

Mr. GURNEY. I notice on page 28 of your report, I notice the following statement:

The meeting of the OEO regional staff with Orange County personalities was described in the memorandum as a "bar room brawl" characterized by "court-room gymnastics."

I guess that is probably fairly representative of how they understood the program was going.

Dr. DOUGLASS. I understand the regional office knows that very well.

Mr. GURNEY. I know you have described this and yet I think it is well to restate it.

How can we resolve these things in Orange County to make this program work?

Dr. DOUGLASS. If we continue the community action program, I think there should be a requirement that the executive committee should have strong minority representation from existing professional organizations and governing bodies. That would broaden the base of comment and criticism review.

It would make it more of a community action program and less of a political patronage operation—strong representation from professional organizations.

Mr. GURNEY. I understand it is also your thought, though, that poverty war programs in general would work better if you did not have this bureaucratic layer of government at a local level but transferred into older and recognized departments and agencies; is that correct?

Dr. DOUGLASS. Yes, sir.

Mr. GURNEY. Such as the Departments of Education and Health, Education, and Welfare?

Dr. DOUGLASS. If we need local action advisory groups, I would like to see them advise with these other groups.

Mr. GURNEY. I think it is your opinion, also, that Headstart, which is essentially an educational program, ought to be run by the local education authorities; is that correct?

Dr. DOUGLASS. Yes.

Mr. QUIE. I would like to find out more about your community action agency. How many people serve on the umbrella board?

Dr. DOUGLASS. We have 61, but eventually it will be cut down to 41. There has been nothing but confusion over the bylaws, whether they were legitimately approved and in operation and currently we have our last revision which will provide for a board of 41 members.

Mr. QUIE. Has OEO urged you to do that or has it come internally, or what?

Dr. DOUGLASS. These patient, competent fellows in Atlanta in endless correspondence and endless visits worked it out. We have sat through hours of meetings listening to these and we have had any number of lawyers drafting these things.

Mr. QUIE. Of those 61, what kind of representation has there been, not poor people on the board but representatives of the poor people?

Dr. DOUGLASS. We have a certain percentage. I will say off-hand one-third representing the poor. We have interested citizens, public officials, poverty groups, and then within poverty groups we identify the people who are colored.