

groups for competing jobs. So, I think, therefore, as I said the first day, that the more you can keep the poor and their interests under jurisdiction of one group, the better off you are going to be in helping the poor, whether it is us, or me, or somebody else.

Mr. QUIE. I would say that you have given the answer as to why I had recommended in the opportunity crusade that community action be in Health, Education, and Welfare is that that new agency would be admitted to the fore and as you said it can do as well or maybe better.

That is what I expect it would.

Mr. SHRIVER. But that isn't what I said.

Mr. QUIE. That is the way I heard it.

Mr. SHRIVER. I want to make it clear that that is not what I said. I think that when you have a department which has interests which are very broad, some of which conflict with interests of the poor, you cannot help but pay some attention to your conflicting interest.

It is like a conflict of interest if you are legislator or member of the executive branch. There is no conflict of interest in OEO because we have one interest, which is the poor. We are not concerned about the education of the rich. We are not concerned about the health of the rich. We are concentrating on one thing, which is that group which needs help most, and because of that we are able to give them better service, and I believe, to come up with ideas which are fruitful for them.

Mr. QUIE. We had the same situation when Health, Education, and Welfare was not located together in one cabinet level department. Although there was a central interest in education in the Office of Education, it was felt by the Members of Congress at that time that giving it Cabinet level status certainly enhanced its opportunities to improve the education of the people of the country.

Mr. SHRIVER. Let me say the OEO should have that status.

Mr. PUCINSKI. When the President first proposed this program, the very reason that this program was proposed was because we had an HEW, we had a Department of Labor—we had all these agencies—but the poor was not getting the kind of attention for a massive effort to help them that they deserved. So the President came to Congress with his proposal for the War on Poverty and the creation of the Office of Economic Opportunity whose sole responsibility was to deal with this problem. This is the only bill in the history of this country where every single member of the cabinet, except the Secretary of State, testified and they testified because they said that in order to really make this war against poverty effective, we had to have a single agency to coordinate all the activities and concentrate on this massive program in America.

That is what you have been doing, isn't it? If the program was transferred to HEW it would just get lost in the shuffle wouldn't it?

Dr. ENGLISH. May I comment, sir, on your point and quote a high official of HEW who just said this in a press conference recently concerning this program and use his words?

I think this explains the great enthusiasm and the help we have received from that Department as well as other Departments. He said:

This program, the Neighborhood Health Center program, has shown us in terms of the Federal Government new ways of cooperation. I think that it is not