

Secretary WIRTZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Without objection, your statement will be inserted in the record. I would like to hear you summarize your statement, with particular emphasis on how much money you could efficiently utilize in expanding manpower programs under the Economic Opportunities Act.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF W. WILLARD WIRTZ, SECRETARY OF LABOR

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my testimony is, in summary:

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That the human redevelopment program initiated in the past three years by President Johnson, constructed largely by the 89th Congress, and administered in an occasionally awkward but in general extremely effective way by a comparatively small group of dedicated public servants, represents one of the bold, grand chapters in American history;

That the enactment and administration of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 has been one of the central elements in this development—along with the enactment and administration of the Civil Rights Act, the Education Bills, the new urban development program, and the amended Manpower Development and Training Act; and

That H.R. 8311 represents a responsible and wise writing of the instruction of three years' experience into the Economic Opportunity Act.

Recognizing that this may seem almost a belligerent assertion of the positive, I confess to being tired of hearing so much about the negative. It isn't going to hurt the country to recognize what it's doing right as well as what is going wrong; and if what is good doesn't make as interesting pictures for the television cameras or as exciting copy for the newspapers as what is bad, all the more reason for speaking up—before current history gets a bad case of hypochondria.

Any suggestion that the war on poverty has been won, or that anybody thinks it has been won, would be dead wrong.

So, I think, are the suggestions that it will help to redeploy enough forces to permit taking out a partisan patent on another "crusade" instead of getting on with a bi-partisan war.

Nor will the members of this Committee, veterans in the war against poverty, be content with any suggestion that all that is needed now is a massive transfusion of Federal funds; or, in the alternative, with any political shell game of charging that the war in Viet Nam is being financed out of the war on poverty and then protesting piously that the anti-poverty budget is too high.

Neither will there be any sympathy here for those who riot or burn buildings in protest that this war is not already won—not realizing that a riot now is as wrong as a march on Selma or Washington was right, that the riot is against those who did nothing for a hundred years, but that it hurts badly the efforts of those who are now deeply committed to remedy this situation with almost desperate speed.

I testify, conscious of the issue of "credibility" that has been raised, in terms of pride in an Administration and a Congress that has in these three years, and for the first time in history, told the *truth* about the slums, told the *truth* about the inequality of education—until that truth has hurt—and now helps.

I testify from as deep a concern as anyone can have about such statistics as those of battlefield casualties, as rising crime rates, but in the belief that the Nation should know, too

That between 1½ and 2 million people in this country are in school or in training or in jobs today who would be down and out if this human redevelopment program had not been undertaken.

That the number of hard-core unemployed (those out of work 15 weeks or more) has been cut in these three years by more than half—57%—from 1,084,000 in May, 1964, to 464,000 in May 1967.

I testify to the questions of ways and means, and unfinished business, on today's agenda. I respectfully urge, at the same time, that these agenda items be