

Mr. CROOK. To what campaign is that, sir?

Mr. SCHERLE. By registering voters. You said they were not allowed to do this. Anybody campaigning door to door is a very effective person as far as I am concerned.

Mr. CROOK. If you are asking me do we have any control over them after we de-select them, I have to say, "No, we do not."

Mr. SCHERLE. If they were to take it upon themselves as a member of VISTA to knock on the door and say, "We are registering voters as a member of VISTA," their position would probably be much more solid than if they were going door to door with a little campaign card in their hand, would it not?

Mr. CROOK. We do not permit that, Mr. Congressman.

Mr. SCHERLE. I know you don't permit it but they did it.

Mr. SHRIVER. If there is any case where VISTA volunteers or any other employees are doing that, that would be a violation of the Hatch Act. Then they get fired if they are doing it. We have pursued every case that we know about in the United States for 2½ years where these allegations have been made. We have a clean record with the Civil Service Commission and everybody else. Whenever there was a violation we got rid of them.

Mr. SCHERLE. Mr. Shriver, this is fine. But you are the judge as well as the jury.

Mr. SHRIVER. No, we are not. The Civil Service Commission is.

Mr. SCHERLE. That is right, but I heard a moment ago in advance testimony that you investigated this so-called situation down in North Carolina. You investigated it, you investigated one of your own people. Naturally you are not going to do anything with them.

Mr. SHRIVER. They were not our own people. Those were people working there for a delegate agency. This is only one case like this. We have had 50 cases.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Shriver, I would have to disagree with you. This is not one case, this is a case that could establish a national precedent in which 50,000 community action workers throughout 1,050 communities in the United States could be involved in the political activities of a community. If you can in any way, shape, or form tell me how this can improve the lot of those in the poverty condition I would like to hear it now.

Mr. SHRIVER. Mr. Congressman, before you came here to Congress, last year Congress was worried about what you are worried about now. So they amended the law and made these people subject to the Hatch Act. The Hatch Act is enforced on behalf of the United States by the Civil Service Commission. We can refer cases to them. We have done that. We have had a number of cases where we moved ahead and stopped that kind of activity before there was the application of the Hatch Act to people. So what you are worried about we have all been worried about for a long time. We have stopped it wherever it developed. That is my only point.

Mr. GARDNER. I would differ with you on this. I don't think you have stopped it. It has been going on in Durham, N.C., for some time. Yesterday on the telephone I asked you about a previous case in Durham, of which you had no knowledge, and I can understand this.

Mr. SHRIVER. It was not that I had no knowledge of it. I didn't remember that case. In fact, in that case the guy involved was fired a year