

it is, to devise a program that can be supported on the floor of the House.

Now, it is easy for me to lay blame on Democrats for the past action but, frankly, I admit there is a great deal of responsibility that the Republicans have now that they have added strength on their side. We shall find out how we shape up and this will be the test of it.

I am concerned there is a strong possibility that this Congress will devise this program in such a way that the people who are involved in these programs will have no more voice than they had before, and then this ingenious feature, as controversial as it has been with the involvement of these people, might be lost. I can see that happening so clearly—more riots will be going on and the tendency that occurred in the last Congress will occur again this time. I would at least like to draw this out that we make up our minds as we move along and evolve and that we take a wise course because I am convinced as difficult as these people are in poverty to work with, they must play a role in their own betterment; otherwise we are not going to solve this problem at all.

Dr. FLEMING. I am in complete agreement there. I do not believe you were here when I called attention to some language in H.R. 8311 which it seems to me could be cleared up in an effort to underline the concept that you are underlining.

You see, it is easy for a new agency to become an old agency very soon. This is possible also. It seems to me it is important for the Congress to make it clear to the agency that is charged with the responsibility for the administration of the act that the Congress does expect the involvement of the poor. I have made the point it is so easy for a good idea to be developed down at the community level by the poor but then to say before that idea can be looked at it has to be checked by this group and that group and another group and then even go to the point of saying unless all of the parties agree it is not going to be financed and so on, you have killed what might be a very exciting and significant idea. All you have is the lowest common denominator from that particular group.

I think the Congress in the drafting of this bill ought to make abundantly clear the kind of conviction that you have stated so that the administrator is backed by that very kind of strong statement so we can resist more effectively some of these other pressures.

The language that I referred to, just to point this out, and I will conclude, is on page 50, section 221(c). In the draft it says—

The Director shall prescribe necessary rules and regulations governing application for assistance under this section to assure that every reasonable effort is made by each applicant to secure the views of local public officials and agencies in the community having a direct or substantial interest in the application.

Then it goes on to say—

And to resolve all issues of cooperation and possible duplication prior to its submission.

If that is interpreted literally that will kill some good ideas. I suggested that the language be inserted there, "and that every reasonable effort has been made to resolve all issues of cooperation." In other words, sure they should have the responsibility for trying to resolve it but if they can't resolve it the application ought to move forward