

OLDER AMERICANS IN RURAL AREAS

HEARINGS
BEFORE THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
UNITED STATES SENATE
NINETY-FIRST CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

PART 2—MAJESTIC-FREEBURN, KENTUCKY

SEPTEMBER 12, 1969



Printed for the use of the Special Committee on Aging

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

48-387

WASHINGTON : 1970

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OLDER AMERICANS IN RURAL AREAS

(Majestic-Freeburn, Kentucky)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1969

U.S. SENATE,
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING,
Freeburn, Ky.

The committee met at 11 a.m., pursuant to notice, in Freeburn, Ky., Hon. Vance Hartke, presiding.

Present: Senator Hartke.

Staff members present: William E. Oriol, staff director; John Guy Miller, minority staff director; and Thomas Brunner, Special Assistant.

Senator HARTKE. The hearing will come to order.

This is a public hearing conducted by the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging.

KATHERINE SIZEMORE. It is a privilege to have you with us, Senator Hartke, and we want to welcome you to our little community.

Senator HARTKE. I am delighted to be with you this morning.

I have been visiting part of eastern Kentucky by automobile, and I want you to know that we didn't come in a straight line. When we drove over here, we found a curve or two in the road, and I wonder whether most of you here drive as fast as some of the people that were driving us.

Mr. Oriol, would you introduce the people who are here and who are not from this part. Bill Oriol is our committee staff director.

Mr. ORIOL. We are the staff for the Special Committee on Aging. My name is William Oriol, and I am the staff director for the majority.

Senator HARTKE. Let me explain what the majority means: That is what I am, a Democrat. That is what is called the majority.

Mr. ORIOL. Mr. John Guy Miller is the staff director for the minority.

Senator HARTKE. Minority means Republican. I would like to keep it that way.

Mr. ORIOL. In the back we have Mr. Tom Brunner, a staff member for Senator Hartke. Seated in the corner is Mr. Jim Templeton. I am sure many of you know that he used to work in eastern Kentucky. He recently became a director for the Office of Economic Opportunity for Rural Affairs, and our court reporter, Mr. Corr. I think that does it.

Senator HARTKE. I think we have some people over here.

Mr. ORIOL. And Mr. John Hutchinson from the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington.
Mr. HUTCHINSON. This is Joan Ross from Huntington.

OPENING STATEMENT BY SENATOR HARTKE, PRESIDING

Senator HARTKE. We have come out here, as Bill Oriol said to conduct Special Committee on Aging field hearings.

Now, one thing about young and old people alike, they have a common interest in the people who are older.

I have never seen anyone get younger. There is one amazing thing about growing older though. I was thinking of it the other day when I had my little 7 and 9-year-old with me. They are delighted when I tell them how big they are, and they are delighted in knowing they are growing older. But when you reach a certain age, I think it is around 21, all of a sudden you want to grow younger again. That is not the lot of man. Man keeps on growing older. Ultimately, I guess, most men die. I don't know too many who have gotten out of this world alive.

One of the things we have passed in the Congress is the Older Americans Act, and we are also dealing with the subject of older Americans who live in the rural areas of America. That is one principal reason we are here today. We are here to find out what is going on. We are not here to see the hill tops, mountains and streams and the corn and things of that sort, but we are here to find out what is going on with the people, how they are living, and to find out what can be done to correct the problems that are facing many of the people here.

We have more than 14 million people who are living in the rural sections of this country, and they include those who are elderly, and many of those 14 million are not living as well as they should, in our opinion.

What we need is your testimony and your statements in order to help us write the legislation which will soften the suffering of these people.

Second, when we started these hearings, one of my dear personal friends, who I consider one of the most outstanding, as well as one of the most respected, men in Congress, your great Representative, Carl Perkins, asked me to stop here and give you his best wishes. He hoped to get here today, and he may still catch up with us before the day is over. He wanted me to be especially mindful of the fact that these were his people, and that I should be careful or else that one man who is here with that Case knife—what happened to him? There he is in the back of the room. I want to tell you about this man. He is a remarkable character.

He and I agreed that he has a Case knife that is well sharpened. I told him I thought a Barlow was sharper. I will see if I can't find you a Barlow and send it to you.

Mr. BURRELL. Just send it to John Burrell. I will be here.

Senator HARTKE. John raises a question. He says he doesn't fish so he doesn't use that sharp knife to cut bait or cut up his fish. He says he has only killed one squirrel in his life, and he doesn't hunt. He

told me—and I didn't ask him this question—but he said, "I only killed one squirrel, but I don't know how many people I killed."

[Laughter.]

Senator HARTKE. One other gentleman wondered about him, whether he was trying to leave the impression he was a bad person. Well, I think with the contagious smile that he has, he has to be pretty nice.

I'm wondering what kind of tobacco you're chewing?

Mr. BURTON. Beechnut.

Senator HARTKE. That's an old favorite.

What's your opinion? Should we do anything? Should the Congress keep its nose out of your business? What should we do about this section of the country? Should we have Appalachian regional development? Who wants to say anything about this?

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM E. WHITE, FREEBURN, KY.

Senator HARTKE. What do you do, Mr. White?

Mr. WHITE. I worked in the coal mines, and now I am retired.

Senator HARTKE. How old are you?

Mr. WHITE. Sixty-four.

Senator HARTKE. Go ahead.

Mr. WHITE. Well, we have got a lot of old people out in these places who need a lot of help. They need more than they are getting.

This morning is the first I heard of this meeting. People said there was to be a meeting at 10 o'clock. I didn't know what it was all about. But if you will just go around these places along side of the highway and out-of-the-way places, you will find it.

Senator HARTKE. I already stopped at one place this morning.

