

Mr. O'HARA. Will the chairman yield?

Chairman PERKINS. I was going to call on Mr. Thompson.

Mr. THOMPSON. I yield.

Mr. O'HARA. I thought this might be useful to the committee. The witness, Mr. Held, read a letter I believe from a priest that contained some specific criticisms of the community action program. I believe it would be useful if Mr. Hansan were to respond to those criticisms.

Mr. HANSAN. Mr. Chairman, in answer to Mr. O'Hara's question, one of the points that was brought out in the letter of Reverend Strittmatter refers to a grant my office made to the city of Cincinnati for \$100,000 to expand a summer recreation program which locally had been called Operation Cool Summer. For the benefit of the committee, this Operation Cool Summer was planned and approved prior to any racial or riot troubles. Our request to the OEO for summer funds preceded any such trouble and I had written a letter to the city manager as soon as the President's funds were made available asking what the Community Action Commission could do to help the city during the summer. The first response we got was from the recreation department and they asked for more money to hire more people for their Operation Cool Summer. We agreed to that and funded it.

Now, the point of the letter that they had nothing but salaries does touch on a problem we have in Cincinnati and that is that in many ways of city of Cincinnati as a city government has done very little to assist on these kinds of programs.

You know, I think that is what the Negro leaders were saying when they made the statement in the city council that they are not doing anything. They were directing it at the city council. They weren't directing it at the Federal Government.

We put in this money especially for salaries, but we also agreed to pay for fringe benefits, travel, and these other things, but we forced the recreation commission to keep it down to a minimum, hoping they would use their own resources for equipment, supplies, and trucks and whatever other capital equipment.

Mr. ASHBROOK. It is my understanding that the poverty program has made the promise in this area, not the city of Cincinnati. Am I incorrect?

Mr. HANSAN. That depends on what you are asking, Mr. Ashbrook. The people who were appearing before the city council were asking for improved housing and more jobs, more opportunity. These were the kinds of things they were. These are not all poor people directing these complaints.

Mr. ASHBROOK. Maybe we ought to talk to some of these people.

Mr. HELD. Could I take exception?

Mr. ASHBROOK. Mr. Held thinks differently.

Mr. HELD. I was in the city council, and this gentleman I never have seen in the city council, and he knows what these gentlemen said. Commonsense tells me that if you hire seven people and pay salaries what does that have to do with your appropriated money? Why don't you buy some swings and only hire three people. It is ridiculous.

Ted, if you want to testify sit up here and quit prompting this gentleman.

Mr. CLANCY. You have been prompting him all afternoon.