

It is the view of OEO that all but a handful have complied and have true representation, and they have so testified. I believe they listed at one point early in our hearings eight to 12 communities that had not complied and subsequently indicated that this number was smaller now because others have complied.

Do you agree that there are only 12 or less community action agencies in this country that have failed to comply with the requirement of true representation of one-third on community action boards?

Mr. BOONE. It would be very difficult for me to agree with that.

First of all, I think all of us should be concerned with the problems surrounding how representatives of the poor or residents of the areas affected are chosen or are elected or whatever they are for policy-making positions.

Let me be very candid. Although I would say I have no substitute for the so-called election procedures, the fact remains that the great majority of poor people are disorganized. One can point to very few leaders in poverty-impacted areas who have any kind of organized constituency. The process of selecting or choosing people to sit on boards is one which can either be a facade or it can be one that represents a bone fide moving up of people as effective representatives of poor people, people who have responsibility to be responsive to their constituency, and I mean constituencies of poor people.

I think that one of the reasons that there are such great problems in the whole policymaking area and the choosing or the election of people for policymaking positions on CAP boards is that the people who get there are often not spokesmen and often not effective representatives of the supposed constituency which they supposedly represent.

Sometimes this is the fault of the system which chooses them, and I mean the system from above. Sometimes it is a problem directly related to the process from below.

We have already seen that it is rare in local antipoverty elections for board membership that the local vote is over 3 to 5 percent. There is something wrong somewhere if that vote is so small.

I am not prepared to say what is wrong, but it does speak to the quality of the processes by which poor people are chosen or are elected to sit on and participate on antipoverty boards.

Mr. GOODELL. Mr. Boone, you obviously like short questions and long answers, but I prefer short questions and short answers. Let me give it to you directly. Your organization is one of the leaders committed to true involvement of the poor. I agree with you. As a matter of fact, I worked with you in this connection.

Now, of all of the organizations, yours should be able to give us a direct evaluation of what we have achieved thus far. The Office of Economic Opportunity has told us that they have complied with the letter and the spirit of the one-third requirement, and they have told the American people that apparently there are just a handful of communities that have failed to comply.

Now your organization certainly should be one that could evaluate that statement in direct, meaningful, and understandable terms.

It is my understanding that you do not agree with that assessment, that we are a long way away from getting true involvement. I agree with all of the statements you have made in answer to my questions