

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Legislative Affairs

Series/Staff Member: Jack Lew

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 2390

FolderID:

Folder Title:

National Service-Congressional Hearing

Stack:

S

Row:

25

Section:

7

Shelf:

10

Position:

1

1 youth mentoring programs, and in environmental conservation.

2 The Foster Grandparent Program links willing, loving and
3 capable older volunteers with children with very special
4 needs. The Senior Companion Program provides support to the
5 frail elderly in the person of another senior.

6 From healthier children to improved housing, the legacy
7 of the domestic volunteer service programs is better lives
8 for thousands if not millions of Americans.

9 It is on this record that we will focus today. Our
10 first witness, Peter Edelman, will provide testimony on the
11 President's National Service Trust Act as context for our
12 discussion of the domestic volunteer service programs.

13 Our first panel of witnesses will highlight the work of
14 three VISTA volunteers with three very different projects--
15 from a community-based credit union in Brooklyn to a health
16 clinic in Connecticut.

17 Our second panel highlights the work of participants in
18 each of the three older American volunteer programs--a
19 retired senior volunteer from Pennsylvania who assists
20 nonprofits in financial matters; a foster grandparent from
21 Baltimore, MD who works in a Head Start center, and a senior
22 companion from Worcester, MA, who is accompanied by her
23 client's daughter.

24 These are just examples of the thousands, more than half
a million people, who are out volunteering, serving our

1 country.

2 Senator Dodd. Peter, it is an absolute honor and
3 privilege to have you with us here this morning. I make no
4 bones about it--Peter is a good personal friend of mine. We
5 have known each other for many, many years, and I have a high
6 regard for Peter, his family, his children, whom I have also
7 come to know and respect greatly for their work in Connec-
8 ticut; they have done a great job in New Haven.

9 So it is truly an honor to have you with us this morning
10 to share with us your thoughts on these efforts. I know you
11 feel as strongly as I do that as we talk about national
12 service, one of the things that we have fought very hard on
13 from this perspective here is to see to it that these good
14 existing programs are not going to be shoved aside or lost in
15 the process as we look to a new national service effort, but
16 rather incorporated very directly and the made the foundation
17 of this new beginning.

18 So with that note, we welcome your testimony and any
19 supporting documentation you have for the record.

20 STATEMENT OF PETER B. EDELMAN, COUNSELOR TO THE
21 SECRETARY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
22 SERVICES, WASHINGTON, D.C., AND SENIOR ADVISER,
23 WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF NATIONAL SERVICE

— 24 Mr. Edelman. Thank you, Senator.

I am delighted to be here and honored to be able to

1 offer this testimony to you as the chair of this subcommittee.
2 I appreciate the personal remarks, and I would just respond
3 in kind by indicating, both to you and for the record, my
4 respect and admiration for all the work that you have done
5 for such a long time on so many issues in this subcommittee
6 relating to children and family, and working in Latin
7 America, and many other things.

8 With your leadership, I know that the kinds of things
9 that the American people elected President Clinton to do are
10 going to come to pass in partnership between the Senate, the
11 House, and the executive branch.

12 This is a very exciting time for all of us who have
13 hoped and worked for a major national service initiative for
14 such a long time. And with my own involvement, I am just
15 personally pleased to have played a part and to have the
16 chance to present these views.

17 As you have indicated, Mr. Chairman, the point of this
18 legislation that the President has proposed is really to call
19 for a new ethic of service in America. It is not just to get
20 enacted a new proposal to involve a new kind of national
21 service volunteer; it is to see that there is reenacted and
22 strengthened the programs that we are here today to discuss,
23 and indeed, through all of that, to multiply and to encourage
24 really an ethic of service, even in a broader way, among
25 millions of Americans all over this country.

1 The response to the President's call, I think, has been
2 overwhelming, as we see people writing in, calling in, and
3 what they say to people in the media. The President has
4 really struck a resonating chord, I think, with the American
5 people, and I think they are really ready to give something
6 back to this country for what it provides for them.

7 It is part of a long and honorable tradition. We have
8 had service in this country for a very, very long time. It
9 has been bipartisan. It has been nonpartisan. And in this
10 proposal, we very much want to continue in this way. We
11 build in this legislation on not only the ACTION Agency, not
12 only VISTA, but the tradition of the CCC, the tradition of
13 the Peace Corps, and especially the recent tradition of the
14 National and Community Service Act and the Commission, which
15 was formed with bipartisan support--Senator Durenberger was
16 an important supporter of that as well.

17 I think that the Commission has done just a remarkable
18 job, along with the ACTION Agency, in preparing the way so
19 that we could be here today with this very serious proposal.

20 Mr. Chairman, you have outlined, really, in your opening
21 remarks essentially the way in which the larger national
22 service proposal would work. I might say that I don't think
23 you mentioned the income-contingent loan part of it--and that
24 really is part of it. It is not before this subcommittee and
25 indeed is not our business today, but a key point here is

1 that if young people, or people of any age, who borrow to get
2 a higher education, can pay back on a basis that is keyed to
3 their income so that they aren't stuck with rigid repayments,
4 then they can have a chance to take, on their own, a low-
5 paying job that performs community service in one way or
6 another. So that is a key part of this whole initiative.

7 Then, in the National Service Trust Act itself, over a
8 period of years, if you begin to add up, we'll be talking
9 about literally hundreds of thousands of Americans in a
10 fairly short time frame who will be enabled to serve and
11 reduce educational benefits in return for serving. So that
12 is a very, very important initiative. At 150,000--you
13 mentioned that number, Senator--the National Service Trust
14 Act will involve almost 10 times as many people as the Peace
15 Corps involved at its largest. So it is a major initiative,
16 and it really is going to take a lot of doing.

17 The way in which we are going to be able to do this is
18 to rely on local initiative, not to create a big Federal
19 bureaucracy. This is really an idea to give programs and
20 people at the local level the flexibility to meet the goals.

21 We are talking about a total commitment to diversity
22 here, and I think that is so very important, in terms of
23 race, ethnicity, urban, rural, age, gender, and especially
24 economic diversity, so that Americans will be able to
25 participate and do national service at any time in their

1 adult lives, either full- or part-time, before or after they
2 have gone to school. They can get the benefit to pay off
3 loans, they can get the benefit and use it to go to school
4 thereafter, and as you mentioned, Mr. Chairman, it is a
5 \$5,000 a year post-service educational benefit.

6 We are talking about a broad vision of service--educa-
7 tion, human needs, the environment, public safety--so we can
8 see service roles that are really as broad as the grassroots
9 ingenuity in our great Nation can make them, whether it is
10 Head Start, which is a matter dear to this subcommittee's
11 heart; community clinics; safe places for inner city kids to
12 go after school; working with older people, disabled people;
13 environment, recycling--it's a long, long list, many, many
14 things.

15 We are very clear that these programs need to meet
16 community needs, they need to improve the lives of par-
17 ticipants, and when I say participants, I mean at both ends.
18 This is life-changing stuff we are talking about here in
19 terms of the service that is done, the people who receive the
20 service and the people who give the service. And of course,
21 those who participated in the Peace Corps--Senator Dodd, I
22 was so moved by your remarks last Friday at the memorial for
23 Robert Kennedy as you described being down in the Dominican
24 Republic as a Peace Corps volunteer when you received the
25 news of his death--it is that kind of life-changing experience

1 that you had that we are talking about in this program, for
2 both the people who give the service and the people who
3 receive it.

4 We are talking about a competition for the dollars.
5 Nobody is going to be guaranteed the dollars. We are talking
6 about quality standards, performance goals, and independent
7 evaluation.

8 Now, the framework which comes to our business here this
9 morning is a new Federal Corporation for National Service.
10 The proposal is to combine the Commission on National and
11 Community Service and the ACTION Agency, both of which I
12 mentioned earlier, into this new Corporation. The idea is
13 that there will be flexible personnel policies, there will be
14 a bipartisan board, and with that kind of approach, with an
15 18-month transition period to work out the details in terms
16 of exactly what functions will be transferred over and all
17 the rest of it, we can come to a merged, combined, enhanced
18 entity for the mission of supporting service activities.

19 We will also take in in the program the K through 12
20 service learning provisions of the current National and
21 Community Service Act; I think it is very, very important to
22 strengthen those efforts in our schools, to get service into
23 the curricula.

— 24 As you noted, Mr. Chairman, the proposal increases the
25 support and really makes very concrete the President's

1 commitment to increase support for VISTA and all of the Older
2 Americans programs, adding \$10 million for next year for
3 those programs, and the Act reauthorizes the Civilian
4 Community Corps and the Points of Light Foundation.

5 So I would close as I began. This is really about
6 inspiring an ethic of service in Americans of all ages and
7 political beliefs. President Clinton's hope is that Americans
8 everywhere will really be inspired to contribute more and
9 take a greater measures of personal responsibility for
10 addressing our pressing national problems.

11 I'd be happy to answer questions. I have really just
12 given you a very quick, bare-bones, but with the basic
13 assurance and commitment to the maintenance and really
14 strengthening and enhancement of all the programs that are
15 part of the ACTION Agency.

1 16 [The prepared statement of Mr. Edelman follows:]

1 Senator Dodd. I thank you very much, Peter.

2 We have been joined by our colleague from Minnesota who,
3 as you pointed out, is one of the original sponsors of the
4 legislation. We are delighted you are with us this morning,
5 Senator Durenberger.

6 Senator Durenberger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 I have an opening statement which I would appreciate
8 being made part of the record.

9 Senator Dodd. It will be.

10 [The prepared statement of Senator Durenberger follows:]

11 / SUBCOMMITTEE INSERT

1 Senator Durenberger. In the statement, I highlight all
2 of my involvement over the years, and then I highlight the
3 personal commitment I have made to help the President and
4 everybody here make this successful. And my commitment has
5 been nurtured by Eli Segal and Peter and a lot of other
6 people--Peter, you should know, is from Minnesota and
7 recognizes the kind of roots that make us volunteers by
8 spirit in all of this.

9 By if I may, I would just accent the importance of the
10 sort of grassroots nature of all of this and then the
11 decentralized nature of it, and I guess I have some questions
12 that relate to why did you cut out certain regional offices,
13 but not State offices, and things like that.

14 But the real question I'd like to ask, over the 30-plus
15 years of your own experience with this, is that the essence
16 of this is matching up people with resources and people in
17 need--and I may be exaggerating a little--but that is the
18 essence of what organizing this around an ACTION or a VISTA
19 or the programs in Minnesota that Kathleen is going to talk
20 about, the Way to Grow programs, and so on--this is the
21 essence of it. So the concern that I have is that most of us
22 live in communities that are resource-rich, but full of
23 people with growing needs, and the problem is always how do
24 you bring them together. And I wonder if you wouldn't tell

1 sense of community and our sense of responsibility for each
2 other and the things that get in the way of discharging that
3 because we are busy providing for our own needs and so forth,
4 what linkages between people in need and people who are
5 willing to satisfy those needs should we be looking at in the
6 1990's that we might not have been looking at back in the
7 early 1960's. And in this change and in the concept of the
8 Corporation for National Service and so on, are there some
9 messages for us to read about the difference between volun-
10 teering and community and things like that today from what
11 they were 30 years ago?

12 Mr. Edelman. I hope we have learned something over the
13 last 30 years, Senator. It seems to me there was--despite
14 the Peace Corps, despite VISTA, which of course, are initia-
15 tives of the 1960's--there was something of a mythology if
16 not a reality in the 1960's that we could solve all our
17 problems if we just had enough Government programs.

18 I believe very strongly that we have to have public
19 policy, and I know both of you do, to solve the problems that
20 we have in this country. We have to have the involvement of
21 Government. We have to put our tax dollars to work for the
22 American people.

23 But I think one of the things that we have learned is
24 that the kinds of problems we face did then, but especially
do now, require the responsibility and the involvement of all

1 of us, at all levels, not just the public sector and all
2 levels of that, but in the business community, in our
3 churches, foundations, civic leaders, and most important,
4 individual people taking responsibility. And related to the
5 notion of individual people taking responsibility is the idea
6 that you touched on, which is to build and rebuild notions of
7 community.

8 We have kind of an American mythology--and it is an
9 important value, but we tend to maybe overstate it--which is
10 that we all make it as individuals; that this is a country
11 where if you just work hard enough, you make it. And that is
12 certainly important; it is critically important. It is in
13 fact a sine qua non that one work hard and take respon-
14 sibility for himself or herself. But we all stand on the back
15 of somebody else. We all are building on what we got from
16 our parents, but not just our parents. What we get in the
17 larger community, what happens in the schools, what happens
18 in terms of our neighborhoods, whether there is organized
19 recreation, the responsiveness and supportiveness of our
20 churches, adult mentor figures in our lives--so many different
21 ways in which our individual success really depends on the
22 support of and being part of a larger community.

23 I think we have kind of lost that. I don't know where
24 it happened or how it happened, but we need to find it again.

25 And this legislation is really about all of those things. I

1 hope no one sees a paradox here, because we are talking about
2 enacting Federal legislation. But this is enabling. This is
3 not creating a Federal bureaucracy. It is going to be very
4 small. This is not creating Federal employees. This is
5 unleashing the engine of our Nation, the engine of our
6 communities, and the engine of our people. And there is a
7 difference, I think, between serving as an individual on a
8 voluntary basis, without pay, a few hours a week, in addition
9 to our regular work or our regular school, all of which is
10 absolutely essential, everybody should do it--everybody
11 should do it--but there is a difference between that and
12 being involved on a sustained basis, on a full-time basis or
13 a very, very substantial part-time basis, but especially a
14 full-time basis, over a period of a year or 2 years. That is
15 different. Anybody who has been in the Peace Corps or who
16 has been a VISTA volunteer can tell you--and indeed, of
17 course, we have that experience here in this room--can tell
18 you that the immersion that is involved in that is totally
19 different from going and doing something worthwhile 3 or 5
20 hours a week, both in terms of the impact that it can have on
21 the lives of people who are served and in terms of the life-
22 changing impact on the server.

23 So that that is what we are about here, I think, and I
24 would see a multiplier effect, I would see a ripple effect.
25 That's the way this should work is that whatever the con-

1 centric circle, the first concentric circle is of the
2 consequence of the number of people who can be full-time
3 volunteers in this program. It just radiates out. It just
4 has a ripple effect and a multiplier effect throughout this
5 country.

