

direction in which the war on poverty may take in the coming months, that at least the committee ought to be notified, someone in the committee leadership ought to be told about it before it cracks the newspapers and we are asked questions about what does this particular new program entail, what does it cover, what does it mean?

You have started a series of programs that can do a wonderful job and, in my opinion, some of it is doing an excellent job.

I recognize as other members of this committee do I believe, that it has to be a sustaining program. It has to be something in our planning at all times. Some want to see the poor in. It depends where they want them in, what they want them in. Do they want them in the mainstream of economy or do they want them in the holes of poverty through a different designation.

I think the committee will give you support. I know this member will. So long as we have a clear understanding of what we are doing. It is not easy to ask questions on subject matters you are not informed about. That is the only criticism that I have, that I have too often been caught in the position of not knowing just what the programs are aimed to do outside of reading it in the paper, and I have had some experience in the newspapers, they don't always hear the same we do.

At least, if they hear it, they don't write it. That is the only thing I want to get clear in the record in the beginning. I will give the program all the support where support is needed and all the criticism where criticism is needed.

Mr. SHRIVER. Mr. Chairman, may I make a brief comment on Mr. Dent's statement?

Chairman PERKINS. Go ahead.

Mr. SHRIVER. First of all, we have been making an effort to inform Congress in advance of even the new things we try on an action level. For example, we inaugurated a program not long ago called success insurance which was a method of insuring employers against losses incurred in job training.

We invited a number of members of this committee to come down and participate in the discussion leading up to that announcement. It is not a large program, but it is an experimental one. We did send over some material about them both before and after it was announced.

So we are attempting to do a little bit of what you have said, Congressman Dent.

The second point I would like to emphasize is this. One of the basic ideas of local community action is that we would permit the local people to inaugurate programs of their own on the theory that the local people would have many good ideas about how to combat poverty in their locality.

These might not be programs that are useful nationally, but on the idea that local people know best about what to do about local problems we have encouraged local initiative.

Now it is possible that they would start programs at the local level under a general framework which could cause discussion or controversy but I would hate to see the idea of prior congressional approval carried to the point where all the local communities in the country would have to get approval for what they do from the Congress before they try out at the local level.