

Our city is in deep and serious trouble. The criminal riots and the lawless actions, the anarchy of the past few weeks has placed our city government, and this isn't Cincinnati alone but I am interested in Cincinnati, in a physical and a financial crisis that might well be classified as an emergency. We have already been told that we are going to have to reduce essential city services before the end of the year to try to continue to make ends meet. Our people, the citizens of Cincinnati, are scared and they are disgusted. Millions of dollars worth of businesses have been destroyed. Countless employees have been thrown out of work by the destruction. The morale and the outlook of the business owners who survive these riots is bad.

In short, gentlemen, Cincinnati is genuinely as many other urban communities, at the crossroads and we are here to say we need all the help we can get. Under these circumstances to waste 1 Federal dollar that could be put to productive use in our own area constitutes a criminal act against the taxpayers. If the war on poverty in Cincinnati is a boondoggle, the public has a right to know it. If it is being used for political purposes the public has a right to know. If it has been a hopeless failure the public has a right to know and if it has been a success, the public should know. If the public doesn't know and if we local officials don't know, and believe me we don't know, certainly if you gentlemen don't know firsthand there is really very little hope for truly effective action in our Cincinnati area.

You gentlemen of the committee are the only ones who have the power to get all the answers and in my judgment, and I say this respectfully, sir, I don't think you can get them here in Washington from professional witnesses. You can only get these answers by coming out into our area and getting the facts firsthand.

We urge you with all respect to investigate, to assess, to evaluate the effectiveness of the Federal funds that are flowing into Cincinnati and the programs these funds are supposed to support. We local officials are helpless. We have no way of getting this information.

Now, sir, I have a letter here. It is just one of many. It is from a man of the cloth. He has no political connections. He has no motive other than he is dedicated to working with the poor. I will be merciful and not read the whole thing. I will try to stick to what I consider the pertinent points in the letter.

I think the enclosed letter is self-explanatory. I really feel frankly in favor of what you and Congressman Clancy are trying to do.

This whole antipoverty program, and I quote, "stinks to the high heavens and it is about time the public found out about it."

Now in the letter to Congressman Clancy, I will skip the first paragraph which generally compliments the Congressman for his interest.

As you know, I spent five years as assist pastor at St. Leo's in North Fairmount and just two months ago, I was transferred to St. Bernard's in Winston Place and the Mother of Christ Mission in Winston Terrace. All of these places are so-called 'target areas' for the anti-poverty program.

I might add that Congressman Clancy was born and raised in one of those target areas and he can tell you first hand about that area in North Fairmount.

I am no expert on these things by any means, but I have observed enough of these programs in action to say (and this is about the most charitable comment I can make) that they leave much to be desired.