

Far too much effort, however, has been wasted. This not only angers taxpayers who see their money being spent for questionable projects and salaries, but deprives the poor themselves of the very limited resources which are supposedly being provided for their betterment.

The real needs of the poor are in housing, education, and health. All three are within the established competency of local and State governmental units which too often have been bypassed by OEO in my district.

These points of concern are outlined in more detail in my report given to the committee today. We have been given assurances by OEO that many of the past mistakes have been corrected, and the procedures and administrative shortcomings have been identified.

A better spirit of cooperation now seems to exist.

I am concerned, however, that these mistakes could have occurred under a watchful OEO administration. The committee may wish to discuss these matters with OEO. Not only did a few individuals receive millions of dollars in grants, but they were apparently successful in avoiding a day of reckoning in spite of expressions of concern by all members of the Florida congressional delegation whose districts were affected.

OEO has been cooperative this year in seeing to needed reorganizations of various projects in my area. Now we are hopeful that the errors of the past will not be repeated. Only time, and continued close attention will prove out the assurances received. This committee can help.

Now if I may proceed off the record for an additional minute. The General Accounting Office and OEO have provided me with additional information regarding one of the Florida operations which should be brought to the attention of the committee.

OEO has requested that this information not be generally released at this time and I want to cooperate. Members of the committee, however, should be aware of this in consideration of this legislation.

I have made a few copies to leave with you. OEO and GAO can no doubt provide additional copies or further information should the committee find it necessary.

Thank you very much.

Chairman PERKINS. I would appreciate your leaving a copy with me. Let me compliment you, Mr. Rogers, on bringing this to the attention of the committee and deciding to come before the committee to make your observations.

Not only does it show that you are a great Congressman but one conscious of trying to improve the so-called poverty program in your area. There is no doubt in my mind that your appearance here today will work toward that end.

If we do not point up these discrepancies and short comings and let the responsible authorities know about them there is no way to make the corrections.

I personally appreciate your appearance this morning. It shows that you want to see the program move in a more constructive way than it has moved in the past.

Now do you feel that we are moving in that direction at the present time and has it been your observation that the Director has taken steps to correct these mistakes?

Mr. ROGERS. Let me say this, Mr. Chairman, as I have said in my report, I do think that we have the experience now when we have been