

Dr. FLEMMING. I imagine that kind of a situation could develop within a university just as it does in Government but I would stop and think a lot before I decided I had no other alternative if the responsibility had been given to me.

Mr. GIBBONS. Let's talk real frankly about this. The whole problem is we do not have the political support for this program. That is our fundamental problem and we have had it all along since 1964. I wish, Dr. Flemming, that I shared your optimism about getting these programs into operation and I share your enthusiasm for wanting to work them out, but let's lay the cards on the table so we can get it all in the record. I figure we have between 166 and 169 votes to keep OEO together and that Mr. Quie and the Opportunity Crusade have considerably less than that, but neither one of us has control of the situation and I think we are in serious trouble. I think that the country has to understand that and the administrators and the Members of Congress have to understand that. I do not see a whole lot of ways we can compromise with the Opportunity Crusade and send it all around the country and come out with the position that we can get a bill passed.

We are here at 3 minutes of 1 on this day and we are at that situation. Obviously we have to do something. You say speed is of the essence, but I want to lay the cards on the table.

Dr. FLEMMING. Mr. Chairman, I would certainly hope out of the hearings and out of the discussions that will take place in the committee there might emerge a bill which said to the country in no uncertain terms Congress means business in this war against poverty; that we are disturbed and alarmed at the developments which have been taking place during the past few weeks, and that we are going to approach it with a kind of unity that characterized the Congress, for example, when I worked with it as a member of the Civil Service Commission when we became involved in World War II.

I think the objective set forth in the Opportunity Act is a tremendously important objective for this Nation to achieve not in the next generation but in our generation.

I said earlier I would hope there could be agreement which made it very clear that the Office of Economic Opportunity as the general headquarters for this whole operation has been given a green light, and even though people may differ with some of the things they have done in the past and even though people may have ideas as to the way in which it can be improved, nevertheless, they are going to make it possible for it to represent this Nation at this very critical point.

Somehow or other as I listen to the discussion and listen to the questions—well, let me put it this way. I would hope that it is not an impossible objective that I have identified. Somehow or other I feel it is an objective that could be achieved.

Mr. GIBBONS. The reason I have been so brutally frank about this is I agree with what you say but I do not think we have realistically faced this situation and every hour and every day we face grave situations in this country, and things are not going well right now.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Quie.

Mr. QUIE. I share the views of Dr. Flemming and my colleague from Florida. I guess this committee is going to determine whether we can operate in the kind of good faith, partisan politics being what