

before the House to present the true facts in regard to these allegations in Newark or any other place, than it would be to go to the floor of the House, than it would be to have allegations or charges made, and then have members say we are sorry we didn't investigate that.

So, I would point out first, that by action of the committee in executive session, the chairman was not precluded from hearing any witnesses that the chairman decided to invite, and second, it was abundantly clear from all of the discussion in the executive session a week ago that any such invitation to witnesses would be in an executive session also, in a closed hearing, for the very purpose of trying to find out both sides, both of who may or who had made accusations, and the head of the poverty agency who had denied the accusations, to hear from both of them, so this committee would be in a position when we go to the floor whether these allegations are true or not true.

I am sorry there is this position to really not find out what happened on the part of the members.

Mr. PUCINSKI. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman PERKINS. Yes?

Mr. PUCINSKI. I would agree with the lady. That is why I said originally the gentleman from North Carolina has brought before the committee some significant material, and we have the resolution instructing our staff to look at these things, and that is why I suggested our staff be notified immediately of this.

I presume they would have a chance to look into this, and if minority counsel wants to join them, I have no objection.

I agree that when we go to the floor with this bill, we ought to have all the information, and not leave out any facts that would obscure the basic purpose, the success of this program. I feel the staff ought to clearly investigate the material brought forward by the gentleman from North Carolina. Let's have all the facts.

Chairman PERKINS. We would let the public get the impression that the antipoverty workers in this country were responsible for the riots, if we commenced to call witnesses in here. It would be additional to the unfounded presumption that our poverty program was not working in America, and I think we would do the program unjust and undue harm by calling witnesses in here insofar as riots are concerned, and I think that the committee took the right step in directing that the staff gather information and that we will share that information, the majority, the minority, together, compare notes with Sargent Shriver, and if we can improve the legislation in any way as a result of the investigations, naturally we will write something in the act.

But if the minority, on their own initiative, and I think the charges are to a great degree political—I say that unhesitatingly, and it is for that reason that I offer the minority a chance within the next day or two to bring witnesses in here—if they want to on their own initiative.

I don't think they will be able to bring any witnesses in here—they may find some isolated incident where somebody has gone overboard and made statements that they should not have made, but by and large, to my way of thinking, the poverty program has kept down riots in America and has made great contributions in that area. I don't think we ought to becloud the picture by somebody, or some few people that have violated the law, because in each branch of the Gov-