

Chairman PERKINS. Give us any other facets of your community action program. Just how do you spend your money down there? Go ahead and tell us.

Mrs. DUNN. Right now we are changing over from the health into community action and health combined. These fieldworkers will be going out into the homes, and they will be serving three purposes: to teach health, to act as an information and referral service for the people, and to organize them in such a way that they could come together and do things as a unit, rather than one or two people trying to do everything in the community.

And I find that all our people need is a little guidance, and a little help and they have got on this an awfully lot of good old mountain wisdom, I think, and initiative, a lot of our people are very talented in many fields, but they have never had it channeled in the right direction.

We have got carpenters. We have got people who do all of their own electrical wiring, and repairing. They don't think of calling a repairman. The man of the house does most of the building, when a new room has to go on the home, and they just do these things, not because they have learned them from a book but because they were born with this knowledge.

My father has a third grade education and my mother never had a repairman in our house. He wired our house for electricity, and he makes our yard furniture, he can put a car together, he can do just about anything with his hands.

So much of what our people know is just part of them, what they have been born with, Mr. Perkins, but they have never had an opportunity to channel it in a profitable manner. No one has ever developed that, and I would like to see some of it developed.

Chairman PERKINS. I agree wholeheartedly with that statement. The people down there are imaginative, and have know-how, and they have certain latent abilities where they grasp real quickly.

Mrs. DUNN. Yes, they do.

Chairman PERKINS. Now, do you have any other aspects of the community action program? Do you feel that your money has been wisely spent in Breathitt County?

Mrs. DUNN. Yes I do.

Chairman PERKINS. Do you feel that it would be a mistake to take this program away from the people as it is presently administered, do you?

Mrs. DUNN. Mr. Perkins, I just would not even want to think of the results, if it were pulled out at this time, because the people are to the point where they are ready to do things, as a community, as a whole group, and they are raring to go, and now if they are slapped down at this point, I just hate to think what it would do to them.

Because you get your hopes built up, you know, and then somebody comes along and knocks you down, and then the next time we are going to have a hard time convincing them that we really mean to help them.

Chairman PERKINS. So you feel that it would be wise to keep the Office of Economic Opportunity in its present form, without transferring to any governmental agency. I mean, transferring its functions to the Department of HEW.