

I think we have lost a great deal of momentum, and I think Congress reflects this loss of momentum, and to a certain extent without in any way condoning the violence, I think that the violence is a manifestation of that loss of momentum.

I personally have been very disturbed by the fact that neither the Congress nor, frankly, even the good voices, including our religious groups, have been so evident in the last year calling for the type of legislative action specifically that our society needs if it is to become a responsible society.

Mr. QUIE. How do you account for the fact that the religious leaders evidently have muted their voices in the last year, since you speak for these groups yourselves? We have had a civil rights bill up here last year which included open housing. I felt very strongly about it and supported even the strongest version of open housing and still today would vote for such a bill, but yet it seems the voices are very quiet, not only in the Congress but the Executive.

Rabbi HIRSCH. I agree with you. I don't even speak for my own group. I am giving you my own interpretation now. I think what has happened is that the issues have become much more complex. It was the issue of voting rights and of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which was highlighted by title II of the public accommodations phase of it. Those issues were much more clear cut moral issues. Once we have passed that legislation and you get to the point where you recognize that the real problem of fulfilling these rights lies in the economic area more so than what heretofore had been considered the civil rights area in the narrow connotation of the term—once you get to that point then you get into a much more complex issue. Then it is no longer the South where it is easy to talk about somebody else's problems and to help decide what you should do about somebody else's problems. Then it is also the North and your backyard. It is easier to walk the 15 minutes as some of us did across the bridge in Selma than it is to build the bridge which requires 15 years between the races.

I think there is no one group in society that is to blame. I think our total society has now lost the momentum that we had, and I think it is deeply disturbing. I don't think that this present Congress has been too helpful. You might say that Congress is, in turn, a reflection of the people, which is, in turn, a reflection of what religious groups do and I would agree with you. I am not placing blame. All I am saying it is a great tragedy, you might call it the great American tragedy that society has not kept its promise.

To get back to the specific discussion this afternoon and now before your committee, the issue of the Office of Economic Opportunity, why we feel so strongly that this program must be continued and must be expanded even beyond the limits which have been determined by the administration, because we feel that this is a symbolic step as much as a practical step and that any attempt to detract from the program or to break the program up—which some of you gentlemen have been contemplating—we understand and appreciate your intentions, but we feel that any attempt to weaken, which will result in the weakening of the poverty program, will have the effect of only bringing about greater hopelessness and frustration. That is why we feel so strongly about this particular program.

Mr. GOODELL. Would the gentleman yield there?

Mr. QUIE. Yes, I yield.