

and labor, and elected city and county officials. For the most part all of the members are directly involved in some aspects of the war against poverty.

I would like to emphasize the necessity of active participation and leadership on the part of local government, for it is local officials who are most directly involved and concerned in this endeavor. In Chicago, for example, the board of health, the police department, the human relations commission, board of education, commission on youth welfare, Chicago Park District, Cook County Department of Public Aid, Illinois Youth Commission, Chicago Housing Authority, and the Cook County Board, are all carrying on direct programs in education, recreation, public assistance, health, housing human relations, community improvement, and employment.

They have the resources, the staff, and the know-how which, combined with the contributions of citizen agencies, can formulate a program that the entire community will support. In our first organization meeting last Friday we asked every representative to submit the program his agency was now carrying on and in our next meeting we will blend these programs into a common effort.

We will work together to improve and expand existing programs and initiate new ones. Certainly this is one program that should be beyond any partisan or political consideration. Regardless of what party we represent, all of us must agree that no person in our society should be deprived of the benefits that our American society can give.

There is one more vital element in this total picture which I believe should be given grave consideration. The basic goal in our entire attack on poverty is to provide jobs. It is not necessary, especially before this group, to give any detailed account of the penalties that our society pays for unemployment. We do know that within this affluent society we have 5 percent unemployed, we do know that automation at the present time is eliminating more jobs than it creates. We do know that there is a diminishing need for unskilled labor, in an area where the people are most helpless. We do know that it hits the older worker and the younger one. We do know that the problem is greatly aggravated among the minority groups.

To meet our immediate problems, confident that our private enterprise system will meet the challenge in the long run, we need meaningful work now for our adult population and for our youth to accompany their education or retraining, or to follow it as they await economic growth to create jobs for them.

It appears to me that there is no better way to rescue able-bodied, employable, but unemployed, men from their present eroding idleness which slowly kills moral and initiative, destroys the spirit, and infects the offspring, than to give them meaningful work at decent wages.

I hope that if such a bill were adopted it would not be called a Works Progress Administration and that it would pay a more decent wage than the bare subsistence concept of that legislation.

In cities throughout the Nation there are public works projects that could provide long-term benefits for all of their citizens. This work could involve the construction of recreational facilities, cleaning up slum areas, stream and air pollution control, beautifying our cities, and in many other ways.

I know that the Chicago Committee on Poverty will be in the position to present meaningful recommendations for this program and other programs to aid in this war on poverty.

Men and women need work. They need the chance to find themselves in the world. Next to the church and the family the opportunity for a meaningful job is the most important fact in maintaining a basic level of dignity in our way of life.

One characteristic of the American people when a war is declared is that all sides come together, and this is a war.

I urge the committee to approve House bill 10440 and the House of Representatives to pass it.

MAYOR DALEY. It would be quite proper for this committee to ask why we are supporting the measures proposed by the President in light of the programs that are being carried out in Chicago. The fact is that many of these programs are only reaching a relatively small number of those who need help.

Also, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, we have in Chicago appointed a committee on poverty which stresses what I