

U.S.S. SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT, MANPOWER & POVERTY

FIELD HEARINGS - EASTERN KENTUCKY

TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE
HEARING HELD AT VORTEX, KENTUCKY

HON. ROBERT F. KENNEDY
ACTING CHAIRMAN,
PRESIDING.

OFFICE OF SENATOR JOSEPH S. CLARK

TO PETER EDELMAN
FROM WILLIAM C. SMITH

Mrs. Ann Rader
409 Kentucky Boulevard,
Hazard, Kentucky
Reporter.

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U. S. S. SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT, MANPOWER & POVERTY
 FIELD HEARING AT VORTEX, WOLFE COUNTY,
 KENTUCKY

I N D E X

WITNESSES:	P A G E
Swango Fugate, Hayes Branch, Kentucky.	5 - 8 + 17-18
Mrs. Viola Holland, Vortex, Kentucky.	8 - 10 + 18
Mrs. Nancy Cole, Barwick, Kentucky.	10 -11 + 19
Mr. John Akemon, Barwick, Kentucky.	11 - 13
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BE IT REMEMBERED:

THAT a hearing was hold on this the 13th day of February, 1968, at a one room school house located at Vortex, Wolfe County, Kentucky, at or about the hour of 1.00 o'clock. P. M.

APPEARANCES

- Mr. William C. Smith, Washington, D.C. council for the subcommittee.
- Mr. Peter B. Edelman, Legislative Assistant to Senator Kennedy.

HON. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, Acting Chairman, presiding.

HON. CARL D. PERKINS, Congressman from Kentucky:

Ladies and gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to be here today and to introduce to you Senator Robert F. Kennedy, a distinguished American, whom I have known for a long, long time. I have had the brief pleasure and privilege of serving with John Kennedy, our late and beloved President, on the Education and Welfare Committee. We are in the process of trying to eliminate, with the help and cooperation of Senator Kennedy and other friends in the Congress, these one room schools in the nation, and I'm hopeful by the next Fall that our one room schools in Wolfe County will be a thing of the past.

How this program has been planned by Senator Kennedy's friends, but I do want to extend to Senator Kennedy my personal invitation, to try to be as generous to him and show him a good time here in Eastern Kentucky, and show him some of the best people in the world -- whom I feel are the best people in the world -- and as you know, we are poor. We love our country and we love Senator Kennedy and we are glad he's here with us. Now I just don't know what type of hearings he may want to have a hearing on, and I'm going to introduce Senator Kennedy at this time.

SENATOR KENNEDY:

Thank you Congressman. I'm delighted to be here and I'm delighted to be in the company of my good friend Carl Perkins, who has done so much in the Congress of the United States, not only for the Department of Labor, not only for the State of Kentucky, but in my Judgment for the whole country. The fortitude of desire that he has brought to bear on these great problems that exist in this community, this area and the country as a whole, has been an inspiration to all of us, and I know how fond President Kennedy was of him and how closely they worked; first when they were in the Congress together, and later when he became President of the United States. I'm sorry that Senator Cooper is not able to be here with us. I was looking forward to spending the next couple of days with him in Eastern Kentucky. Again, these problems that Eastern Kentucky faces are problems that Senator Cooper, in a very eloquent and able way, has focused his attention on in the Congress of the United States, and so I was looking forward to having an opportunity of working with him in developing what we would hope would be perhaps some of the answers and solutions to the matters and problems that are existing in this area. I think that in 1961, because of the efforts that Congressman Perkins made and Senator Cooper made, we started to focus attention on some of these problems that existed

in West Virginia and Virginia and Eastern Kentucky, in the Appalachian area generally; then in 1963 another effort was made to try to make the programs more realistic, to make them more effective in the area, and make them more responsive to the needs of the people. President Kennedy had hoped to travel through Eastern Kentucky in December of 1963; he was hoping he would be able to travel with Congressman Perkins and he hoped he would be able to come down here with Senator Cooper before these programs were begun.