6 So I see enormous potential for the effects in terms of
7 change and commitment in our schools, in our communities. I
8 mentioned in my statement that one thing I have been thinking
9 a lot about is what happens to kids in a poor community after
10 school. They have no safe place to go. There is this
11 enormous violence out there in our streets. Can we, through
12 this, create--and this is only one of many things--but can we
13 create safe places for kids to go in the afternoon, where
14 they can have extended learning, where they can have recrea-
15 tion, where they can have role models and where they can have
16 safety?

17 That is just one of 50 or 100 things that we could think
18 of, but that is what I think this is about. I think the
19 question that you ask just goes to--as you can tell from the
20 length of my answer--goes to the very, very heart of what we
21 are doing here.

22 Senator Durenberger. Thank you.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 Senator Dodd. I would say on that last point that in
fact it does work, and you picked an example, I suspect, not

1 just out of thin air. One of Peter's son, with a group of
2 other people, started a very successful summer program in New
3 Haven, CT with a group of college students as senior coun-
4 selors and with high school students as junior counselors,
5 supported by the private sector along with the city, and I
6 think there were some Federal dollars involved. It wasn't
7 just a question of working with kids for a couple of hours.
8 They literally set up an operation with the projects that
9 operated 24 hours a day so these kids had a safe place to go.
10 It involved tutoring and educational efforts, but also
11 enriching experiences, traveling, day trips to Philadelphia
12 and New York, and they put on dramatic productions. They did
13 a whole series of things that made the few months of that
14 summer in New Haven--and it has gotten now more funding this
15 year, I think--but the pity is it is not ongoing. And the
16 reaction of these kids to be able to have a place that was
17 safe, where someone was there continuously for them to
18 interrelate with is just--and I don't mean to dwell on the
19 point, but it really does work. It really works.

20 If I can, let me raise a couple of practical questions
21 with you in terms of how this law will work. And I know you
22 are, and I am, too, very interested in seeing this succeed,
23 and I also want to make sure--we've got some awfully good
24 people who have committed tremendous time and effort to the
existing programs, and there is, as you might well imagine,

1 some anxiety within that community about where this is all
2 going to go, and do we need to reinvent the wheel in many
3 areas where we have talented and committed people.

4 There is a reference in the broad legislation to VISTAs
5 being eligible for educational benefits only if a certain
6 number of other national service slots are filled. I wonder
7 if you could comment on the conditions under which VISTAs
8 really will not be eligible for this tremendously important
9 benefit and the sense, as you might imagine, of saying, wait
10 a minute, we have been at this for a long time, doing good
11 work, and we like to think we aren't going to be in a second
12 class category here.

13 Mr. Edelman. Senator, I don't think that is going to be
14 a problem. That particular provision is a very, very low-
15 level threshold. First, let me say that once this threshold,
16 which I'll describe in a minute, is met, then the VISTA
17 volunteer would be eligible, unlike at the present time,
18 either for the current VISTA post-service benefit or the
19 national service post-service benefit, which is, of course,
20 higher. So that once this threshold is met, the VISTA
21 volunteer will be rewarded more and commensurately with the
22 national service volunteer, but more than is the case at the
23 present time.

24 What the bill says is that there needs to be a two-to-
25 one minimum ratio between the number of national service

1 slots--forgive the bureaucratic jargon--the national service
2 slots and the VISTA slots before this choice will kick in.
3 As you know, we have approximately 300,000 VISTA slots at the
4 present time. That would mean that there would have to be
5 6,000-plus national service slots as a minimum. The notion
6 is not to have the danger of dissipating the national service
7 benefit if the whole program is too small.

8 Now, we are asking for 25,000 national service slots the
9 first year, and this ratio is met and then becomes just a
10 forgotten matter once the national service slots reach
11 approximately 6,000, or whatever that two-to-one ratio is.
12 So it is really just a very small failsafe that is built in
13 there at the threshold, and it is to protect the resources of
14 the national service program if they somehow come in at a
15 much smaller level than we anticipate. And I hope it won't
16 be a problem at all, because we anticipate starting, as I
17 say, at a much larger level.

18 Senator Dodd. That's encouraging to hear, and we'll
19 obviously follow that carefully, and any assistance we can be
20 in that regard, we stand ready to serve.

21 The new State commissions and the current State ACTION
22 directors--there is some concern as to how these two entities
23 will work and what roles they will fill. Do they run into
24 each other, is there some conflict there, or is it envisioned
that one or the other will be responsible to a larger extent?

1 Mr. Edelman. The State ACTION director would be
2 succeeded by--and in some cases might well be the same person,
3 or involve some of the same people--by a State office of the
4 national Corporation. I don't want to confuse the point
5 here. There will be a State office of the national Corpora-
6 tion, and there will be the State mini commission which is
7 created under this legislation. So two separate office
8 within the State, one that is connected to the State Govern-
9 ment, which is the mini commission, and the other that is
10 part of the Federal Government, which is an office of the
11 national Corporation.

12 Now, VISTA would continue to be run by the national
13 Corporation, through the State offices, as it is right now.
14 So there wouldn't be any change in that, but there would be a
15 very close connection between the national Corporation, and
16 especially through its own office located in the State, and
17 the State mini commission. The way we have this structured, a
18 Federal official--that is, somebody from that State office of
19 the Federal Corporation--would be a member of the State mini
20 commission, so they would work very, very closely together,
21 and I would expect there would be cross-referral back and
22 forth--an organization that comes in and asks for slots might
23 well be counseled to go to the State office of the Corporation
24 and ask for a VISTA slot or slots, for example.

So what we have here is continuity and then building in

1 coordination and cooperation.

2 Senator Dodd. I appreciate that. It sounds a little
3 confusion with all these various offices around, but I
4 appreciate that distinction, and we'll obviously want to watch
5 that carefully as well.

6 The child care benefit--I wonder if you could explain
7 how those will work and whether VISTAs will be eligible for
8 this benefit.

9 Mr. Edelman. In the program as it is drafted--of
10 course, VISTA has its own health care program, and the
11 national service volunteers would be eligible for health care
12 benefit--as it is drafted, the VISTA benefit is not changed
13 to add child care at the present time. There is no other
14 Federal or federally supported program like this that has
15 child care benefits in it right now, so we are breaking new
16 ground in the national service program with the child care
17 benefit, and we are certainly open to putting that into VISTA
18 as time goes on, but it is not in the proposal that we have
19 here.

20 Senator Dodd. We are very interested in that and may
21 want to talk to you about how we might do that, or at least
22 begin to phase it in. There is great interest in that, as
23 you well know.

24 Mr. Edelman. You, of course, have led the way on child
25 care, so I am not surprised.

1 Senator Dodd. Well, I have had some help from someone
2 you know rather closely, and I expect we'll have a good ally
3 in this subject when we get to it.

4 One of the central thrusts of the initiative is to
5 capitalize on existing expertise in the field of national and
6 community service. You have touched on this already, and I
7 raised it in my opening comments, but I'd like to have you
8 address it again, if you could, and that is how do we ensure
9 that the devotion and expertise of existing ACTION staff is
10 not lost under the restructuring of the agency. And again, I
11 don't want to overemphasize this; it is just a concern that
12 somehow none of this has ever happened--you know it has, and
13 we all know it has here, but there is this concern that
14 somehow they are going to be lost in the shuffle and not
15 appreciated for earlier efforts. So I wonder if you might
16 just offer some words of assurance on that.

17 Mr. Edelman. I think it is very important that we have
18 that out on the table and that we talk about it. Let me just
19 back up one step. When we were designing the program, we had
20 a lot of conversation about what relationship it should have
21 to ACTION, and I certainly felt--and a lot of us felt, and we
22 talked very widely and consulted very widely--that you really
23 had two choices. One was to bring it on in, as we have, and
24 make it part of the action--I keep making that bad pun--and
involve it; or, leave it on the sidelines. You would protect

1 it, and it would have everything it had, but it would be on
2 the sidelines. Well, leaving it on the sidelines, it seemed
3 to many of us, made no sense. So the notion is that the
4 functions will be transferred into the Corporation. And I
5 just want to say as strongly as I can, and therefore the
6 question is just so relevant and appropriate, that we are
7 very committed to continuity, we are very committed to
8 involving the people who have contributed so much and who
9 have performed so effectively in this. We aren't talking
10 about shunting people aside or taking people who have done a
11 wonderful job and saying, "Thank you. It's over." Quite the
12 contrary.

13 Senator Dodd. That is very reassuring, and I would be
14 shocked to hear anything but that because I know of your
15 strong, longstanding commitment and the President's apprecia-
16 tion and Mrs. Clinton's appreciation of the work that our
17 domestic volunteer programs have performed over the years.
18 And obviously, we want to work with you. We have a strong
19 interest in this subcommittee. I am in the unique position
20 of chairing a subcommittee with jurisdiction over these
21 domestic volunteer programs and also jurisdiction over the
22 Peace Corps, as a member of the Foreign Relations Committee,
23 having been a Peace Corps volunteer.

— 24 Just to underscore your point, remember the wonderful
25 line--someone once asked a Peace Corps volunteer why they

1 hadn't done something like that before, and the very simple
2 response that, "No one ever asked." Maybe that's not a good
3 enough answer, that it shouldn't require someone to ask, but
4 I encounter it every, single day in my State.

5 I had a wonderful experience a week or so ago while
6 visiting some of the inner city high schools in Hartford and
7 Bridgeport, dealing with the issue of conflict resolution.
8 And at Hartford High School, their mascot is the owl, and
9 they have a group called "The Owls," a dramatic group, put
10 together by a woman named Lynn Foster, who has some background
11 in dramatics. And these young people are going around and
12 using a dramatic vehicle as a way of instructing their own
13 peers and younger children in middle schools about how to
14 resolve conflicts. They put on one of their performances for
15 me, and we had a discussion about how this could be used more
16 effectively, and one of the professional staff in the room
17 from the city of Hartford said, "We need more money, Senator.
18 We need more money. These people ought to be paid."

19 And one of the young kids said, "No. You are wrong. I
20 want to do this. I get a great sense of satisfaction out of
21 going out and trying to do something to help the lives of
22 others become somewhat better." This was a child speaking,
23 in a sense lecturing the adult about getting it all wrong,
24 saying, "I, as a student here, don't need to be paid to do
this. This is something I want to do. I get a great sense

1 of contribution and satisfaction."

2 I think those sentiments are repeated every, single day
3 by people who are anxious to find a way to plug in on a
4 consistent basis, based on what they can do--if they can, as
5 you point out, and I agree with you, give a year or two or
6 something, it is a much more rewarding experience, but to the
7 extent they are not able to, on a part-time basis, there is a
8 wonderful sense that people have of intuitively understanding
9 the appreciation of being involved in something like that.

10 So I think that just having an administration that is
11 asking again is really going to make a tremendous difference,
12 and I think you are going to find the floodgates opening up,
13 with people stepping forward who are anxious to be a part of
14 this:

15 So we are very anxious to help in any way we can, and we
16 thank you for being here this morning.

17 Mr. Edelman. Thank you so much, Senator. It is my
18 pleasure. I wanted to thank Senator Durenberger for his
19 support for the legislation as well. I'm sorry I didn't have
20 a chance to do that before he left.

21 Senator Dodd. I think he will be coming back, but we'll
22 convey that message.

23 Mr. Edelman. Thank you very much.

24 Senator Dodd. Thank you very much.

Before we go to our next panel, I want to recognize in

1 our audience today the presence of Gary Kowalczyk, acting
2 director of ACTION; Diana London, the acting director of
3 VISTA; Tom Enders, acting director of the Older American
4 Volunteer Program. And there are a number of people in the
5 audience who are representatives from local Foster Grandparent
6 Programs. We thank all of you for being here today and for
7 participating in this hearing.

1 Senator Dodd. Our first panel includes Margaret
2 Goolsby, a former VISTA volunteer who will be sharing some of
3 her thoughts with us. She coordinated a public outreach
4 campaign to recruit members of the Central Brooklyn Federal
5 Credit Union in Brooklyn, NY, and we're going to let her
6 explain what that program does.

7 William Cegelka, we thank you for being here with us
8 today. Bill is currently a VISTA volunteer in Windham, CT,
9 originally from San Diego, CA. After graduating from the
10 University of California, Bill joined VISTA and came to
11 Windham, and we are lucky to have you in the State. You are
12 working in the town that I was born in, at Windham Hospital;
13 Nate Specter delivered me--he's still around, I think.

14 And Kathleen Wilken is from Minneapolis, MN, and Senator
15 Durenberger will return shortly. He has already made
16 reference to your program briefly, and I know he'll be
17 joining us because he wants to be here to hear your testimony.
18 And Senator Wellstone has a strong interest as well, and I
19 know his staff is here.

20 Here comes Senator Durenberger as I speak. I was just
21 introducing Kathleen. Why don't you take a moment and tell us
22 a bit about her?

23 Senator Durenberger. Well, my note say she is 36, and
24 she is a VISTA in Minneapolis, MN. I know we aren't supposed
to do ages and stuff like that. And Kathleen would probably

1 tell you this herself, but she is not here just because she
2 is Kathleen, but for what she represents in our community.
3 Within this program that you have heard a lot about in this
4 committee, called "Success by Six," there is this other
5 program that she is going to describe to us, which is "Way to
6 Grow." My sense is that there are all kinds of things
7 growing out of this incredible spirit that has been injected
8 into people in the community by opportunity.

9 So Kathleen is one of many people who could come from
10 our community and explain to us what happens when the
11 community itself decides it is going to start giving of
12 itself and its members. She is a single mom. She completed
13 her bachelor's work at the University of Minnesota in June of
14 last year. She joined VISTA in the fall, and when she has
15 her opportunity, she will tell you all the neat things that
16 community service has done for her life.

17 Senator Dodd. Terrific.

18 We'll begin with you, Margaret. Thank you for being
19 here this morning. And by the way, all your statements will
20 be made a part of the record, as well as anything you'd like
21 to include.

