

One of the complaints of Negroes during the recent riots in Cincinnati was that they have been lied to. It is my feeling that they are right in many instances and that the very anti-poverty program which is supposed to help them is actually becoming a cause of increasing discontent. What I mean by that is this: tremendous promises are made about what will be done and statements are forthcoming about the hundreds of thousands of dollars being appropriated for this that and the other thing, and then nothing happens. The effect is the same as when a parent keeps promising his child things and then never delivers.

To make this concrete, allow me to cite three examples of what I mean:

(1) Shortly after the June riots \$140,000 plus was designated for the hiring of additional recreation workers to supplement the 'Cool Summer' program. In our area of Winston Place-Winston Terrace-Findlater Gardens, seven additional workers were hired. By their own admission, they have been able to do nothing, because they have no funds available for equipment, programs, etc.—all of their appropriation was spent on salaries. The net effect is that seven people collect salaries for doing nothing and the area benefits not at all.

(2) The Metropolitan Housing Authority last year promised to set up six "Tot Lots" in the above-mentioned areas. They were to be ready for July 1, 1967. When July came, two lots were equipped with inferior swings, slides, etc. purchased at Sears. The equipment lasted one day and collapsed under the heavy use it got. The explanation was given that no more money was available (\$160 having been spent for this equipment), but that something would be done next year.

(3) I spent an afternoon with Sister M. Cherubine, OSF of Our Lady of Angels High School. She is a diocesan coordinator for federal projects in the poverty schools. St. Henry's School in Cincinnati—in the heart of the poverty area—has benefited so far to the tune of two pairs of shoes. She expresses frustration in her efforts and disgust for deviousness of officials who maintain that funds always run out just before they get to the grassroots level.

I cited these three examples to bolster my contention that money is being spent alright and plans are on paper, but people are not being helped. Appropriations are being spent on administration and a little trickle is reaching the people. It is not fair to the taxpayers who think they are doing so much for the poor, nor is it fair to the poor as we build up their hopes and then leave them high and dry. I am convinced that by doing this, we are laying the groundwork for the next series of riots, not only in Cincinnati, but throughout the country. Before one more cent is spent on a Federal antipoverty program, we should find out where the money is going and why people are not being helped. You're not going to find this out from the people who administer the program. You can find it out only from the people in poverty areas, from the poor themselves and from the people who are trying to work with them.

There is plenty of a Congressional committee to see and hear in Cincinnati, provided that they are sincerely interested in learning the truth and then doing something about it.

Kindest personal regards and best wishes to you and thanks for all of your hard work on behalf of the people of this district.

God bless you.

Father LAWRENCE R. STRITTMATER.

Mr. HELD. I think that letter is self-explanatory. We have other letters.

I should also like to read from the Cincinnati Enquirer. I will read only two paragraphs from an editorial dated July 14, with which I fully agree:

Despite the anguished cries—

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Thompson.

Mr. THOMPSON. I would ask unanimous consent that the letter, the statement of the gentleman and such other statements as he has made a part of the record at this point. I will be glad to sit here and listen to them. This isn't a court, of course, but these are something short of evidence.

Mr. HELD. Sir, they are not intended as evidence.