Mr. WHITE. There is an old gentleman over there whom I was talking to. He is one of the rural fellows who would like to get social security benefits. I told him I do the best I could to find out about it. But you just have to go down there to see what I mean.

Senator HARTKE. What do they need most?

Mr. WHITE. They need housing, and they do not have adequate food. Of course, you would have to go in their homes and find out. You can see they are pretty old.

Senator HARTKE. Do they live alone by themselves most of the time?

Mr. WHITE. Yes, the older people do. They are in their seventies and eighties. In my opinion, they need something.

Senator HARTKE. How bad are their houses?

Mr. WHITE. Well, they are not good. They don't look so good on the outside. If we can get in a car, I can show you, and I don't think you will like it.

Senator HARTKE. Has anything been done for them lately?

Mr. WHITE. Well, maybe some kind of aid, but I don't think it is sufficient. There are a lot of old people, you know, that are on this public assistance and things like that. I don't think they get enough, but just enough to survive, that is all. I think that somebody should just go around—and I will go with them—to see the people that are really in need.

Senator HARTKE. What about social security? Do most of them receive social security?

Mr. WHITE. A lot of them have got it. They were down and out when the Social Security Act came in, and a lot of them didn't have jobs to work. They get this public assistance, but I don't think it is sufficient, it is not enough.

Senator HARTKE. What about food? Do they get surplus food?

Mr. WHITE. Well, they get food stamps, the majority of them, but not enough of them.

Senator HARTKE. Do you have any idea of how much income they receive?

Mr. WHITE. No, but it is about as low as it could get.

STATEMENT OF MRS. SYLVIA MOUNTS

Mrs. MOUNTS. I would say the average elderly person over the age of 65 has an income from \$79 to \$82 a month.

Senator HARTKE. Now, there is one thing I was surprised about. Do some of them have electricity?

Mrs. MOUNTS. Most all of them do.

Senator HARTKE. I stopped at a house along the way, and they told me their electric bill was \$11 last month.

Mrs. MOUNTS. This is bimonthly. Most of them pay every 2 months.

Senator HARTKE. How much is their average bill?

Mrs. MOUNTS. Anywhere from \$4 to \$12.

Senator HARTKE. \$4 to \$12 a month for the bill?

Mrs. MOUNTS. The majority of these people live in one and two rooms without water, without heating, and most of them pay rent.

Senator HARTKE. They pay rent?

Mrs. MOUNTS. Yes.

Senator HARTKE. They don't own their own homes?

Mrs. MOUNTS. Now, I am speaking for Mingo County, and I am sure the situation exists in Kentucky because I lived in that area also.

Senator HARTKE. Now, you say there is no heat?

Mrs. MOUNTS. They have coal heat. They pay anywhere from \$7 to \$10 a ton for this coal monthly. This is during the winter months.

Senator HARTKE. In other words, they have an electric bill that runs about an average you would say of \$7 or \$8 a month.

Mrs. MOUNTS. Well, most of the elderly can't afford it. If they have a stove, this causes the electric bill to run too high, and until July of this year most of them have lived on as low as \$34, and some even lower than that.

Senator HARTKE. \$30 a month?

Mrs. MOUNTS. Yes.

Senator HARTKE. What about July?

Mrs. MOUNTS. Well, in Mingo County, as of July 1, people who were receiving welfare assistance over the age of 65 and older are now eligible for old age assistance, which would bring them up to \$79 a month.

Senator HARTKE. Is that a State or Federal increase?

Mrs. MOUNTS. State, and I believe this is federally.

Senator HARTKE. What about food?

Mrs. MOUNTS. Well, then, by the time they pay their—now, most of them have Medicare.

Senator HARTKE. How about hospital facilities?

Mrs. MOUNTS. They have their Medicare card that would take care of their hospital bills, but they have nothing that would take care of their medical expenses.

Senator HARTKE. That is a question I wanted to ask about. How many of them really got into the doctors portion of that program; you know, where they had to pay the premiums?

Mrs. MOUNTS. The elderly people are very confused when it comes to this part of the medical program.

Senator HARTKE. In other words, the Medicare comes under the Social Security, and then they had to pay the additional amount to come under the doctors portion.

STATEMENT OF CLYDE HARRIS, FREEBURN, KY.

Mr. HARRIS. You have to pay the first \$44 to be entered into the hospital.

Senator HARTKE. What if you don't have it?

Mr. HARRIS. If you have Medicare and nothing else?

Senator HARTKE. That's right.

Mr. HARRIS. You probably wouldn't get in if you don't have it.

Senator HARTKE. They wouldn't let you in? What if you are sick?

Mr. HARRIS. I have known of people being taken to this hospital and being brought back. I can't recall the names, though. They just give them a shot and send them home.

Senator HARTKE. They need more help in the field of medical attention. How many doctors are around?

Mr. HARRIS. One who is about 75.

Senator HARTKE. He is 75 years old?

Mr. HARRIS. I would say about that old.

Mr. ORIOL. Senator, I understand that Mr. Harris recently was hospitalized himself, and he is a former coal miner.

Senator HARTKE. Were you a coal miner?

Mr. HARRIS. I worked the coal mines for 48 years.

Senator HARTKE. May I ask how old you are?

Mr. HARRIS. I am 65.

Senator HARTKE. Are you working now at all?

Mr. HARRIS. No.

Senator HARTKE. You are living on your miner's pension?

Mr. HARRIS. And Social Security.

Senator HARTKE. You were hospitalized how long ago?

Mr. HARRIS. I got out of the hospital in May.

Senator HARTKE. How long were you in the hospital?

Mr. HARRIS. About 20 days.

Senator HARTKE. What was your bill?

Mr. HARRIS. I don't know. Medicare sent a paid bill. I had to pay the \$44 and one pint of blood.

Senator HARTKE. You had to pay \$44, Medicare the remainder and what they didn't pay, the mine workers pension fund paid.

