ident might very well have been talking about our Nation as a credit union officer would talk about his credit union members when he said in his Economic Report: "Our achievements demonstrate that we can manage our economic affairs wisely—that we can make sound choices." We hope the Congress will assist in making those sound choices.

While our primary concern lies in the area of domestic policies to fight inflation, we recognize fully the interdependence between our domestic and international economic affairs. They are—and should be—permanently and inextricably intertwined. Stabilization of the delicate equilibrium in our international affairs is as important to credit union members, as citizens of the United States, as is the achievement of the best domestic balance possible to assure economic growth without inflation. Any imbalance in any part of our economic programs and policies adversely affects some segment of our credit union membership.

Credit unions are deeply involved in our Government's foreign assistance program on the international level and in the war on poverty on the national level. We seek increased participation in both of these programs, because we feel that the credit union idea provides people—both those living in underdeveloped countries and those living in poverty pockets—with a lever through which they can lift themselves to a more bountiful standard of living. The credit union movement has invested heavily in its own programs in these areas, and it welcomes financial assistance from the Federal Government to speed up these programs. It also strongly supports the Government's goal of obtaining greater economic assistance for underdeveloped countries from the wealthier nations. And it supports the Government's efforts to get State governments and the private sector of the economy to help finance and fight the war on poverty.

As consumer-oriented membership organizations, credit unions would be delighted to see this Congress "go down in history as the consumer-conscious Congress." Because we have supported a strong truth-in-lending proposal ever since the first bill was introduced in Congress several years ago, we would, of course, delight in seeing Congress complete its action on this legislation early this year. We hope the bill will be passed in the strongest form possible, covering all kinds of consumer credit transactions.

In conclusion, we would like to point out that we have purposely avoided taking a selfish-interest position on the President's Economic Report. Like our Nation as a whole, the credit union movement embraces people and institutions in all walks of life. Our purposes like that of the Federal Government is to serve all these people. For that reason, we hope and trust that "This administration will never forget that the purpose of our economy and of our economic policies is to serve the American people—not the reverse."