

Chairman PERKINS. We commenced promptly at 9 a.m. with Andy Biemiller.

Mr. O'HARA. Let me say I believe the AFL-CIO is to be commended for the support it has given this program since its inception. I think it is fair to say the AFL-CIO has been successful enough so that very few of its members receive wages that would put them in the poverty category. Yet the concern and interest that the AFL-CIO has shown for the poor and for well-financed programs to assist them out of poverty demonstrates again what has been demonstrated many times in the past. The AFL-CIO is a good deal more than just a narrow self-interest group.

I think that is something we sometimes take for granted and, therefore, I though this might be an appropriate occasion to reemphasize that point.

I am sorry I missed your testimony, gentlemen, but when the six volumes of printed hearings come out, I will be sure to find your statement and read it.

Mr. BIEMILLER. Thank you, Mr. Congressman, for your remarks about the AFL-CIO.

Chairman PERKINS. Let me compliment you, Mr. Biemiller, and Mr. Rothman, too, for the comments you have made. You have made a contribution and I think all members will agree when they read your statement, and I agree with the gentleman from Michigan.

Again, let me thank you for your appearance.

Mr. BIEMILLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity.

Chairman PERKINS. Dr. Arthur Flemming.

Dr. Flemming, it is a pleasure for me to again welcome you before the committee. You appeared here when we were writing the ESEA, when it had ESEA up for amendments in the poverty program.

You have always been interested in the welfare of the people of this country and you are a great educator and you are one of the most outstanding Secretaries of HEW where you pioneered so ably with the legislation that was later enacted by the Congress.

We welcome you.

You may proceed in any manner that you prefer.

STATEMENT OF ARTHUR S. FLEMMING, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST OF THE UNITED STATES

Dr. FLEMMING. First of all, may I express to you my very deep appreciation for your generous comments. I can assure you it is a privilege for me to have the opportunity of appearing before you and the members of your committee on what I regard as very important legislation.

For the record, I will identify myself as Arthur S. Flemming, of Eugene, Oreg., and I appear before you today, Mr. Chairman, as president of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

The organization which I represent is a council of 34 Protestant and Orthodox denominations. One of the stated purposes of the council as set forth in the constitution is "to study and speak and act on conditions and issues in the Nation and the world which involve moral, ethical, and spiritual principles inherent in the Christian Gospel."