

Mr. GOODELL. I will be the first to concede to you that some people will interpret it that way because the lines are being drawn that way by those who have a great deal more of a platform with which to speak to the American people. They want it drawn as an either-or proposition, either you are in favor of doing something for the poor or you are against doing something for the poor. You are either going to continue OEO or you are going to destroy and undermine the program. They don't want a debate about new ideas.

Reverend SCHULZ. What are the poor saying?

Mr. GOODELL. The majority of the poor are very unhappy with OEO.

Reverend SCHULZ. Then you and I don't talk to the same poor. Poor people are cynical about the Federal Government's involvement and lack of commitment, the failure of the Federal Government to set the proper priorities, the Federal Government's involvement in Vietnam. They are cynical about a lot of these things but most of the poor people with whom I have had conversations and it is all over the United States have been very, very hopeful and they still are about the programs being run through the agencies under OEO.

Mr. GOODELL. Congress is rather skilled at phrasing questionnaires. Perhaps we could draw up one which would ask such things as "Are you happy with the programs under OEO?"

I think a very large number of them would say no. If you ask them a question which I think would be fairer in the whole contention, "Do you think we might get better action in the whole approach to Government here if we began to make changes in the welfare program?", most of them would attack this program strenuously.

If you began to make changes in the whole educational structure, if you began to give the poor themselves a voice in these programs and infuse this concept and transfer that program of OEO into HEW and begin to change HEW, I think you might very well get a very positive answer from a great many of them.

Most of the poor are getting it in the former terms and are not understanding in those terms.

Reverend SCHULZ. I think most of the poor would feel their experience with other governmental agencies outside of OEO has been very poor. They are against Government itself because in some way it represents the power structure of which we are a part.

Mr. GOODELL. You have made a statement with which I agree. I think most of them feel their experience with existing agencies is worse than with OEO. There is no question about that, but the debate really we are talking about here is what is the best way of redirecting this program and improving it and beginning to change the existing programs with which not only are they unhappy but with which many of us are unhappy.

Reverend SCHULZ. I don't think an Assistant Secretary in HEW is going to do it.

Mr. GOODELL. I don't think OEO is going to do it.

Reverend SCHULZ. We have seen lots of signs that they are moving very rapidly.

Rabbi HIRSCH. The difficulty I find with your proposal, you are presenting this proposal as what might be considered a severe critic of OEO yet you are projecting the proposal in a manner that you want the OEO which you have just criticized and which you have just transferred to a different status in another agency.