairman PERKINS. I agree with that, we should give the program some stability which it has been lacking.

Now, I would like to run all the way across the panel but I will ask two or three questions. There has been suggestion perhaps that the local governments fund in excess of 10 percent.

Again, to my way of thinking, if we made that mandatory we would really do a great disservice to the rural areas in America. I agree with Mrs. Small, I would like to see the local people do it all but you and I know they just do not have the resources. If we raise the local contribution requirement on the part of the local people, rural areas are going to be the hardest hit and the poor communities that have the greatest need are going to obtain the least from this program. So, I would like to ask the panel whether you agree with that that we should maintain local matching at 10 percent. On another question, as to the Job Corps, work study, Neighborhood Youth Corps, do you feel these programs have worked well? Do you feel that the Job Corps could be replaced at this stage of the game by residential skill centers?

I would like to hear this panel briefly discuss those points.

Mr. Templeton, if you can follow the question.

Mr. TEMPLETON. Mr. Chairman, you put me on the spot about the Job Corps because as you are aware, we do not have one in our six counties, I am not too familiar with it. From all indications I would say that there has been much improvement in the program.

We are just this week working on a halfway house on the way out. We have heard of Job Corps houses on the way in. We are going to work on one on the way out by which we can assist the returnees after the satisfactory completion of the courses to be able to get jobs. As I say, we are starting to work on that this week. As to the local contribution I think the chairman probably knows more than I do about this and that is the six counties in which we attempt to serve, one of the counties has not paid even their county officials for 6 months. They have not had the money. They have not been able to pay the electricity on the courthouse for over a year. They have not had the money.

I could take all the counties and say they are in a similar situation. Then to imagine now contributing anything to any program in the