

And, I would emphasize that to my way of thinking there can be no human dignity without the privacy and the sanctity of the home and family life, also without a minimum standard of education for everyone. And no more people in ill health or need of medical treatment without having it—and everyone trained for a job and provided one.

At the very least in Kentucky we must have money to continue the strong base which has been created, and another half-million dollars to fund the other five areas for Program Development thus making Kentucky whole or fully covered for effective Community Action endeavors.

If tomorrow morning or a month from now we could have an end, praise God, to the Viet Nam war, are the American people ready to take the defense budget and put it to work building a truly great society?

What is it that motivates so many of us to accept without question the expenditure of billions upon billions of dollars for destruction, or to get ready to destroy. But to cry caution when it is proposed that money be spent to *provide for poor people the strength and the ability to lift themselves up?*

There are already many visible results of the War on Poverty in Kentucky. Good community action programs are being operated in Kentucky. In Leslie County, which is eighth from the bottom in per capita income in the United States with a mere \$487 per year, a comprehensive health program is in operation reaching the 10,941 residents and treating them for conditions found, such as dental needs, eye examinations, mental retardation, tuberculosis, cancer, diabetes, heart trouble, et cetera. This massive effort to raise the health standards of the area has been a true Community Action program mobilizing the resources of the community, including local hospitals, doctors, various State agencies, and workers from the ranks of the poor.

The Goose Creek Day Care Center at Blackey, in Letcher County, is helping break the cycle of poverty through a combination of Day Care for pre-school children, homemaker services, and casework programs for the culturally and economically deprived. Also, at Blackey is a sewing project conducted by the poor which is turning out clothes for children who otherwise would literally not have clothing to wear to school.

These are just a few examples of communities in action in Kentucky.

Mrs. Mary Jane Dunn, the Director of one of these action components in Breathitt County, Kentucky, is here with me today to explain how it so successfully exemplifies the basic precepts of true community action—that of teaching the poor how to help themselves.

The War on Poverty in Kentucky has many other faces. It is some 50,000 children gaining early schooling and medical check-ups in Head Start programs as a basic beginning toward eliminating poverty.

It is some 900 high school students in Upward Bound Programs attending classes at a college because they show promise of being potential college students, but would not have the funds to go.

It is also some 33,724 young people in Neighborhood Youth Corps projects earning money while gaining full or part-time experience assuring them they can remain in school and increase their chance of a job later on.

And the hundreds of Kentucky boys and girls in Job Corps Centers learning a trade and a new way of life enabling them to get a job upon graduation.

These are some of the reasons, numerically, why the War on Poverty is worth every cent of its costs to date and the justification for the continuation and acceleration of this program. The moral responsibility is just as important, in fact, more important; for until we place the cause for most poverty where it belongs *not on the shoulders of the poor themselves*, but upon our society, we will not have the will to spend the money and do the job necessary to eliminate it from our country.

It is a black enigma of our society that 34 million of our people are barely existing in a land of plenty. It is a sin, not of *commission*, but one of *omission*. We have failed to find a way to bring these Americans into the mainstream of our affluent society—in fact, we have been so blinded by our affluency, we try in many ways to not even admit their existence. Our proud reputation of having the highest standards of affluent living in the world mean very little for the one in five persons who has never tasted the smaller luxuries of life, not to mention many of the necessities.