

For more than half Social Security is their only income, about a quarter of them are on Welfare and some are on both Welfare and Social Security.

The CASA workers have found that nearly 60 percent are in poor health; 36 percent live in substandard housing without electricity or plumbing.

Old people who haven't seen another human being for weeks at a time have been visited.

Rod Jones cites the case of an elderly man who couldn't walk because of muscular dystrophy, but managed to get around in an old wheel chair. His wife was ill, too. CASA workers had a telephone installed so that he might summon help.

One family, all mentally deficient, was found living in a house minus windows with chickens roosting in the bedroom and kitchen.

CASA workers have made minor repairs to many of the homes; have arranged transportation to doctors and medical centers for elderly who needed treatment.

Some families have been found living in indescribable filth. Retardation, senility, ill health are a triple threat to the forgotten elderly living in rural pockets of poverty.

"But", says Jones, "many of the people we have found have never been to a hospital or nursing home and do not want to go. Some of them have never seen a doctor.

"But with the help of CASA workers who can render domestic services, give a little nursing care and clean up the houses so that they are fit to be lived in, the majority of these people can remain in their own homes and not be moved to nursing homes.

STATEMENT OF TONY T. DECHANT, PRESIDENT NATIONAL FARMERS UNION

The Farmers Union does not believe that the Economic Opportunity Act is anti-riot first aid. Anti-poverty efforts can help to restore economic well being to our rural areas. The farm family should be able to remain in their rural community and make a decent living instead of being forced into the overcrowded metropolitan areas.

It is doubtful that the Detroit riot could have been prevented merely by giving money to anti-poverty efforts in Detroit. Detroit is a city with a very low unemployment rate. City officials are sympathetic and are working hard for the people. Community organization is intense in poverty areas. Schools are community oriented. Unions are progressive. Companies pay well, yet the riot happened.

We in the Farmers Union believe riots will continue to occur in the urban areas so long as rural America continues to supply the cities with people. The rural poor become the urban poor. Rural young people in grinding poverty are being forced to the city slums to look for jobs. Many lack training to get good jobs. They are stacked deep in the slums marked by their language and looks. They were ill prepared and ill educated for urban slum life.

We will continue to have riots in the cities until we can adequately treat rural poverty. Once the fire is lighted, all efforts must be extended to put it out, but it would be infinitely cheaper to remove the fuel before the fire starts. Major programs of training and work opportunity combined with rural development efforts could slow the mass migration to the urban slums. Today our minds are filled with riot stopping. If we really mean to stop riots, let us look for riot prevention. Riot prevention can be found in rural America.

Mr. CARSTENSON. I would call attention to the statement of our national president, Tony Dechant, who has spoken out on the matter relating to the riots and how we have to look at really truly preventing riots.

We have a position which the Farmers Union Convention took after quite serious consideration by many committees including the policy committees and the delegates and the board and quite a long discussion and it is concurred in by the advisory board. That is on page 2.

We will skip on to page 4, which this past week I was out at the University of Michigan. I used to be on the staff of the extension service there, and working in the small areas and small towns but also working in Detroit. In the course of my work there I worked with many of the professors who have been studying Detroit, working with staff members who have at that time and since worked in community development