

We have been running along here for several weeks. One of the principal targets has been your operation of the Job Corps. We are delighted that you are back with us again. I know the Members will have several questions.

This morning we had a most interesting witness, Mr. Lou Harris. In the course of your remarks, you may tell us whether you or any of your corps of workers ever undertook to suppress this Harris report, whether you have benefitted from the Harris report.

I notice you have a prepared statement. You may proceed in any way that you prefer.

STATEMENT OF SARGENT SHRIVER, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Mr. SHRIVER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Members of the committee.

Five months ago this committee was presented with a tightened and strengthened version of the Economic Opportunity Act proposed by this administration for fiscal year 1968.

Two months later a substitute bill was introduced by certain Members of this committee.

In your consideration of antipoverty legislation you have held more than 6 weeks of hearings and listened to more than 100 witnesses—the great majority of them from outside Government, and many of them from both national political parties.

I am glad to have this opportunity to sum up the record as it looks to me.

The first question at which you have taken a long, hard look is this: Should there be an Office of Economic Opportunity? Of the 97 public witnesses who have appeared before you, 64 have addressed themselves to this question in their testimony.

Of these, only one called for the elimination of OEO, the independent agency the Congress established to hear and serve the needs of the poor.

As compared to this solitary witness, here are some of the witnesses who voiced a strong appeal for the continuation of OEO:

Mitchell Ginsberg, distinguished scholar and commissioner of welfare of New York City—speaking for the National Association of Social Workers.

Andrew Biemiller, legislative director of the AFL-CIO, speaking for 14 million American working men and women.

Monsignor Corcoran, executive secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Charities, speaking for millions of fellow Americans.

Rabbi Richard Hirsch, director of the Religious Action Center, speaking on behalf of the Interreligious Committee Against Poverty, a coordinating body of all religious groups in America.

Mrs. Bruce Benson, vice president of the League of Women Voters, speaking on behalf of thousands of informed and active women across America.

Miss Dorothy Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women, representing tens of thousands of women long active in the struggle against poverty.