

For example, your organization through their political activities could have decided an election as close as the 1960 election.

Mr. SHRIVER. We couldn't decide any election.

Mr. GARDNER. For example, what happens to this registration list you use in a nonpartisan election that you seem to be hanging everything on?

Mr. SHRIVER. I am not hanging everything on that. Our regulations specifically state—

Mr. GARDNER. I have read your regulations.

Mr. SHRIVER. Good. And Congress has passed a law which says that our employees and employees of delegate agencies cannot become involved in political activities. That's in the law.

Mr. GARDNER. I am charging that in Durham, N.C., they are involved in it.

Mr. SHRIVER. I wouldn't say, but there is an agency of the U.S. Government; namely, the Civil Service Commission, which has the job of carrying out the law. When you submit your evidence there, others submit their evidence there, they have that job, and if they make such a decision, obviously that is correct.

I am not saying that anybody is wrong. I am trying to say there is an established governmental machinery for making certain what you fear does not happen. People have feared what you fear for 150 years, ever since we started the country. That is why we have the Civil Service Commission and the Hatch Act.

Mr. GARDNER. Don't you think we would have a better situation if we could go ahead and fight the war on poverty and remove any political activity whatever so there would be no shadow of doubt cast on your agency?

Mr. SHRIVER. We agree there should be no political activity, but citizen education, teaching people how to vote or encouraging people how to vote, that is what we all say we want everybody in America to do—that is, to vote.

Mr. GARDNER. Would you consider citizenship carrying voters to the polls on election day, furnishing them with marked ballots? Is this part of it?

Mr. SHRIVER. No, I do not.

Mr. GARDNER. That is going on in one of your programs.

Mr. SHRIVER. Take it to the Civil Service Commission and they will enforce it.

Mrs. GREEN. Did you say OEO funds, Federal funds, were used to hire people or to pay for the cars and so on?

Mr. GARDNER. In some cases, yes. The employees were of the Operation Breakthrough, which is an OEO-funded program. These employees spent a period of 3 months—from early December to March 28—copying the registration books. They then went out and recruited students from nearby universities who were not even involved in the poverty program at all.

Mrs. GREEN. Were they doing this on their own time or at a time they were being paid with Federal funds?