

We also follow them up ourselves. And I tried to point out to you that we have in three or four cases found—in fact, they are not voter registration drives, but in other places where there were improper political activities and we have stopped those across the country ever since we started.

This doesn't mean there won't be something happen tomorrow or the next day or 6 months from now, but we have done our best to enforce the nonpartisan aspect of this program nationally.

Mr. GARDNER. You seem to hang on the word "nonpartisan." As you know very well, I am interested in the Operation Breakthrough program in Durham, N.C. I think this is one example of what could be happening throughout the United States.

Going back to your own figures in testifying before this committee, I think you said there were 1,050 community action programs involving some 50,000 employees of these programs.

Mr. SHRIVER. That's right.

Mr. GARDNER. I see an inherent danger in the fact that it would seem to me it would be almost impossible as far as your agency is concerned to properly, for lack of a better word, leash the political activities of these employees and they can become—I ask unanimous consent for 3 additional minutes.

Chairman PERKINS. Finish your question.

Mr. GARDNER. I see a great danger in the political activities of the war on poverty.

First of all, I see no place for politics in the war on poverty. I think it hurts the purpose of your program; it certainly brings a great amount of suspicion within, I would think, the Congress and certainly throughout the country. In the case of Durham, N.C., I believe this is a prime example of an overzealous attempt on the part of your employees to participate in the political affairs of the community.

Now, these employees in Durham, N.C., for example, three of your employees in the Operation Breakthrough experiment spent from early December until March 28, 5 days per week, copying the names of registered voters off a voter registration list.

What happened to them? What was the purpose in copying down the names of registered voters? How in any way, shape, or form, did this help the war on poverty in Durham, N.C.?

Mr. SHRIVER. First of all, let me just say at the beginning that we have kept politics out of this program to the absolute, and any place—

Mr. GARDNER. You have been trying to keep politics out.

Mr. SHRIVER. No, we kept it out.

Mr. GARDNER. I would disagree with that.

Mr. SHRIVER. Maybe you do disagree, but in any case where there is an allegation or the reality of it, those cases have been reported to the Civil Service Commission for the enforcement of the Hatch Act.

You point out, as you said, that there are 50,000 employees. The Post Office Department has 450,000 employees. These are all covered by the Hatch Act. So are HEW's people covered by the Hatch Act.

Mr. GARDNER. Could we just deal with OEO?