

so it can be acted on. Other than that we are going to get the dead hand of compromise killing off some excellent ideas. I agree with you completely.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Gurney?

Mr. GURNEY. No questions.

Chairman PERKINS. Let me compliment you, Mr. Flemming, for such an outstanding statement today.

I have been laboring under the impression all day long, when we wrote the original act in 1964, that we set it up as an independent agency but as an executive arm of the Government just like the Office of Defense Mobilization was set up. Maybe my memory is not accurate on that very idea, but I do think we put the blame in an act which directed all of the departments of Government to cooperate with the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity and it has been considered as an executive arm. I am convinced that you are exactly right in the observations you have made here today. Since we have gone into this, there is one point, and I feel there is complete cooperation on the part of the minority and the majority. You referred to the fact that the full committee took action yesterday in connection with full investigation. The resolution that was passed directed that the facts be gathered by the staff pro and con.

At the direction of the committee, I am already working with the minority and we are in complete accord as to the means and methods to be used to bring about the facts. But if we undertake to go throughout the Nation, we will delay the enactment of this bill a long time and for that reason I would like to get from you—of course, the New Jersey problem is what brought the problem before the committee, and Detroit—could you give us a little more guidance, if I may use that terminology.

I consider you one of the great administrators in this country, and I would ask you to what extent should we go before we bring this bill to the floor. I agree wholeheartedly we should approach it along the lines you have suggested and follow the pattern of the Hoover Commission, completely bipartisan so the people of this country will know just what is taking place and have confidence in any report and feed this information back to the Congress as rapidly as possible. But that will be another course of action. But directing your answer to the action this committee should take, what would be your suggestion?

Dr. FLEMMING. Mr. Chairman, in view of the urgency that is involved from a time point of view, I think if I had the responsibility for such an investigation I would say we will investigate specific documented allegations. In other words, I note as I read the papers that people are indulging in generalizations and I doubt if in many instances there are specifics they could point back to those generalizations more than an emotional reaction of facts and it seems to me this would be a situation where the committee would be thoroughly justified in saying where there are specific allegations that somebody is willing to put into writing relative to the involvement of Economic Opportunity personnel we will take a look at those. Obviously the committee would have the assistance of the total resources of the Government in taking a look at specific allegations. If those resources were marshaled quickly and I would feel confident the President of the United States would be willing to—