

There are very few places to refer people in these rural communities. This has worked in southern Indiana where we have worked with CAP, and in western Iowa, and it has worked very well in these rural agencies where de do not have the agencies.

We have done an awful lot of work with and through and for community action agencies. We have spent a lot of our manpower resources, time, money, and everything else in building many of these camps. We believe in the community action concept, we also believe there is a roll for the independently funded operations, particularly in rural areas.

We have done a great deal to try to build these community agencies.

Mr. GOODELL. Do you have any further comments or observations to make?

Mr. CARSTENSON. No, sir.

Mr. GOODELL. Let me ask you about one further point which has not been mentioned in this presentation. You might have noted in the Opportunity Crusade the proposal for a new three-man council to begin to concentrate on the compilation of data, the correlation of data to chart the course for the future, and to make recommendations to the President and the Congress for changes in programs that affect the poor, for reorganization, and coordination of programs.

Do you have any general comment about that?

Mr. CARSTENSON. I am not quite sold on the way it is put together in your bill specifically. I know there has to be something this way. The way you put the question I think I would have to answer that there has to be more. This commission has to be of a little broader nature. I don't want to be too partisan one way or the other but you might take a look at the Nelson-Mondale bill which has a little broader focus of some of the social concerns, and I think giving it a little broader notion than poverty might be advisable to coordinate or be the equivalent of a social advisor—I don't have the exact right phrase—I know more coordination has to be done, more planning of a broader nature has to be done. I am not sure, frankly, that the thing that you propose there is quite the answer. I am not opposed to it. I can't give you anything specific as better.

Mr. GOODELL. If I understand you correctly you feel that there is a need for something in this area but you are not sure that the precisely defined jurisdiction charter in our bill is the right one?

Mr. CARSTENSON. That is right.

Mr. GOODELL. There are other proposals. You mentioned one which has a broader scope. It is our feeling that the general area of poverty oriented programs is broad in scope and we want it just as broad as it can be within that single objective. This would be an agency whose primary charge would be the programs that are affecting the poor.

You could have a council of social advisers that would have a broader scope. The danger there is, that they would overlap with the Council of Economic Advisers and they would overlap with a variety of other agencies and would not focus enough on what we think is a higher priority item, which is the poverty program.

Mr. CARSTENSON. You have touched on the very matters that concern us relating to the other proposal. Maybe a marriage somewhere in between might be a possible way.

We know there has to be something more. There should be a very direct concern about the more serious problem, the poverty problems.