

Mr. O'HARA. I for one do not intend to credit or even listen to any testimony charging Mr. Shriver with failing to make a decision about incitement to riot which the local officials themselves were unwilling to make.

I hope he will refrain from those statements. If there was something improper, why didn't the local police make arrests immediately?

Mr. GARDNER. If you would allow me, I do hope the gentleman from Michigan will be here if Mr. Spina does come from Newark and will keep an open mind and listen to a man who has first-hand knowledge of what transpired in the city of Newark.

Mr. O'HARA. If I am tied up in preparations for a press conference, I will come back the next day.

Chairman PERKINS. Let me say that we all have confidence in the law enforcement agencies and if there is anything wrong; it would appear to me that the local authorities in the city of Newark would certainly do something about a situation and not be derelict in their responsibilities.

I just cannot believe that any police chief would be derelict in his responsibilities. That is the reason I feel the statements that you have made are largely hearsay. I hope your witness comes so we can put him on the stand.

Mr. O'HARA. I had some time left. May I use it now?

Chairman PERKINS. Yes.

Mr. O'HARA. It appears to me that the problem is that we are failing to praise your program enough. I think we are directing our inquiries into the piddling details of the administration of this program.

I am afraid that we are directing our attention to things which are on the fringes instead of concentrating on the really important questions we ought to face especially after the disturbances in Detroit, South Bend, Grand Rapids, Milwaukee, and other communities around the country.

I represent a suburban district. We have a problem with poverty but not an insurmountable problem, not a problem that defies the resources of our community to deal with.

We have poverty programs going in many rural communities where there are problems of poverty but I do not believe the problems defy the local resources there either.

At the same time, Mr. Shriver, we have situations existing in certain cities of our great metropolitan centers where all of us can admit the problems of poverty are beyond the resources of the cities and beyond the resources given to poverty program at present.

It seems to me if we want to direct our attention to the problems of the poverty program in light of what we may have learned from the riots this summer, that question is, Should we reorient our entire program?

Wouldn't it be better to draw attention to the central cities of the major metropolitan areas of this country? Indeed, shouldn't we be directing almost our entire effort to the central cities of the major metropolitan areas?

Is that not where the really grave and urgent problems exist in America?

I suggest these are the sorts of questions to which we should direct ourselves.