

Mr. QUIE. How will the poor select this representation?

Dr. DOUGLASS. They get together and caucus and name the person they want to have on the board.

Mr. QUIE. Is this the way it will happen?

Dr. DOUGLASS. I don't think human nature is like that. I would like to think it was, but I don't think it is like that. Somebody has to call a meeting. Somebody has to get the people out to vote and somebody has to tell them what they are going to vote about, so the idea that they just get together spontaneously is just a romance that does not work.

Mr. QUIE. Somebody has to bring them together, but when they do come together, will they be able to select a person or will it operate as in some community action agencies, they in effect nominate and the board itself or the mayor or whoever is in power actually makes the appointment?

Dr. DOUGLASS. I don't think anybody who is responsible for it politically or ideologically will let somebody come on the board who is not a good person, in their opinion.

Mr. QUIE. What about the executive committee? Do they plan to continue to run the show as they did in the past?

Dr. DOUGLASS. Yes.

Mr. QUIE. Are there any plans to get representatives of the poor on the executive board in the future?

Dr. DOUGLASS. I assume so, but I can't speak on that subject. What the executive committee has in mind or what the nominating committee has in mind, I don't know.

The executive committee is authorized by the State charter, which they have to appoint personnel and to see that it operates.

Mr. QUIE. Have you had any voter registration drives?

Dr. DOUGLASS. Do you mean for Negroes?

Mr. QUIE. Well, for anybody, Negroes, anybody else.

Dr. DOUGLASS. I was one of the original campaigners for it. I went down to Sam Gibbon's place and campaigned and put on training programs as to how to vote. It was not popular to do it. It was not a status symbol in those days.

Mr. QUIE. Was that done on your own or through the Democratic organization?

Dr. DOUGLASS. In Tampa, through the Hillsboro Democratic Committee and in our own section through voters registration. Now, who ran that or where it came from, but Mayor Carr and I used to go out and do everything we could to register.

Mr. QUIE. What about in the last three years? Has there been any voter registration funded by your community action agency?

Dr. DOUGLASS. No, sir. The woman with whom I used to work on voter registration became the Director of Headstart, and beyond that I don't know.

Mr. QUIE. You say that the community action agency tends to be just another bureaucratic agency which one must go through?

Dr. DOUGLASS. I said it lengthens the bureaucratic distance between the needy people and the services which Government can perform.

Mr. QUIE. I also got the implication from your statement that you favored the involvement of the people who were to participate in the program; namely, the poor.