

Mr. DELLENBACK. May I ask a philosophical question along this general line? Do you feel it should be the ultimate responsibility of the Federal Government to see that all persons in the United States get the full range of potential help and care available in the medical, education, and other fields, or do you feel that it should be the responsibility of the Federal Government to see that all persons in the United States get certain minimal help in these fields and leave it to them to go beyond this?

Mr. SHRIVER. I don't see it either way. I—

Mr. DELLENBACK. Would you tell us what you do think on this?

Mr. SHRIVER. First of all, I don't think that the question should start off involving the Federal Government as distinct from State or municipal government or private social agency. What I am trying to say is that I think that society, our whole country, all of us together do have a responsibility to make sure that each individual in this society does have an adequate chance at a full life in terms of medicine, education, housing, et cetera; because our job is with respect to the poor, and the poor suffer from the lack of precisely those things.

Mr. DELLENBACK. But you have added a couple of words here, Mr. Shriver, which I wish there were time to go on with this colloquy, because when you say that it is the responsibility of society, with emphasis on government, whatever its level, to supply an adequate chance for this, you are saying something quite different from saying it is the responsibility of Government to supply these things.

Mr. SHRIVER. Well, you see, Government doesn't get into these things, as a rule, at all until society as a whole has failed miserably, and we see that in what Congressman Scheuer just put in the record a few minutes ago. There would be no necessity for us to even be discussing this situation alleged to exist in Mississippi in the Congress of the United State today if the situation didn't exist as a result of somebody else's failure.

This is not caused by the Federal Government. The Federal Government gets involved in these and State and municipal governments get involved in them simply because somebody else has dropped the ball.

What I am saying is that society as a whole has a responsibility, when situations are that bad, to do something.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Realizing that I am oversimplifying the question and maybe, in so doing, asking an unfair question, can you tell me in this context of what we have been talking about, do you feel it is the responsibility of society or government, whatever level it be, to supply this alternative A, or to supply a chance for the alternative B? Can you answer as between those two just on alternative A or B, either Dr. Sugarman or Mr. Shriver?

Mr. SUGARMAN. I think there may be two questions.

Mr. SHRIVER. If you mean compulsion, I don't believe in that.

Mr. DELLENBACK. I don't mean compulsion. I mean to submit an opportunity for them to search it out and obtain it for themselves.

Mr. SHRIVER. In a way in which it is reachable like the neighborhood health center actually gets the health service to the place where the person can practically get it.