

Mr. BIEMILLER. This is certainly our contention, and may I say we are honored that you see fit to put the statement in the record, Mr. Congressman.

Mr. PUCINSKI. It is an excellent statement and it gives us a good working formula. Responsible citizens all over this country are asking what we can do and I think you spell it out in your statement today.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Meeds.

Mr. MEEDS. I apologize that I was not here to hear your oral testimony, Mr. Biemiller. I have had an opportunity to read through your prepared statement and I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate you on this statement and the people who obviously have done the background research that has gone into the preparation of the statement.

May I also congratulate the organization which you represent. Certainly you people are not Johnnies-come-lately to the war on poverty.

When you appear before this committee with the type of testimony that has been presented this morning, it is obvious that you speak with the authority and the voice of experience which we in the committee know you have.

I would like also to congratulate you. One of the things that stood out to me certainly was what the gentleman from Illinois brought out—the fact that you have done something about the Watts and the Newark and so on.

I congratulate you on that. We would like to see more of this not only by your organization but by other organizations.

There has been a good deal of talk in this committee and with various witnesses about the Job Corps; and I know you people are well acquainted with some of the operations of the Job Corps, the type of people going into and coming out of the Job Corps. There seems to be a rather concerted effort by the certainly well-meaning gentlemen on the other side of the aisle who would more or less make this an on-the-job training program by the thrust of their program.

Is it not true that there are a lot more things needed, supporting services to reach the type of people we are talking about, not that that should not be a part of it; but can we just turn this type of person over lock, stock, and barrel to private industry and say, "You transform this underprivileged hard-core unemployed dropout, overnight by simply having an on-the-job training program"? Isn't there a lot more needed than that?

Mr. BIEMILLER. If such an easy solution made sense there would be no point in having a war on poverty. Obviously, this is not the answer.

As Mr. Rothman and I have said here and I want to repeat it again, the Job Corps does as much a social program as it does a job training program and this, I think, is one of the great virtues of the Job Corps, that it does give the kid who has had no opportunity in probably more than half the cases has had brushes with the law, it gives him a chance to become a citizen, to get a feeling of responsibility, a feeling of participation in the life of our great Nation.

I think this is one of the great features of the Job Corps that has been overlooked. It is a tradition, by the way, that is rooted in American history. The CCC camps were a very comparable sort of thing, and I presume you have had the experience I have had of talking to many people who said the CCC was the thing that gave them an opportunity to get back into normal life.