What we are going to try to find out in the next two days of hearings is whether the programs have been effective; whether our fellow Americans here in the State of Kentucky and Eastern Kentucky particularly, whether our fellow Americans are receiving enough to eat; whether the programs that have been developed by the government are sufficient and satisfactory. Here we have a gross national product of \$800 billion dollars a year, here in the United States, the United States grows by approximately \$60 billion dollars; it's not satisfactory and it's not acceptable in our country that any of our citizens do not have enough to eat, and our children do not have enough to eat. You know, as a part, that that's not life — that's public assistance and food — it's often not enough; or whether the best people stay. I feel beyond that there are going to be jobs available for our young men and women. I know this is an area that has suffered in the past. It's unacceptable that the area continues to suffer, and all of us, no matter what area of the country we represent or what states we represent, if there is poverty, and it's your wish to work in various jobs, we must do something about it, and I think the government of the United States can do something about it, I think we can make much more progress than we have in the past; we have the skill, the tools and the desire; we have the energy and the talent. We must bring to bear the problems that exist, and when we are working with the people of Eastern Kentucky we are working with some of the most able and courageous people in the United States. I think that's what attracted President Kennedy that something needed to be done -- these people that have contributed so much and in times of great crisis have contributed your blood and energy and your courage -- and the rest of the country which has had a great deal of affluence has a debt of responsibility and obligation to see that this part of the state, this part of the country, lives like the rest of the citizens. That's what we are going to try to do too. We are going to try to assess these programs to see if they are as effective as they might be; what we can suggest to the Congress and the government to insure that the programs are more effective and to -- if there are no jobs

at the end of them, we have to make sure everybody can find a job and everybody can find employment. That's the basic responsibility of our society, so there is much that can be done.

I'm pleased to be here because I have so long admired the people of Eastern Kentucky. We would like to spend weeks and weeks here but we are not able to do that. It's a relatively short period of time, so the witnesses we are going to hear we won't be able to hear them as thoroughly and completely as we would like, so I would hope those of you who are going to testify in the next forty-five minutes or so would understand we would like to go into these matters much longer but we are not able to do so.

In closing I want to thank Governor Nunn for his cooperation and his help. He called me in New York last week when he heard I was coming down and we worked closely with him and with his office in the arrangement for these hearings, and again to close and to say that I'm so pleased to be here with Carl Perkins and I'm very proud and very pleased to be here in Eastern Kentucky. Thank you very much.

SENATOR KENNEDY:

We have some witnesses, it's a panel, and if we could have them. We have some chairs here. This hearing will last about forty-five minutes or so and if we could all have everyone's cooperation we will hear from each of these witnesses briefly, then Congressman Perkins and I might have some questions we would like to ask, so perhaps the first one, Swango Fugate. You can either sit or stand, however way you would like to proceed.

The witness is Mr. Swango Fugate, Hayes Branch,
Breathitt County

Q.1 Would you identify yourself? You are Chairman of the Grass Roots Citizens Committee of Wolfe County?

A Yes.

Q.2 Would you proceed and identify yourself and tell us what you are working on?

A What we are trying to do, we are trying to get the poor class of people together, to organize, to help themselves, is our main project.

Q.3 What do you find the main problem is?

A Well, the main problem is getting the cooperation of each other; seems like they are tied up, afraid to speak out.

Q.4 What are the kinds of problems that they face?

A Well, the kind of problems that they face, what we are trying to do, is getting into these school buildings, roads, and .. I don't know what all we are working on.

Q.5 Has the Food Stamp Program been effective, do you think?

A Well, here is the point about it, my way looking at it: I have to pay rent, and of course food stamps costs me \$72.00 a month, we get \$94.00, and I can't pay my rent out of the food stamps, and I give him the money, and what am I going to pay my rent with? I work on this Unemployed Fathers Job.

