

I served on both of the Hoover commissions, and I found that a commission constituted in that way was in a position to render a fine service.

Right now I am serving as Chairman of another commission that this body set up to look into the Hatch Act, constituted in the same way, and I likewise think this is constructive.

Mr. GIBBONS. We hate to keep interrupting you, Doctor, but somebody is harassing us over on the floor with quorum calls, and we will have to get over there to answer those.

Chairman PERKINS. We will recess for 10 minutes, and then we will return to permit further questioning.

Chairman PERKINS. The committee will come to order.

Mr. GIBBONS. If this committee decided to collect information as to whether or not any poverty employee were engaged in activities precipitating riots—I want to ask you not about that because I realize that is only what a factual investigation will determine, but I want to ask you about the philosophy of this program and the philosophy and the facets of it to get your view on it. Let's talk about maximum feasible participation of the poor. Is this something that in your opinion would incite riotous conditions or would it be amelioratory?

Dr. FLEMMING. It would be just the opposite in my opinion because it enables these people to develop a sense of participation in dealing with some of the issues that are very real to them. In other words, they don't have to sit on the sidelines as spectators and complain but they are given an opportunity to participate in working out solutions to the problems. I know of nothing that can lead to more constructive results than that kind of approach in any area of life.

Mr. QUIE. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. GIBBONS. I yield.

Mr. QUIE. This is what has bothered me. Detroit probably has the worst reputation for the number of people participating in riots and the number of people killed, yet I always thought Detroit had a good community action program. I went there early in the program and made an investigation and before the poor were involved, and they did select their representatives. What gets thrown up to me all the time is my strong advocacy of participation by the poor. I am asked is this the participation of the poor? What would your answer be?

Dr. FLEMMING. It seems to me very important that an impartial investigation be made of that situation so that before people arrive at conclusions or state conclusions they have an opportunity of weighing the relevant evidence.

I think it would be very, very unfortunate if without relevant evidence people jumped to the conclusion that the opportunities provided in an area like Detroit for development had not made a significant contribution to the life of that city in spite of what has happened during the past few days.

I just feel it is very important for the Congress of the United States to make sure that impartial effort is made to assemble the evidence on the basis on which reasonable people can arrive at a conclusion.

Certainly you could very well explore the question even though we have traveled a considerable distance in an area like Detroit we have not traveled far enough as a society along the road you have been advocating and certainly I join with you in advocating.