

One of your distinguished members, Congressman Blatnik, can tell you a great deal about the CCC camps. We were proud that Bob Hechter, head of the machinists union, headed the CCC.

Actually, the Job Corps concept has been expanded beyond the CCC concept, but this basic approach that you are trying to do a social salvage job as well as an economic training job is the reason we feel very strongly that not only should the Job Corps be continued but it ought to be extended.

Mr. MEEDS. I was very impressed by your statement here setting forth the precise reasons for your position against spin off.

I think this will probably turn into one of the most, if not the most, hotly debated topics of the whole war against poverty concept.

So I would like to go into those in more detail if I could.

You state that the OEO is the one Federal agency that clearly speaks for the poor within the Government. Do you mean we don't have agencies that are speaking for the poor within the Government?

Mr. ROTHMAN. Let me put it this way: Obviously, when the welfare administration speaks, it speaks for poor people. These are the poorest, if you will, in a sense. I am sure there are other groups within other departments that speak for poorer people, but there is no one who is concerned with the totality of the poor, of poverty.

This, it seems to me, is the problem that we have to recognize. When we set about as a national commitment to eradicate poverty from our midst we simply can't just parcel out to this department and say you deal with this, and you deal with this, and so on, without having some coordinating force within the Government which will attempt to pull together the various programs that are ongoing in terms of the totality of the war against poverty.

Mr. MEEDS. Do you agree with me that, if one can ascribe a prime reason to poverty in the United States, in all probability the greatest single factor in our failure to really do something about poverty prior to this time came from this precise reason you just stated.

In other words, poverty is a many-faceted thing, and we have had different agencies plowing away in their furrows all attacking different facets of this total problem and no one was concerned and no one was attacking the overall problem and coordinating all of these activities into a rifle shot directed against poverty, and that is what the OEO is doing now and has been doing.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Precisely. That is exactly why we support the OEO as the central, unifying, coordinating force. We hope they will do even a better job than they have done. We realize they have a lot of problems in this area. We are not being unduly critical of them, of course, but we feel this is really where the job needs to be done.

Mr. MEEDS. Another thing; and I am sure you have noticed it and certainly the members of this committee have noticed it, because we have received some pretty sharp blows on such things; what happens when the Federal Government or local government or State government gets people all worked up with a new program, a dramatic, dynamic new program, gets them enthused, gets them interested and then just suddenly drops them? I know what we hear about it, but what do you see?

Mr. ROTHMAN. Actually, this is the thing that ought never happen, especially when you are dealing with poor people. When a program is