What is the pension from the mine work bringing in now?

Mr. HARRIS. About \$150 a month. That started a couple of months ago.

STATEMENT OF LINDSEY BROWNING, DINGESS, W. VA.

Mr. BROWNING. I am the reporter from the county newspaper that we have in Mingo County. I have a question. What about the people who are not 65 years old who have to retire from the mines that have families that can't get medicare and hospitalization? Maybe they have Social Security, but it is not adequate to take care of their hospitalization and their hospital bills. What do they do about people like that?

Senator HARTKE. You are talking about the people who are out of the mines?

Mr. BROWNING. Well, my father is deceased now, but before he died, he had to quit the mines. He was 57. He went deaf. He got his Social Security.

Senator HARTKE. He had to quit the mines because of what?

Mr. BROWNING. He went deaf, rock dust got in his ears. He got social security, but he had to take a reduction of Social Security because he quit before he was 65 years old. Then he had to have hospitalization, and welfare doesn't take care of people like that. What can you do about helping people in that situation?

Senator HARTKE. That is exactly what we are out here for, to find out what is going on, to determine how the present legislation needs to be changed, and what needs to be done.

Mr. BROWNING. I think those people need hospitalization of some kind. When they retire, they have families who have no hospitalization to take care of them, and I think they should have an adequate plan of some type for hospitalization, at least.

Senator HARTKE. How are the schools around here?

Mr. BROWNING. I can't speak to that.

Senator HARTKE. Where do you live?

Mr. BROWNING. I live in Mingo County, W. Va.

STATEMENT OF MRS. KATHERINE SIZEMORE

Mrs. SIZEMORE. Those people that are not in good shape and have children in Headstart, they get the children glasses and they take care of their teeth.

If they have little ones at home. This is what you are talking about, children in grade school also, they are not covered by anything. But they are in the Headstart program, and they do a real fine job for them.

**STATEMENT OF HARRY EASTBURN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
BIG SANDY CAP, PAINTSVILLE, KY.**

Mr. EASTBURN. We have six counties, including Pike County, in our area. We have several things here. As to a miner's pension, if a miner dies, his wife, the widow, wouldn't keep receiving that. So here we would have an aged person who would have no income unless she would have to go back to public assistance, which would be mighty little.

Also, on this, we have a small aged program, 60 people from the National Council on the Aging in six counties. We have over 1,000

applications on file right now for aged people who are making, let us say, \$60 or less a month, with two or three people in a family. They would have to live on this, pay their rent, their light bill, and things of this nature, to keep body and soul together.

We have case after case with these people coming in. We have received letters from them in which they say:

Thank God for those 20 hours a week at \$1.60 you are letting us work. It is giving us something to go on. We have hope. We are not on a trash pile or discard pile, and we feel like human beings again.

I think this is something.

Looking up and down the list every week, you have 10 or 20 applications. If you want to go out in the field, you can collect 10 or 20 times as many as we have already.

Senator HARTKE. You are saying that what people want is not just food and rent, but also they would like to have something to do.

Mr. EASTBURN. To feel like human beings again.

Senator HARTKE. They want to be part of this life. As the kids say they want to be, "Part of the action."

Mr. EASTBURN. To feel as though they are contributing. So many of them we could have on the job are just sitting at home looking at the four walls. They have nothing to do. You can see them after they get on the program come to life.

Senator HARTKE. What is in the program? What can you do for them?

Mr. EASTBURN. Well, there are various types of jobs. One elderly gentleman is working as a reporter for the whole thing and getting the news out on this program to the news media.

We have a lady who works in our office, for instance, who helps us. She does many things. She files. She even enters check stubs on the books, and things of that nature.

Others go out, and those who have had carpentry experience supervise carpentry work, home repair on aged people's homes who are on public assistance or for people on Social Security, or something like that, who can't repair their homes.

Now, we furnish the labor, and they furnish the material.

Maybe they have a son or daughter who can furnish the material.

If you are on public assistance, they write to the Farmers Home Loan Administration and raise their money. Public assistance then raises their payment each month to take care of that payment to Farmers Home Loan Administration, and we can repair the homes.

We have gone into places where you could put your fist through holes in the wall. I don't know how they failed to have pneumonia and die during the winters previous. We have redone these places so that they were tight and to allow them to get the benefit of the heat they had. They were probably paying two or three times as much for heat because they were losing it.

Senator HARTKE. Let me ask you about those homes. Did you say most of them are rented?

Mr. EASTBURN. No, we are allowed to do this only for homeowners.

Senator HARTKE. What about persons renting a piece of property?

Mr. EASTBURN. We don't do this on this thing because this is the taxpayers money, and this would be doing something for the benefit.

of this landowner who is getting profit out of this. We cannot repair those houses at all.

Senator HARTKE. How many of these people do you think, who live outside of Freeburn in the hills—I guess you would say the hollows—how many of them would move into Freeburn if they had a place which was half way decent to live in?

Mr. EASTBURN. Senator, I would say few, for the simple reason that they are elderly. They have been there where they are, in a hollow, that is home. That is the place where they were raised. That is the place they have stayed, and we have to recognize that you can't bar them up and put them in apartment complexes or things like this because these are free people.

Senator HARTKE. What if some of these preconstructed homes or mobile homes were put in? Would they like those?

Mr. EASTBURN. Up in the hollows?

Senator HARTKE. Yes.

Mr. EASTBURN. Up in the hollows where they are, yes. They would do this, but to bring them in and put them in apartment complexes, no.

Senator HARTKE. What if mobile homes were put in the community itself?

Mr. EASTBURN. I think it would be more feasible if you moved the mobile home right out where they are. They would be happy.

(Additional information appears on page 147, appendix 1.)

