

to mess it up no more.' Now they say it is our program, it is our community."

Our good friend, who wants to rewrite this bill now, regardless of how well meaning he is, would add more confusion and indecision. I say let's go with the bill we have now. It is doing the job, let's correct the shortcomings that exist, and let's get moving.

Mr. BIEMILLER. I think you have made a very correct and eloquent statement about the situation as it exists and certainly the thrust of our entire argument is to the same point.

We think just because here and there you can show some flaw in the program does not mean you kill the whole program or try to revamp it and take another 3 or 4 years to see where it goes.

I think you are quite right that the OEO through the executive office could get even a better integration than it has now. There are other programs which work which are doing a very fine job.

Let me just cite one along the lines of what you are talking about.

Under the MDTA program there is some excellent training going on. Our labor union at Santa Rosa, Calif., is running a program for power men which is particularly important in the roadbuilding industry. They have now had 240 boys go through that experience there, everyone of whom was either a dropout or a juvenile delinquent, picked up purposely this kind of person. One person has dropped out of this program and the others are at work and again have become very useful members of society.

I think this is the kind of thing that you say that not only in the poverty program in its narrow sense but in the broader sense of the war on poverty, if you can give these poor kids who have had all kinds of bad experiences, a real opportunity with a chance of becoming a useful citizen, they will become just as good Americans as you and I are.

Mr. PUCINSKI. I think it is important to remember that this program suffered its greatest criticism during the early formative years. The guidelines were not clear. I am the first one to confess in the early years of this program various people came who tried to redo the whole of North America overnight, but I am rather encouraged by the fact that every major newspaper in this country has at some time or other in the last year completed a rather intensive study of the program in their own community and has written a long series of articles.

When you read them they all tend to agree despite some faults here and there, minor in nature, the basic approach is the only approach if we are going to reduce the number of people living in abject poverty I think the American people should know this.

The statistic you gave, about 25 percent of boys unemployed and 23 percent of girls unemployed, in the Negro community, you have a staggering 46 percent unemployed, and 31 percent Negro boys unemployed.

With that, how in the world can you avoid any kind of tension? How can you avoid these people being ready targets for the agitators and the instigators? It does not take much for a guy like Stokeley Carmichael to get these people worked up. So I would say let's take this program and implement and improve it so we can remove the causes of tension.