Now then I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we eliminate community action programs as such as a vehicle. I say that for several reasons. First of all, from the standpoint of behavioral scientists there is not one iota of evidence to show this is the kind of vehicle to perform this job.

Secondly, it widens the bureaucratic distance that is necessary to make the program effective.

Thirdly, it sets up a new layer of local government which we don't want. We have always had community action. Local government is community action.

So I would like to see us take these basic functions and put them in the Office of Health, Education, and Welfare under an Assistant Secretary, preserving all that is good in the program, extending and doing a better job but simplifying the structure.

Those, Mr. Chairman, are the results of my study. There is a lot of stuff in this thick study but those are the points.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Gibbons?

Mr. GIBBONS. I will yield my time to Mr. Quie.

Mr. QUIE. Since I was involved in some other conversations here, I yield to my colleague from Florida to ask questions first.

Mr. GURNEY. Dr. Douglass, what is your opinion again of the local economic opportunity committee in Orange County? Has it been effective or ineffective?

Dr. DOUGLASS. Local opportunity—the Orange County Economic Opportunity, Inc., in Orange County, has been ineffective.

Mr. GURNEY. Would you tell the committee a little bit about how it was organized and why you think it has been ineffective?

Dr. DOUGLASS. Our program got started under the leadership of the public school system and got a good start. A former superintendent of schools of long standing was placed in charge of it. There was great community respect for the program and then the program was ceased by the Governor's Patronage Committee and since that time it has been deeply embroided in politics.

Mr. GURNEY. As I understand it, when the committee was first organized there was initially a small group of people, I think five in number, who proceeded with the organization, and then appointed a board of directors supposedly representative of the community.

Is that a fact?

Dr. DOUGLASS. Supposed to represent the community?

Mr. GURNEY. Yes.

Dr. DOUGLASS. Yes, sir.

Mr. GURNEY. Did this board of directors ever meet after they were appointed?

Dr. DOUGLASS. During the first year after they elected the executive committee the board never met. In the present year, we have new bylaws and the board is supposed to meet every month.

Mr. GURNEY. In 1965 and 1966, actually the board of directors took no part in the running of the program and it was run by this small politically oriented group; is that correct?

Dr. DOUGLASS. That is correct.

Mr. GURNEY. Was there also constantly a struggle for power in this affair?

Dr. DOUGLASS. Yes, sir. There is always a struggle for power in politics and there were two groups, group No. 1 being the group that