

represented the patronage committee that wanted to hold onto the organization and the second group was a group of liberal people who wanted to take over the organization—two factions.

Mr. GURNEY. Is it also a fact that whenever there was a meeting of the board of directors or a meeting of the citizenry in general in connection with the Economic Opportunity Act, is it fair to say there was constantly a tremendous furor and struggle back and forth as to who was going to run the show?

Dr. DOUGLASS. On the back of my report here I have some newspaper headlines, "OEO Battleground Gets More Headstart Scars." "Board Squabbles Are Up Over Release to Press."

"Tempers Flare at OEO."

They are all there.

Mr. GURNEY. This is representative of most of the meetings?

Dr. DOUGLASS. That and the fact that they are extremely boring.

Mr. GURNEY. What about the personnel?

Dr. DOUGLASS. In Orange County one group defeated urban renewal and the woman who led the crusade against urban renewal appeared as one of the keyworkers in OEO.

Prior to that time she was a hat saleswoman. I would say she was not qualified for the job.

The other personnel were equally unqualified.

Mr. GURNEY. What about the directors of OEO themselves?

Dr. DOUGLASS. Those poor fellows have suffered. The first fellow, Mr. Congressman, was the superintendent of schools. He left the county—he was a good man—he left the county and by political efforts he was given a position of professor of mathematics at the State university.

The second man just served his term and resigned. He was a Burns patronage man. I have his letter of resignation here which is rather pathetic.

The third man is now in training at this great training school at the University of Wisconsin. He just lacks it all.

Mr. GURNEY. What about the support of the poverty war programs by various groups in Orange County, has it been supported or not supporter?

Dr. DOUGLASS. All I know, the Rabbi who is chairman of the volunteers committee, says he can't get any volunteers because the image of OEO is so bad he can't get volunteers. He wants to improve the image so he can get volunteers.

Mr. GURNEY. Were these controversial facts surrounding OEO known at the regional office in Atlanta?

Dr. DOUGLASS. These are competent, sympathetic fellows. They have a file about this thick and I am sure Sargent Shriver has a file equally big. In fact, I think one of these things said, "Don't let Congressman Gurney make a political issue out of this thing."

Mr. GURNEY. But it is a fact that the regional office was aware of the problems and was not able to resolve them?

Dr. DOUGLASS. As a matter of fact, they are down there investigating today again. All of the documents and records are here, Mr. Congressman, which show their constant and patient efforts to review the situation.