Q.6 What do you think should be done?

A I believe they should be cut down.

Q.7 The amount of money you have to pay for the food stamps?

A That's right.

Q.8 How much do you have to pay for them?

A \$72.00, and get \$94.00.

Q.9 \$72.00 for your food stamps?

A That's right.

Q.10 How many in the family?

A I've got four boys.

Q.11 How old are they?

A One is 19, 15, 12 and 11-- one boy in Thailand.

Q.12 What is he in?

A He's a special in that...

Q.13 Is he in the armed forces? in the Army?

A Yeah.

Q.14 And do the other boys that live at home, do they go to school?

A One finished last year and the other three is in school.

Q.15 Are there enough jobs around for young men?

A No.

Q.16 What kind of jobs do they find?

A If a young man in our country finds a job he has to leave there: he can't find no job.

Q.17 No jobs at al?

A No. When he finishes high school there ain't no job for him; if he gets a job he has to leave there.

Q.18 Are there any Federal job training programs?

A Yes.

Q.19 Whet happens to the men that finish these job training programs?

A Well, I'm on that job myself, and I have been on it twenty-five months. At the end of my thirty-six months, I'm sixty years old, what benefit will that do to me, a training job? Of course these young men, I don't know.

Q.20 What happens to the young men that work -- go to the job training program -- where do they find jobs?

A If they get a job they have to leave.

Q.21 There are no jobs available?

A No. I did work in the mines a long time but the mines worked out I was working in and after that I couldn't get a job.

The next witness is MRS., VIOLA HOLLAND,
Vortex, Wolfe County, Kentucky.

Q.1 Would you tell us what you are doing, what you are working on?

A Well, I'm a housewife and I have been working with the Appalachian Volunteers for the last three years, and the Community Action, working with the School Superintendent of Wolfe County, trying to improve our schools here in this one community in particular. I have been helping them, and I have also been working with the Grass Roots Program for the last year, and there's a lot of improvements that can be made in all of it. We have had the full cooperation of our School Superintendent in Wolfe County but there's a lot that we can't do. We need transportation up these hollers for our children; we need roads and we need them bad. If we can get roads up these hollers then we'll have ways to get our children out and get them to school.

Q.2 Are all the children going to school in these hollows?

A Yes, all that can.

Q.3 Is it so difficult to get out of the hollows that they don't go to school?

A Well, you can't get in them. I've got two in school.

Q.4 How many children do you have?

page 9 is not in the file

Q.10 Is the diet -- or would you tell us a little about what the diet is, what kind of food you have?

A Well, I don't buy too much food. We usually raise what we eat on the farm and I fed -- well, I raised my family on beans and potatoes and milk and which I also have all my own, and vegetables out of my own garden. If I had to go to the store and buy all of the groceries for my family even the Social Security benefits that I draw wouldn't nothing like run us a month, and half -- a lot of other people lives without -- not half as much income as I've got, I don't see how they do it, right in this own county.

Q.11 How do they get their food, the other people?

A Well, they mostly raise it, and what little money that they get hold of, we work here in this county for four and five and six dollars a day, and we take that money and we try to keep our children in school, with what we make, and we try to make our own vegetables, our own eats; we grow our own hogs and have our own cows, and we make our own vegetables, so you don't have to go to the store for too much. If we did we just couldn't live at it, and that's the way it has been for the last forty-six years that I know of.

Q.12 What do the meals for your children consist of, as a typical meal, for your children in this area?

A Well, I usually -- once in a while I'll buy extras but it's very seldom that I'll buy extras. We feed our children in this country beans and potatoes and meat and milk and corn bread; biscuits and gravy for breakfast, or eggs -- we have our own chickens.

Q.13 Gee, it sounds very good!

