

tial, the element of tying together the war on the various individual steps that make up this movement, and as it now has been done, you see that the Office of Economic Opportunity has done certain things in this regard. You have indicated that certain things about what the OEO has done do not meet with your full approval. You would see those things coordinated and improved.

Mrs. BENSON. Yes. But we do believe that there are other functions that belong in the Office of Economic Opportunity, in addition to coordinating. We see the functions of originating, of innovating, of establishing new programs and getting them started. We see this also, as a function of the OEO.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Excuse me just a minute on that point, because I think you have made a point on this, Mrs. Benson, that again, what you are saying is to reduce it from organizational terms to program terms, what you are favoring is the capacity to innovate, and do the various creative things which need to be done, and which to date have in part been done by OEO.

Mrs. BENSON. Right.

Mr. DELLENBACK. You see the point that I am getting at. That in part, people approve of a principle. They see the principle to date embodied in the organizational form of the Office of Economic Opportunity, and approving as they do of the principle, they then say, "We approve of the Office of Economic Opportunity." And if it is possible to strip out, and I don't ask you to judge whether it would be done better or not as well, but if it is possible to strip out the principles and carry forward this concept of coordination, and carry forward this concept of innovation, and carry forward these various concepts, it is these concepts that I read you as approving, rather than anything magic in whether you call it the Office of Economic Opportunity or the Association of Amalgamated Hoofensnatchers. Whatever you may want to call the Office, it is not that there is anything magic in the Office. It is these principles that go in to make up what the Office has done, and hopefully will continue to do.

Mrs. BENSON. I think there is one additional thing that is involved in this, and that is what we consider to be the need for an agency which is focusing on the problems and the needs of the poor, from all points of view. Not just from the HEW point of view or from the Department of Labor point of view, or from HUD, or what-have-you, but an agency which seeks to bring together, to bring to bear on the problems of the poor, and somewhat, well, I hesitate to use the example, the Veterans' Administration, but the veterans have a special administration for their interests. The needs of the poor, the problems of the poor, are very complex, very difficult. No matter how much time you spend looking into them, and how to cope with them, and how to get rid of poverty, it is quite clear that even after the tremendous amount of effort, to say nothing of money, which has so far been poured into this effort to get rid of poverty, or to increase opportunities, that we have a long way to go, and we feel very strongly that there is a need for an agency, over and above the philosophical or theoretical approach, which is actually operating in behalf of the poor, its function is the poor. Its function isn't health, education, and welfare or labor, or what-have-you.

Mr. DELLENBACK. I may say, somewhat parenthetically, that it is very interesting to me that another committee on which I serve is