

Mr. HANSAN. Would you rather we didn't have a West End Community Council?

Mr. ASHBROOK. No, I have not said that. I would rather they work along the objectives you point out in your wonderful report here.

Mr. HANSAN. Our program cannot set the program in any association of neighbors. We don't control them.

Mr. ASHBROOK. You create them, as you say on page 7.

Mr. HANSAN. That is correct; but we operate on the basis that the vast majority of people in the United States are good people, if not all of them, the vast majority of them are good people, and these people coming together will ultimately choose what is best for them.

Mr. ASHBROOK. That is the way many of these riots are being stirred up around the country. They say that is best for them.

Mr. HANSAN. We can talk of the riots if you want to, but what I am saying is this committee and others—I don't think a man on the committee would deny it—is that with the people in poor neighborhoods, particularly slum neighborhoods, there has been an apathy that is devastating, and one of the reasons for this is these people don't think they can do anything about their own lives.

Through community councils they have done a great deal. You have a few examples in front of you about things you think are questionable, but we can talk all day and all night about activities you would be proud of.

Mr. ASHBROOK. As I say, there are two points: we have been accused of not knowing the world of poverty, and I think sometimes we are not aware of the other world of the poverty program.

Mr. HANSAN. Let me say again, the actions of the community councils are not the actions of the programs funded by the OEO. These are independent associations; they don't get a nickel from us. Now, staff helped to organize and keep them going, but it is the residents—the people—who decide what they are going to do.

Mr. ASHBROOK. Let's look at something that has been funded. In the words of Mr. Sargent Shriver himself—I have the June 21, 1967, edition of the—

Chairman PERKINS. Before you leave that point, if you will yield, I think we should leave it clear in the record that no funds, no OEO funds were involved at the time of the meeting where these remarks were made at this west end council.

Mr. ASHBROOK. No, I wouldn't want that said. Mr. Hansan said he helped create it. He said the west end council is in the same building as the Community Action Committee of Cincinnati?

Mr. HANSAN. The west end council is a resident association that has as their address this office.

Mr. ASHBROOK. They meet there. They have the same address as your office—822 Linn Street Mall?

Mr. HANSAN. It is a separate office paid for by the west end neighborhood service project, part of Seven Hills Neighborhood House.

Not only is this true of west end, but of many neighborhoods. The address for community councils is in neighborhood centers. They may or may not be funded by OEO. Insofar as they are using space, lights, heat that are possibly paid for by poverty funds, it is so connected, but their actions, their work, their postage, and all of that, to my knowledge, is out of their own treasury.