A Come around some time and we'll show you how it tastes. We have the good, healthy bunch of children. We've got a awful bunch of healthy children in this country, young men and young women, and we would like to keep them in this county. This land would grow and the people would grow, and that's what we need. We need something that will keep what we make here. We've got the land to grow anything we want to grow, and if we could just get some help from O.E.O. or something like that why - - or any other sources.

Q.14 How much do you get for Social Security?

A \$272.00 a month, and it takes -- the least that I can get by with, it takes about twenty-five or thirty dollars of that to pay the children's lunch bill at school, and then I have electricity bill that runs from fifteen, and sixteen and seventeen dollars a month. Of course I have a deep freeze. I deep freeze an awful lot of my food, meat and vegetables and things like that, besides what I make.

Q.15 Thank you.

The next witness is MRS. NANCY COLE,
BARWICK, BREATHITT COUNTY, KENTUCKY.

Q.1 Would you tell us where you live?

A I live at Barwick, Kentucky, born and raised there. I'm the mother of eight children and I married a miner the first time I was married and my husband was burned up in the mines. I was left with five children and then four years later I remarried and me and my husband just couldn't make it after a few years, so we separated. I had three more; that made me eight. I've raised these children by myself. I got on Welfare.

Q.2 Will you talk louder?

A I was on Welfare. The first part of the month we have good meals, up until about two weeks of the month, than the rest of the month we lived on beans and bread; gravy and bread for breakfast; sometimes by the last of the month we didn't have bread in our family. We didn't get enough Welfare, so life has been hard and I think that our government should do something to help the poor people to have enough food to eat so there wouldn't be no health problems. I think that this is one thing we need, and also we need industry in here for our boys to work at. I have raised five boys and they none have ever had a job in Breathitt County. One of them did, on the "Happy Pappy" Program, and stayed a while, but none of the others has a job; has ever had one in the county. They have had to leave. I have three boys now in Chicago. I have two at Barwick and they have families.

Q.3 How old are the two that are left?

A One is twenty-seven and the other is twenty-five.

Q.4 And they have never had a job?

A They don't have a job and never have had one in the county.

Q.5 You say that under the Welfare system you weren't receiving -- didn't have enough money to provide the food?

A No, I didn't, because you have to buy your books for the children to go to school; you have to buy their clothes; you have to pay their hot lunch bill; you've got your electric bill to pay: you've got all these things to pay and you live off \$112.00 a month for the children, how can you have anything left?

Q.6 What do you think is the most necessary thing?

A I think there should be industry put in here for the people to work at so they can support their families; people that are able to work, let them work. The people here are not sorry if they have something to work at.

Q.7 What you think, what is most necessary is jobs, is that right?

A Yes, I do, and raise the Welfare payments so people can live like human beings instead of living like..

Q.8 Does that kind of condition still exist?

A That still exists.

THE NEXT WITNESS IS MR. JOHN AKEMON,
BARWICK, BREATHITT COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Q.1 Would you identify yourself?

A My name is John Akemon. I'm retired from the United States Marine Corps, thirty years. I returned to my native Kentucky and now I'm working with the Grass Roots Program, trying to help the poor people of this area in

what I can do. Now there are a few things, Senator, I would like to bring up and that is -- the first is the Food Stamp situation. Why should a person buy these stamps, say around, like Mrs. Cole said — What was it Mrs. Cole? How much do you pay a month? Over half of their income goes for that. The next month they have to pay their electric bill. There is one month they go they don't have anything to eat. Now, I'm not speaking for myself but I'm speaking for my neighbors up there. I know of families that are practically destitute right now and they can't afford the food stamps. They can buy them one month and the next month they can't live, for they have clothes to buy and their electric bill they have to pay; maybe they have to buy coal through the winter to keep them warm, so I would suggest that people that deserve the food stamps that they should be issued free to these families who need them. The other thing I want to bring up, Senator, is the School Lunch Program for our children. They have to pay for that school lunch. It's a small amount but it still amounts to these people who are short of money. It still amounts into a great deal to them. It means a great deal to these people that have to pay that each month, and I want to say that the food is fine but lots of occasions it is not prepared good; take good food and if it isn't prepared, it's uneatable. Some of it that I have seen has been that way. Is there anything that you would like to ask me, Senator?

