

and destroyed? Only the U.S. Chamber of Commerce thought Job Corps and Headstart should be shifted.

But, not even the Chamber of Commerce said that OEO should be eliminated.

Who came here to say OEO should be given less money? No one.

The record is clear. OEO has been given bipartisan support to speak and work on behalf of America's poor. It has been given bipartisan support for the President's request to a \$2.06 billion appropriation.

Now it is our urgent responsibility to let the poor of urban and rural America know that it is not a question of how long it will take to defeat poverty, but how soon.

Since you began your hearing, American streets have become American battlegrounds. Instead of guns and butter, it seems now to be guns and guns.

Let me make my position unmistakably clear. When I became Director of OEO, I took an oath—a simple oath to defend this country against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

I consider those who would mock our laws, shatter our peace, burn our homes, and kill our people to be enemies of our country. To promote, encourage, tolerate, or excuse violence is against every intention I have had, against every action I have taken since I came to Washington in 1961.

After the riots began, voices of reason and order swiftly announced: "We will not tolerate violence. We will not permit lawlessness."

And they are right.

But there are voices that say, "We cannot, as a Nation, tolerate the conditions that produce violence and lawlessness."

And they are right, too.

The programs of the war on poverty and the countless people who have volunteered or are employed to carry them out are squarely on the side of law and order.

Yet, we have seen cynical attempts to create doubt and fear about the role of the war on poverty in the aftermath of violence and disorder.

Such attempts are unworthy of any public official or private citizen. And they cannot be permitted to stay the hand or weaken the resolve of Congress in passing that legislation most needed to eliminate discontent and eradicate the causes of violence and disorder.

Let there be no mistake about it. Riots that barnstorm the country in June, July, and August are not just quaint happenings.

Beneath the surface of America's cities is an explosive store of discontent waiting for a random spark to ignite it.

Ten years ago James Conant wrote a book on slums and schools in which he coined a phrase "social dynamite." At that time he described what was in store for all of us if we fail to do something about the social dynamite and the slums.

Today, finally, many Americans are beginning to recognize that he was not using merely a metaphor to explain the situation. He was talking about the truth—social dynamite.

This social dynamite comes from discontent with joblessness, discontent with inhuman housing, discontent with money-hungry landlords and merchants, discontent with the raw differences between