

Youth Corps, Project Headstart, Upward Bound—all of these focus on children and youth. I would not suggest that these programs assisting young persons are not of prime importance. They must be continued, indeed expanded.

But this concentration on youth tends to let us forget the sizable group of senior citizens who are experiencing want and deprivation.

No one intends to ignore this group. Much has been said about including them in the war on poverty. But the time for talk is over. I think we must come down to some concrete proposals.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I am offering three amendments to H.R. 8311 which will encourage greater attention to older Americans and to the role they can and should have in the Economic Opportunity Act programs. My first proposal would earmark a total of \$150 million of the funds appropriated for title II of this act to be used for programs to assist senior citizens who are poor. This amendment should read:

Page 76, after line 12, insert the following:

(c) Section 610 of such Act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following: 'Of the funds appropriated to carry out this Act for a fiscal year, not less than \$150,000,000 shall be expended on special programs for the elderly poor.'

And redesignate subsections (c), (d), and (e), as (d), (e), and (f) respectively.

This figure has not just been pulled out of the air. My reasoning is this. The aged represent one-seventh of the total number of poor Americans; therefore, they should benefit from one-seventh of the programs. The Office of Economic Opportunity has asked for \$1,022 million for urban and rural community action programs under title II. The fair share of this amount that should be allocated to programs for senior citizens is approximately \$150 million.

Chairman PERKINS. Just a moment, Mr. Pepper. I want you to summarize the last minute what you have submitted there. You read an amendment to the \$150 million being earmarked, but I was busy. What did you say after that? And I will follow you then.

Mr. PEPPER. Just summarize?

Chairman PERKINS. No; just the last paragraph.

Mr. PEPPER. I recommended \$150 million. This figure has not just been pulled out of the air. Our reasoning is that the aged represent one-seventh of the total number of poor persons; therefore, they should benefit from one-seventh of the programs for the poor.

The Office of Economic Opportunity has asked for \$1,022 million for urban and rural community action programs under title II. The fair share of this amount which should be allocated to programs for senior citizens would be about one-seventh of that amount, about \$150 million.

Chairman PERKINS. I see.

Go ahead.

Mr. PEPPER. During these hearings, you have heard how successful the foster grandparent program has been. This program, which provides employment for the aged poor, demonstrates what can be done. As of March of 1966, 21 foster grandparent projects had been funded. This number has increased to a current level of 49 projects. However, this represents an expenditure of only \$5.5 million. Ten million dollars is planned for funding for fiscal year 1968. I am sure there are other types of programs which could be designed to give senior citizens a chance for part-time work, a chance to earn much needed