

ordinator and private citizens contributed \$427,000 toward the creation of a private nonprofit development corporation to provide the city with the resources which would enable it to wisely utilize federally assisted programs of community development, including those aimed at elimination of slums and poverty. Much of the stimulus for this type of self-help activity can be traced directly to the existence of the various antipoverty agencies throughout the State and the new voice they have given to the poor.

In conclusion, we of the Connecticut Poverty Council feel that the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 was sound and needed legislation and that its intent is being met in Connecticut. We feel that the OEO should be retained with maximum flexibility in its funding powers so individual communities can determine the priorities of their own needs. And finally, we strongly urge that the authorization figures listed in H.R. 8311 be considered as minimums and be increased substantially wherever possible.

Thank you.

Mr. QUIE. Thank you, Mr. Holmes. Do any of the people with you now wish to make a statement before we begin to ask questions?

Mr. HARRIS. I do have one statement to make that I think is not getting across to the neighborhood. We, as the poverty people in the community, do not have enough representation on the poverty board of directors.

So far, I think we only have one who has been selected from our entire poverty area. Most of the representatives on the board come from maybe the city, itself, city hall, appointed by the mayor. The controlling interest of the poverty programs is not in behalf of the poor people.

I don't think it is fair to the people. I think that the poor people should have the controlling board members to represent them from their own poverty area.

Mr. QUIE. Along that line, may I ask a question? How big is the Community Action board?

Mr. HOLMES. Locally, helping my colleague, we have an 18-member board. As presently constituted, one-third comes from the poverty area.

Mr. QUIE. You have six from the poverty area. Does that mean six neighborhood centers from which they drew?

Mr. HOLMES. Technically, that is true.

Mr. QUIE. Is it far from reality? It would be interesting to have a comment on that point.

Mr. CARTER. Actually we have our large councils. The committee will have one representative. We feel that in order to get the most out of these programs that we should have the representation from the people of the area.

I think you have to live in the area to know the people. You can't come from management living out in the aristocrat neighborhood and come and tell the poor people how to run the program. You don't know anything about the poor people, how to contact them, what are their problems.

You can read newspapers, but that is not the hard core. In order to get the hard core people out and interested in these various programs you have to be able to mingle and socialize with them. Let