

The third point is that I feel that administrative procedures and systems in OEO must be strengthened. Both stability and time will help here but certainly encouragement from you will accelerate it.

The summary to my statement, just as it says, does sum up my position and I will read that.

The part of the antipoverty program is the local Community Action organization which develops local programs for local people run by local citizens. In simple business terms, the local Community Action organizations need to report to a specialized Federal agency from whom it receives its funds which will guide it, instruct it and help the less knowledgeable workers coordinate all of the various programs available to it.

We must work together to solve the problem of poverty which is one of the major problems facing the world today.

At this particular time when riots, unrest, high unemployment among the disadvantaged, high dropout rates are before us in glaring headlines, we should do nothing to weaken the forces at work in this country. We must strengthen them.

Chairman PERKINS. I agree with that statement. I have one question: I would like to ask you whether you feel that the programs that are under the direction of OEO at the present time should be spun off or should remain as is?

Mr. BRAND. I think OEO should be strengthened to keep all of the programs that they have and I think they should continue to administer the programs they have.

Chairman PERKINS. Do you feel that the local Community Action agencies functioning now under OEO are effectively reaching the poor?

Mr. BRAND. I think we are beginning. I think we have made great strides in 2 years but there are worlds of things that need to be done.

Chairman PERKINS. If we transferred these functions back to the traditional programs would this be done?

Mr. BRAND. I think Head Start needs to be with OEO at the present time. The Office of Education had opportunity for a hundred years to develop programs like this and they are not oriented from my view to do the type of education that Head Start is. Head Start is only partially an education program. The in-home work that is necessary to do to bring this child up to—

Chairman PERKINS. I must say I agree wholeheartedly with you and I intend to let you argue now with my colleague, Mr. Quie.

Mr. BRAND. Mr. Perkins, I have one comment before you leave. I heard your previous questions about basic education and I think you might be interested to know in our area 18 months ago there was no basic education available to any adult in that area. In other words, if there were an adult beyond the public school age and he could not read or write there was no opportunity for him to go to school to learn to read and write, there was no program. If he had a third grade reading level there was no opportunity for him to secure basic education to get to the seventh grade level. Yet all of the vocational training programs that were available in the area required a seventh grade reading level. So in effect until this type of program started this adult did not have a chance.