

of costs, participants, and the other things that individual members may want to refer to at some future time.

I would also like to call attention to the picture book there that was paid for by Mr. Jeffry Lazarus, a prominent Cincinnati businessman.

With your permission, I would like to read my prepared statement and then, if there are any questions, I would be pleased to answer any questions.

First, let me say it is a great honor to appear before this distinguished committee and I want to take this opportunity to say I admire you for the courage and sensitivity you demonstrated in recommending the original Economic Opportunity Act while maintaining its basic integrity over the past 3 years.

That you have been able to do this is evidence of your commitment to making the United States a truly open society.

I am here as an advocate for the community action programs. While all parts of the Economic Opportunity Act are important and contribute to the alleviation of specific problems, the most significant and most needed contribution has been community action.

Using Federal funds, local communities have been enabled to develop and conduct the kind of programs they know to be needed.

Just as all the Federal money in the Treasury won't eliminate poverty without local initiative, so local initiative alone can't work without Federal money. This partnership of effort is essential to our success in Cincinnati or wherever community action is at work.

As you gentlemen know, the law requires that community action programs be coordinated with other efforts to eliminate poverty, and also that there must be maximum feasible participation of the poor.

Both of these requirements have benefits far surpassing what most of us ever imagined. The heavy emphasis on coordination has brought together different sources of funds, public and private agencies, and it has sparked a degree of cooperation at the local level, which is refreshing to all who experience it.

The brilliance of title II, however, remains in the fact that community action has insisted on total involvement of the poor. Serving on boards, planning groups, and actually conducting the work of many programs, poor people have been brought in to achieve jointly what none could do alone.

Because of the successful participation of poor people in community action, it is not an exaggeration to say there has been a rebirth of a sense of democracy wherever community action has been doing its job.

I am appearing before this committee as a public voice for the thousands of poor people in our community who still live in silent despair, waiting for community action to touch them.

The experience of Cincinnati in mounting a local war on poverty is probably typical of most of our Nation's communities. We have made a few mistakes, encountered a number of difficulties, and we have been frustrated in our attempts to do all that needs doing.

Our very existence is a measure of our success. For the program was born quickly and has had a stormy youth; but it has survived and it gives promise in ways we have not seen before if we continue to have the support of Congress, local public officials, community leaders, the poor themselves, and all those concerned with one of the most serious problems of our complex society.