

trying to save for the summers. You have to feed children in Mississippi now. Is it so unreasonable to say that out of a gross national product of \$860 billion a year, you cannot come up with \$75 or \$100 million supplemental so that the kids who are in Headstart and getting one more meal a day can continue to get that one more meal? We are here simply asking that we not see any more of our children die because of hunger.

We want food stamps that people can afford. There are many adjustments that can be made to get the people in these counties into that program. There is much the Federal Government can do to get emergency relief programs into the neediest counties but since they always claim they lack authority, it seems to me minimal that this Congress should be able to say that it is important to this country that people do not go hungry and enable us to get food programs into almost 400 counties where food programs do not exist.

We come and go to hearings and talk and talk. I should point out that it is not enough that we come here this morning and be graciously received. We want to see how you vote. You must realize the faith of these people is almost at an end. That they can continue to talk to people like you will depend on what you in fact do and do immediately. It is not as if we were coming to pressure you and make you do something right away. We have been saying the same thing now for 5, 6, 7, 8 years. You simply have not responded. We are saying please respond or else we will simply have to begin to lash out, because there is no choice.

You tell people you can either shut up and hopefully die, or give up, or to fight, either with guns or with fires or anything else.

I do not think any one of you would think nonviolence was a terribly great thing if you, Senator Baker, could not feed your child at night. I think you would do everything you could in the world to feed him, when reasonable methods fail.

If you, Senator Muskie, had no decent home for your family to live in or, as Mr. Scott from Baltimore so eloquently in this committee hearing said, had shared your apartment with the rats and roaches every night, you would do what you could to change that. If you could just begin to empathize with the desperate misery the poor live with every day, evaluate your own judgment and come up with a different kind of response from yourself as leaders, for if you are leaders, you ought to lead.

I do not think this Congress has been known for its leadership in the last several years. I hope we can maintain faith in what we think is a good system, but the system simply has to adjust to include other people who are not included in it, or else it will be attacked from outside as well as inside.

We thank you for the chance to come. We hope you will come to Resurrection City.

Senator MUSKIE. Miss Wright, may I say just a few words? First of all, the discussion comes to matters which are unrelated to the bill before us, but we will come to that. We appreciate your constructive suggestions on this bill, and I assure you we will. I cannot predict how other members of the committee will respond to specific recommendations, but I think the committee will be most responsive as a whole to suggestions you have made.