

Chairman PERKINS. Prior we were ascertaining the effectiveness of the community action program, in her local community.

Mr. GOODELL. Yes. Have you had any experience with the VISTA workers?

Mrs. DUNN. We have some in our area.

Mr. GOODELL. What kind of experience? How do you summarize your reaction to their effectiveness, and what they have been doing?

Mrs. DUNN. Are we here to talk, Mr. Chairman, about VISTA? I will try to answer that. I don't like to be put on the spot but we have had VISTA's in our area for quite sometime. And when the Appalachian Volunteers came in, I even took the time out to go and visit with them, and talk about what they would find when they go into homes about health hazards.

I went to the public health department and got literature of all kinds and took it to them and invited them to join with us in doing some of the manual labor that we cannot provide for our people, and I will have to be very truthful with you, because my father would still strap me if I told a lie, as old as I am. I cannot speak well of them.

Mr. GOODELL. You are describing actions which you took to try to coordinate their activities with the community action program, so that they could be more helpful, on the basis of it?

Mrs. DUNN. They could be very helpful in our area, if they had the correct supervision and if they had the correct attitudes. You know, when I go into a home I don't go in and say, "Well, look here, I am here to help you, and I am going to change your way of life."

I go in and I observe then what the people need, and then I offer my services in such a way that I let the people feel they are helping us, as a community action group, rather than us going in and trying to supply all their needs.

I never try to get a family to feel, well, we have just come in, now, we are going to take over and take care of all your problems, and the very first step is to make you unhappy with your situation.

Mr. GOODELL. I take it that this is basically the approach you feel the VISTA workers have had in your area?

Mrs. DUNN. Yes, their attitude has been detrimental to them. I don't know whose fault it is. These are young kids, and maybe they come in to help. I don't know. But it has not worked out that way.

Mr. GOODELL. Do you have any idea how many VISTA workers have been in your area?

Mrs. DUNN. I have visited their office just this month, and I was told there were 27, in Wolfe County, and approximately that much in Breathitt County. These are AV's and VISTAs. However when we visit, they move from place to place, and when you visit, they are not home, and I went and asked them to come to our community action meetings, you know, because they can be a great help, going up and down the hollows, and telling people, giving them this information, but I have not found them home.

Mr. GOODELL. In other words, you have experienced almost total frustration in trying to get them integrated and coordinated with your community action program?

Mrs. DUNN. Yes, we have. At this time, we are attempting to work with them on this new community development program. We have asked them to give what aid they felt they had toward training this