Q.2 What do you think that the people are most concerned about?
What do you find they are most concerned about?

A They are concerned right now with survival, the families that have very little income. They are fighting for survival, Senator, in this area.

Q.3 There are no jobs available?

A There are no jobs. We have a few people in the area that are on the Work Progress Administration Program here, which the pet word for it is the "Happy Pappy" and they are on that. The coal mines are a thing of the past; it has become so mechanized that strip mining has taken over, and that's another thing, that our coal leaves the state with no severance tax; it don't cost the people anything to come in here and rob us of our mineral wealth, and our logging is gone, our timber. We have a second and third growth timber on the lands right now but our timber is no more, and the big companies from New York, Philadelphia, that's where our money is going, down the railroad track; the "black diamond" I call it-- coal-- it's going out;

the people in the area are not receiving one penny of that. Like a big tax from the railroad company that come into the county: isn't that right, Judge?

Judge A. That's about right.

Something should be done to tax these big outfits that are coming in and taking the wealth which rightfully belongs to the destitute people right now. Our forefathers come in here and settled this Eastern Kentucky, they didn't foresee this thing that would happen now, that this day-to-day existence; they severed it and we, the younger generation, have to reap the consequences of the faults that they made. That's all I have to say, sir.

Q.4 Thank you and we will come back to you. That was very good.

The next witness is MRS. BETTY TERRILL,
VORTEX, WOLFE COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Q.1 Could we hear from you?

A Well, I have six children; eight in our family.

Q.2 Eight altogether?

A Eight altogether, and one thing, our food stamps. Well, my husband works as a farmer. My husband is a farm hand, and has been working for three dollars a day.

Q.3 How much?

A Three dollars a day, and we tend a garden, so this is the first time I signed up and signed for the food stamps.

Q.4 What does your husband do now?

A Well, right now he's unemployed. He just gets a day ever now and then because there's no farm work going on now.

Q.5 Before that he worked for three dollars a day?

A Yes, and now we signed up for food stamps and I draw \$69.00 for two children I had before I married him. Their daddy was killed. Social Security for them, and we pay \$50.00 for food stamps and get \$102.00.

Q.6 How long have you lived in this area?

A I have lived in Wolfe County about sixteen or seventeen years.

Q.7 How was your first husband killed?

A On a motorcycle accident, and at that time I tried to draw Welfare and they turned me down; they said I couldn't draw it because the children was supposed to get insurance, which they finally got after two years, but they got it to where they can't get it till they are eighteen.

Q.8 Can you get by now on the food stamps?

A Well, yes, we get by on the food stamps. Of course you can't buy everything with food stamps, and we pay rent now, so we don't have much left to buy anything.

Q.9 What is your total income a month?

A \$69.00.

Q.10 And eight of you?

A Yes.

Q.11 And do you have to pay any money for the children that are in school?

A Well, I'm supposed to, but my children did go to this school here and I kept their lunch paid as long as my husband was working. They're going to town now and so far I haven't paid their lunch bill, but I ow it, so I haven't talked to the Superintendent, I have been meaning to, as I haven't paid it; of course I want to pay it if I can and I feel that anybody that can pay it should pay it, but right now we just can't.

Q.12 How did it -- would you tell the Committee how it worked out: how much you would have to pay for the food stamps?

A Well, they asked my husband -- he signed up. I was with him, they asked did he average making \$40.00 a month and he don't; when he works I guess he would have but he don't get to work steady work the whole year around, and then they took my check; I had to turn it in, that \$69.00 so that's how they figured it out.

Q.13 What do your children have to eat?

A Well, we have a right smart; we raise our own hogs and have a cow and we always raise a garden.

