

Any suggestion that all you need is a massive transfusion or infusion of Federal funds into this program denies the experience of every member of this committee, for you are the veterans of the war against poverty and you know that a lot tougher matter is involved here.

Any suggestion that this war is going to be won by riots is dead wrong, and wrongest of all. I guess it is not realized that the riots are really against those people who did nothing for a century but they discredit the operations of those of us—and I mean this committee and the Congress and the President, and those of us in the administration of this program—who are now trying so hard now to provide cures—

Chairman PERKINS. Under the urban impact aid funds, do you feel you have been able to prevent riots in certain metropolitan areas?

Secretary WIRTZ. No, I don't Mr. Chairman. I can make a more reserved statement. I take great pride, so does Jack Howard, so do all of us at this table, that 51 of those Negro boys who put on white helmets and put out the fire of riot in Tampa, Fla., were alumni of the Neighborhood Youth Corps. It pays off that way. These young men are part of that group of 136 boys who have been cited for their responsibility in meeting that situation when it developed in Tampa. Surely, out of the 136 to know that almost half of them have been boys that have been in the Neighborhood Youth Corps gives us satisfaction. But the program is not directed at stopping riots. It does not pretend it can.

Chairman PERKINS. I thought there may be a flexibility where, if certain conditions existed, you might arrest a situation in a metropolitan area.

Secretary WIRTZ. No.

Chairman PERKINS. That has not occurred?

Secretary WIRTZ. Mr. Chairman, those fires have been lighted over a hundred years. They cannot be put out just this way. It would be a great mistake for us to direct our programs toward the riots or to pretend that they will meet them.

Chairman PERKINS. I am delighted with your testimony, myself. I am asking the question to get the information for the record.

Secretary WIRTZ. When people who riot realize that their actions are as wrong as the marches on Selma and Washington were right, then we can get on with the important work before us. Right now, the rioters have just hurt us. I wish there was some way of saying to those people that they are getting in the way of the first honest effort ever to stop the age old fires. And they were moving, not with all deliberate speed, but with almost desperate speed to meet in this honest effort. I wish rioters would not complicate it the way they do.

I am not going to give you a lot of statistics. I am including very few in my statement. We used to compare what we are doing with what we used to do. We don't any more. If we did, it would be easy. We can take enough pride in the fact there are between a million and a half and 2 million people in this country in school, in training or at work today who would be down and out if it had not been for what we have done together in the last 3 years.

I am not talking about the effects of the upward movement of the economy, but the OEO program, the education bills, Manpower