

comments on it a couple of weeks ago. So I don't think the members of the committee ought to be blind to the fact that it is difficult to get information.

People have a right to have that information, and I think one of our purposes would be to facilitate this and make it possible. While I am critical of parts of the war on poverty, I also think the people who are working with it are working on the most difficult problems in the country and I have great sympathy for them. But if we get the real facts, then this committee would be in a place to make a judgment on those parts of the program that should be left as they are and those parts of the program that ought to be tightened up, those parts of the program where we could get a better return for the dollars we spend. I would think that is what we are all after.

Mr. O'HARA. Mr. Chairman, one of the specific criticisms of the program read into the record by Mr. Held appeared in a letter from the Reverend Stratton. It has to do with the cool summer program which, as Mr. Hansan has testified, is a program operated by the city recreation commission.

Have you attempted to get any information with respect to that program from the recreation commission? Did you have any difficulty in doing so?

Mr. HELD. We are in the process of getting it and we have gotten a lot of it. I would like to say one further thing, in fairness to Mr. Hansan when I said it is difficult for us to get information as councilmen and you have the power to do it I was including all of the programs, the board of education programs, the labor programs.

For instance, we can't go to the board of education—I don't think we have the authority as city councilmen—I don't think we have—they might give it to us, but I feel you folks could create more confidence and get rid of this skepticism than we can.

Mr. O'HARA. I think you have a good point there. It has been suggested by several that the poverty program should operate through the local city government. It is not unanimously agreed to but that suggestion has been made. Obviously, an effective program cannot be developed with just one-shot information. Do you feel that we would have better local control if the poverty program were to operate through the city government?

Mr. HELD. Sir, I would rather not answer that. I am not prepared to answer it. Off the top of my head I would say no. I would say the more politics you can keep out of the poverty program the better you would be. That is just off the top of my head.

Chairman PERKINS. Would the gentleman yield to me at this point?

Mr. O'HARA. I yield.

Chairman PERKINS. It is my view here, Mr. Held, and Mr. Clancy, we will cooperate and I will cooperate with the minority and Mr. Ayres, just as soon as he gets back, and Mr. Ashbrook. We will get you all of this information. I think I know what you want. We tried to get some of it in the record today. Then if you are dissatisfied, if the minority wants to send the staff down there—but I think the minority will agree with me that we ought to wait until this so-called nonpartisan city election is over with down there before we meet again.