

housing, we have as a Bureau facilitated their program. They have made a real contribution to the program and we have cooperated with them to the full extent possible.

Mr. THOMPSON. I am glad that they have worked out well.

The VISTA section of the act is of particular interest to me because I was the original sponsor of what was called the Domestic Peace Corps. This met great resistance, very likely because of its name. So, one day, under a rather odd set of circumstances, sitting around in my office with another fellow, this whole program came up. We invented the name VISTA, Volunteers In Service To America. I said:

How can anyone object to this? It sounds like good people coming around to pick up your used clothing and taking it to some needy neighbor, or some person who rings a bell on a cold December day asking for money for the poor.

Actually, in its active form it is in better shape than was the original proposal. It has been highly successful. I think, though, I use this example to say, that we are sitting, some members of this committee and myself, in judgment of a three-year-old program innovated by us, without a chart, with nothing more than a compass.

I think in the circumstances, and in that context it has been remarkably and spectacularly successful. It is easy, I think, to introduce one or a series of letters showing disappointment with respect to one program or showing how red tape has caused some frustration.

But I note with some interest that those applications or the applications for OEO programs, no matter where they are administered, by whom, or how, are coming in from all over the United States and are being advocated by those who would turn the whole program back to the States or turn it all off or fragment it. I think it is too early; my view is that it is much too early to even consider, with any degree of seriousness or responsibility, fragmentation, spinning off, because then I think the whole program would lose its inventiveness.

Now, you have had problems, Mr. Secretary, which you have alluded to with respect to coordination and so on, but some of your remarks are that you have been able to work them out and that you are satisfied that they are working out, and I am very glad to hear this.

Secretary UDALL. Congressman, I would be less than candid, and I know my own committee expects candor, to say that we didn't have some serious problems in the early stages.

I had a tug of war with Sargent Shriver over several matters where the question of who should do what and how a program should be carried out. I think almost all of those disputes have been solved. Most of the friction has been eliminated. I won't say that all of it has.

I think the fact that OEO has been in the picture, that they have a mission, they have a mission that none of the rest of us have, they are a command post in terms of the impoverished people of the country; they think about this every day when they get up; this has enabled them to be a spur and to be a gadfly and to propose new ideas and to stir things up.

I think to the older agencies, although we might resent some things, this has been a good thing. I think the programs have worked out and have been very effective in most instances so far as we are concerned.