

than they did this year, with their shoes tied on their feet with overall straps.

We try to provide the most basic need for the family, and work from there. I am proud to say we have had no trouble getting into these homes. We find our people more than willing to listen to any suggestions that will make it a better home for their children, and for themselves.

We have had one home reject us in the entire time this program has been in operation. Up until 2 months ago, we had only the health program, and now we are combining community action with our health program.

In those 2 months——

Chairman PERKINS. You are the director of the local community action program?

Mrs. DUNN. I am the director of the community development component, yes, sir.

Chairman PERKINS. Community development component.

Mrs. DUNN. This combines our health and our——

Chairman PERKINS. Who operates the community action program then?

Mrs. DUNN. Mr. Roland Sebastian is the executive director of Middletown, Ky.

Chairman PERKINS. Executive director; is he cooperative with you in seeing this that these things are accomplished?

Mrs. DUNN. Yes, he does.

Chairman PERKINS. And do the local people have complete control? I am not worried about the poor people participating in this area. Do your local people have complete control of our community action program?

Mrs. DUNN. I met yesterday with two groups of our local people, our policy advisory council, and they were to look at applications and recommend new fieldworkers for the new component.

It was strictly their choosing. They went about it very democratically. They decided that older people with obligations should have preferences over young people who already had a job, and I was very pleased with the way they went about choosing these applicants.

They meet once a month, and they have members of that council that sat on our Middle Kentucky River board, they attend our board meetings, and they have a voice in everything that we do.

Chairman PERKINS. Well before I even hear your statement, I just want to highly compliment you. A lady that would take time out and let me know, volunteer to come to Washington and pay your own expenses. I want you to stand by today, some of the members may put some questions to you. I just wish that you were in charge of four or five counties there, since you have already convinced me that you are a dedicated individual, and want to improve the standard of living of those people, the poor people in that area, and that is the real purpose of the poverty program.

You go ahead.

Mrs. DUNN. I am dedicated to helping our people. I returned from Texas 4 years ago, because I felt that the mountains needed their own people to help them and so I came back, and since that time I have worked as hard as I know how, and I shall continue to work for as long as I am permitted to, to help our people.