

Mr. Held asked that I contact you and we did that and we are here at this time to present some of the facts that enabled us to reach the conclusion that an investigation is warranted and that you should appoint a committee of members and have them come to Cincinnati to see and to hear just how these programs are working; whether they are efficient and whether they have achieved the results that those who have preceded us have indicated by these brochures which we do not have, and by the pictures and the testimony which we have not had the opportunity to present to you because we do not know.

So we are here to assist you and perhaps you can assist us. And it is my pleasure and privilege at this time to present to you Mr. Held.

Mr. ASHBROOK. Before Mr. Held proceeds, could I intervene at this point?

Chairman PERKINS. Yes.

Mr. ASHBROOK. It wasn't my intention to take issue with the chairman, but I think the gentleman from Cincinnati has ably pointed out the different aspects of what the investigation is to be. The proposed investigation was not necessarily to look into the activity of the poverty people and riots, but look into the general effectiveness and the operation of the program. I think this is the one point where I would make such a distinction to what the chairman said just a few moments ago.

Chairman PERKINS. Let me say to the gentleman that we have been conducting hearings since June 12. I made a statement earlier and invited all the Members of Congress to participate at our hearings and offer suggestions in any way that they could and no witness that wanted to come before this committee has been denied that opportunity.

Now when the riots had started over the Nation the question came before this committee based on a rumor that some so-called anti-poverty workers had gone overboard, maybe, and perhaps violated the law, and we considered it in this committee. A resolution was adopted and I will read the resolution that was offered by Mr. Gibbons of Florida. There was no record vote on this resolution, but I was hesitant, and it passed on a voice vote without vote being requested. I am stating publicly that the resolution was adopted overwhelmingly and many members on the minority side supported this resolution, supported this approach. They thought it was the soundest approach. We know that this is an important piece of legislation and we know that we have to approach a problem of this magnitude with due care, and here is the resolution:

"I move that under the direction of the chairman and staff that the staff be deployed to collect information and report back immediately to the chairman and the committee on the involvement of any persons employed by the poverty program in any of the riotous actions that have taken place in the United States."

It is the purpose of this committee to write the best piece of legislation possible.

Mr. THOMPSON. Will the chairman yield for an observation?

Chairman PERKINS. Yes, I yield.

Mr. THOMPSON. I arrived late on the day this was adopted but I arrived in time to hear the last 30 minutes or so of the discussion. The Gibbons' amendment was a substitute to another amendment which had considerable support. However, a majority voted it down and