

with many special conditions, has to my way of thinking lost a lot of the interest of the local people.

They feel that the programs have been dictated to them in a regimented fashion, that they don't have much say-so in them. They would like to see these programs be more loosely developed, the local community level, with more freedom and innovation at the local level, and determine what their needs are.

Some of the community action agencies in Kentucky have expressed great concern on the use of short-term funding now that OEO in the region has been doing now, with three agencies in Kentucky, coupled with many special conditions that they feel that they are unjustifiable, can't live with, and feels that it has been very detrimental to the community action concept.

We at the State level are very concerned with short-term fundings, we are very concerned with special conditions attached to the grant that are unrealistic. We are dealing with volunteer service people, who serve on boards. They have devoted many hours of their free time, serving as representatives in a community action agency, and any form of special conditions and short-term funding that appears to them to be a dictatorial threat, and they oppose this approach to a community action concept.

As far as the VISTA's and AV's operation in Kentucky, it is probably to my way of thinking depends on the individual attitude of the VISTA AV himself.

Some of them are dedicated individuals. There are also those who are down there just for the lark, irresponsible, with no sense of direction and where they are going. To me, this does more damage to the low-income group of east Kentucky than good, although there are VISTA's and AV's who are dedicated, are doing a good job, and working very effectively with some community action agencies. This, again, depends on personalities, but the CAP directors and personalities with the VISTA's and AV's are a good asset, are a good resource in the war on poverty, but we use them as a resource. And we feel that the real main emphasis, or the real effect of winning the war on poverty must come from a community action agency. And we feel that the VISTA's and AV's should come under the umbrella of the supervision of the community action agency to be effective in carrying out the war on poverty.

There are some conflicts. I know there are conflicts between the VISTA's and AV's with CAP agencies in Kentucky. Some of it is based on personalities. Some of it is based on irresponsibility of the youths in the VISTA and AV program that are—to my way of thinking, maybe—down there just for the lark.

Other CAP agencies, they have been doing a very good job working very effectively with the community action agency group.

Chairman PERKINS. One of the most dedicated ladies that I ever ran into happened to be a VISTA worker in the mud creek section of Floyd County. She was an elderly lady. I am hoping somewhere along the line that we can get some others in that category.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Chairman, I believe this completes our statement. If you have any questions.

Chairman PERKINS. You appear today in behalf of Al Whitehouse, director of the Kentucky Office of Economic Opportunity.