

there may be persons, in both the public and private sectors, who raise questions about them.

Every effort should be made to make sure that proposals coming from the community do not reflect the lowest common denominator of thinking in the community. In this connection we have a drafting suggestion relative to 221(C) which I will submit in a letter to the chairman of the committee.

Finally, the fifth concern is that of adequate financing. The commitment of the general board of the National Council of Churches to the objectives of the Economic Opportunity Act and its confidence in the programs that have been developed to achieve these objectives is clearly set forth in this language from its February 1967 resolution:

... and also urges councils of churches, denominations directly, and through them their local congregations, and religious agencies to support a substantial supplementary—1966-1967—federal appropriation for the Office of Economic Opportunity and a full funding of this agency for 1967-68 at no less than \$2.1 billion in keeping with the request of the Administration of the United States Government ...

We would like to underline the words "at no less than \$2.1 billion." We believe that our Nation, having put its hands to the plow, must not turn back but must move forward in its determination "to eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty in this Nation by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training, the opportunity to work and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity."

We recognize the progress that has been made through such programs as Headstart, the Neighborhood Youth Corps, the Job Corps, Upward Bound, VISTA, Neighborhood Health Centers, and Community Action Agencies.

We believe that these programs must be strengthened. We also believe that the way must always be open for the consideration and financing of new programs that give promise of replacing despair with hope in the lives of the poor.

We are confident that the Congress of the United States is going to make it possible for the Nation to move forward in an undertaking that must succeed if our Nation is to demonstrate by its deeds its belief in the dignity and worth of every human being.

Chairman PERKINS. I will yield to Mr. Gibbons for just a moment. I am fortunate because I have had the opportunity to invite you here on numerous occasions before the general Subcommittee on Education.

You always come before the committee with an eloquent statement and in my opinion you know what you are talking about. I recall I got acquainted with you through the minority when you were an outstanding Secretary of HEW in the Eisenhower Cabinet.

You were testifying with respect to certain educational legislation which later on was enacted.

From your experience you have in my judgement so ably stated the role of the Office of Economic Opportunity couched in words that not many other witnesses have so clearly expressed.

I believe in substance you state we would be throwing away this experience that we have gained and as an administrator in one of the major agencies in this country, this proposal purports to transfer the so-called opportunity crusade, transfer many of these programs to HEW, particularly the Office of Economic Opportunity, and the Job