Nelson or Scheuer Amendment program approved, pending, or in process of development. This has been without a great deal of OEO promotion. Those programs which have been without much technical assistance from OEO during the past year until the time of the transfer have done remarkably well.

We are proud to have pioneered this program and hope that you will continue and expand these programs both through community action agencies, public agencies, state agencies, and private non-profit organizations. The slides which we are presenting to this Committee shows more vividly than words the nature of our Green Thumb program.

Community Action. We have not been happy with some of the administration and policies of OEO. Most of this Committee is aware of our feelings and of the examples of these problems. We can share the views of many of you for the need for improving these policies and practices. However, we would suggest that a tearing apart of OEO is not the solution. We oppose the abolition of OEO. If it is desirable to put OEO closer to existing agencies to cut interagency warfare and improve administration, it could be possible to move the entire OEO to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, for example, keeping it as an Office of Economic Opportunity with the same status as the U.S. Office of Education of the Social Security Administration. If this were done as a compromise between those who would like to see a closer tie with existing agencies and those who do not want to break up the OEO, we would recommend that the over-all director of the War on Poverty should be a new Under-Secretary of HEW with broader powers to help build cooperation with other agencies involved in the War on Poverty. There is precedence in the Department of Commerce for where they have more than one Under-Secretary.

We hope that this Committee will do its level best to arrive at an agreement before it sends this bill to the floor. "The poor" should not be fought over for partisan reasons, but needs the careful attention of every member of this Committee. Revision is needed and every effort should be made to get agreement on as much as possible before the Bill is reported. We have discussed the matter with many of you and know that many of the criticisms reflect honest need for changes to improve the program. Last year we supported the efforts of this Committee's desires to secure a place for the independent agency outside of the Community Action Agencies, its effort to emphasize employment and de-emphasize certain activities and give more direction to programming.

We think that there have been improvements in the War on Poverty and that most OEO and CAA officials have risen to the challenge of the recent riots and efforts to curtail them.

We believe that a major new effort is needed in rural anti-poverty programs in order to prevent the immigration of rural people. We urge OEO to work closer with the Economic Development Agency, Rural Development Services, FHA of the Department of Agriculture and the Manpower programs in developing ways that rural people do not have to leave their community or at least their region or state to find employment. If they do leave that they be better prepared than they are now.

Cooperation is a two way street. We urge that a Deputy Director of OEO be provided to OEO and that simultaneously he should also have a position in the Department of Agriculture. The rural anti-poverty efforts of CAP should be better coordinated with the Technical Action Panels, Rural Conservation and Development and Rural Area Development efforts. Greater use should be made of area wide rural programs and single purpose groups. More such public and private groups should be encouraged to get into the program. We also urge increased emphasis upon programs for the older poor.

In conclusion, we believe there is room for improvements and these should be made to increase cooperation with other agencies and improve administration. We do not support breaking up OEO to achieve this end, but rather by relying upon the good members of this Committee to hammer out agreements before this bill is reported to the House.

Farm Home Administration Opportunity Loans. In the states where we are organized and have had a chance to see this program work, we are deeply impressed by the good that it is doing. We support a major increase in this program and urge that the size of the individual loan be increased. We are also pleased with the migrant program and its results.

Vista. We support the idea of a home town Vista and believe that the directions of the administration's staff and Congressman Quie's bill in this regard are not far apart.

We appreciate the opportunity to appear before this Committee.