

Mr. O'HARA. I think it is an excellent idea. As one who worked in legal services for the poor before coming to Congress, I can testify to the need for this type of service and to the great lack of it that has heretofore existed.

I would like to just straighten out one question that seems to have gotten fuzzed up a little bit. As I understood it from Mr. Ashbrook's questions and your responses, one of the things your agency has undertaken has been to inspire and assist in the creation of neighborhood councils. Is that right?

Mr. HANSAN. That is correct.

Mr. O'HARA. Do you in any way fund the continued operation of these neighborhood councils?

Mr. HANSAN. No, sir, we fund neighborhood centers which are staff, and part of the purpose of a neighborhood center staff is to foster organizations of a variety of kinds. The community council is one but they also organize mothers' clubs, cooking classes, or they might organize something like recreation committees, or any number of these things.

I might add it was the role of the neighborhood centers to do this long before the Economic Opportunity Act but, because of the limited united appeal funding, it has never been able to make a significant impact.

Mr. O'HARA. Once a neighborhood council is organized, whether on its own or with the assistance of a neighborhood center, they are on their own, they have their own constitution and bylaws, adopt their own resolutions, raise their own funds, et cetera?

Mr. HANSAN. That is right. And I might add when they get real good they begin to criticize the neighborhood center and me and our office.

Mr. O'HARA. I was going to get to that. I imagine one of the things they frequently do after they get going is criticize the poverty program and the way it is implemented.

Mr. HANSAN. It is particularly difficult for me, if I may presume on your time, so many are in Negro areas and they feel if they ask Mr. Barry of OEO he will straighten me out and take the heat off.

Mr. O'HARA. I am glad this matter is straightened out, I don't know if Mr. Barry has time to handle all these problems. He must be pretty busy with his own responsibilities.

Mr. HANSAN. You can't convince the people in the neighborhood of that.

Mr. O'HARA. I think it is clear you do not exercise any control over resolutions and actions taken by neighborhood councils once they are organized. I wanted that straightened out for the record.

I have read your testimony and I have had the occasion to hear a few things about the Cincinnati area program. As community action programs go, the Cincinnati program is a pretty good one because I think you have more neighborhood activity and neighborhood involvements through the operation of your neighborhood service centers and through the creation of these neighborhood councils than many other cities. I am in accord with your philosophy in doing this. One of the most important things in these neighborhoods is to get people banded together, discussing and becoming aware of each other's common problems, and taking the first steps toward common action to meet common