

Right at this point, Mr. Chairman, if I might, I made a suggestion for the establishment of a commission to be established along the lines of the Hoover Commission.

I would like to say this: I think if such a commission were established by the Congress, the law should make it very clear that the commission was under responsibility to keep reporting periodically to the Congress on its evaluation of evidence and on the recommendations that it felt would be of help.

I know one of the worst things to happen in Government is to set up a study commission and then anytime anybody has a proposal they are told to put it on the table until the study commission reports. This is one of the surest ways in the world of slowing down the processes of Government rather than accelerating those processes. So I think it would be very important for any group that is set up, whether it is set up along these lines or any other lines to be under mandate to keep reporting back and not wait until it has worked out a well-rounded report.

Chairman PERKINS. I want to interrupt you to compliment you on that approach. I think Congress would be derelict in its responsibilities if we failed to take a bipartisan approach along the lines you are suggesting.

Mr. QUIE. Dr. Flemming, do you think it is important that we conduct a part of the studies and have some answers to the involvement of people who were on the poverty staffs and the relationship these people had with the rioting or attempting to quell it? If they were involved, we ought to know that so the facts would be before us when the bill reaches us on the floor for debate rather than letting conjecture be made at that time without any basis of fact. Do you not feel, also if that were the case, that the whole concept of involvement of the poor in community action would be sorely in danger in the future?

Dr. FLEMMING. Congressman Quie, I noticed in the newspapers this morning that the committee authorized and directed its staff to make this kind of investigation. I think this is very wise. Otherwise, you are going to be confronted with a lot of generalizations that are not based on fact. My hope would be that the committee is in a position where this could be done very quickly because I also think we are at a point where it is very important for the Congress to act promptly in connection with the Economic Opportunity Act. I think there is that side of it, too. As far as I can see, there is agreement and what disagreement there is relates to organizational matters, and so on. I think it is very very important to get across to the country the fact that the Congress is not going to go on dead center in its consideration of this matter, that it is going to move rapidly but I don't see a conflict between the two. I think it should be possible to develop the factual information in an impartial, bipartisan matter very quickly so that, as you say, when this gets on the floor Members are not going to be influenced by generalizations that have no basis in fact but will be influenced by the factual situation as it is presented.

I think if the country got the idea that because of what has happened we are going to slow down a program in this particular area, this would be terribly unfortunate. So I would hope the two things could go on simultaneously.