Q.14 So you supplement that with the food stamps?

A Yes.

Q.15 How many of the children are in school?

A Five. I've got one in high school.

Q. 16 What do you think the greatest problem in this area?

A I think the greatest problem in this area is the high school, having to buy their books, because for the poor people it actually runs into money that a lot of times they can't afford. I mean that's one of the biggest problems. Next year I'll have two in high school. I don't know whether we can make it or not and if we don't they'll have to quit, so I think that's one of the main things.

Q.17 Are there jobs in this area?

A Right now, no, and sometimes you can get work on the farm but that's not steady; I mean just seasonal, you know, but there is no industry.

Q.18 What happens to the young men? Do you find they are leaving this area?

A Yes, I do.

Q.19 Because they can't find any jobs?

A Because they can't find any jobs.

The next witness is MARY RICE FARRIS.

I am Mary Rice Farris. representative of a delegation of Madison County.

Senator Kennedy, in regards to the Public Welfare, I know your stand on this, and we would like for the State and Public Assistance Agencies to determine whether local agents' actions in regards to their eligibility for welfare and increase in the amount, whether this is going according to the state and federal programs, and I would like to ask Mr. Perkins and you what his comment was on this Anti-Welfare bill that will take effect in July, because we are seeking aid for the hungry and for the homeless and for the poor in Appalachia and our vote is for the poor, and we would like to know your stand on this, and we would like to know, sir, why Madison County is the only county in the target area of Appalachia that doesn't have food stamps.

Q.1 You still have the Commodity Program?

A Yes.

Q.2 How does it work?

A I want to say it's administered unfairly; it's according to who you are; some get this and some get that and some don't. We know these people talked about food stamps -- the Commodities, the meal has bugs, the flour has worms, the raisins has bugs -- little black bugs -- not all of them but most of them. We find, that the Fiscal Court won't hear us because we do know of one Magistrate that has his wife giving out Commodities, and we have made surveys in our county, we realize a lot of people it helps but we have made surveys and the hungry are willing to accept the stamps and the welfare recipients want the food stamps, and we know a lot of people. If we had them, they could have more decent food and a more balanced diet for

their children, and we know this could be had. We are working with the Community Action Group; we were poor ourselves and raised in poverty and married ourselves in the Depression and raised our children in poverty, so now we are working with Community Action Agencies, with the poor people, and we want to ask one more question: Senator, Mr. Perkins; if we are spending \$70 million dollars a day in Vietnam, plus loss of life, when they are millions of people in our area hungry, without homes and decent housing, or without clothing, and we would also like to know why the Negro is having to fight too for a decent place in society as a rightful American citizen?

SENATOR KENNEDY:

You have turned this hearing around. You are asking us questions.

A I want an answer and then you ask me.

SENATOR KENNEDY:

Are you listening, Congressman?
(Smile)

CONGRESSMAN PERKINS:

In reverse order I'll get around to you.

MRS. FARRIS:

all right. Thank you.

CONGRESSMAN PERKINS:

Q.1 Mr. Fugate, you live, I believe on Lost Creek and you say you are a retired miner?

A No. I worked in the mines 'til the mines I was working in worked out.

Q.2 Who did you work for?

A I worked for Bill Farlar and couldn't get a job nowhere else on account of my age.

Q.3 You are on the Work and Experience Training Program at the present time?

A Yes.

Q.4 You have been on it how many months?

A Twenty-five.

CONGRESSMAN PERKINS:

I do want to state that under the law you have a thirty-six month provision. At the time I have an understanding with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington that nobody will be cut off when they reach thirty-six months, they will carry them for a longer period of time, and they can legally do that, until some other program -- you are absorbed in some other government program, and if there are any unemployed people under the sound of my voice, that are not able to participate in these government programs, I certainly want to know who you are, and I know Senator Kennedy wants to know who you are, and we want to do everything we possibly can to try to improve your standard of living, and it's true that we are handicapped here; we have about seventeen hundred little tobacco growers here in this county, small growers, and no industry. In fact, until recently we weren't able to get any water and sewage here in the county seat, but we do have water and sewage grants at present and we are trying to do something about these basic problems. It took us a long time to even get around to getting some legislature and the legislature is still inadequate, to eliminate these one room schools.

