

Mr. SHRIVER. Thank you.

Mr. GOODELL. Your testimony today particularly with reference to Headstart and the response to Mr. Scheuer's question indicates that you think you can use considerably more money in the war on poverty. Is that your view?

Mr. SHRIVER. What I have said is that many Members of the Congress believe that. I think that many of the programs could be larger, but I have also said that if we could get the budget that we have asked for, I think it would be a great step in the right direction by the Congress.

We have asked, as you know, for authorization of \$2,060 million. There are those in the Congress who say that an increase of that size at this time is out of line with the fiscal reality. I disagree with that and I believe that if the Congress would adopt the budget that we sent over here, that it would be a significant step by the Congress in support of our overall efforts.

Mr. GOODELL. Those are very carefully chosen words. Secretary Wirtz is quoted as saying we are spending money in the war on poverty as rapidly as it can be responsibly spent.

Do you agree with that statement?

Mr. SHRIVER. I think that the capacity for spending it responsibly increases every day and every week because people in the local community action agencies, people who are running Headstart programs, every month get better at the operation of them. That is one of the reasons why there is a large training component in the Headstart program, so that we do increase the capacity for utilizing Federal funds more effectively all the time.

Mr. GOODELL. Could we responsibly spend more money now?

Mr. SHRIVER. Yes; we could spend 25 percent more money responsibly now. But the problem is to get Congress to bring it out.

Mr. GOODELL. Could we responsibly spend more money than the \$2,060 million that you are requesting?

Mr. SHRIVER. I am here testifying on behalf of that budget and therefore it represents my opinion as to what Congress should appropriate and what we can use responsibly.

Mr. GOODELL. But you do not think we could responsibly spend more than \$2,060 million?

Mr. SHRIVER. It isn't what I think. It is what Congress thinks that I think you are trying to get at.

Mr. GOODELL. We are interested in your opinion.

Mr. SHRIVER. I testified that I am here testifying on behalf of that budget and I think we could spend that responsibly, very effectively, without any overlapping or any kind of hideous things.

Mr. GOODELL. You have heard Mr. Scheuer's comment and there are others who believe that. He may well offer an amendment to raise that figure \$500 million or something of that nature, and we would like your guidance. Can you responsibly spend more than \$2.06 billion?

Mr. Scheuer. If I submitted an amendment, I would not be such a piker as to add only \$500 million.

Mr. GOODELL. He may want to double it. We want your guidance.

Mr. SHRIVER. I have never irresponsibly spent anything.

Mr. GOODELL. You are not giving an answer. You are very effectively avoiding answering.