

In Chicago, an OEO program has demonstrated that rats can be eradicated on a city-wide basis. Yet, we refuse to extend our knowledge to benefit the poor of every city.

Our country is destroyed in a thousand ways day by day by acts repeated like these.

It is foolish to think the country can go on like this. More and more the poor who are cut off from American life are repeating the sentiment of Churchill when someone tried to ignore Britain.

Churchill said: "We will not be dealt with as part of a blob."

And we in America cannot treat the poor as a blob. Their needs must be met in the same manner and speed that the appetites of the affluent are satisfied.

The need for jobs. The need for education. The need for decent housing. The need for health. The need for justice.

There must be a total elimination of poverty. Right now, OEO funding in Detroit represents only 14 percent of the need that this city has expressed.

In Hartford, we are spending only 6 percent of that city's needs. New York gets 10 percent of its need. Atlanta gets 21 percent.

But we cannot use lack of money as an excuse for lack of effort. What we don't have in financial resources we must make up in human resources.

The administration bill calls for a massive effort to create an army of volunteers for the war on poverty to supplement the 375,000 Americans who, this year alone, joined with us in the battle.

But, in addition, to this citizens volunteer corps, why can't the successful businessmen in our cities devote a few hours a week to working with the struggling businessmen in the slums?

Why can't a Catholic or Protestant parish in a suburban area adopt a church in the inner city?

Why can't our country clubs allow poor children to swim in the pool on Mondays when the clubs are closed?

Why can't architects devote some of their time working with the poor to build new communities?

OEO has funded just such a program in New York. It is a program called ARCH. With adequate funding, every community in America could have a program of this same type.

In short, why can't all Americans begin to use the alternative of democracy—because without democracy, there is no alternative.

In conclusions, I want to say a word about ghettos. Right away we think of a city slum. But there is another kind of ghetto—an interior ghetto of the mind where we seal off parts of democracy that don't suit us, where we box off our obligations to justice and shut out our commitments to fairness.

This ghetto of the mind is no less stinking and rotten than the ghetto of the city.

Right now, all of us have ghettos to get out of. The sooner we begin, the sooner this country can become what its founders meant it to be.

In truth, the war on poverty is not being fought for the poor. It is