Everybody will want a piece of the action and they will want to run away with it.

Mr. HAWKINS. I see you advocate the concept of involvement at the community level of persons who are directly affected by the programs dealing with the poor.

With that in mind do you feel that to spin off the programs to established agencies would jeopardize that concept of involvement of people at the community level?

Mrs. OLIVAREZ. Yes; I feel that it would jeopardize it because the concept of the involvement of the poor was more or less brought into effect by OEO. If the established agencies were really concerned about the poor there is nothing that says they could not have involvement of the poor all along.

No. 2, it would eliminate that healthy competition which comes from having somebody else doing the involvement of the poor. As it is now I think you will note that more and more agencies are beginning to look at their boards and the composition of their boards and trying to bring in poor people. If nothing else it is a tokenism but it is a beginning

I don't believe the old-established agencies can deal with the poor on the board level because in that instance their arguments are very basic.

Mr. HAWKINS. You have also indicated support—great support for unified comprehensive training for work programs. Would you say that this possibility might be diminished if programs were to be disunited and we spin off various programs to established agencies?

Mrs. OLIVAREZ. If we don't have a community action agency at the local level, as if I may use the term, advisedly, as a threat or a watchdog to see that the poor are being served adequately, and we give the training programs to the established agencies, I really don't see how the poor will be involved in any meaningful way unless the Community Action agency is on top either as the coordinator or as a funnel for the money where they can really watch the program to see that the people for whom the program is intended are being served.

I really don't see the old-established agencies changing their tactics.

Mr. HAWKINS. I assume from your answer that you believe strongly in the community action concept and believe that this should be strengthened and also I get the impression that you believe that it might be jeopardized if we were to spin off the various programs to other agencies.

Mrs. OLIVAREZ. I don't think that the programs are old enough so that they can spin them off. We have not really been able to prove that this program is more successful than the other. To spin them off now, they will get lost in a maze. I believe eventually spin off 8 years from now is possible but I don't believe we are ready to spin off any programs right now because they are not old enough to find out if they are successful or not.

Mr. HAWKINS. I also assume from your statement that you believe the present funding of the programs is inadequate and that eventually a larger amount should be appropriated for the program.

Mrs. OLIVAREZ. Yes. I go back to the recommendations of the President's Council of Economic Advisers has repeatedly made that according to their estimate we need something like $17 to $20 billion per year for the next 10 years. When we talk about piddly sums I don't blame the poor for questioning the sincerity of the programs.