

There have been numerous charges that the antipoverty program suffers from excessive administrative costs, that in many ways it is floundering, that its effects on the betterment of those whom it purports to assist are not what they should be, that indeed the antipoverty program is begetting more poverty.

The more airing that can be given to such charges, and their concomitant countercharges, the better, we think. It would seem, indeed, that those charged with the administration of the program would be among the first to welcome inquiry.

The fact that the exact opposite seems to be the case convinces us even more that the congressional review is a good thing.

Mr. HELD. End of editorial, and with this I will conclude my remarks, my personal remarks, and my opinions.

Now it is not really important what I think as a city councilman, but you can be certain and a field trip would quickly convince you that a great skepticism and a dark cloud of distrust exists in our city, rightly or wrongly, toward the federally funded programs that are supposed to be designed to assist the downtrodden, the underprivileged, and the unemployed.

The drift and the business-as-usual methods and the lack of coordination between programs, the report of the abuses, have no place in our quest for urban survival.

Gentlemen, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for this time and I thank you all for young courtesy and I do urge you to come out and investigate our program.

Chairman PERKINS. Let me thank you and I want to thank your paper for performing so well on so much hearsay information.

Mr. HELD. In the editorial, sir?

Chairman PERKINS. Sometimes—I know, we all know—newspapers can be one of the greatest sources of hearsay in the world and come by it innocently.

Mr. HELD. That wasn't the reason I didn't read the whole thing, sir.

Mr. ASHBROOK. What the gentleman is saying is that sometimes he didn't recognize his own statements when made by others.

Chairman PERKINS. No; I am not necessarily insinuating that my statements have been made by anybody. It is one of the outstanding papers in the country and I do not want the belief to go out anywhere that we try to cover up anything. That is not the case and I think we all hold the same view, that we want to improve this program and do not want to destroy the program.

It is impossible for this committee to run all over the country. That would be the height of irresponsibility. I can take you to my office and show you a half dozen letters that I received today just condemning me for not making investigations in my home district about this thing and that thing, that the program was worthless, nobody had received any value from the program, and it is a difficult program to understand.

It is a program that is in its infancy and there is a lot of misunderstanding and we can understand statements of that kind—the committee can—and we have been trying to go before the public and expose the operation of the program here for the past 6 months.

I agree with the statement that to waste a Federal dollar to be put to a productive use in our urban areas constitutes a criminal act against the taxpayer and I think that as to your statement here today even though it is not specific and you are simply saying what other people have stated who say that the war on poverty in Cincinnati is a boon-