STATEMENT OF LLOYD MARCUM

Senator HARTKE. How old are you?

Mr. MARCUM. Seventy-four years, 6 months and 4 days.

Senator HARTKE. Do you think I am prying into your business?

Mr. MARCUM. No, sir.

Senator HARTKE. Are you married?

Mr. MARCUM. Yes, I have been married about 57 years.

Senator HARTKE. Do you have a good wife?

Mr. MARCUM. Yes, sir, I think I have. That is all that counts.

Senator HARTKE. How many children did you have?

Mr. MARCUM. Fifteen grandsons.

Senator HARTKE. How many children did you have?

Mr. MARCUM. Well, I have nine daughters and four sons.

Senator HARTKE. That is 13.

Now, where are the children.

Mr. MARCUM. They couldn't get work in West Virginia. These kinfolk travel around. They had to leave. I have seven in Ohio. I have got two in Dover, Del., and I have got one boy who drives the mail truck.

Senator HARTKE. Are they all doing all right?

Mr. MARCUM. Yes, they are doing good.

Senator HARTKE. They are not living here?

Mr. MARCUM. They couldn't. There are no jobs for the younger people.

Senator HARTKE. Let me ask you, what do you do now?

Mr. MARCUM. Well, I sit and whittle and cook and eat. That is about all. I would rather be a coal miner, if I could.

Senator HARTKE. You can't be a coal miner anymore?

Mr. MARCUM. No, sir.

Senator HARTKE. Would you like to do something, though, besides sit around and whittle?

Mr. MARCUM. Yes, but there is nothing to do in West Virginia.

Senator HARTKE. You are telling the truth, aren't you?

Mr. MARCUM. I am telling the truth. These four men right here know I am telling the truth.

Senator HARTKE. Who are they?

STATEMENT OF REV. JACK WORKMAN, DELBARTON, W. VA.

Reverend WORKMAN. I am Rev. Jack Workman.

Senator HARTKE. What do you do?

Reverend WORKMAN. I am retired.

Senator HARTKE. Are you doing anything at all?

Reverend WORKMAN. I am a minister.

Senator HARTKE. A retired minister?

Reverend WORKMAN. No, I am still preaching.

Senator HARTKE. Are you saving any souls?

Reverend WORKMAN. I help the Lord to save souls.

Senator HARTKE. Is this your church?

Reverend WORKMAN. No, sir, I am in West Virginia.

Senator HARTKE. You know, we are not going to take any collection up today.

Reverend WORKMAN, I thought maybe I could pass the plate before we leave.

Senator HARTKE. Well, maybe we will pass the plate for the ministers.

Here we have another minister.

STATEMENT OF REV. DEWITT FURROW

Senator HARTKE. Is this your church?

Reverend FURROW. No.

Senator HARTKE. What church is yours?

Reverend FURROW. I serve two churches. One is at Phelps 5 miles away, a Presbyterian church, and one about 9 miles or farther in the county at Stopover.

Senator HARTKE. Well, let me ask you, as two ministers, I would imagine you have occasion to visit these people, especially when they are really sick, don't you?

Reverend WORKMAN. Well, sometimes when you are visiting you do go in the homes. Some of them don't have sufficient furniture, and they don't have sufficient food. These people are just like anybody else. You know, the Bible makes it plain to us to visit people in their affliction. When you do that, the means to take them something that they should have. Their pride, the same as being on what we call the assistance or anything, moves them and makes them stand back and back up from getting what they should have.

If you go to someone and say, "Do you need something?" maybe they do, but they are proud.

If you go to someone and you go there to help them and you try to give them something to do, as the gentleman over their just said,

that makes them kind of stand up and face the public. They don't care to step out and introduce themselves.

But you can go in and visit these people and find little kids around who can't even go to school because they don't have sufficiently good clothes to wear, especially in the winter months.

I have one person in the hills that lives right up from me, and he came to me yesterday evening. He said, "I can't get any clothes. I haven't any money." He and his wife have four kids. The assistance helps them out, but they get \$70 on social security.

Now, they do now have in West Virginia for those underprivileged kids free lunches.

Senator HARTKE. That helps, doesn't it?

Reverend WORKMAN. Yes, that helps, but some of them don't have sufficient clothes to get out and go to school.

Senator HARTKE. How much despair is there among these older people? I am now talking about the real old people and those who are handicapped and disabled. How much despair is there, because they have been put on the junkpile like an old used automobile?

Reverend WORKMAN. We have several of them.

Senator HARTKE. They just sort of give up?

Reverend WORKMAN. Yes, sir, they do for a fact. As I was telling someone, Sunday I visited an old couple in their store. I just want you to understand what people do. While I was there visiting with those people, a man and wife came in. They were there about 30 minutes, and while they were there they smoked four cigarettes apiece.

Well, then they got a food order. Later, I got a telephone call from them. They didn't know what they were going to do.

Now, sometimes people don't help themselves.

Through my further conversation, she said, "Listen, the lady said I can't get any food order until tomorrow." I said, "Brother Bill Hackett has a girl down there and she takes orders." I said, "When are you supposed to get yours?" She said, "Not until tomorrow." I said, "Lady, it is a funny thing because I was with you yesterday and you had a whole package of Camel cigarettes, and you can't go a day without your food order."

What I want to say is that a lot of people won't help themselves. But the older people who can't help themselves, they are the ones who really need to get help. Get out and go and visit them and do something for those people. We don't find many people anymore doing that. As I heard a gentleman say awhile ago, they were talking about the politicians—

Senator HARTKE. You had better watch that talk about politicians.

[Laughter.]

Senator HARTKE. I will tell you one thing, as far as Congressman Perkins is concerned, that is not true.

May I do one thing. We have kind of a rush on time. We have a serviceman over here. Are you still in service?

