

You want that new agency or that new status and that criticized by you now to work miracles over this tremendous bureaucracy when the very opposite is liable to happen. Taking whatever approach the OEO has had, and I know that you do ascribe certain positive aspects to the program, taking that approach and putting it into an agency is going to undermine its innovation because of the very reasons for which it was put in there to begin with; namely, that it was being criticized.

Mr. GOODELL. Of course, I would not accept that description you give. I believe I am a very severe critic of OEO and I think the criticisms I have made in each instance have been documented by facts. I have not cited rumors and newspaper stories and things until we have checked them out. I think the facts we have accumulated over this 3-year period make a very good case for a severe criticism of OEO. Also, I have always personally believed, long before the war on poverty, in a preschool program, we didn't call it Headstart, in a Job Corps type of thing, in residential skill training for these youngsters in their teens who have to be removed from the environment. I have believed in involvement of the people to be served, and from the very outset of the war on poverty criticized the community action phase of the program because it did not have a specific requirement that there be a minimum involvement of those to be served.

All of these things should be said in balance to what you said about my being a severe critic of OEO, the administration of OEO, the administrative concept of an OEO, and the fact that we charged them with something which I think it was impossible for them to implement. We asked them to coordinate existing agencies of Government without any authority to do it, except to call the various people together in the Cabinet. There is hardly—in fact I don't think there is a single Cabinet head of a department, who does not have similar authority in these areas of social concern.

The Secretary of Labor has the authority from the President to call together all of the heads of agencies affected by his programs. HEW, HUD, Labor, each one. The question is how do you coordinate and how do you get this new direction of programs that will begin to have an impact.

Well, we could discuss it for the entire afternoon. If you gentlemen have any further comments please make them, any further items that have not been brought up. You can have the last word with me.

Rabbi HIRSCH. I would like to make one comment and that is since you have set the record straight and talked about the things you approve we also ought to set the record straight so you know we do not consider ourselves 100-percent supporters of everything OEO has done.

As a matter of fact, some of us have been among the severe critics on some specific issues.

Mr. GOODELL. We can both be severe critics though.

Rabbi HIRSCH. The one thing that is essential and important and what I would like to leave with you is that all of us feel it is important to maintain some kind of momentum on the idea that America is determined to eradicate poverty. We are not experts on exactly how that should be done but we don't believe that transferring a function to another agency is necessarily the way to do it.