

and be paid for working on local public works or services in the public interest. Hopefully, this program could be carried out through the Urban Conservation Corps.

Social and educational programs developed by our school system and by the mayor's commission for youth could be established in low-income areas.

An expanded vocational training program could be established through the public school system, using Federal funds in direct grants to our city. Persons in the age bracket over 21 would be included, as well as our youth, in this program.

All existing public and private job-training programs could be coordinated to insure maximum effectiveness for both the trainees and the local firms seeking personnel.

Our learn and earn program could be expanded, and more potential dropout students could be urged to continue their education on a part-time basis, and part-time paying jobs found for them with local business and industry.

Social work activities in public housing and urban renewal could be increased, with particular emphasis on large families and the elderly.

A concentrated effort could be made to encourage local business and industry to employ long-term unemployed persons, seeking Federal loans, if necessary, to do so.

Neighborhood citizen councils could be formed where needed, and professional staff provided to explain what each neighborhood could do to be part of the crusade for opportunity.

I wish to emphasize that the twin principles of local initiative and local control have been paramount in my mind, while appearing before this committee.

I hope that my specific comments on the legislation indicate my community's concern for local control. And, I hope that my comments on the Syracuse situation and the programs we have, or would initiate, under our crusade for opportunity, indicate the readiness and ability of Syracuse to provide local initiative.

CONCLUSION

This committee will receive many definitions of poverty and I shall not try to impose mine.

It shall hear of the causes of poverty rather than a single cause. I think it will recognize that poverty is a complex of conditions and the causes are usually interlocking. I hope that it will come to the conclusion that poverty in the midst of plenty, and as we know it in our modern society, is seldom entirely due to the fault of the individual himself, or to his race, or creed or color.

It shall also receive many formulas to remedy the condition. I have none.

Depressing as the picture may seem, when we consider the amount and the ramifications of poverty, we must realize that a marked change has taken place in our society's attitude toward poverty—not only are we trying through a preventative program to break the vicious circle of poverty leading to poverty—but we really believe that poverty and dependency, in any considerable degree, are not a necessary evil.

Perhaps the first step in the cure of poverty today is to spread the idea, once regarded as Marxian, that society is responsible for much of our poverty. Out of the realization of this fact we have designed numerous attacks on the problem. Some of our great social legislation including social security—medical care, old-age assistance, have made poverty less acute.

Unfortunately, the emphasis on relief problems during the preceding decades has resulted in the appearance of many false prophets who offer futile panaceas to the problem of poverty. The success of some, whom I need not mention, was due to the universal human desire to solve major problems by some simple feat such as wand waving. I need not remind you of some of these spellbinders who raised hopes, but ultimately crushed spirits. While some were sincere, they played on the emotions of the poor and led them down the road to complete disillusionment. Some preached with the sophistry of demagogues and aroused false hopes and fanatical zeal.

I would hope that this committee would approach the subject of poverty with a knowledge that present information is almost totally inadequate, and that what facts we do have point to no universal solution to poverty as a social problem.

No immediate cure-all is available. Centuries of concern with this problem have not resulted in a solution. Whatever the ultimate answer, it is certain