Q.5 Now, I'm speaking to -- your total income, Mr. Fugate, was what?

A \$242.00 a month.

Q.6 And you say the charge on the food stamps is excessive. I believe you made that charge.

A That's right.

Q.7 Now, Mrs. Holland, I think I know your husband.

A Yes.

Q.8 What's your total income?

A \$272.00 a month.

Q.9 And your complaint is transportation, as I understand, of the school children: you have inadequate transportation?

A Well, you could call it a complaint, I guess, but that's my main concern right now, is the transportation for our school children up these hollers -- roads.

CONGRESSMAN PERKINS:

Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was to take care of special education problems and transportation is an item that can legally be taken care of. The Act is new and you have an outstanding School Superintendent here, Frank Rose.

A Yes, Mr. Rose will do all he can.

CONGRESSMAN PERKINS continues:

They will set something up in that budget -- I know Senator Kennedy will, if it's in the budget for him to set up; I know he will do that. This can be done legally.

Q.11 Mrs. Cole, what was your -- you say that you do not -- what was your income?

A The only income I get now is from the Appalachian Volunteers. I took a job with them and went off the Welfare.

Q.12 You took a job with them?

A Yes.

Q.13 What were you drawing before that?

A \$112.00.

Q.14 \$112.00 a month, and how many children did you have at that time?

A Two.

Q.15 Well, I know that we are standing here in one of the lowest per capita income counties in the United States today, and I personally -- I have done everything I could, under the Welfare laws, like Senator Kennedy has done; we have not got our ways in many instances but we are doing the best we can. I know that we do not have jobs; the youngsters leave us just as soon as they can; you don't find youngsters going in the coal mines any more: that's just a thing of the past.

A It seems to me like if you grow up in a county, your children are brought up, you find that you are not never offered a job.

Q.16 Yes, I agree with you, that we have got to diversify our economy more and in these counties where we do not have industry and until we get adequate community facilities, that's the greatest thing lacking in this area. We need better schools and we've got to have Government Work Programs. Senator Kennedy and I both advocate that; we've got to have something of that type, of a permanent nature.

SENATOR KENNEDY;

I think it's essential and we both tried to get it passed last year, that we have a government program which will provide jobs, if we can't do it with industry, and it's necessary here and elsewhere in the county, and the Welfare Program is no answer to our problems. We have to do away with Welfare and the answer to Welfare is to have jobs for people to find employment. It's not a great mystery. It is not to make it difficult to get on Welfare or make our children suffer because they are born of poor parents. The ideal and logic answer is to have jobs for people. I know Congressman Perkins did a great deal; we have fought for it in the Senate. I have introduced it in the Senate, legislation which would give special tax advantages to industry which would come into areas such as this. We do it in the ghetto areas, and in the areas of urban renewal, in areas such as this, and if industry would come into a county such as this and hire people who are on Welfare, they would obtain special tax advantages and special tax credit, so it would attract industry to come into the area. It seems to me that kind of legislation would be very, very important. We give special tax advantages to people who pump oil and mine coal and build grain bins, or defense plants; it seems to me we could give the same advantages to people who would come in and establish factories and find jobs for people and take them off Welfare.

That's what I would like -- industry.

CONGRESSMAN PERKINS:

Q.17 Mrs. Terrill, you mentioned books. Now the elementary and secondary grades your books are furnished free, under Kentucky law?

A Yes.

