

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 tax-payers 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 for 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. STRITTMATTER.

[The Enquirer, Friday, July 14, 1967]

THE POVERTY PROBE IS NEEDED

Despite the anguished cries of "Preposterous!" and "Smoke screen!" that have arisen from some quarters over the forthcoming congressional investigation of the manner in which the antipoverty program is being administered in Cincinnati, we believe such an investigation, properly intended and conducted, will have good results.

And these could apply both to those persons for whose benefit the program is designed and the taxpayers whose money is being expended.

One would get the impression from some of the reactions of those opposed to the probe that a witch-hunt is about to be launched. We firmly believe such is not the case.

Rep. Carl Perkins (D., Ky.), chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, agreed to make the field hearings following a request by Cincinnati's Republican Rep. Donald Clancy. Mr. Clancy said he made the request at the suggestion of Councilman John E. Held.

At the moment at least one other city, Phoenix, Ariz., is on the committee's schedule for a similar inquiry. There may be others, according to the committee's ranking Republican, Rep. William Ayres of Akron, who said other large cities may well request reviews.

Representative Perkins' committee currently is considering a request for \$3 billion in antipoverty funds, and it seems beyond argument that their efforts would be enhanced by gleaned information on how the program is working in various American cities.

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.