Lieutenant SIZEMORE. Yes, I am.

STATEMENT OF LT. RODNEY SIZEMORE

Senator HARTKE. What is your name?

Lieutenant SIZEMORE. Lieutenant Rodney Sizemore. This is my mother.

Senator HARTKE. How long are you home for?

Lieutenant SIZEMORE. 2 weeks. Then I go TDY to Ohio and then to Vietnam.

Senator HARTKE. Have you been there before?

Lieutenant SIZEMORE. No, sir.

Senator HARTKE. Look, you have seen this thing inside and out, and you have been out of this country before, what do think should be done?

Lieutenant SIZEMORE. Well, sir, before I went in the service I was connected with the OEO program. I taught kindergarten at (it is near) Phelps. There are big problems, as I see it.

We went out and took these small children, 5 year olds. Now, we had some 6 and 7 years old who were not in school yet, and they were coming to kindergarten at 7. So if we hadn't gotten these children, they wouldn't have been there.

Once we got them, we cleaned them up and put clothes on them. This one child I had in kindergarten wore the same outfit for one solid month—that same outfit—until we took it off of him and washed it.

Senator HARTKE. What about the older people?

Lieutenant SIZEMORE. Well, the older people I have come in contact with, the majority, are just as some of the others are here. They don't have anything to stand on.

I just came from California. Now, if you talk of a land of opportunity, I haven't seen anything out there that would compare with what we have here. The slum areas and ghettos that I have driven through are no comparison to this.

Now, we have people who lived over here on the side of the road. When I went to school, they lived in a bus, and they had about seven or eight children. They lived in a bus with the windows broken out of it.

Senator HARTKE. Is it still that way?

Lieutenant SIZEMORE. No, they finally got a little money from somebody and got a little help.

STATEMENT OF LARRY HAMRICK, DIRECTOR, MINGO COUNTY CAP

Mr. HAMRICK. I would like to get to this old age problem. We have an emergency food program in Mingo County, and I have found in dealing with these old people the problem of malnutrition. I would say 60 to 75 percent of the malnutrition in Mingo County is among the people in the 65 age bracket.

These people who have the income of \$50 to \$79, since their basic need is food, I think more than any other help they first need additional resources and cash.

Their food stamp program is a good program, but first you have to have the basic requirements to get these stamps. A lot of these people have to turn down these stamps because they have to pay the electric bill and pay for coal, or the just don't have any cash to get into the hospital.

Senator HARTKE. What would be better?

Mr. HAMRICK. Well, first, I think something needs to be done about the amount of income these people have.

Senator HARTKE. Let me ask you this. Do you think it would help to increase the minimum of Social Security at the present time. The minimum is \$55 a month at the present time, as you know.

Mr. HAMRICK. Right.

Senator HARTKE. I have always said it should be \$100 a month. Do you think that would help?

Mr. HAMRICK. It should be no less than \$100.

Senator HARTKE. I introduced a minimum. I am on the finance committee, and they deal with Social Security. I introduced an amendment last year for an increase in Social Security to \$100 a month.

I am a Democrat, and I like to give the Republicans all the devil for it, but the truth of it is, I couldn't get the Democrats to go along with it, let alone the Republicans. We finally passed an increase which would have raised the base payment to \$70 a month but the House reduced this to \$55.

Certainly we should have an increase in Social Security this year instead of next year.

Mr. HAMRICK. I would like to make one thing clear for the record. We are preparing to submit a report to you about some of the problems they face and some of the action that should be taken and so forth.

Senator HARTKE. Thank you, I will look forward to reading it.

STATEMENT OF MRS. TINA HARMON

Senator HARTKE. How old are you?

Mrs. HARMON. I am 74.

Senator HARTKE. What do you do now?

Mrs. HARMON. Well, the biggest thing I do is housekeep, take care of cows, chickens, and haul coal sometimes for families, house coal.

Senator HARTKE. Who shovels it?

Mrs. HARMON. They dump it in.

Senator HARTKE. What were you doing, driving a truck?

Mrs. HARMON. Yes, driving a truck.

Senator HARTKE. Do you live by yourself.

Mrs. HARMON. No. I have worked all of my life. I never had any help and never asked for any, and I believe in people working. The biggest thing I can see is to give people something to do.

Senator HARTKE. Giving them something to do, that makes one feel young, doesn't it?

Mrs. HARMON. I feel as good now as I was when I was 20 years old.

Senator HARTKE. You don't look your age?

Mrs. HARMON. I don't feel my age. But I think people should work, and I have worked all of my life, and I think everybody should. That is the problem. I have tried several times to get something started to give people some work. I have had meetings at my home to get women in and get some sewing started and knitting.

Senator HARTKE. They used to quilt a lot, but they quit that.

Mrs. HARMON. There are no sales.

Senator HARTKE. Well, if you made a pretty one, I would buy it.

Reverend FURROW. There is a problem in regard to a matter. We have a small community action group in the community. There are several of us who are members here.

The problem is with the distribution of food stamps. A lot of these folks who get food stamps have to go 25 or 35 miles to sign up. Then they have to return that distance to get their stamps. This takes money. Sometimes it takes money they don't even have.

It seems to us that there ought to be a system somewhere where we could give some senior citizens some local employment, and that we could have a system of local distribution.

This has been discussed with Mrs. Nelly Howell, who is in charge of this for the county. We were told earlier that the holdup on this was in having a local bank. We now have a local bank, and it is our understanding that the holdup now is that there are not sufficient personnel at this point to do this.

Perhaps it is in the works. Perhaps it can be or will be done. But it seems to us that in many respects this certainly would help people who have this very low income.

Senator HARTKE. All right. Well, folks, I want to thank you all for coming. I want to say that what you have given here is very valuable. Every bit of it is in the record.

