

Mr. Flemming, I am not attempting to put you on the spot, and I realize you would not be speaking from any information that you could gather from investigation of specific instances, but the innuendo has been made that the whole idea of the Poverty Act and the way it has been carried out has been a contributing influence to the social unrest we have been having in this country now. I ask you this question because I know you have great experience in the whole field of human activity. I would like to have your thoughts and views in this area.

Dr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, let me say, first of all, I do not believe that a positive effort to deal with a problem in a constructive manner ever leads to a situation that would bring about the kind of a crisis that confronts our country at the present time.

I would like to go on and say this: There isn't any question in my mind or in the mind of anyone else, it is absolutely essential for us to maintain law and order in this country, and any program that is designed to undermine the concept of law and order, I mean any efforts that are made to undermine the concept of law and order should be dealt with in a vigorous and effective manner.

But I also believe that this is a crisis. I am just as depressed as everyone else to read about what is going on, to watch television, listen to the radio, and so on.

I believe that this is no time for recriminations. I believe that it is no time for trying to fix blame by indulging in sweeping generalizations. Personally I feel we all share the blame for the sins of omission particularly that have brought us to the events of this week.

I have noted the various suggestions that have been made relative to investigating the underlying causes with the idea of coming up with positive recommendations designed to make it possible for all segments of society to deal with this in a more effective manner.

I personally, and this obviously is a personal suggestion, would like to suggest that the Congress give consideration to the establishment of a bipartisan commission to investigate the events of the past few weeks and to make recommendations for dealing with these basic problems and that this commission be constituted in the same manner as the two Hoover commissions; namely, that the Speaker of the House would appoint a Democrat and a Republican from the membership of the House and a Democrat and a Republican from outside Government; the Vice President would appoint a Republican and Democrat from the membership of the Senate and a Democrat and Republican from outside the Senate; and the President would appoint a Democrat and a Republican from within the executive branch and a Democrat and a Republican from without the administration.

I would suggest in this instance the law would provide one of the persons appointed by the Speaker, the Vice President, and the President, one of those three appointing officers from outside the Federal Government should be associated with State or local government.

So this would give you a commission made up of six persons from within the Government, two from the House of Representatives, two from the Senate, two from the executive branch; and it would give you a commission of six persons from outside of the Government, but three of those six would be related to State or local government, and it would provide you, obviously, with six Democrats and six Republicans.