

more, for instance, than any other agency of Government in the field of health care, are you not?

Mr. CARTER. I would presume that is true.

Mr. GOODELL. Do you feel you are incapable of setting up health centers across the country that can meet the needs of the Corps?

Mr. CARTER. As I attempted, in answering similar questions from Mr. Dellenback earlier, sir, I tried to point out the difference between a mission which is oriented toward supporting the broad health institutions of this country, towards developing our hospital system, building up our medical profession, toward carrying on medical research and all the other things that go into the provision and development of methods for health care, and a focused day in day out concentration on the problems of the Corps, and finding ways of getting the benefits of these very programs and services administered in HEW to the poor.

Mr. GOODELL. You are writing off your responsibility for finding ways of making programs to help the poor more effectively and focusing on the needs of the poor?

Mr. CARTER. No, I don't agree with that.

Mr. GOODELL. That was the criterion I thought you just expressed.

Mr. CARTER. No. I said there is a distinction between having that responsibility along with several responsibilities, and having an agency that has this responsibility day in day out, and that can raise to us and to other agencies of the Government and to nongovernmental agencies the problems and needs, and suggest and try out some new techniques for moving our programs and services, and so forth, to poor people wherever they are, and so that they can take advantage of them to their ultimate benefit and to the benefit of the whole society.

Mr. GOODELL. You can't do that in HEW?

Mr. CARTER. The best way to do it is the way that we are proposing to do it and have done it in the past 2½ years, under the leadership of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Mr. GOODELL. It is better than to have you do it?

Mr. CARTER. Yes sir; it is better.

Mr. GOODELL. OEO can give more leadership and focus to these programs than HEW can.

Mr. CARTER. On the question of focusing on the problems of the poor. That is the mission of OEO. You are extending this to talk about the missions of all these other programs. That is why I have tried to indicate there are many other missions these programs have.

Mr. GOODELL. Isn't one of the missions of the program, that of a large number of agencies, to focus on the needs of the poor?

Mr. CARTER. No question about it. Many institutions in our society. But the point is, as I have tried to indicate before in my testimony, that we have institutions that are carrying on and providing programs and meeting the needs of people. And as the population changes, what do we find? We found that these programs were serving the needs of the majority of the people very well. But there was a very significant proportion that were not being well served; whether it be in education or health or what have you.

And that is why Congress, I assume, passed, in 1964, a law which created an agency that was going to target in on this group that