

So please hear us and hear us now and don't be a long time doing it, please.

Senator MUSKIE. Thank you, Mrs. Brooks.

Miss WRIGHT. Mrs. Arsenault.

Mrs. ARSENAULT. I am Mrs. Barbara Arsenault, residing in Resurrection City. That is why I have such a bad cold. I hope you can understand me.

I live in Berkeley, Mich., which is a suburb of Detroit. I have five children. I am an ADC mother. I used to live in Maine, but the welfare programs were so poor that we moved to Michigan. It is a little richer State, I suppose.

I am here as an ADC mother. My five children are on ADC. I do not work. I do not intend to work. I am not interested in a job. I have five children to raise. If I raise them properly, it will repay the cost of keeping me at home on ADC.

It is very hard. It is a subsistence living. I do not buy food stamps because I cannot afford them, \$44 twice a month, cash on the line, for \$60 worth of stamps—I cannot buy less and I cannot get \$44 up except for things like rent, flooded sewers, broken furnaces—first-class emergencies are the only thing I can find \$44 for twice a month. If you miss the food stamps three times, you are ineligible. I mean they are a joke.

This is a Federal program and the administration is just fierce. I wonder who is getting them.

I work with the Office of Economic Opportunity as a commissioner, a representative of the poor. I have seen a lot since I got there. I think a lot of your problems with Federal programs are local resistance. You have to use Federal influence, Federal law, Federal muscle to put these programs to work where they are needed. I have worked with title I, I have worked with Headstart, I have worked with a lot of the big programs, the better-known ones. I have seen—I do not know where the money goes, but we cut money out of this program, we cut children out of it so we can put a few children in it here.

I count children. I know that 1 percent of those on public assistance can work. The rest are children or mothers like me who know they are needed to raise them, or disabled or aged people. Yet I know that most of the poor are not on ADC, they are not on welfare, they are not receiving any assistance.

I am here because I was sent here, because half of the country sent us here to represent all of the poor. All we are doing is asking you to let a few more kids in on the welfare programs, on the ADC program. It is not the best. It is a little over \$5 a week for food for each person. It is not much. I do not think many people here could live on it. We learn how. But at least, it is something.

I am thinking of the children with the bloated bellies. I am thinking of the kids with diseases and no way of buying the food that it would take to cure them. A lot of sickness is caused just by malnutrition.

I wish that you would hear just one thing from me. This is a poor little heap of poor people. We on public assistance are on the top of that poor little heap. It is way down, but it is still higher than most. I wish you would help lift the rest of them up to that little level.

I would like to say something, too, about the Poor People Campaign. I feel like a little sliver of ice on the top of an iceberg. Half the coun-