Q.18 And again, under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act some funds can be provided to buy -- set aside for the purchase of books in high school. I just talked to Frank Rose over here. This if a new Act and it's a special education program, to try to take care of the youngsters who have handicaps; that's the reason the law was written; whether it's transportation or need a breakfast at school or need a lunch at school, or whether you need transportation.

(Congressman Perkins addresses his remarks to Mary Rice Farris)

Now, this lady here. I do not have the answers to her questions, so that's it.

MARY RICE FARRIS:

I asked him what his comment was on the Anti-Welfare bill that you fought so hard and furious in Congress: what his comment was, because he was representing Kentucky, and we are working for the poor of Appalachia and our vote is for the hungry, the people that are without homes -- decent homes -- and I votes for the poor, and I want to know how you voted on the Anti-Welfare.

SENATOR KENNEDY:

It wasn't just the Welfare bill.

MARY RICE FARRIS:

I know it was the Social Security bill too.

May I say this? We have people in Madison County, most of these people come, and I want to congratulate both of you for coming to this area because we have people to come in and are taken to the affluent areas.

CONGRESSMAN PERKINS:

My comment has always been to try to provide the greatest amount of

purchasing power for the poor people.

MARY RICE FARRIS:

Thank you.

Senator Kennedy, could you give me some answer about the Vietnam situation? Our boys are getting killed and dollars spent on it, and people are hungry, don't have decent clothing, and why we, as American Negroes, are having to fight and speak out for a right to take decent responsibility in this great nation?

SENATOR KENNEDY:

I think, as Congressman Perkins said, we are going to see if we can't do more for our citizens in the United States. I think more needs to be done for them, and we are committing ourselves to that. I don't know if we can be successful completely and whether we will get all the things done but it's obvious we can do better than we have done in the past, and that's what we are committing ourselves to.

MARY RICE FARRIS:

I have to go from home to home each day and I find people drawing \$36.00 a month and they can't get raised, and some drawing \$40.00 and some a little bit more -- Old Age assistance -- these people are destitute and can't live on that kind of money, and I just wonder about seeing if our state looks into this and if the local agencies are determining the right eligibility.

SENATOR KENNEDY:

If we receive some information today and we will receive other information over the next several days; there are representatives of the Governor here, and I'm sure he will do whatever he can; Representative Perkins is here. If you want to submit the information you have given us we would be glad to do whatever we can, and I might say that is true for anybody here; if anybody would like to submit a statement to the Senate about the problems, the statements will be accepted and will be made a part of the final record in the Congress of the United States. If any of you have anything you would like to say to the Congress, if you would send me a communication or letter to Washington I would be glad to have your ideas and suggestions and your comments made a part of this record and submit it to the Senate and House of Representatives. I would hope I would hear from you, and if anybody has any specific problem that they don't feel the federal government has been as quick in dealing with them as they might, if you

would also let us know about that, we would see what we can do, Congressman Perkins and myself. You can do that by letter and if you would try to get it in to us in the next three weeks, and perhaps you could work along yourselves and try to develop some suggestions for us.

MARY RICE FARRIS:

I have a delegate, Donna Parsons, she is allegeable to vote, and she asked me to ask you to please run for President.

SENATOR KENNEDY:

I'll take that back to Washington with me.
Thank you very much.

THE COMMITTEE IS ADJOURNED

I, Ann Rader, special official reporter for the U. S. Senate Subcommittee on Employment, Manpower and Poverty, do hereby certify that a hearing was held at Vortex, Wolfe County, Kentucky, on February 13, 1968. Hon. Robert F. Kennedy, Acting Chairman. presiding; that all the proceedings had at said hearing were taken down by me in shorthand and later transcribed by me upon the typewriter; that the foregoing twenty-seven pages of typewritten matter constitute a full and complete transcript of all the proceedings had, including all statements made by Senator Kennedy, Congressman Perkins and the witnesses who testified at said hearing.

Given under my hand at Hazard, Perry County, Kentucky, this the 19th day of February, 1966,

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