

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1964

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1964

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WAR ON POVERTY PROGRAM
OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR,
Washington, D.C.

The ad hoc subcommittee met at 9:20 a.m., pursuant to recess, in room 429, Cannon House Office Building, Hon. Phil M. Landrum presiding.

Present: Representatives Landrum, Green, Roosevelt, Thompson, Holland, Frelinghuysen, Griffin, Quie, Goodell, Bruce, and Martin.

Also present: Representatives Pucinski, Brademas, Hawkins, Gibbons, Gill, Brown, Bell, and Taft.

Staff members present: Dr. Deborah Wolfe, education chief; Leon Abramson, chief counsel for labor-management; Charles Radcliffe, minority counsel for education.

Mr. LANDRUM. I believe we will proceed. The committee will come to order.

We have as our first witnesses this morning a panel of distinguished leaders in the field of business, Mr. Virgil Martin, of Carson-Pirie-Scott Co.; Mr. Tom Nichols, of Olin Mathieson Co.; and Mr. Ralph Besse, of Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co.

Mr. Besse, you have a prepared statement. Since we are awaiting the arrival of other members, and I understand that your two associates will speak extemporaneously, I wonder if you could proceed with your written statement first in the hope that, when we get down to the oral extemporaneous statements, the others will be here. Is that agreeable to you?

Mr. BESSE. I will be glad to do that.

Mr. LANDRUM. You may proceed.

STATEMENT OF RALPH M. BESSE, PRESIDENT, THE CLEVELAND ELECTRIC ILLUMINATING CO.

Mr. BESSE. Thank you.

My name is Ralph M. Besse. I am president of the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. in Cleveland, Ohio. I am also president of the Cleveland Commission on Higher Education and vice president of the Educational Research Council of the Public Schools of Greater Cleveland.

The poverty problems of Greater Cleveland are essentially the same as those in most north-central industrial cities. I will not repeat them unless requested. The important considerations is to find a solution. After many years of involvement in many facets of this