STATEMENT OF JOHN BURTON, THEALKA, KY.

Mr. BURTON. I am from down in Johnson County. I am from a family of 11 children, and I have heard the statement here that people want to help themselves. I asked a fellow the other day about that. He said to me that they took a man off the street and put him at the job of delivering mail. He said there is no use to do it.

One thing you will find, nine times out of 10 if a person wants to help himself, if you will explore it you will find a health problem or a lack of education or something else. These people don't know how to find it themselves.

Senator HARTKE. Well I would really like to talk some more, but we will have to go. If we don't we won't get to Fleming and some other places. We just won't make it at all.

I just want you to know that I got into Williamson at 2 o'clock this morning. It was a very long night for me, but it is going to be a longer day.

Is this your piano?

Mrs. SIZEMORE. We don't have a regular piano.

(Senator Hartke rendered a musical selection.)

Senator HARTKE. Who is going to play "Bringing in the Sheaves" for me. We have a piano player, but now I need a minister.

(Everyone arose and participated in a rendition of "Bringing in the Sheaves.")

Senator HARTKE. Do you know why I wanted you to sing this? There isn't anything that brings people together as much as singing. One thing we have to do is bring this country together, and one thing we have to do is let these people be a part of the country.

When you are singing, nobody looks over your shoulder to see whether you are in tune or not. Everybody just does it for themselves, and that is what I want to do here, try to make everyone live in happiness so that we can have a better and brighter and safer world for everyone.

(Whereupon, at 12:05 p.m. the committee adjourned.)

Appendix 1

LETTERS AND STATEMENTS FROM INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

ITEM 1: LETTERS AND STATEMENT FROM BIG SANDY AREA COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM TO JIM TEMPLETON, OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

BIG SANDY AREA,
COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM,
Paintsville, Ky., September 4, 1969.

MR. JIM TEMPLETON,
*Office of Economic Opportunity,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. TEMPLETON: Big Sandy Community Action Program, Inc. recently did a survey in Martin County, on children between the ages of 15 and 21 who were under the OEO Poverty Guideline, and most all of these were children of men working on the Nelson Mainstream Program, who have been denied medic-aid cards.

215 were examined by physicians and found the following:

- (1) 117 needed glasses;
- (2) 104 were anemic;
- (3) 17 had high blood pressure;
- (4) 16 heart murmur;
- (5) 1 had sugar;
- (6) 47 need dental care;

giving a total of 71% physical deficiencies.

Only 23 of these children were able to receive any kind of Medical care. These must have been unemployed fathers on Public Assistance.

Yours truly,

JOHN BURTON,
Associate Director.

[Enclosure]

I. INTRODUCTION

Obstacles to a successful life for the elderly in the isolated and mountainous region of eastern Kentucky have been depicted in all manner of media. This application is addressed to solving many of the critical problems for the elderly.

The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, Inc. working with various agencies on the Federal, State and local level, including the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, has sought to locate specific solutions to the many problems of the aged which would be workable and meaningful to provide a supplemental income for the underprivileged aged and services to their communities which are much needed to bring them into the mainstream of society.

The Big Sandy believes that a six-county program, dealing with the problems of the aged, can be successfully, harmoniously and efficiently integrated into the National Council on Aging's program goals.

II. MAJOR CAUSES OF POVERTY

The conditions of poverty are many in this area. Like most Appalachian counties, unemployment runs high other than small farms where a usually

large family attempts to eke out a living on an inadequate hillside farm. Many of these families live in remote areas practically untouched by modern civilization as we know it today. In this six-county area, fifty-three per cent of the families exist on \$3,000 or less a year. Approximately 5,100 families survive with less than \$1,000 annual income.

In order for men to work, they must have jobs and job training. The jobs just are not here; and if they were, the general population is totally untrained in any area except small farming. The industrial potential in at least three of our counties has been in the past and continues to be extremely bleak. There is little speculation for any change in this situation in the near future. The remaining three counties have a small industrial base, but this is inadequate to supply jobs for the potential labor market.

The employment that does exist consists of a few small clothing and shoe factories, and various saw mills which operate on a small level. These are totally inadequate to employ other than the more fortunate if you could consider them fortunate considering the labor and the meager wage involved.

Transportation is likewise a problem of immense proportion. This is basically a two-fold problem. Two of our counties are so remote from adequately large scale transportation that industry could not possibly locate there if other factors were equal. There are second-rate roads, no public transportation of any kind, and no possibility of water or railroad travel.

The other problem this causes is the ability of the local poor residents to travel feasibly for outside employment. Even if they were trained, the problem of getting out of many hollows is drastic. Many dirt roads are totally impassable in bad weather.

Education in this area could be considered the most evident cause of poverty along with lack of jobs. Approximately thirty-eight per cent of the 16 and 17 year old youth are not attending school. This figure runs as high as fifty per cent in a couple of counties.

III. SCOPE AND PURPOSE

The overall purpose of this proposal will be to improve the quality of life for those aged 55 and older. The proposal is intended to be comprehensive in the sense that it will involve personal contact with many persons in the six counties who are within the age limit and target group. This contract will be strictly adhered to by specific appropriate activities and services according to the needs of the elderly in compliance with National Council on Aging guidelines.

A secondary purpose of this proposal will be to effectively integrate those activities concerned exclusively with the problems of the elderly into other ongoing Community Action programs seeking to deal with specific individual and community problems. It is highly unlikely that any effective program, even though it be a pilot demonstration program, could be launched to deal with the problems of the elderly which did not closely relate to existing CAA programs which identify with total community and individual needs.

