

It just points up the fact that we need here just what you are talking about and as chairman of this committee if we don't do something about it, I am going to offer an amendment on the floor of the House because this just must be done; we cannot neglect these people up and down these creeks where our local Appalachian volunteers and VISTA's have completely forgotten about them.

It is time for us to put some language in the bill to see that we make special efforts to provide services to senior citizens. I know this particularly in the isolated rural areas, and I think the same is true as you say in your area.

Mr. PEPPER. Mr. Chairman, I don't think you could do a more commendable thing.

Chairman PERKINS. It just burns me up to see people who profess to know the area and make great headlines and never touch the real needs in the area.

Mr. PEPPER. They don't want to be bothered in many instances, Mr. Chairman, with the senior citizens; they just think they don't want to be bothered with them and yet they are the greatest reservoir of untapped resources I believe in the United States.

Chairman PERKINS. I agree wholeheartedly.

Mr. PEPPER. I happen to be 66 years old; maybe I should not boast about it, but if anybody told me that I was living in a community and retired and I could not do something to help in one of these programs, as we crackers say, I would want to fight them about it.

Now, there are two categories. One of them is the group where \$200, \$250 a month would be a bonanza to them, give them a little income, give them something to do. The other group are people well to do who made a business success, retired from their own business but want to do something because they are good Americans; they want to help their country and they got tired of resting and fishing and doing the recreational things.

I have had many of them come to me, bankers and businessmen. One had me to lunch one day across from the bank. He said, "I am one of the boys at the bank; I want to do something. Can't you get me in this OEO program? I have been a successful businessman; I have been healthy."

He was a handsome fellow, well dressed. He would gladly serve for \$200 a month or nothing, for that matter, but we cannot find a place for him.

Chairman PERKINS. One other point that I feel I must press myself to in the rural areas. I have been on housing and I know the Housing Administration, I feel, has done a most worthy job but from the standpoint of rural housing it has been practically nil and these people reside in what we may term huts and just want a little better opportunity to know it is no fault of their own, and I am speaking about these senior citizens.

We should utilize these senior citizens who are living on a meager income in my area, many of them, \$40 a month, \$45 a month, depth of economic security, never were able to take advantage of the Social Security Act. We should utilize this where they have nowhere to work as a fairly good carpenter and knowing a little something about building, put them under some competent supervisor and get some loans