22 STATEMENTS OF MARGARET GOOLSBY, FORMER VISTA,
23 CENTRAL BROOKLYN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, BROOKLYN,
24 NY; W. WILLIAM CEGELKA, VISTA, WINDHAM AREA
COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, WINDHAM, CT, AND KATHLEEN

1 WILKEN, VISTA, WAY TO GROW PROGRAM, MINNEAPOLIS, MN

2 Ms. Goolsby. Thank you.

3 I'd like to say good morning to the committee and to my
4 colleagues with the VISTA program. My name is Margaret
5 Goolsby. I became a VISTA volunteer last July, after working
6 one year in Tanzania. I had just gotten back into the
7 country for one day, and I got a call from executive director
8 of the Central Brooklyn Partnership--

9 Senator Dodd. What were you doing in Tanzania?

10 Ms. Goolsby. I was working with a women's farming
11 cooperative, a volunteer project in a small village.

12 Senator Dodd. Terrific. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to
13 interrupt you.

14 Ms. Goolsby. My sister was working as an intern with
15 this organization, and they were looking for a VISTA volun-
16 teer. The Partnership was one of several sites approved to
17 receive a volunteer through the ACTION program and the
18 National Federation for Community Development Credit Unions.
19 After a telephone interview, I was offered the position, and
20 the next day I accepted the job.

21 At this particular time, I must admit I knew very little
22 about the VISTA program. I had seen ACTION recruiters at
23 college job fairs and had been given general information by
24 the Partnership. I accepted the position primarily on the
recommendation of my sister, and after taking a very hard

1 look at my financial situation, I decided I could do it. I
2 knew it was going to be challenging. After all, I was moving
3 to a new city--I am originally from Rockville, MD, and I was
4 moving to Brooklyn--and to a new community; I would be
5 starting a new job, reentering American society, moving into
6 a very crowded housing situation, and living on a limited
7 income.

8 After attending the VISTA orientation from July 6
9 through 9, I learned more about the agency, their track
10 record, and the type of work I would be doing. The session
11 was motivational, and I was ready to start.

12 I knew from working with the women's farming cooperative
13 in Tanzania that change can be a very slow, difficult
14 process. I also knew how rewarding working in the community
15 could be. So I was ready to give my time and energy to help
16 the African American community in Central Brooklyn.

17 I reported for work at the Central Brooklyn Partnership
18 on the 13th of July. The Partnership is a coalition of 20
19 local development corporations, churches, and neighborhood
20 institutions serving Bedford Stuyvesant, Clinton Hill, Crown
21 Heights, Flatbush, East Flatbush, Brownsville, and Fort
22 Green. It was created in 1989 by community leaders to
23 respond to neighborhood disinvestment and redlining and to
24 build community-controlled cooperative institutions that
would enable Central Brooklyn to determine its own economic

1 future.

2 The Partnership had been organizing for about 2-1/2
3 years to create a community development credit union, a
4 financial cooperative which would allow money which is saved
5 in our community to remain in the community.

6 Initially, when I started the job, I was completely
7 overwhelmed by the expectations, all the adjustments I had to
8 make, and my duties. But within a couple of months, I felt
9 more comfortable, and I became fully involved in the organiz-
10 ing.

11 As a VISTA volunteer I was responsible for recruiting
12 and managing volunteers in a 4-month intensive outreach
13 campaign. We attended church services and block parties,
14 block associations, street festivals and other community
15 events, spreading the word about the credit union. We
16 collected over 1,600 pledges from the community, from people
17 who said they would be willing to join a credit union. These
18 pledges were required as part of our charter application to
19 the NCUA.

20 Additionally, I attended meetings of NCUA officials and
21 with the Partnership directors, and submitted information
22 which allowed us to receive our charter on January 27th,
23 becoming the first credit union chartered under the Clinton
24 administration. Actually, we just opened 3 weeks ago.

Senator Dodd. Congratulations.

1 Ms. Goolsby. Thank you.

2 I have developed my own knowledge of CDCUs and community
3 development banking by attending classes, conferences and
4 meetings. I have also coordinated training for board members
5 and staff in preparation for the opening of the credit union.
6 I organized a Kwanzaa fund-raiser and a volunteer dinner. I
7 assisted with the credit union capitalization drive and fund-
8 raising by attending meetings with funders, local banks and
9 credit unions, and raised over \$600,000. I planned youth
10 empowerment programs and wrote a proposal which resulted in
11 the Partnership receiving a grant for \$15,000 over a 2-year
12 period to start a youth component for the credit union.
13 Basically, what we are going to do is teach youth how to have
14 their own credit union; they are going to run everything,
15 have their own board of directors, their own tellers, and
16 everything, and learn how to be financially responsible.

17 Senator Dodd. That's terrific, a great idea.

18 Ms. Goolsby. Thank you.

19 I believe my participation in the VISTA program has been
20 beneficial to the community, the Partnership, and to me.

21 The Central Brooklyn community is composed mostly of low
22 to moderate income residents that constitute the largest
23 African American/Caribbean community in North America. For
24 years, this area has been underserved by banks, mainly
25 because of redlining and disinvestment. Studies show that

1 banks accept deposits from people and business in Central
2 Brooklyn but invest our money in other communities. Check
3 cashing businesses, which charge high fees for services, are
4 now becoming the new financial institutions serving low and
5 moderate income people.

6 The Partnership, with the help of the VISTA volunteer
7 program, has successfully organized the Central Brooklyn
8 Federal Credit Union, the only community-wide credit union
9 exclusively serving Central Brooklyn. The long-term mission
10 of the Partnership is to reconstruct the local credit market
11 that banks have in many ways written off.

12 For many individuals and businesses in the community who
13 are seeking affordable credit and consumer services, we
14 represent the last resort. The Central Brooklyn Partnership
15 has also gained a skilled and committed employee. We can do
16 more with more staff, and beginning in June, we will have two
17 additional VISTA volunteers who will be making a difference
18 in Central Brooklyn. Also, I have benefitted from the
19 experience and have gained a lot of skills in a rich ex-
20 perience.

21 In the interest of time, I am going to conclude my
22 remarks, and I look forward to your questions.

23 Senator Dodd. Thank you very, very much. We'll come
24 back for some questions. It sound fascinating. I am
25 particularly intrigued with the idea of teaching the young

1 people financial responsibility. That's a terrific idea.

2 Ms. Goolsby. Thank you.

1 Senator Dodd. Bill, it's a pleasure to have you with us.

2 STATEMENT OF MR. CEGELKA

3 Mr. Cegelka. Thank you, Senator.

4 I'd like to thank you for inviting me here to testify on
5 a topic about which I care very deeply, and that is national
6 service.

7 You touched on this earlier, and President Clinton has
8 said that, "National service is nothing less than the
9 American way to change America."

10 What I am here to talk about today is the positive role
11 that national service is playing in our country right now,
12 drawing upon my VISTA experience as an example.

13 I work as a Volunteer In Service To America in one of
14 the most impoverished regions of Connecticut, an area which
15 you know well, an area known as Windham. The unemployment
16 rate for the region is 9.3 percent, and those who do work
17 face an average weekly earnings rate that ranks among the
18 lowest in the State.

19 As I am sure each of you know, economically disadvantaged
20 people such as these are at greater risk for poor health
21 status than are more affluent groups because a number of
22 barriers prevent routine access to primary preventive care.
23 These barriers include the high costs of medical care and the
24 lack of adequate health insurance, geographic isolation, and
25 inadequate transportation.

1 The position to which I was recruited as a volunteer is
2 designed to alleviate many of these problems. Through the
3 sponsoring agent, the Windham Area Community Action Program,
4 I have been assigned the project of setting up a primary care
5 health clinic in the Windham area. The project is lowering
6 the barriers to access by conducting an outreach program that
7 reaches people at the front lines, making these services
8 available to those who need them most. By networking with
9 existing community organizations and social services, we are
10 connecting people with the health care that they so badly
11 need.

12 The cost of services at our clinic are based on a
13 sliding scale fee schedule linked to a person's income and
14 ability to pay, so that no one is denied necessary primary
15 care.

16 I believe that the merit of any public policy program or
17 project rests in its ability to enhance an individual's or a
18 group of individuals' capacity to contribute to society and
19 to do so in a cost-effective manner.

20 My project clearly does this. The clinic helps to
21 maintain the health of individuals through preventive care,
22 and when health problems do develop, the clinic provides
23 immediate treatment, catching the illnesses in the early
24 stages before the conditions become extreme and before the
costs become extraordinary.

1 The clinic not only benefits direct recipients of the
2 project, but it also uplifts the overall welfare of the
3 community.

4 But how does it affect real people? I'd like to give
5 just one quick example. Just a little over a month ago, a
6 man in his early fifties came into the clinic wearing old
7 jeans, a T-shirt, and a worn-in baseball cap. During our
8 conversation, Joe Curran explained to me that he was a
9 Vietnam veteran who had served four tours of duty in the war.
10 He has no private health insurance and, due to bureaucratic
11 mixups, is currently not receiving any veteran's benefits.
12 He came to our clinic because he reinjured a chronic rotator
13 cuff tear originally caused by a helicopter crash during the
14 Vietnam War. Mr. Curran was examined by our doctor and
15 prescribed the medication necessary to help his shoulder
16 while he waits to receive veteran's benefits that will make
17 additional medical treatment like corrective surgery possible.

18 Mr. Curran was a victim of many of the barriers that I
19 spoke of earlier, but because of the VISTA project, he was
20 able to receive health care that would not have otherwise been
21 available.

22 This is just one example of the people who benefit from
23 the project. There are and will be many others, including
24 working men and women, children, the elderly, and the
homeless--all good people who have fallen on hard times. If

1 it were not for the clinic made possible through VISTA, these
2 people would not be able to access primary health care.

3 Because of this, I view this program not as one of
4 entitled, but rather as one of empowerment. It is a program
5 that benefits the community and changes lives, and I know
6 that it has changed mine.

7 Although I am only halfway through my service project, I
8 can honestly say that I have learned more about life from a
9 group of people with whom I would have never otherwise come
10 in contact, than I ever learned in school. The lessons that
11 I have learned and will continue to learn from this national
12 service opportunity will remain with me for the rest of my
13 life.

14 I will always remember the Joe Currans, the discouraged
15 homeless, the struggling families, the single mothers, and
16 especially the children. I will never forget the little
17 league team that I coach, and the people with whom I work,
18 the people that I have helped, and the community in which I
19 serve. These experiences will shape my life, for all my
20 life. And it is my hope that because of them, I will be a
21 wiser, more compassionate and more contributing member of
22 society.

23 To conclude, I would like to quote Robert Kennedy, who
24 said, "Few will have the greatness to bend history itself,
but each of us can work to change a small portion of the

1 events, and in the total of all those acts will be written
2 the history of this generation."

3 My question is how will history judge us? Ultimately, a
4 government is judged on how well it looks out for the welfare
5 of its citizens. I strongly believe that programs like VISTA
6 are in our country's best interest. National service is
7 nothing less than the American way to change America, and
8 Government has a vital role to play. After all, what good is
9 Government if we cannot use Government to do good.

10 Thank you.

11 Senator Dodd. William, well-said. We are lucky to have
12 you in Connecticut. I wanted you here not just because I am
13 the chairman of the committee and want to have a Connecticut
14 resident, but too often, people think of Connecticut as being
15 Fairfield County. And while we still have the highest income
16 per capita of any State in the country, it is spiked terribly
17 because of the tremendous affluence in one area. But you are
18 in a community that I do know very, very well; my family was
19 from there. It is very, very poor. Hartford, New Haven and
20 Bridgeport are three of the poorest cities in America, and
21 they kind of get lost in these discussions. And just a few
22 miles down the road, there is great affluence, but where you
23 are working is a poor, struggling community with all the
24 problems that you have encountered. Listening to you and
25 having said a lot of the same words you have said--and I

1 don't mean to in any way suggest that there is anything
2 routine about what you have said--I was born in Windham, but
3 I grew up in a very pristine, very affluent suburban community
4 in Connecticut, but while I certainly saw things, I drove by
5 them in a sense--you don't live with them. And the experience
6 you've had as a VISTA volunteer and what I had as a Peace
7 Corps volunteer is very difficult to explain to people, but
8 it is a seminal event that changes your life dramatically.
9 So I heard myself listening to you, which is really a
10 wonderful thing to hear. We are lucky to have you in the
11 State, and I'll come back with some questions for you in a few
12 minutes.

13 Mr. Cegelka. Thank you.

1 Senator Dodd. We have been joined by Senator Wellstone,
2 Kathleen, so you've got both of your Senators here on the
3 committee--if you don't get proper treatment, I don't know
4 who will. [Laughter.] They have already endorsed your
5 statement.

6 Paul, do you want to say a few words?

7 Senator Wellstone. I think we should just go forward.
8 Kathleen, welcome. I know you are going to talk about Way to
9 Grow, and I was going to use your appearance to put in a
10 plug--I hope you don't mind--for the nontraditional students,
11 who I am convinced are becoming the traditional students.
12 That is, students are no longer 18 and living in a dorm.

13 I really loved your statement, William, and I would just
14 say, Mr. Chairman, it is really interesting, if you think
15 about VISTA and the Peace Corps, almost every, single friend
16 that I have says that it was a life-changing experience, and
17 probably far more important than what they did for or with
18 people was what the program did for them. Enough said.

19 I'm glad you are here, Kathleen.

20 Senator Dodd. Kathleen, welcome.

21 STATEMENT OF MS. WILKEN

22 Ms. Wilken. Thank you. Mr. Chairman and members of
23 this subcommittee, good morning. It is a pleasure to have
24 this opportunity to appear before you.

I would like to speak to you briefly about my VISTA

1 service in Minneapolis, MN, the program I work with, and the
2 vital role VISTA has in my community.

3 My name is Kathleen Wilken, and contrary to what Senator
4 Durenberger said earlier, I am not a single mother. I am a
5 mother of a 12-year-old, but I am not a single mother.

6 I graduated this past June with a bachelor of arts
7 degree in sociology from the University of Minnesota. I am
8 the first person in my immediate family to have graduated
9 from high school and the first in my extended family to have
10 graduated from college. The issues of poverty, domestic
11 abuse, unemployment, chemical dependency, illiteracy, and
12 lack of English are not abstract concepts. They have been a
13 very real part of my life.

14 Last year, when faced with the prospect of graduation
15 and beginning a career, I attended a job fair held at the
16 university. I was looking for something more than a job. I
17 wanted to feel as if I could somehow pay my community back in
18 some small way. You see, my education was almost totally
19 financed through the Guaranteed Student Loan Program; without
20 this help, further education would have been unattainable to
21 me.

