

that you are providing an alternative to violence in the street by providing justice in the courts and I think the poor people of this country and the people who have not been able to afford this are, indeed, receiving a great benefit from this.

Now, having said that, I would like to ask some questions about how you involve the local people. It is my understanding that you start your involvement with a community action program who works with the local bar association; is that correct?

Mr. JOHNSON. Actually many of the programs have been initiated, so to speak, by a legal aid society or a local bar association. They have gone to a community action agency and said, we would like to have a legal services program. In other instances the community action agency has gone to the local bar or legal services and said, we would like to have a service in this community; would you put one together?

Mr. MEEDS. Is it not true, that the legal aid society or the local bar association in the area to be served is consulted; in all regards the cooperation and coordination is as complete as can be under all the circumstances?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is correct. In fact, we require documentation of the fact that the local bar association has been consulted.

Mr. MEEDS. Now, Mr. Johnson, in giving us the figures that you did some time ago, I think you indicated that for the first 3 months—it would be the first quarter in 1967, you had tripled—was it doubled or tripled, I have forgotten your figure.

Mr. JOHNSON. We had doubled our annular rate from the 6-month period ending December 31, 1966.

Mr. MEEDS. Now, if that were to continue, would the \$47 million which you have requested for fiscal 1968 be adequate?

Mr. JOHNSON. If you mean adequate in the sense of handling every legal problem in the country that the poor have, the answer is "No."

If you are talking in terms of what the community demands are in relation to all the services and programs of OEO, I would say \$47 million would be sufficient.

Mr. MEEDS. And yet you said just a moment ago that there are in excess of a million cases per year which should be handled; is that correct?

Mr. JOHNSON. More like 14 million.

Mr. MEEDS. Pardon me, 14 million. So your annual projected rate now of being able to handle at \$47 million is what?

Mr. JOHNSON. With \$47 million we anticipate being able to handle in the neighborhood of a million cases a year.

Mr. MEEDS. So that we are actually, in terms of the broadest general problem, merely making a dent in it, are we not?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is correct, in the same sense we are only making a dent in the health problem of the poor and education problems of the poor.

Mr. MEEDS. I think we are all aware that what we are doing is totally inadequate in terms of the total problem.

I am particularly interested also in the establishment of local criteria. Isn't it true that, as you said initially, many of the programs which are now being funded were existing as legal aid services or as legal aid programs operating prior to the institution of this program,