For purposes of this application, Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, Inc. finds that it is expedient to divide the overall program into the following and distinguishable categories:

1. Home Repair Aides.
2. Recreation Supervisors.
3. Center Supervisors.
4. Home Health Aides.
5. Carpenter Foreman.
6. Tool Shop Checker.
7. Folk-lore Specialist.
8. Public Information Aide.
9. Administrative Aide.

In addition to the above job categories, we are requesting, in this application, another category of Homemaker Aides.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, Inc. is a private nonprofit organization operating within a six county area in eastern Kentucky. The six counties are Floyd, Johnson, Lawrence, Magoffin, Martin and Pike. Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, Inc. was incorporated in September 1965.

The six counties under Big Sandy are affiliated with the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program with headquarters located in Hazard, Kentucky.

V. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Persons applying for employment in this project will be 55 years of age or older. Their income will be within the OEO poverty index unless under special conditions, a waiver is obtained from National Council on Aging. Enrollees will be retired or chronically unemployed for 15 weeks, will reside near the job site and have no reasonable expectation of other employment or training.

Applicants being placed on the Senior Community Services Program for the Big Sandy area will be certified by the State Economic Security offices serving this area.

The work sites and supervisors will be advised that all applicants for employment shall be considered on an equal opportunity basis and that, in no case, shall pre-selection be made on the basis of personal knowledge, relationship, etc. In other words, all applicants will be employed on an equal opportunity basis regardless of race, creed, color or national origin.

The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program shall sponsor this program in such a manner that all applicable existing directives will be adhered to.

VI. WORK SITE AGENCIES

It is the goal of this application to provide non-professional positions in public service fields with the Big Sandy Area Community Action Agency, and public and private non-profit agencies. The proposed work sites for the enrollees will be with the State Health Department, the local School Systems, Fiscal Courts, Municipal Governments, etc.

The above mentioned work sites will provide adequate supervision and training for the enrollees. The proposed jobs will be geared to parttime work, 20 hours per week, and will provide needed and constructive services detailed in Job Categories.

VII. JOB CATEGORIES

1. *Home Repair Aides.*—These enrollees will be under the supervision of the Nelson Mainstream staff performing general home repair for the older indigent and the target group in the Big Sandy area. Many of the enrollees on this program who are retired have skills such as masonry, carpentry, etc. and will be training Mainstream men who are unskilled while performing this community service. Guidelines will be followed as the Labor Department has set forth for sub-standard housing. Materials will be provided by the home owner through loans from FHA and other sources suitable by the owner. Only labor will be provided under this contract as a constructive community service. During the operation of the current contract, there has been 200+ homes repaired and renovated. The average cost is about \$310.00 for materials per home. We now have in the files of Big Sandy Community Action Agency, approximately 500 approved home repair applications. To be eligible for home repair, certain qualifications are necessary. Please see attached Home Repair Application.

2. *Recreation Supervisors.*—The Recreation Supervisors will be selected with some skill and craft in recreation to supervise the recreational facilities at the Parks and in the Community Centers, etc. Enrollees will provide supervision for recreation to the community such as square dancing, folk-lore song festivals, athletic recreation, card games and in general a place for the aged people to get together and change ideas lessening the loneliness which would otherwise be their environment. Enrollees providing this service for the Parks will be supervised by the Park Supervisors under local Municipal Government. Those enrollees for Community Centers and Community Clubs will be supervised by CAA staff.

3. *Center Supervisors.*—The enrollees at the Community Centers will provide complete services for all agencies, where possible. These Centers will provide recreational and social activities for the elderly and the people of the communities. The Senior Citizens Supervisor provided by this contract will be responsible for the administrative duties for these Centers, but will spend as much time as necessary personally working with the elderly group leading them into activities such as handcrafts, cooking, home budgeting and recreational programs as the elderly see their needs.

They will also be a referral service for the aged and the target group in these rural areas providing them with information on Federal, State and local on-going programs.

The facility will provide other community services such as nurses will visit centers to provide immunization and other health needs. The Big Sandy Community Action Agency and other agencies will send outreach workers into the Centers on given dates which will be published in advance to the community to provide services such as issuing vouchers for Emergency Food and Medical, hunting licenses, driving licenses, etc. This will save the elderly many miles of travel which they cannot afford to begin with.

The Center Supervisors will be supervised by the Assistant Directors of the CAA in their respective counties.

4. *Home Health Aides*.—These enrollees will be working under the supervision of the Health Administrators. They will be providing services such as registering persons for immunizations, file and prepare folders, etc. There are numerous duties they could perform in the Health Departments. This would motivate retired Nurses, etc. to return to part-time employment. In working under the supervision of the Health Officials and their staff, it could become possible for the enrollees to obtain permanent or part-time employment as orderlys, etc., in the local hospitals and nursing homes.

5. *Carpenter Foreman*.—This enrollee will have headquarters under the Nelson Mainstream Shop in Allen, Kentucky. His duties will be to instruct and supervise the construction and repair of the school equipment, home repair and train crews in the use of the tools and equipment in the Woodworking Shop at Allen.

6. *Tool Shop Checker*.—This person will be responsible for the training of check-out and maintenance of equipment and tools for use in the Mainstream Program. He will be under the supervision of CAA staff and Mainstream Supervisor.

7. *Folk-Lore Specialist*.—This enrollee will visit clubs, civic organizations and schools, in a cooperative manner with the U.K. Extension Office, to demonstrate and acquaint residents regarding natural plants as to their nutritional value and as a food supplement. This person will also be informed of historical sights, geneology and folk-lore of the eastern Kentucky Highlands. This would help preserve basic mountain culture and tradition which have been too soon forgotten and also train residents in utilization, appreciation and the processing and preserving of natural foods and resources abounding in this area.

8. *Public Information Aide*.—This is a very important position and is very essential to the success of the Senior Community Services Program. The Big Sandy Area, consisting of Floyd, Johnson, Lawrence, Magoffin, Martin and Pike Counties, is located in a very rugged and mountainous terrain. Transportation is one of our most difficult problems in reaching the elderly poor.