22 At the fair, I spoke briefly to a VISTA recruiter and
23 took home the information she gave me. VISTA appealed to me
24 with the concept of not just helping people for today, but
for the long haul. I work with the Minneapolis Way to Grow

1 Program, which full embraces this philosophy.

2 Way to Grow is a school readiness initiative whose goal
3 it is to assure every child in Minneapolis is ready for
4 school when the time comes--emotionally, physically, academi-
5 cally and spiritually. They accomplish this through the use
6 of home visitors. Their role is assisting families in
7 advocacy issues, obtaining services needed for their children,
8 ensuring good prenatal care, and networking them with other
9 families in the neighborhood.

10 These home visitors are residents in the communities
11 they serve and are reflective of the multicultural diversity
12 of the area. Because of this cultural sensitivity, they are
13 also able to reach groups which have traditionally been
14 overlooked or underserved. They are often perceived as being
15 noninvasive, more like a friend stopping over to chat.

16 Each site has, in addition to home visitors, a half-time
17 public health nurse and will soon consist of an integrated
18 team of early childhood educators and social workers. A
19 project coordinator ties everyone together.

20 Way to Grow believes each family and community has its
21 own strengths and weaknesses. They attempt to use these
22 strengths to overcome the weaknesses. For example, North
23 Side Family Connection, one of our Way to Grow programs,
24 identified a significant number of Southeast Asian children
who were not properly immunized. By working collaboratively

1 with the schools, health department, social service agencies,
2 and the community center, a very successful immunization
3 drive was completed. By educating the elders of this
4 community as to the importance of immunization in a very
5 culturally sensitive manner, the number of Southeast Asians
6 using all available health resources has doubled.

7 When a program is as multifaceted as Way to Grow, the
8 role of VISTA workers is often occluded. Currently, Way to
9 Grow has two VISTAs, myself and Erik Larson. Both of us work
10 through the central office. One of the primary activities
11 Erik and I have been involved in this past year is community
12 organizational development. This has resulted in the almost
13 complete implementation of one program and another ready to
14 begin before our service is completed in August. One of the
15 communities we have been working in extensively trusted Erik
16 and I enough to talk about domestic abuse and chemical
17 dependency. These issues had not surfaced in previous needs
18 assessments. They were not of major concern to the community,
19 according to those previous studies. I believe this was
20 because we were in the community as VISTA workers, not as
21 another social service agency or establishment person.

22 During the course of these activities, not only have
23 residents been interested in the Way to Grow Program; they
24 have been fascinated by the idea that we are willing to work
40-plus hours a week as volunteers.

1 In planning activities, we have had great success in
2 getting the community to rally around, not only because Way
3 to Grow is a great program, but because they respect the work
4 Erik and I are doing.

5 Organizing activities are very labor-intensive. Most
6 social service agencies are not staffed to allow for this
7 sort of activity. These outreach efforts would be of a very
8 limited nature in my organization without VISTA workers.

9 Attention to detail and personalities is a very important
10 aspect of our work. This is true whenever your participants
11 are volunteers. Volunteers, it has been my experience, need
12 a different, more nurturing environment than do traditional
13 workers. The ACTION office in Minneapolis has been able to
14 provide this service for the VISTA workers of Minnesota.

15 To summarize, VISTA workers are essential to the success
16 of my project. Without our services, I doubt as many
17 children would be receiving services from the Way to Grow
18 Program. I am not sure how this would translate into hard
19 data, but I assure you the cost to Government agencies would
20 be significantly higher as these unprepared children progress
21 through the school system. They will be playing a game of
22 constant academic catch-up, with the child the mandated loser.

23 I would like to close with how my VISTA service has
24 affected me on a personal level. I feel I have been given a
25 gift this past year. I have been able to try many things

1 which have interested me, all of which have been challenging.
2 I have been able to find my own strengths and weaknesses in a
3 way no college degree could have provided. Perhaps most
4 important, though, is what I have been able to show my
5 daughter--the value of service and volunteerism. Imparting
6 values is one of the most important jobs a parent has.
7 Giving without the expectation of receiving was a value I
8 wanted to pass on to my child. This is where the future of
9 our country lies.

10 Thank you again for this opportunity.

11 Senator Dodd. Thank you very much, Kathleen.

2 12 [The prepared statement of Ms. Wilken follows:]

1 Senator Dodd. Let me begin with a few questions for
2 each of you, and again we thank you for taking the time to
3 come to Washington.

4 Margaret, I have been told by my staff that in addition
5 to your other talents, you have also been a translator for
6 the United States Army. What languages?

7 Ms. Goolsby. Arabic and Syrian. That was my first job
8 after graduating from high school.

9 Senator Dodd. You are a busy woman. Where did you
10 learn Arabic?

11 Ms. Goolsby. I was in the army for 4 years, and they
12 trained me at DLI, which is in Monterey, for about a year and
13 a half, one year of standard Arabic and then half a year of
14 Syrian, which is basically Lebanese/Palestinian dialects. And
15 then I worked my job after that.

16 Senator Dodd. Do you get a chance to use any of it in
17 Brooklyn?

18 Ms. Goolsby. Not much.

19 Senator Dodd. I know that school in Monterey is one of
20 the best language schools of in the world. That's terrific.

21 We welcome Senator Harris Wofford of Pennsylvania.
22 Senator, do you have an opening comment?

23 Senator Wofford. Go ahead, Senator Dodd. Thank you.

24 Senator Dodd. Margaret, I wonder if you still find that
your work is as rewarding, now that you are an employee, as

1 you did as a volunteer? Do you still find that same sense of
2 worth, if you will, in your present capacity?

3 Ms. Goolsby. Sure. Basically, we have been talking
4 about empowerment, and I feel that I am the primary person
5 who has been empowered by this experience. It is a wonderful
6 feeling to create your own bank. Sometimes I'll be walking
7 down the street, and I'll turn to Mark, my boss, and say,
8 "Mark, we have a bank! We did it!"

9 So it has been a very powerful experience--and yes, when
10 I wake up in the morning, I know I am going to work to do
11 something that is very meaningful, not only for me but for
12 the community. And on the way to work, people know me, and
13 they ask me about the credit union and when we are going to
14 open, and how they can open an account. People are really
15 looking forward to having a community financial institution.

16 Senator Dodd. Tell me about the younger people and what
17 you've done with their credit union. I think it's a great
18 concept. Tell us how that is working.

19 Ms. Goolsby. Right now, we are just organizing. We just
20 got the grant. This summer, we will have two VISTAs, and we
21 also have two college interns, and we'll have ten high school
22 students from 1199, a union program, who will go out into the
23 community, to different youth groups and summer programs and
24 talk to youth about joining a credit union. And we hope to
have field trips and seminars about how to buy a car, how to

1 budget, how to spend, and really shape the financial culture
2 of Central Brooklyn.

3 Senator Dodd. That's terrific. If I can get up there
4 sometime, I'd like to come see it and see how you are doing
5 with it.

6 Ms. Goolsby. Great. You are welcome.

7 Senator Dodd. I wonder if you might comment on the
8 President's proposal for an educational benefit. Do you
9 think that is going to be a significant inducement for people
10 to step forward and volunteer in these kinds of programs?

11 Ms. Goolsby. Could you repeat that?

12 Senator Dodd. Whether or not you think the educational
13 benefit we are talking about here as part of the national
14 service legislation will be a real inducement for people to
15 step forward.

16 Ms. Goolsby. Yes, I do. I don't have anything else to
17 say other than that. I think it is important.

18 Senator Dodd. How about your own further education; do
19 you have any additional plans educationally for yourself?

20 Ms. Goolsby. Actually, I do, because after working in
21 Africa with the cooperative, I live in a housing cooperative;
22 I belong to a food cooperative, so I can get affordable food;
23 and after working with the credit union where I am now the
24 manager, our next project is going to be a food cooperative
for Central Brooklyn. So cooperatives have pretty much

1 become my little niche, and I think I'll go on to graduate
2 school and get a degree and then possibly teach or set up
3 other institutions.

4 Senator Dodd. Terrific. That's wonderful. I served in
5 the army and the Peace Corps. There aren't many people I
6 know who wore both of those hats, and the fact that you were
7 in the army and a VISTA volunteer is somewhat unique. Our
8 country has been blessed to have your service, and we thank
9 you for it.

10 Ms. Goolsby. Thank you very much.

11 Senator Dodd. Bill, what motivated you? I've been
12 asked this question 10,000 times, and I'm never sure I've
13 given a very good answer. Senator Wofford, of course, has
14 longstanding experience with these programs going back to the
15 earliest days, and I'm sure he has been asked the same
16 question 1,000 times. I don't think I have ever given a very
17 good answer, but let me try it with you. What motivated you,
18 a young man living in California, to join VISTA, and how do
19 you feel about ending up 3,000 miles away in a small community
20 in Connecticut?

21 Mr. Cegelka. What motivated me--I don't really know.
22 To be honest, I was talking with my mom about the Peace
23 Corps, and I had this great idea that it would be really cool
24 if there were a domestic Peace Corps where people would
volunteer and help their own community, and she laughed and

1 told me that there was one, and that it was called VISTA.
2 That is a big problem for people in my generation. Now they
3 know about the national service opportunities because of
4 President Clinton's plan, but most people don't know VISTA
5 even exists--people around here do, because it is your job,
6 but most people out in the communities don't really know what
7 it is; you get blank stares, or some people have even said,
8 "Oh, they still have that."

9 On my motivation for public service, I couldn't tell you
10 where it began. It didn't just dawn on me one morning when I
11 woke up and said I think I'll go try to change the world,
12 because I know that's not possible. I think my motivation
13 just came from things that I saw, like you said, when you'd
14 drive by places. I don't really know what it is like to live
15 in a poor community. I wasn't wealthy, but it was a middle
16 class, white, suburban area that I grew up in.

17 In high school, I helped out on weekends. I think my
18 mom was probably my main motivation. For instance, during
19 Christmas I wrecked my bike, and whatever the value of my
20 bike was, I had to go mow lawns for that value and then give
21 the money to the Salvation Army. So I think it was just
22 instilled in me by my parents; that would be the only
23 explanation I could give.

24 Senator Dodd. I asked Margaret this question, and I
wonder if you might comment as well. I presume you have

1 heard some of the speeches or seen on the media the national
2 service program and the President's discussions about it.
3 How is this resonating with you and your peers as volunteers?
4 I'm sure you are chatting about it. Does it have a good ring
5 to it?

6 Mr. Cegelka. Yes, of course. The people who seem to be
7 the most support of it, to me, seem to be the college
8 students. I'm not sure how many people are going to want to
9 go out and take a job--it just occurred to me when you asked
10 Margaret the same question--how many people are going to want
11 to go out and take a service job for lowered salary with a
12 \$5,000 credit when they also have the option of going out and
13 just using a portion of their salary to pay off the debt.

14 I'm worried about the disparity between how low the
15 incomes will be for the volunteer jobs and becoming a normal
16 teacher or businessman; if the disparity is too great, I'm
17 not sure how many people will want to do it, to be honest. I
18 think a lot of people will want to do it, especially initial-
19 ly; over the long run, I don't know.

20 I think if the Government focused some kind of recogni-
21 tion on them, so they would not only get the \$5,000 off the
22 student loan, but they would get some kind of recognition of
23 some sort, then I think a lot more people would be willing to
24 do it--some form of recognition, I don't know what.

1 recognition?

2 Mr. Cegelka. Just off the top of my head, people
3 highlighting projects; having the Senators, like yourself,
4 and the President or whomever having a national service day.
5 I think there is a national service week right now, but
6 having a national service day where you'd talk about the
7 value of national service and give some examples of people who
8 have done positive things so it seems like kind of a romantic
9 thing for people to do, maybe--that's just off the top of my
10 head. I haven't really thought about it.

11 Senator Dodd. Do you get invited, for instance, in
12 Windham to the local chamber, the rotary club, or have other
13 volunteers been asked to come and talk about what they are
14 doing in the community?

15 Mr. Cegelka. I haven't, no, but I haven't really tried.
16 I haven't ever really thought about that.

17 Senator Dodd. I was just wondering if there is any
18 local recognition.

19 Mr. Cegelka. Have I gotten any local recognition?

20 Senator Dodd. Not just you specifically.

21 Mr. Cegelka. Or anybody--not that I know. There are
22 lots of little local papers that get delivered to the houses
23 and so on, and sometimes they highlight what schools are
24 doing or what some people are doing in the community. So some
people do get awards, but I think if someone besides a city

1 councilman or someone wanted to put a little emphasis on it,
2 I think it would grow, and I think more people would be
3 interested in it.

4 Senator Dodd. Well, again, we are very fortunate to
5 have you in the State. Your statement this morning was
6 excellent, just first-rate, and we really appreciate it.

7 Mr. Cegelka. Thank you.

8 Senator Dodd. Kathleen, just a couple of questions, and
9 then I'll turn to my colleagues. One of the fascinating
10 things about your program that I like an awful lot is the
11 public/private partnership aspects of it. I think we need to
12 do more and more of that, obviously, with limited resources.
13 I wonder what the reaction of local businessmen has been to
14 this project and to VISTA in general; how do they respond,
15 and do we do enough, in your mind? And Margaret, I might ask
16 you to come back and comment at some point on this, given
17 Bill's answer to this question. Are we doing enough--and I
18 don't mean necessarily the award aspect--but here is something
19 that is going on in your community through traditional
20 vehicles of communication to the local weekly or monthly
21 luncheons or whatever that various organizations have
22 throughout the country, and how they react, and how they see
23 this program as being wasteful Government spending, or
24 whether they see it as something that is really bringing some
benefits to the community.

1 Ms. Wilken. I can only address the issue of VISTA, and
2 I don't think that it is well-known what VISTA workers do. I
3 think that we are probably not recognized. And when I speak
4 to people outside the realm of Government, I get the same
5 kind of response: "Oh--that's still around?" or "What is
6 that? Is that like the Peace Corps?" No one is really sure
7 what it is. So I think there is a lack of publicity, and
8 that needs to be generated.

9 When I deal with small businessmen and people in the
10 corporate world, not just VISTA--because I always tell them I
11 am a VISTA volunteer, and I sometimes need to go into a
12 little more detail about what that entails with my program--
13 but I think they are fascinated with the idea. We rarely
14 have doors shut in our faces. Frequently, we will get small
15 donations from small businessmen who said they read about us
16 in the paper, or read about this project, and they would like
17 to make a donation to it.

