

The CHAIRMAN. The SBIC loan program supervision is centralized. What about the economic opportunity loan, the poverty loans in the ghetto areas? Is that localized or is it centralized?

Mr. Moot. The economic opportunity loan program is completely decentralized, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. The business loan programs are decentralized, the economic opportunity loan programs are decentralized. The decisions are made at the local level by the local regional offices.

Mr. Moot. That is right sir.

The CHAIRMAN. How many associate administrators do you have under your reorganization plan?

Mr. Moot. We have three associate administrators, one for financial assistance.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Hendricks?

Mr. Moot. Administrator Irving Maness for procurement and management assistance and Glenn Brown for the Investment Division. Then, of course, we have our assistant administrators, one for administration, which is the controller, accounting, and personnel operations, one for planning and research, Dr. Wilford Garvin, who is behind me here, and one for congressional and public relations. So we have three assistant administrators, three associate administrators and a general counsel.

They are the top organizations of the agency.

The CHAIRMAN. Personnelwise, how many branch offices do you have all over the country and what is your total personnel picture?

Mr. Moot. We have 62 regional offices, and below that 13 branch offices in certain sectors of the country, eight area supervisory offices, and we have at the present time 4,197 permanent employees.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you have a regional office or branch office in each of the 50 States?

Mr. Moot. We do, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia?

Mr. Moot. We do, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. One further question, and then we will suspend on this subject: Under your old system, there was a complaint of a timelag, taking a lot of redtape and consuming a lot of time. I believe that has been cut down and reduced. What is your average processing time now? Perhaps that should be confined to Mr. Hendricks, but generally under your reorganization and your decentralization, you have speeded up the time on loan applications that are considered.

Mr. Moot. Yes, sir.

From the receipt of an application to its approval or declination is now taking an average of 19 days for our business loan programs. It takes a little longer for our economic opportunity loan programs, 20 days, and generally speaking our disaster loan programs have been averaging, through this heavy period this year, 8 days.

So we are more responsive in terms of our disaster program.

The CHAIRMAN. Our general counsel, Mr. Mitchell. Do you have any questions of the Administrator?

Mr. MITCHELL. I have one, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Moot, at the hearings of this committee in 1966 the agency reported that in conjunction with the Bureau of the Budget it entered into a contract with, I believe, a company called Operations Research Inc., for an improvement management contract or study for improving SBA's administrative management.