

to millions and already for thousands, indeed, tens of thousands, this promise has become a reality.

For the millions who are still trapped in the mire of poverty, this bright promise must not be allowed to be extinguished. These citizens who have found new hope must be encouraged to continue their efforts to build a better life for themselves.

We have all been distressed by the sorry rollecall of American cities torn by the riots of the past few weeks. We certainly do not condone these riots. Stemming, as they do, from the conditions which exist in our urban ghettos, we feel there is added urgency for more adequate support for the war on poverty.

Our urban ghettos require a whole arsenal of programs to help people overcome the handicaps of poverty. The present level of OEO financing is certainly not adequate to meet the needs that exist in our centers of urban poverty.

We, therefore, urge that the level of funding for OEO be raised substantially to enable it to reach greater numbers of the poor.

President Meany said in his 1964 testimony:

When this country, through the Congress, appropriates money for education, for health, for the services and facilities the people need—yes, and for the jobs that result from all these—it is making the best of all possible investments.

We are here to urge you to expand this investment, an investment aimed at ending poverty in America.

Today, based on the experience of more than 2½ years, we repeat our request with even greater emphasis, “let us expand this investment.”

Chairman PERKINS. Let me compliment you, Mr. Biemiller, on an excellent statement.

I agree with your statement all the way through, including the last part of your statement to the effect we should expand the funds above the present proposal in 1967.

How far do you feel we should expand in order to effectively do something about the needs of the metropolitan areas and the rural areas of America to have a real impact on the root causes of the disturbances that are taking place at the present time?

Mr. BIEMILLER. Let me ask Mr. Rothman, who has been working in this field, to comment on that.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, we have deliberately refrained from putting a dollar figure on it. We think we could, but we feel that a great deal more has to be done in all areas whether they be rural or urban.

Chairman PERKINS. I agree with you but as an expert you have studied, I presume, have you not, and give us an idea of your best judgment.

Mr. ROTHMAN. We would say the programs could be extended to about 50 percent of the present recommendation, and this money could easily be usefully employed in all areas of the program, both rural and urban. This would be without waste.

I think what we are seeing now is the fact that these programs are not adequate to the need which exists in our urban poverty areas, that we are only scratching the surface and that we need to enlarge our programs tremendously.

I would say without waste we could put 50 percent over and above the present administration's recommendation to work usefully.