18 So I think people are ready for that public/private
19 partnership.

20 Senator Dodd. Well, I'm glad to hear that. I think
21 we've got to do a better job of getting the word out in our
22 communities. It need not necessarily be in national news,
23 but on a local basis of communicating.

24 Margaret, what was the reaction of the business community
to VISTA volunteers in your area, to the extent there was any?

1 Ms. Goolsby. Basically, the same thing. People didn't
2 really know. Usually, when I say I'm a VISTA volunteer, I
3 start with a little speel about it's just like the Peace
4 Corps program or whatever, and they say, "Oh, that sounds
5 really great, really interesting." People are just glad that
6 we are working on what we are working on and that there is a
7 contribution going on.

8 Senator Dodd. Interestingly, several people do have
9 that notion of "Is that still around?" They do remember it,
10 but it's interesting that they are still raising the question
11 whether or not it is still there, which indicates sort of
12 the--to use Pay Moynihan's line--the benign neglect, if you
13 will, of these programs over the last number of years; they
14 just didn't get the kind of attention that they probably
15 deserved.

16 Kathleen, you are a single mother--

17 Ms. Wilken. No, I'm not a single mother. But I have a
18 daughter.

19 Senator Dodd. --that's the point I was getting at--you
20 have a daughter, and you are raising a daughter and being a
21 volunteer. I raised this issue with Mr. Edelman earlier in
22 terms of the child care aspects of this. I wonder if you
23 might share with us how difficult that is, not just in your
24 own case, but others you may know of who are in a similar
situation.

1 Ms. Wilken. Sure. Child care isn't an issue for me
2 because my daughter is 12, but it certainly is an issue
3 whenever you are taking a parent out of a home. We encounter
4 this daily. Mothers can't go to prenatal care because there
5 aren't available child care providers who are willing to take
6 care of a child on a short-term basis. So it certainly would
7 translate into a necessary component of any volunteer
8 program, because when you are living on a subsistence stipend
9 you certainly are not going to be able to afford to pay child
10 care out of that.

11 Senator Dodd. Well, you heard the response of Mr.
12 Edelman, and hopefully we will be able to sort of level the
13 playing field a little on that issue.

14 There are two last points I'd like to raise with you.
15 One is the educational aspect and how important is that.
16 Senator Wellstone talked about the nontraditional student and
17 how important this is to you, but I wonder if you might
18 comment. You have some student loans that you have to pay
19 back, and as you know, the President has provided the
20 volunteers with \$5,000 of loan forgiveness for each year of
21 service. How critical or how important is that to someone
22 like yourself?

23 Ms. Wilken. I think it is very important, especially
24 for young people just starting out. I'm saddled with \$15,000
worth of student loans, and because my husband is employed,

1 it isn't going to make a significant difference to me; but
2 for a young person just starting out as a single person,
3 thinking about buying a home or a car, that is going to be a
4 debt that is going to hang over their head, and I think that
5 their quality of life will be much different.

6 Senator Dodd. I'm glad to hear you say that, and I
7 think all of us agree with that as well.

8 Finally, I am very interested in the home visiting
9 program, and in the committee we have had various legislative
10 ideas to promote home visiting. And I was intrigued with the
11 general notion, and I wonder if you might just elaborate
12 briefly, on why someone who is not a social worker per se, or
13 a professional social worker, but who comes from the community
14 is so vital to the home visiting concept. I wonder if you
15 might just share your thoughts with us on that point.

16 Ms. Wilken. Certainly. I think that home visitors who
17 come from a certain area are able to gain access in the home
18 because they are not perceived as being threatening. I think
19 a lot of times, when home visitors come in, especially if a
20 family is in crisis, there are concerns about who are they
21 going to tell, especially in communities where they are not
22 real sure of the system or where there is a lot of mistrust
23 of the system; I think they are real worried that they will
24 lose their children or that they will lose the benefits that
they are receiving. That's the case when you have a number

1 of social service agencies that are providing services to
2 families. They have people coming through their homes
3 constantly, and they don't know how to control it anymore.
4 But when a home visitor from the neighborhood comes in and
5 said, "Wait a minute--you don't have to have all these people
6 here Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Let's
7 see if we can collaborate and pull them together, and I'll
8 give them the information they need," then the residents and
9 the parents are able to feel like they have some control and
10 some empowerment in their lives.

11 Senator Dodd. I that's a very, very good point, and
12 appreciate your additional comments on it.

13 Thank you all again very much. Let me turn to my
14 colleague, Senator Wellstone.

15 Senator Wellstone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going
16 to ask one question, and I apologize for having to leave in
17 about 5 or 10 minutes--I don't want to, but it's just crazy
18 when you have two things you really want to be at at the same
19 time.

20 I actually was thinking of a different kind of question,
21 and I hope I can do a good job with this, because it is kind
22 of critical. And the reason it is critical is that I am such
23 a big believer in community service. But let me try it out,
24 anyway.

First, I do want to mention to you, Bill, that your work

1 highlights the fact that when we talk about community
2 service, VISTA, whatnot, that we aren't just talking urban,
3 but we are also talking smaller town and rural America. I
4 think that is real important.

5 This is my question. I heard the word "empowerment"
6 used a number of different times. How do we make sure that
7 with VISTA, or what will become our national community
8 service program, that we have a diversity when it comes to
9 the men and women who are doing the community service? How
10 do we make sure that communities themselves are defining the
11 priorities and what needs to be done, so that it isn't just
12 top-down, if you will, "do goodism"? And how do we make sure
13 that it actually makes a difference in terms of change?

14 Margaret, I came in after you spoke, but you talked
15 about identifying a problem, and then going to a credit union
16 and asking the "Why?" question--that is, people are homeless,
17 and why, what do we do. If there is no economic development,
18 why, and what do we do.

19 The reason I ask this question is that I was a community
20 organizer, and we always did a lot of empowerment work, and I
21 remember that a lot of people both in urban and rural
22 communities used to say about VISTA--and it bothers me a
23 little that people don't know about VISTA any longer--they
24 used to say, well, the VISTA volunteers come, and they do
whatever they were here to do, and it is undoubtedly a

1 learning experience for them, but when all is said and done,
2 nothing really changes in any substantial way in our com-
3 munities.

4 So I'd like to raise this question about how we make
5 sure that this does become an empowerment program--not just
6 good for the individual VISTAs, not just an educational
7 experience, but also a program that actually makes a dif-
8 ference in terms of the betterment of the lives of the people
9 who live in the community; giving the community more of a
10 voice, giving the community more say and more power.

11 Any of you can take a crack at that if it makes sense to
12 you, and if it doesn't, tell me I'm out of line and I won't
13 take that personally.

14 Ms. Wilken. Well, I think, Senator Wellstone, that the
15 issue of empowerment is an important one when you deal with
16 communities, and I think that a lot of times, when people go
17 into a community, they aren't part of the community, and they
18 don't listen to what the people truly are saying. They go in
19 with a preconceived notion of what they think would be good
20 for that community, and that may not be what that community
21 needs.

22 One of our Way to Grow programs which operates in the
23 Phillips community--Way to Grow is structured in such a way
24 that we normally serve children prenatally through 6 years
old, but in this community, the community said, "We don't

1 want that. We want prenatal care. Period. The end. That's
2 what we want." So by listening to what the people said
3 instead of us bringing a program in, we were able to empower
4 that community and to make them feel like they made a
5 difference in the lives of their pregnant moms.

6 I think that that is the key, is listening.

7 Senator Wellstone. Thank you. That's a very concrete
8 answer.

9 Ms. Goolsby. At the Partnership, one thing that we have
10 been doing is town meetings, and having people come in and
11 voice their concerns about credit and that type of thing, and
12 we are going to continue to do that with the credit union.

13 Also, when I came as a VISTA, we were just organizing,
14 and now we have a credit union, so there is something
15 concrete.

16 Senator Wellstone. Oh, I think so, yes.

17 Ms. Goolsby. And it is community run, primarily by
18 volunteers, not just VISTAs, but I have a corps of about 20
19 volunteers that I supervise, and the board of directors is
20 all volunteers who are involved and are making decisions
21 about this type of organization.

22 Mr. Cegelka. Obviously, it does have to come from the
23 ground up. In my project, I work with a community action
24 program, which obviously is able to identify the problems
25 that exist in the communities, and then they set the guide-

1 lines for what the project is going to be. All I did was go
2 into the community the first couple weeks, and they submerged
3 me in all the areas--the soup kitchens, the Head Start
4 programs, the emergency homeless shelter--and I found out all
5 the things that go on in the community. And once they
6 defined the parameters of what I was going to be doing, then
7 I just executed the job. But I agree--the project for VISTA
8 that I did is a project that you leave, and it is self-
9 sustaining after you are gone. It does have to come from the
10 ground up. I'm not sure how--utilizing the resources that
11 are already out there would be the only way I could think to
12 answer that question.

13 Senator Wellstone. I appreciate it, and Mr. Chairman, I
14 think Senator Wofford actually will have much to add to this
15 with his questions because he really has had a lifetime's
16 work with this. I just have a sense it's an idea whose time
17 has come. I think there is a yearning for this in the
18 country, and I'm just hoping that there is a methodology
19 built into it whereby the men and women who are doing this
20 are doing it in terms of the needs defined by the community,
21 that they are doing that kind of listening, Kathleen, that it
22 is more bottom-up than top-down--and I don't think this is
23 just rhetoric--and where there is a diversity of people who
24 are doing this, so we have people who are from the com-
25 munities, working in the communities. And finally, I really

1 hope there is a social change orientation built into it so
2 that the kind of thing that you were able to do, Margaret,
3 happens in a lot of communities--not so much for people, but
4 with people.

5 Thank you.

6 Senator Dodd. Thank you very much, Senator.

7 Senator Wofford?

8 Senator Wofford. Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that I missed
9 most of the testimony. I have read what I had here to read.

10 I was on the health care front, which is another one
11 that draws me in this country, and I think this is very
12 interesting, because at least two of the three of you--and
13 I'm not sure about Margaret's work, and you can correct me--
14 but two of the three of you were concentrating to a very
15 significant extent on what you can do to help delivery health
16 care in this country--the home visit program, and your
17 community clinic. It shows me what a far larger number of
18 people in service to America, VISTAs and others, in the
19 national service program, can do to help make good health
20 care a right and a reality for every American.

21 Just imagine what could be done in terms of health
22 education, preventive care, immunizations, which are part of
23 your program I just read--let us say the quantum jump in
24 full-time volunteer service is in 5 years to 150,000.

Imagine what 150,000 full-time people like you could be doing

1 in this country, what change--as Bill said, it's the American
2 way to change America.

3 Second, I was struck by how the full-time volunteering
4 in each of your cases is leveraging a lot of other volunteers,
5 citizen action. The full-time service is enabling a whole
6 team of people to work together. So again, imagine what the
7 ground troops of full-time volunteers could do for making
8 citizen service such a common program in this country.

9 Those are two observations, and in passing, my colleague
10 Martin Rogers was reminding me that on VISTA, ACTION programs,
11 its relationship to a national service program and to a
12 Corporation for National Service, in 1979 I was testifying in
13 the House of Representatives before now Senator Simon--he is
14 going to show me my old testimony--making many of the points
15 that you are making here today. So keep at it. I have been
16 at it for a while.

17 And I see in this room Mimi Major, Fran Butler, Josie
18 Heath and others who have kept at it during slow years, dry
19 years, and that leads me now to the question that I'd love to
20 hear anything more you have to say about--this question of
21 recognition. If we believe that service to our community for
22 an intense period of a year, or even if we believe in full-
23 time service in a summer as an intense experience, but a year
24 or more of full-time service, if we believe it should become
the common expectation and the common experience of all

1 Americans coming of age, and of all ages--that's our next
2 panel--what do we do to market it more? I think VISTA has
3 been under a shadow of not having adequate marketing in this
4 country--I am using the business terminology. The system
5 proposed by the President and before us now is going to be a
6 growth according to the market, that is, how many young
7 people want to serve and then how effective it is, and how
8 communities and agencies and taxpayers conclude that it is
9 worthwhile and cost-effective. How do we get that recognition
10 more?

11 You have suggested a national day, and we have a bill
12 before us that I have sponsored for making Martin Luther
13 King's birthday not just a day of speeches, but a day of
14 action in which we highlight for one day what people do to
15 realize the dream that Martin Luther King talked about.

16 In your experience, do admissions offices in colleges
17 now give weight to a period of full-time service or volunteer
18 service part-time in admitting you to college? Are employers
19 beginning to ask, the way they now ask why didn't you finish
20 high school--we don't send anybody to jail who doesn't finish
21 high school, but it is a common expectation--are we reaching
22 the point where employers are going to be asking why haven't
23 you done some period of community service? Do any of the
24 three of you have any thoughts on what, together, we could do
to not keep this light under a bushel basket, but highlight

1 it in a way that values it and helps get people to think that
2 it is worthwhile and to encourage people to do it?

3 Mr. Cegelka. On the example of college entrance exams
4 and the consideration of volunteer service in admissions, I
5 think just the enactment of the program itself so that
6 community service becomes more commonplace with people of my
7 age group or with any age group--but if you are talking
8 specifically about college applications, most are 18--I think
9 just the fact that the program would be instituted would in
10 itself kind of raise expectations of community service
11 throughout the Nation, and I think people would be looking
12 for things that you have done.

13 Senator Wofford. So the law itself is a kind of teacher.

14 Mr. Cegelka. Yes, exactly. On that subject, that is
15 what I would think.

16 Ms. Goolsby. Well, in school, no one ever asked me on
17 jobs. I think what will happen is that, just like with the
18 military, as more people become involved, they will start to
19 ask about it. Like with my military experience, when people
20 see it on my resume, they have a lot of questions. So as
21 more people volunteer, I think it will be incorporated.

22 One thing that really affected me was that in school, I
23 was taking an agricultural course about plant breeding, and
24 my professor was in the Peace Corps, and he had asked a Peace
Corps volunteer to come in and talk about the program, and

1 that was something that really sparked my interest.

2 Senator Wofford. This is an interesting point--to what
3 extent we organize effectively VISTAs and Peace Corps
4 volunteers going into high schools and colleges and becoming
5 essentially the recruiters for another generation of full-
6 time volunteers.

