

get involved in the argument or the disagreement over this issue within the committee or within the Congress except to say this, as I said earlier, that if this program is not the right answer, then I think we must think more deeply than we have thought up to now of finding some way to give an incentive to these children and to prepare them culturally, if you will, to want to take advantage of existing programs. Because I am quite convinced, from what I know of big-city life in various parts of the country, that most of the children, the young men, who need this kind of training that is provided under the manpower bill, Manpower Retraining Act, are never going to hear of it or, if they do hear of it, are not going to have much of an incentive to take advantage of it for all kinds of cultural reasons. So, I would not want to appear to be taking a strong stand one way or the other on the Job Corps, but I would take a strong stand, as the Governor did, and I think very effectively and very correctly today, on the deficiencies of an admittedly very good program that we have followed up until now. My experience with priests who are working among deprived children and youth is that their main problem is a cultural problem, of trying to get an incentive built into these youngsters to want to take advantage of available programs.

That would be where I would stand on the issue without getting involved in the—

Mr. BELL. Then, Monsignor, you would agree, as I understand it, with the idea of recruiting these youngsters to begin with and, secondly, recruiting the right kind?

Monsignor HIGGINS. Well, now, I would not want to say that, Congressman. I would rather, so far as my official testimony goes, remain out of that dispute because I do not know whether those difficulties which you contemplate can be adequately overcome or not.

Mr. BELL. Thank you.

Mr. LANDRUM. Mr. Goodell.

Mr. GOODELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Monsignor Higgins, it is a great pleasure to welcome you to this committee and compliment you on a very fine statement.

I wish to pay tribute to the very substantial role of the church in combating poverty. I have read your booklet that you attached to your statement, "A Religious View of Poverty, Statement of the Department of Social Action." I think this also is a very impressive document. I am particularly intrigued and impressed with the statement on page 4 of that pamphlet which contrasts the self-imposed poverty from worldly goods of the church and the poverty, as the pamphlet calls it, that hurts the soul. I quote:

There is a destitution that binds men to this earth, since it forces them to use every waking moment to keep body and soul together. There is want that breeds bitterness and resentment, even hatred.

I think this is a healthy perspective for us, too. It is very difficult to define precisely the characteristics of poverty from a Government viewpoint so that we can focus in and really be helping those who are in need and are in the cycle of poverty.

I do have one major question that I would like to pursue, Monsignor Higgins. On page 4, you discuss the problem of the language of the bill in utilizing religious organizations, and you say:

Surely, then, it should be possible to devise some way of utilizing the facilities and personnel of parochial schools.