

Mrs. BENSON. Well, yes and no. I don't really think that is accurate. I think they are aware of the importance—I mean, I know they are aware of, as many of the important features, with which we are concerned in the field of education and employment, of the Opportunity Crusade, as the administration bill, but in any effort to be completely accurate and honest, I did say that they have noted, since the opportunity Crusade has not been in print as long ago as the administration bill, what they got from us was not our analysis of the bill as we analyzed the administration bill, but what we were able to learn from the minority office, what was going to be in the Opportunity Crusade, and in fact, turned out to be the same thing, so that in effect they have had the same information, and the same degree of information.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Thank you.

Mr. HAWKINS. Mrs. Benson, I assume that you also have Republicans in the league as well as Democrats. Do you not?

Mr. DELLENBACK. We are pleased that that is indeed the case.

Mr. HAWKINS. And that there is sufficient opportunity for the Republicans in the league to get the message from their Republican Congressmen, as well as the Democrats to get their message from the Democratic Congressmen, so there is free play and free expression.

Mrs. BENSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAWKINS. And that there certainly has been opportunity for both proposals to have been given some study, and that neither proposal, I suspect, is new in the sense that we have not discussed coordination, or involvement of the poor and these concepts before now, and that as a result of this you are appearing here today in behalf of H.R. 8311.

Mrs. BENSON. That is correct.

Mr. HAWKINS. Now I ask you whether or not you also believe that under the existing program, the Office of Economic Opportunity, the private sector can be brought in, and that it is not in any way discouraged that actually there is opportunity for the private sector to be involved in the current war on poverty?

Mrs. BENSON. We would say so; yes. In fact, has been. We would encourage it. It certainly is possible, within the structure.

Mr. HAWKINS. And that while you agree that the matter of coordination can be improved upon, even under the current agency, that you likewise believe that it is safer to at least leave it where it is for the time being, and to improve it rather than to make any drastic changes.

Mrs. BENSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAWKINS. That is all, unless there are other questions of Mrs. Benson.

Again we wish to thank you for a very excellent presentation, and to again commend the league for the work that it is doing in all of our districts, both the Republican as well as the Democratic districts.

Mrs. BENSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

(Letters presented by Mrs. Benson follow:)

#### SAMPLES OF RECENT COMMENTS FROM LOCAL LEAGUES ON THE POVERTY PROGRAM

##### *From the League of Women Voters of Iowa City, Iowa*

Opinions about the local CAP program differ greatly. "In business" only since June 1966, CAP has already received a whole range of appraisals from its complete lack of purpose and ability to work with other agencies . . . to enthusiastic approval of the program. It is being judged by a wide variety of standards.