7 Ms. Goolsby. I think it is a good idea. I think it
8 would make a difference.

9 Senator Wofford. Are VISTAs organized to do that when
10 they finish? I know there was an organization, the Friends
11 of VISTA, that fought to keep it alive and succeeded in very
12 dark times--but do they organize VISTAs to help create the
13 next VISTA?

14 Mr. Cegelka. Not that I know of. I was just at the in-
15 service training, and one of the female VISTAs came up with
16 the idea of an alumni association similar to Friends of
17 VISTA, where people would lobby, or go to their communities
18 and tell people about what they do. And with Windham Area
19 Community Action Program, they are trying to add more VISTAs
20 to the Community Action Program, trying to get more VISTAs
21 onboard to do additional service and different projects.
22 They asked me to go with them to two of the local colleges
23 for half a day each. Brian Tahegan, a VISTA recruiter in
24 Region 1, was there; I was there, and a representative from

the Community Actin Program was there, so they had all

1 aspects of it--they had the ACTION official, they had the
2 person from the Community Action Program that they had worked
3 for, and someone who was doing a project like that--and it
4 worked out really well. The students were really interested
5 and were asking all three of us different questions.

6 So I think it could be really effective. I had never
7 thought of that before, but it seems pretty simple, and it
8 seems like it would be a really effective thing to do.

9 Ms. Wilken. I just recently have been asked to come to
10 my daughter's school and talk about VISTA. Her school is
11 nontraditional K to 12. And I think that interesting seniors
12 in high school especially, in the idea of community service
13 is a very viable way to market this idea. I also think that,
14 talking to college graduating groups--you know, most colleges
15 have business associations or sociology associations for
16 people who are majoring in that area--and no one from the
17 university has contacted me about coming and doing that. And
18 I went to the sociology department and volunteered to do it,
19 and no one has yet contacted me.

20 Senator Wofford. When Senator Dodd went forth in the
21 Peace Corps in the sixties, and Senator Rockefeller--neither
22 of us a Senator then--went as a VISTA to West Virginia, a lot
23 of us in those days thought of one, big domestic Peace Corps,
24 run like the Peace Corps, out of Washington, but sending
people everywhere around the country. Now it is coming up in

1 a very different way; it is coming up from the bottom, from
2 the grassroots, from communities, from inventions of people
3 like the programs that you are in. And I think it is
4 probably better coming up that way, but the corollary of doing
5 it that way is the asking. In the old days, it came with one
6 President, President Kennedy, asking for a season of service
7 from volunteers. We have again a President who is asking,
8 but today it isn't going to depend just on the President. I
9 think if this is coming up from a thousand different programs
10 around the country, and the bill that we have enables people
11 to go to those programs and build them, instead of one,
12 centrally-organized domestic Peace Corps, then the asking is
13 going to have to come up from those groups and from you, and
14 we are going to have a lot of different people and different
15 ways of asking, it seems to me.

16 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 Senator Dodd. Thank you very much. I am confident all
18 of our witnesses here appreciate the work and involvement of
19 Harris Wofford over the years. You are looking at truly one
20 of the founders and initiators of the domestic volunteer
21 programs and the Peace Corps, and we are very fortunate
22 indeed that we have him in the Senate today to help move from
23 that side of the table to this side of the table. He has
24 been on both sides of it over the years, and he understands
25 them so well.

1 You have been terrific witnesses, and you have done a
2 great job. And I think it is important to note that you
3 really represent thousands of other people by your presence
4 here today. There are different stories and different
5 involvements, and every story has contributed to the strength
6 of our country, so it is very important for us on the
7 committee to have your testimony and the different kinds of
8 things you are doing as examples of how VISTA and volunteers
9 generally can make a real difference in our communities and
10 in the lives of people as well as, as you have all pointed
11 out, in your own lives, which is something that we say all
12 the time, but I'm not sure people really appreciate how much
13 we mean it when we talk about the impact that these programs
14 have had on those of us who have served as volunteers.

15 So we thank you immensely. There may be additional
16 questions from other members of the committee which we'll
17 submit to you and ask you to get back to us in writing if
18 there are some additional issues. But keep up the great
19 work, and thank you again for taking the time to be here this
20 morning. We all deeply appreciate it.

21 Thank you.

22 Senator Wofford. Thank you all.

1 Senator Dodd. Our last panel consists of witnesses who
2 are with the Older American Volunteer Programs, and I am
3 going to ask my colleague from Pennsylvania to introduce
4 Colonel Frank Parry, if he would. Colonel, we welcome you
5 here this morning. You've got one of your two Senators on
6 the committee, so we'll give him the honor of presenting you
7 to the committee.

8 Senator Wofford. And the other Senator is also a
9 cosponsor of the national service bill.

10 Senator Dodd. Yes, he is.

11 Senator Wofford. Mr. Chairman, it is a delight to
12 introduce Colonel Frank Parry from Montgomery County, PA.
13 And as our younger witnesses depart, I want them to know that
14 part of the scheme that some of us have dreamed of is that
15 there needs to be a pincers movement in this country between
16 the younger volunteers of the Peace Corps and VISTAs and
17 others, and older volunteers and people in service at all
18 ages, but at the other end of the career spectrum, I think if
19 we could get a large army of people young and people much
20 older, we might be able to wake up the rest of middle-aged
21 society.

22 Colonel Parry began his national service most ap-
23 propriately in the Marines and the military services, and he
24 is now pioneering in new forms of civilian service. And as
a World War II Army Air Corps man, I salute you with an old,

1 rusty salute for both kinds of service, the military and the
2 civilian service, both of which are part of the concept of
3 national service.

4 Colonel Parry is an active member of the Retired Senior
5 Volunteer Program and is chairman of the board of directors
6 for RSVP of Montgomery County. He has been particularly
7 involved in the Volunteer Executive Consultants Project, a
8 corps of retired business and professional persons who
9 provide management advice and expertise in teams to nonprofit
10 organizations. He is one of some 450,000 RSVP participants
11 nationwide and about 18,000 in the Commonwealth of Pennsyl-
12 vania. And I am glad he has with him Addie Sugarman, the
13 executive director of the Montgomery County RSVP, which is
14 said to be or believes that it is the very best one in the
15 whole country. That's the kind of competition we invite all
16 other communities around the country to join us in.

17 I am just very pleased that you here, and I am looking
18 with equally great interest to the panel that you are a part
19 of today. I would also note that the kinds of programs we
20 are talking about are an example of Federal-State-public-
21 private partnerships. I note that in your Montgomery Country
22 program, the majority of the money comes from non-Federal
23 funding, however significant I think the \$74,000 of Federal
24 money is.

So we very much look forward to hearing your testimony

1 and equally the testimony of our friends from Maryland and
2 Massachusetts.

3 Senator Dodd. Thank you very much, Senator. I don't
4 know if you were here when I made the point that Margaret
5 Goolsby, one of our previous witnesses, was a translator,
6 spent 4 years in the United States Army and was a translator
7 in Arabic and the dialects of Syrian, and became a VISTA
8 volunteer upon leaving the Army. I think having had that
9 kind of experience is invaluable. There were some of us who
10 served in the Army and the Peace Corps. I did the Army after
11 the Peace Corps at Fort Dix, NJ, where I did my basic
12 training, and I found both experiences to be tremendously
13 valuable. And obviously, we don't have the same needs we did
14 in the past--but both experiences were tremendously enriching
15 to me as an individual, and great lessons can be learned from
16 both of them. So we are honored, Colonel, with your presence
17 here today.

18 Let me introduce our other panelists. Wilhelmenia
19 Mayden is from Maryland. Senator Mikulski very much wanted
20 to be here and will have a statement to put in the record, but
21 she is busy with other committee hearings and asked me to ask
22 you to forgive her in her absence here.

23 Wilhelmenia is a Foster Grandparent. She is from
24 Baltimore, where she volunteers at the Emily Price Jones Head
Start Center. She has participated in the program since

1 1986, and has been working with Head Start children for
2 nearly 4 years. She is the mother of two and has several
3 grandchildren, and in addition to that, she cares for her own
4 mother, who is 94, which is wonderful to hear.

5 Edith Courville and Helen Fiske--let me see if I can get
6 this right. Edith is a Senior Companion, and you are the
7 Senior Companion to Helen Fiske's mother. Did I get that
8 right?

9 Ms. Courville. That's right.

10 Senator Dodd. Edith, I'm just going to say you are over
11 50 and leave it at that; you are a fellow New Englander, from
12 Worcester, where you have lived almost all your life, going
13 back to the time of your childhood. You worked in the
14 garment industry during World War II and retired a few years
15 ago, and you have been volunteering for 9 years since just
16 after retirement. You currently have four clients, including
17 Hilda Corbin, who is 89 and homebound.

18 Edie visits Hilda once a week. They enjoy talking,
19 knitting, and a variety of other things you are going to tell
20 us about in your testimony.

21 Helen Fiske, as I pointed out, is Hilda's daughter and
22 also lives in Worcester. Helen, who has six children of her
23 own, provides care for her mother. So we are interested in
24 hearing both of your testimonies this morning on the impor-
tance of this. We want to hear from the volunteers as well

1 as from the family perspective of how these programs can be
2 helpful to people.

3 So we are deeply grateful to all of you for being here
4 and participating. I hope you found the first two panels
5 interesting testimony. Any and all statements, documents,
6 supporting evidence, whatever you'd like to have be included
7 in the record, we will so include it.

8 Colonel, we'll begin with you.

9 STATEMENTS OF COLONEL FRANK PARRY, CHAIRMAN OF THE
10 BOARD, RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM, MONTGOMERY
11 COUNTY, PA; WILHELMENIA MAYDEN, FOSTER GRANDPARENT,
12 EMILY PRICE JONES HEAD START CENTER, BALTIMORE, MD;
13 EDITH COURVILLE, SENIOR COMPANION TO HILDA CORBIN,
14 WORCESTER, MA; AND HELEN FISKE, DAUGHTER OF HILDA
15 CORBIN, WORCESTER, MA

16 Colonel Parry. It is an honor to speak for the almost
17 450,000 RSVP volunteers nationwide. I first got into
18 volunteering when I was ending up my business career and
19 started volunteering at Chestnut Hill Hospital in Philadel-
20 phia. At the same time, I became a Big Brother to a 9-year-
21 old boy. The first time I took this youngster out for a
22 walk, he found a frog, and he managed to capture it and put
23 it in a little paper cup; on the way home in the car, he
24 looked up at me with his big, blue eyes, this fatherless boy,
and said, "This is the greatest day of my life." I was

1 hooked on volunteering right then.

2 About the same time, I saw an add in the local newspaper
3 for the Volunteer Executive Consultants of RSVP of Montgomery
4 County. This is a group of about 100 business and profes-
5 sional men whose experience spans the spectrum from accounting
6 to computer science to engineering, and we put together teams
7 which help nonprofits. Let me give you an example.

8 There was a lady named Peggy Ann Dolan, whose daughter
9 died of cancer, and she wanted to do something in memory of
10 her daughter, so she was going to set up the Dolan Foundation,
11 and she didn't know how to go about it. So she came to one
12 of our workshops that described how to set up foundations,
13 and now we have a volunteer who does all their computer work
14 and another one who does their accounting. Without us, she
15 couldn't have gotten started, and she will tell anybody that
16 any time.

17 We have other programs which would be of great interest
18 to you, I think. For instance, a few weeks ago, I visited
19 the Penbrook Middle School in Lansdale, where we have seven
20 tutors and two volunteers who work in the library. One of
21 the tutors is an 80-year-old man whom I sat down and chatted
22 with. He tutors three youngsters, 12 to 14 years old, twice
23 a week. I asked him why he does this, and he said because
24 when he was a youngster--he came from a broken family--he
would have gone under if somebody hadn't reached out a

1 helping hand a pulled him up. So he is now giving back to
2 the community what he got as a youngster.

3 At the same school, I told the principal that we had a
4 speakers' bureau. One of their classes was studying Germany
5 just before World War II. We happened to have a volunteer
6 who left Germany in 1938 at the age of 14. He came into the
7 class and actually brought it alive.

8 A couple of years ago, the Upper Dublin High School was
9 sending a field trip to Gettysburg battlefield, and they
10 asked us if we had some volunteers who would like to go. We
11 had volunteers, all right--we have five of them, all of whose
12 grandparents fought in the Battle of Gettysburg. So you can
13 imagine how this enlivened that field trip.

14 Senator Dodd. Have you read Killer Angels yet, the book
15 about the Battle of Gettysburg?

16 Colonel Parry. No, I haven't.

17 Senator Dodd. I highly recommend it to you.

18 Colonel Parry. We also have programs for the disabled.
19 In a program called Home Friends, we, together with the
20 Variety Club of Philadelphia, find some family that needs
21 help--a mother with a disabled or handicapped child who need
22 some respite. I had a dear friend who went to a family in
23 Norristown that had a boy with Down's Syndrome who was about
24 a year and a half old, and a blind boy, 8 years old. So she
would go and help out, read to the blind boy and take care of

1 the other one, so the mother would have 2 or 3 hours once a
2 week to do something else, just to relax.

3 Incidentally, my friend had cancer, and she kept doing
4 this until 2 months before her death, when she became too
5 weak to be able to drive over there. So this was of benefit
6 to all of them.

7 We have another program called Talk to Me, which is a
8 home reassurance program. A lady in her 80's would call this
9 girl 8 years old every afternoon when she came home from
10 school, and they got to be great friends. Then one day,
11 after about 7 or 8 months, the lady didn't call her. So the
12 child called the lady, but no answer. So she had the self-
13 assurance to call up the RSVP coordinator, and they sent
14 somebody out there, and the lady had died. But this had been
15 a two-way relationship also.

16 We have a program called our Eldercare Corps. We have
17 about 100 volunteers who go into the homes of the frail
18 elderly and help them with laundry or paying bills, or just
19 visiting, light housekeeping, you name it, helping them out.
20 It is sometimes difficult to get volunteers to do this. It
21 is very hard work. Anyway, we talked this lady who is in her
22 mid-eighties into visiting another lady in Glenside, I think
23 it was, who was in her nineties. At first, she thought she
24 couldn't do it, but now they are great friends, and that 3
25 hours they spend together each day is of enormous value to

1 both of them.