He will meet the enrollees of the program in their respective counties and at their work sites. In this way, he will know their needs, problems, failures and successes as they, themselves, see them. He will also familiarize himself with the operation of the various Fiscal Courts, Churches, Employment Services Office, Public Assistance Offices, Health Departments and their personnel and with the editors of the various newspapers and with managers and staffs of the local radio stations.

He will report his findings to the central CAP office and to the Advisory Board and in a cooperative effort will release news articles to the news media and radio so the public may be well informed of the job being done in the Big Sandy area. He will also take pictures of work performed by the enrollees of this program.

9. *Administrative Aide*.—This enrollee will be under the supervision of the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program bookkeeper and secretary. Her duties will consist of normal office and clerical procedure related to the Senior Community Services Program. In addition, she will be trained to file, operate office machines, etc.

10. *Homemaker Aides*.—In most of the counties in the Big Sandy area, we have been denied the opportunity to perform the services that the Home Health Aides would ordinarily render by the very powerful and affluent Medical Associations. We are, therefore, requesting that a new job category be approved under this contract with the following recommendations:

a. A Homemaker Aide will provide such services as preparing meals, light housekeeping, purchasing of food supplies, writing letters, reading to the incapacitated in the home and many other services that the enrollees will learn or be taught in the proposed training we are suggesting.

b. We have contacted the Community Development Foundation (CDF) with Berea College and they have informed the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program that they will provide monies or personnel to perform training for the Homemaker Aides.

c. Under our present job categories, we have not been able to place the necessary number of the aged female. As permanent jobs are developed for the present male enrollees, we would then, if this job category is approved, replace them with the aged female since we have a great number of applications in our files.

d. We suggest that the female enrollees currently enrolled under the Senior Community Services Program in the Big Sandy area be trained as Homemaker Aides and they, in turn, would be qualified to train future enrollees to perform these services.

The Homemaker Aides will also be supervised by the CAA staff.

VIII. LETTERS OF COMMITMENT

Since most of our proposed work sites vary from day to day, it will be difficult to obtain letters of commitment prior to assignments. However, we will provide statements of commitment as to supervision, etc.

IX. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SUB-CONTRACTING AGENCY

The Associate Director of the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, Inc. has been designated by the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program to coordinate and assist in the administration of the project. The Big Sandy Community Action will also provide adequate administrative, accounting and expense reimbursement services.

The Big Sandy Community Action Agency will also be responsible for forwarding all necessary forms and reports for a successful program as set forth by National Council on the Aging guidelines.

All new enrollees will be thoroughly oriented on these guidelines and the responsibilities of the CAA.

X. PARTICIPATION OF THE STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

We have had 100% cooperation with the Economic Security offices in this area in the screening, testing and certifying of applicants for eligibility and referral to the project.

The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, Inc. have their own Counselors and we would urgently request that Big Sandy be permitted to do the recruiting since Economic Security has very rigid guidelines on education, etc. Too often the cream has been taken from the top of the barrel and the dregs left to deteriorate. The average educational level in this rural Appalachian poverty-stricken area is below 8th grade level. These are the people that are left desolate, without food, shelter, clothes while the affluent of this great and prosperous Nation wrap their dogs in mink capes.

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM,
Paintsville, Ky., September 8, 1969.

Mr. JIM TEMPLETON,
Office of Economic Opportunity,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR JIM: I want to thank you for notifying the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program of Senator Hartke's hearing on the problems of the aged. We have had a small program funded by the National Council for the Aged. It has been in operation for slightly over a year.

I say it is a small program. It has 60 enrollees that work 20 hours a week. We have, to show you the response, between 800 and 1,000 applicants on the waiting list. These have been collected without a great deal of effort or publicity. This fact alone shows the vast interest and need.

A number of the enrollees have spoken to me about its value to them. One lady with a sick husband said, "I feel like I am a member of the human race again". A man said, "I feel like I am wanted and needed". I could go on and on, but you get the idea.

The most rewarding thing about the program has been the attitude of the applicants. They have all expressed one prevalent idea, "Don't give me charity! Give me an opportunity to work at something worthwhile in order to earn my way".

In our estimation there needs to be provisions made to employ every senior citizen that wishes to contribute to his or her own well being. It is time we quit consigning our elderly to the trash heap and make it possible for them to live out their remaining days in service and dignity.

Sincerely,

HARRY EASTBURN,
Executive Director.

BIG SANDY AREA, COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM,
EAST KENTUCKY CONCENTRATED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM,
NELSON IMPROVEMENT BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT,
September 8, 1969.

Mr. Jim Templeton,
Office of Economic Opportunity,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir: The (Regular) Nelson Mainstream Program was authorized a sixteen week extension to begin April 15, 1969, through August 1, 1969. The federal share was short about \$20,000. because of funding allocations for fiscal year 1969. The enrollees had to lose (11) days during this sixteen week period due to this lack of allocations. The enrollees are working full time under the modification that was effective August 3, 1969, and extends through August 31, 1970.

The loss of the Medical Assistance Card was effective July 1, 1969. There has been several cases where this has been a hardship on the enrollees due to the size of their families. They have not been able to pay their medical expenses along with paying for the other necessities that are needed in their homes. Also, several cases are in constant need of medical assistance, such as, cancer, tuberculosis, mental conditions and chronic health problems from past work experience.

It would be of great importance if this medical card was returned to the enrollees for their use. I can not think of anything that is more necessary to the enrollees than providing a healthy environment for themselves and their families. The enrollees take *pride* in their accomplishments and an *attitude* to contribute something to the society in which they are now living.

Yours truly,

A. C. SWINEY,
Project Director.