2 I could go on with a lot of stories like this, but I
3 think that's enough to show you--

4 Senator Dodd. Of course. Those are important stories.
5 Those people put a face on these things, rather than just
6 numbers.

7 Colonel Parry. That is right. And there is an enormous
8 potential of senior volunteers in this country, so anything
9 you can do to help the program go forward, we appreciate it.

10 Senator Dodd. Colonel, we appreciate that immensely.
11 Those are great individual anecdotes, good examples of people
12 helping other people, showing how these programs can make a
13 real difference in people's lives. And there is no way you
14 can put a price tag on that. I don't know how you value
15 that. Some people are only impressed by dollars and cents.
16 And what is the value you put on this? I don't know. But I
17 do know that if you don't have it, it costs you a lot as a
18 society when you don't have that kind of involvement.

19 Senator Wofford. Mr. Chairman, could I just interrupt?

20 Senator Dodd. Absolutely.

21 Senator Wofford. Despite what I said earlier, I am told
22 I have another front that I am called to, and I'm going to
23 have to read your testimony, and I am very sorry to miss it.

— 24 On the cost savings, I agree with the chairman that the
value is far beyond any dollars, but in Montgomery County, we

1 estimate that community agencies have been saved \$1 million a
2 year by your programs, Colonel. I think that needs to be
3 highlighted, too.

4 Senator Dodd. Absolutely.

5 Colonel Parry. Although I repeat what Senator Dodd
6 said, that the real value is the emotional support back and
7 forth.

8 Senator Wofford. Yes, I agree.

9 Senator Dodd. Thank you very much, Harris, once again.
10 It is a pleasure to have you with us.

3 11 [The prepared statement of Colonel Parry follows:]

1 Senator Dodd. Wilhelmenia, we thank you for being here.

2 STATEMENT OF MS. MAYDEN

3 Ms. Mayden. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to
4 testify on behalf of the Foster Grandparents Program.

5 I have two grandsons myself, Jay and Adam. Jay is 8,
6 and Adam is 10. My name is Wilhelmenia Mayden. I am a
7 Foster Grandparent at the Emily Price Head Start Program
8 School 60, in Baltimore, MD. My assignment at the Emily
9 Price Jones Head Start Program began on November 1, 1989. I
10 have been a Foster Grandparent since November 17, 1986.
11 Previous assignments as a Foster Grandparent have been in a
12 mental institution, parent/child center, and a day care
13 center.

14 My role as a Foster Grandparent is to reinforce basic
15 educational and social skills and to provide love and
16 nurturing to those children in the program who have special
17 or exceptional needs, children who have been determined by a
18 medical professional to be mentally or physically limited,
19 HIV-positive, hyperactive; children from misplaced home
20 situations, for example.

21 I take my Foster Grandparent responsibilities very
22 seriously, especially since I am located in a population
23 where a large percentage of biological grandparents are in
24 their mid-thirties.

The children who are fortunate enough to participate in

1 a Head Start Program receive nutritious, well-balanced meals,
2 health monitoring services, including mental care, and are
3 taught basic educational and social skills.

4 Mr. Jerry Yates, ACTION's State director, makes sure
5 that we get our stipends on time, and he works very closely
6 with our project director, Mrs. Brenda Herrel.

7 It has often been said to me by professionals in various
8 disciplines that the wisdom, patience and understanding that
9 can only come about as a result of age and experience has
10 become an invaluable asset to the Head Start Program's
11 environment and success. For this reason, I strongly believe
12 that an intergenerational network of support is essential to
13 the success of the Head Start Program and that the Foster
14 Grandparent Program can provide the foundation for any Head
15 Start Program.

16 Thank you.

17 Senator Dodd. Thank you very much, Wilhelmenia. We'll
18 have some questions for you in a minute, and we thank you
19 immensely for being with us this morning.

20 Ms. Mayden. Thank you.

1 Senator Dodd. Edie--and I wanted to mention, by the
2 way--I mentioned Senator Mikulski not being able to be here--
3 that your Senator, Senator Kennedy, who is chairman of this
4 subcommittee, also has a similar problem, but he wanted me to
5 make sure that his constituents from Worcester were well-
6 treated, and if he heard that you had any problems, he is
7 going to fix me later somehow, he said. But he wanted very
8 much to be here with you this morning and just couldn't get
9 by, so his apologies to both of you.

10 STATEMENT OF MS. COURVILLE

11 Ms. Courville. Thank you very much. I appreciate being
12 able to speak for our elderly who are in need of care and
13 companionship.

14 My name is Edie Courville. I was born in North At-
15 tleboro, MA, and at the age of 10 moved to Worcester, MA,
16 with my family. I wanted to contribute to the war effort, so
17 I became a stitcher at David Clark Company, on military
18 garments. Soon after the war, I was promoted to supervisor
19 of my department, which was now back to manufacturing
20 undergarments for Sears & Roebuck Company. I retired from
21 David Clark in 1983.

22 I enjoy reading and doing craft projects. My favorite
23 crafts are crocheting, knitting, needlework, any handwork.

24 Just 6 months after retiring, a friend began talking
about a volunteer program she was involved in. She told me

1 how wonderful it felt to be helping others. She also
2 explained about the stipend and the reimbursement of travel
3 and meals while visiting clients. I had not been retired for
4 very long; however, my friend was very convincing. I decided
5 to look into the Senior Companion Program.

6 This month, I have been with the program for 9 years. I
7 am 76 years old. Right now, I visit clients of the Visiting
8 Nurse Association of Central Massachusetts. I am part of the
9 special grant sponsored by Visiting Nurse Association of
10 America. I have four clients.

11 I would like to talk about one of my clients, Hilda.
12 Hilda could not be here today because she has a lot of health
13 problems, but her daughter Helen made the trip with us. I
14 have been visiting Hilda once a week for 3 since January. I
15 hope we have a long association.

16 Hilda and I like to do many of the same things we both
17 enjoy, like knitting and crocheting, and we often sit and
18 work on our separate projects while we talk. Hilda has
19 enjoyed reading, and we have found in our chats that we have
20 read many of the same books and enjoy the same authors. I
21 make Hilda lunch when I visit, and we have a cup of tea and
22 continue to talk. We never run out of things to talk about.
23 She loves to reminisce, and we talk about how things used to
24 be--being part of the senior citizen syndrome.

Senator Dodd. We ought to tape those conversations and

1 send them down here. [Laughter.]

2 Ms. Courville. The Senior Companion Program lets me help
3 other people, which makes me feel good. I like to know I am
4 helping ease people's minds. I like to let people talk about
5 their problems because they always feel better after they do.

6 The program keeps me active. When I know I am going to
7 visit someone, it gives me incentive to get up, get dressed,
8 and get out of the house. I have four clients, and we
9 brighten each other's days.

10 I feel the program keeps me up-to-date. I enjoy the in-
11 service trainings every other week. We have physicians,
12 pharmacists, dieticians, HMO speakers, and we do learn a lot
13 which helps myself and the clients, and I pass on information
14 when it is needed.

15 I love to pass along all this information because they
16 don't get out too much, so they don't get to know a lot of
17 these things.

18 I enjoy having time to talk with other companions, many
19 of whom are now my friends. Isolation, loneliness and
20 despair is an illness in itself. Medication is no cure. A
21 visitor, a Senior Companion, is a welcome change in a daily
22 routine. So, what greater reward in life than to love and be
23 loved? And it is great to be needed.

24 Thank you.

Senator Dodd. Amen to that. You say it all, Edith.

1 Thank you very much. I'll have some questions for you in a
2 few minutes. You've got to be a great source of satisfaction
3 and relief to those four individuals and their families, and
4 we are going to hear from one of them now.

1 Senator Dodd. Helen, thank you for coming down. It's a
2 pleasure to have you with us.

3 STATEMENT OF MS. FISKE

4 Ms. Fiske. I want to thank you for allowing me to come
5 down today on behalf of my mom.

6 My name is Helen Fiske. I would like to tell you a
7 little about my mother. Her name is Hilda, and she is 89
8 years old. My mother has many health problems. She has
9 heart trouble, high blood pressure, bad eyes, back and
10 abdominal problems, and pulmonary disease.

11 My mother has eight living children who now range in age
12 from 73 to 55 years old. My mother lives by herself in a
13 rural area.

14 My of my brothers and sisters are in poor health or do
15 not live close to my mother. I am responsible for most of my
16 mother's care.

17 I visit my mother almost every day. I take her for her
18 doctor appointments, pick up her prescriptions and groceries,
19 go to the post office for her. I need to make meals for my
20 mother or make sure someone else is taking care of the meals
21 for the day.

22 I also have six children of my own whom I need to help
23 out as much as possible.

— 24 My mother had services through the Visiting Nurse
Association of Worcester. When the services were coming in,

1 my mother used to cry as people would leave, saying, "Why
2 can't they send someone just to talk to me?" I understood
3 the nurses and aides were busy and had to do the job they were
4 placed there to do. My mother was very lonely.

5 I spoke to one of my brothers who said he was going to
6 call the Age Center. He called and spoke to someone in the
7 Senior Companion Program who explained the program and said
8 that if my mother was receiving services through the VNA, we
9 could make a referral for a companion volunteer.

10 In January, Edie started visiting my mother. It is very
11 difficult to describe the change in my mother since these
12 visits began. She is much happier and talks about her visits
13 with Edie as she looks forward to her next visit. She also
14 all about Maine and the past, and we already know all that,
15 so she can't repeat it to us.

16 My mother is a proud woman who wants to remain indepen-
17 dent. She wants to live in her own home. Edie's visits help
18 me to keep my mother at home. I know every Monday I do not
19 need to worry about my mother because Edie is there to visit,
20 and she is not alone.

21 When I have seen my mother and Edie together, they are
22 like sisters; they have a special relationship. Edie is a
23 special person in my mother's life, giving her companionship
24 and filling her lonely days with love and laughter. I don't
know what I would do if they took Edie from her.

1 Thank you.

2 Senator Dodd. Thank you very much, Helen. That pretty
3 much says it all, I think, if there are any doubters.

4 Unfortunately, we have an audience full of the converted
5 here. I wish we could get some folks who are doubting about
6 the wisdom of these particular efforts.

7 Colonel, let me begin with you. And by the way, these
8 questions that I bring up, Wilhelmenia or Edie, if you want
9 to comment on anything, please do; just because I address
10 them to one individual doesn't mean that anyone else can't
11 offer their own comments.

12 In the President's proposal for this expanded national
13 service concept, it calls for lowering the age requirement
14 for participation in the RSVP program from 60 to 55. I just
15 wonder if you might comment, Colonel, on whether you think
16 this will have any significant effect on the program, and are
17 there people who are talking about it or concerned about it,
18 or who welcome it and applaud it?

19 Colonel Parry. We welcome it. Actually, in Pennsylvania
20 just recently, there was a law passed in which a lot of
21 teachers will have the opportunity to retire at age 55. We
22 have a program, part of VEC, which goes around and gives pre-
23 retirement planning seminars, and we have talked to a lot of
24 teachers who are 55 and over, and hopefully, we are recruiting
quite a few of them. So we are delighted to have the age go

1 down to 55. There are a lot of people available. Actually,
2 we have some volunteers who are that age already, but we have
3 to call them "junior" volunteers, which is sort of silly.

4 Senator Dodd. Well, I'm getting precariously close to
5 that age, and I've never quite thought of myself as a senior
6 volunteer, but I think it is a good idea as well.

7 One of the things that you've done, and a couple of
8 other witnesses have talked about, including Kathleen Wilken
9 from Minnesota, is--and I like this idea--getting private
10 participation in these efforts. It is so critically impor-
11 tant. Again, we would all wish there were more resources
12 available, but particularly as a generation of people who have
13 seen a lot of changes in this country and remember days that
14 are a lot more difficult than the ones we are going through--
15 these are tough days, but I suspect some of you here can
16 remember when times were a lot tougher than they are today--
17 but we don't have the resources to do everything we'd like,
18 so getting other people and other organizations to participate
19 is critically important, and certainly in your programs, you
20 have proven the value of that.

21 I wonder if you might talk to us for a minute about the
22 value of the Federal commitment, the Federal dollars, as seed
23 dollars; how important is that in terms of generating the
24 kind of participation you have been able to get, either from
the private sector or local or State government bodies as

1 well?

2 Colonel Parry. The seed money is very important, and of
3 course, it provides us with a firm base each year for our
4 budget. It is true that we do get most of our money, more
5 than half of it, from private foundations and corporations
6 and individual contributions. It is an effort. But it is
7 very important, I think. We do get some money from the State
8 and some from the county as well as the Federal, and this is
9 money that we really count on. So it is all important.

10 We are incorporated, and that is why we are able to take
11 this money from foundations and corporations. It is also the
12 reason we are able to expand our program in all these areas
13 of community need.

14 Senator Dodd. Well, it is very important that that
15 point be made to the skeptics, because there is an assumption
16 that this can all be done on that basis. But what you have
17 just said, and I think it is critically important, is that
18 without that involvement by the Federal Government, that seed
19 effort, a lot of those efforts just would not get off the
20 ground, would not get started at all. Too often, that gets
21 lost in these debates and discussions on this subject matter.

22 Let me ask--and Edie and Wilhelmenia, I want you to
23 comment on this as well--I think it is a wonderful fact that
24 we have almost half a million seniors who are out volunteer-
ing. Let's assume the age doesn't change. Let's keep it at

1 60. That represents about 2 percent of the population in
2 that age category above 60. Now, there are obviously health
3 factors and other obligations that people have. But I wonder
4 how we could do a better job of attracting more people to
5 step forward and become involved in these programs. If we
6 lower the age to 55, we are going to expand considerably the
7 number of people who could become involved. How do we do a
8 better job of attracting more people to step forward?

9 Colonel Parry. We have pretty much the same problem
10 VISTA has--name recognition--RSVP. Even the people I play
11 golf with every week, I keep telling them I'm going to some
12 RSVP thing, and they say, "What's that?" I have told them
13 eight times, and they keep forgetting.

14 Senator Dodd. You must win all the golf matches; if
15 they can't remember what they hit on the last hole, I presume
16 you keep the score. [Laughter.]

17 Colonel Parry. Anyway, if we had some sort of national
18 program, a small one, which would periodically say what RSVP
19 does and is, as well as these other programs, that would be
20 helpful.

21 Senator Dodd. Do they show an interest when you talk to
22 them about it--I mean, even if they forget about it--do they
23 show an interest?

24 Colonel Parry. Every now and then, I recruit one. But
they scratch their heads--"RSVP" means "Repondez, s'il vous

1 plait," to them. So you have to keep working on it.

2 Senator Dodd. I agree.

3 Edie or Wilhelmenia, any thoughts on how we might expand
4 and get more people involved?

5 Ms. Mayden. I think we could advertise a little more by
6 telling the younger people that it would help if they would
7 begin early and learn the way to do these things. If you give
8 them a helping hand, they'll have an early start, and maybe
9 you can keep them in the organization.

10 Senator Dodd. It's an interesting point. Senator
11 Wofford raised the point of VISTAs going out and talking in
12 schools. Now, someone might say this is a long distance
13 between schools and VISTA and seniors, but maybe some of
14 these students would have grandparents--or parents, in some
15 cases--that they could go home and tell about it. Maybe
16 that's not a bad way to not only describe what the program
17 does and how it reaches people, but also a way of communicat-
18 ing.

19 Ms. Mayden. In our program, there are about four
20 people, and all of them are sisters. So you could start by
21 doing it that way, with your family members.

22 Senator Dodd. Edie, any thoughts on that?

23 Ms. Courville. We're always looking for new people to
24 bring into the program. We have put pamphlets put in our
churches and apartment buildings and so on, but it seems that

1 often, the people who have already retired are content to do
2 so, so you've got to kind of arm-wrestle with them to talk
3 them into it. Occasionally, we get somebody coming in, but
4 it is difficult when they get older. They don't want to give
5 up their independence or whatever. But sometimes, talking to
6 family members, they encourage them to get out and do
7 something, so once in a while--but it is difficult.

8 Senator Dodd. I thought you made an excellent point,
9 and I'd ask both of you, Edie and Wilhelmenia--you've got
10 obligations. I mean, you've got your mother, Wilhelmenia,
11 you've got your own children, and you are a busy person.
12 There's an old adage that says if you want to get something
13 done, give the job to a busy person. So maybe you are
14 classic examples of that. But how do you find the time,
15 Wilhelmenia? How do manage to find the time to be involved
16 in these programs with everything else you've got to do?

17 Ms. Mayden. I don't know, but I found it. I spend some
18 time with my son and his wife and their two boys. I wouldn't
19 miss them. I never get too tired for that.

20 Senator Dodd. Yes, Colonel?

21 Colonel Parry. Senator, we just started a program
22 called Service Learning in cooperation with the Norristown
23 school district, which will be integrated into the educational
24 system about service learning, and then our volunteers will
go with the students to some of the people who need to be

1 visited for various reasons--they are handicapped, or
2 elderly, or frail--and we will cooperate in developing this
3 ethic of service learning. We are very encouraged about it.

4 Senator Dodd. I think it is important, and this notion
5 of busyness and busy people--I'm not a physician, but I think
6 Edie hit it on the head. Putting aside the benefit to
7 Helen's mother, Hilda, and the people that you work with,
8 let's be candid--there is a selfish element for those of us
9 who have volunteered that we'll admit if we're honest about
10 it--and you are a healthier person. As you said, getting up
11 in the morning and having a place to go, getting out, keeping
12 moving--someone once, when asked how he stayed so young,
13 said, "I just keep working the body parts." You've got to
14 keep them going; if you don't, then they use their utility.
15 And I think that's an extremely important point, and I think
16 a physician would tell you that one of the ways people stay
17 health is keeping busy. You put in a lot of years in the
18 garment industry, and that's tough work--I am very familiar;
19 I am old enough to have campaigned in the textile operations
20 in Willimantic where young Bill is from, the thread mill
21 there, going up into Putnam and Worcester and Springfield,
22 CT--most of them are all gone today--but that was tough work.
23 What made you decide you wanted to, in a sense, go back to
24 work?

Ms. Courville. As I said, I was retired for 6 months,

1 and that more or less levelled out--what am I going to do
2 now? So I wanted to be a spoke in a wheel that keeps things
3 moving and going.

4 Senator Dodd. And you feel a lot better and healthier
5 for that, don't you?

6 Ms. Courville. Yes, and as you said, a doctor would say
7 that. My doctor says, "Keep moving, keep moving."

8 Senator Dodd. So often, we talk about all the things we
9 do for people, but I think particularly for seniors, it is
10 very worthwhile from a health standpoint to keep active and
11 keep involved; that's what you are saying, in effect.

12 Ms. Courville. Right. But also, mentally, it is
13 wonderful for you because you have to be thinking of the
14 other person, and you won't think as much about yourself--
15 their needs, their wants, or what you can do for them--and
16 that is good for you.

17 Senator Dodd. I want to come back to something you
18 said, Wilhelmenia, which doesn't come as any great surprise
19 to me, but it will to a lot of other people who aren't
20 familiar with teenage pregnancy in the country today. You
21 said that a lot of these grandparents are in their thirties.

22 Ms. Mayden. They are.

23 Senator Dodd. This is something that, a generation ago,
24 was unheard of. I think this is an important point in what
25 you do and what you are involved in. I wonder if you might

1 share with us why you think this program is important in
2 light of that growing statistic as to the number of grandpar-
3 ents in their thirties; why is what you do important in that
4 context for these children's long-term health and benefit?

5 Ms. Mayden. Well, it is very important, because for one
6 thing, you can take an example of yourself or myself. When
7 you think about when you were that young, the things that you
8 were doing and thinking about, and you know as you grew
9 older, you began to think of better things, like more
10 education and a better way of life. And you learn, of all
11 things, more patience. A grandmother at 35 or 38 years old
12 doesn't have too much patience. Now, I could be wrong, but--

13 Senator Dodd. I think you are dead right.

14 Ms. Mayden. About 3 or 4 weeks ago, a grandparent came
15 in and said, "I'm looking for this other grandmother than my
16 granddaughter has been telling me about." So I told her I
17 was the Foster Grandparent. She said, "I couldn't understand
18 her. She just kept talking about you, so I came to school to
19 see you. I wanted to see what you were like." So that is
20 the advantage of waiting a little longer to have children,
21 and then you'll have a little more patience. So I think
22 that's where the Foster Grandparent really comes in.

23 Senator Dodd. And fills a gap.

24 Ms. Mayden. Yes, very much so.

Senator Dodd. I think that's an extremely worthwhile

1 point, and that's the reason I wanted to ask you about it,
2 and I agree with you, in terms of keeping the sense of
3 continuity and lessons in life that traditionally, a grandpa-
4 rent who would be a lot older than 35 or 36 and would have
5 learned those lessons and could pass them on to the grandchil-
6 dren. But today, when many of them are just recently out of
7 their own youth, it is almost impossible to anticipate those
8 kinds of lessons being learned. So I think it is extremely
9 worthwhile that you have mentioned that to us.

10 Edie, I asked you about your own work and being involved
11 and how much healthier you feel and you are as a result. You
12 have four clients, Hilda being one. Could you just take a
13 couple of minutes and tell us about the other three?

14 Ms. Courville. Yes. I have a man who was in the
15 military, has quite a few medals, and travelled a lot during
16 the war, who is bedridden with multiple sclerosis, which my
17 son has. He recently lost his wife, and he is a very lonely
18 person. And his son is there, but everything is new to him--
19 he has lost his mother, and he has care of his father--and he
20 wants more time if we can give it to him eventually. But we
21 have great talks. He has many experiences, and I learn a lot
22 about what went on during the war and so forth through him.

23 Senator Dodd. How much time do you spent with this
24 gentleman?

Ms. Courville. I only go there once a week so far, but

1 we are aiming for more time.

2 Senator Dodd. And you spend about 3 hours with him?

3 Ms. Courville. Yes.

4 Then I have another client, a lady who taught me how to
5 keep score in Scrabble because we play Scrabble a lot, and
6 she is a very, very lovely, patient woman. She has a
7 fractured back and has not been out of her house for months.
8 I visit her twice, 2 hours at a time, because she tires
9 easily.

10 Then, of course, I go to Hilda. And I have another
11 patient, a woman who is a diabetic. We play cards for a
12 couple hours, and then we talk the rest of the time. And if
13 she needs an appointment, I can accompany her in the van,
14 just for companionship. We chat a bit, and we get along very
15 well.

16 Senator Dodd. Someone might think you are turning into
17 a bookie--I mean, playing poker and scrabble, a floating crap
18 game--

19 Ms. Courville. Well, she wins all the time. [Laughter.]
20 But as I said, it is good for us, and we learn a lot of
21 compassion and patience.

22 Senator Dodd. Do you get a chance to talk with other
23 Senior Companions and share your experiences?

— 24 Ms. Courville. Every other week, at the Visiting Nurse
25 Association, we do have the Companions at that particular

1 station, and we do not use names, just initials, and tell the
2 experiences or the problems that happened during the last 2
3 weeks.

4 Senator Dodd. And that is valuable for you to share
5 that information.

6 Ms. Courville. Yes, yes. You learn a lot from their
7 experiences, how to handle things. They are all so different;
8 you wouldn't realize that there are so many different things
9 going on.

10 Then, we have our meetings every other week, which are
11 about 18 stations of different types besides the Senior
12 Volunteers, and that's where we have speakers and learn a
13 lot. But yes, we do get together and discuss all the
14 problems.

15 Senator Dodd. That's terrific.

16 I wanted to ask you, Mrs. Fiske--and I'd ask all of you
17 the same question--you are out there in the field, and you
18 are working with people every, single day. Are there other
19 types of support programs which might be helpful, that you'd
20 like to see some emphasis given to that we aren't involved
21 with today in the various volunteer programs? Are there some
22 things that we are missing, as you look around and as you
23 work with your own clients or work with other people?

24 Helen, do you have any ideas of other support services
25 your mother could use?

1 Ms. Fiske. Well, anything--Edie goes there one day a
2 week for about 3 hours, and sometimes she gets so involved
3 that she stays for 4 hours.

4 Senator Dodd. Is that enough time? That's half a day--

5 Ms. Fiske. That day, I feel that I am free to do what
6 I've got to do, and I don't have to wait in case I get a
7 telephone call or whatever--

8 Senator Dodd. And you are a busy woman. You have six
9 children of your own.

10 Ms. Fiske. Yes, I have six children, also.

11 Senator Dodd. And you have seven brothers and sisters,
12 and you have your mother.

13 Ms. Fiske. Yes. I have a sister in Indiana; I have a
14 sister in Worcester who just had aneurism surgery; my sister
15 Flo lives in Worcester, and she had a stroke; my brother
16 Larry has back and leg problems; Paul had prostate cancer;
17 Richard was in a very bad automobile accident and has steel
18 rods in his legs; and Roger lives all the way in Gloucester,
19 and of course, I live in Leicester, so I am 35-40 minutes
20 away.

21 Senator Dodd. You could have a whole agency just to
22 take care of your family, I think.

23 Ms. Fiske. Yes.

24 Senator Dodd. You are busy, with that many brothers and
25 sisters to worry about, as well as your own children and your

1 mother.

2 Ms. Fiske. Yes, and I have an 11-year-old grandson
3 living in the house, so it gets kind of--

4 Senator Dodd. But just that one day a week makes it
5 easier for you.

6 Ms. Fiske. Yes, it does, because I feel free that day.

7 Senator Dodd. Colonel, any points on this?

8 Colonel Parry. Well, the same thing I mentioned before--
9 -publicity. We do have a speakers' bureau that can speak on
10 almost any subject you want, and we keep telling the schools,
11 and occasionally we do get to go in and be a class resources,
12 and that is very valuable. It's just a question of getting
13 more people to know the capabilities that are available, and
14 we work on that all the time, but we could use all the help
15 we could get on that.

16 Senator Dodd. I'm sure.

17 This has been very helpful to me, and we'll have a
18 record of this. I am going to keep the record open for some
19 additional questions that other members may have. But as we
20 build the case, having you here before the committee is very
21 important to the committee and important to the United States
22 Senate in building this record. As I said, with all due
23 respect to the staffs who work and work very hard, and tell
24 us about the numbers of people and the numbers of hours spent
and the amount of dollars spent and so forth--and that's all

1 very helpful--but I think the best witnesses are the people
2 who are actually out there, doing it; I think they make the
3 strongest case. So I am deeply appreciative to the four of
4 you and your predecessors on our first panel for being here
5 and telling about what you are doing, what they are doing,
6 helping us to build and make this case as we expand national
7 service. And I am determined to see to it that our existing
8 programs are not lost in the shuffle. As the watchdog on
9 this--and it has to come through here--no one is going to
10 roll over you or roll over these other organizations; they
11 are too valuable to this country. As we expand the notion of
12 service, we can learn an awful lot from some very good
13 programs that have had a wonderful effect on people's lives.
14 And as we expand these ideas and involve more people and do
15 some of the other things that President Clinton is talking
16 about, I think we are only enriched by your experiences and
17 the experiences of the various ps represented here at the
18 table this afternoon. We have kept you a long time, and I am
19 deeply appreciative, and I know the other members of the
20 committee are as well, for you taking the time to be here
21 this morning. And we'll keep you posted on how this is
22 proceeding.

23 If you have any additional thoughts or ideas, please let
24 us know, in a note to us, identifying any other things that
you may not have mentioned here this morning that you wished

1 you had. The record will remain open, and we'll take the
2 evidence and include it in our record.

3 Ms. Fiske. And could I just add that no money can
4 anybody's health and happiness.

5 Senator Dodd. I agree. A little human companionship
6 goes a long way and means an awful lot.

7 I want to thank several people who were very instrumental
8 in helping us put this hearing together today. Nora Ma
9 from ACTION was tremendously helpful; Fran Butler from
10 Older American Volunteer Programs, and Mimi Major as we
11 from Friends of VISTA, did an excellent job in helping
12 the hearing together. And my own staff--Suzanne Day, S
13 Flanagan, and Judy and Molly and others--all really did
14 terrific job in making this possible--and the minority
15 as well.

16 So we thank everyone for being part of this. Stay
17 and watch how this unfolds. I think you are going to
18 what you see as we expand this program and involve more
19 people as volunteers for America.

20 Thank you very much. The subcommittee will stand
21 adjourned until further call of the chair.

22 [Whereupon, at 12:35 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]