

I am president of the CAP organization and I am nonpaid.

Chairman PERKINS. You are telling the members of this committee that that happened in a Republican county even though you happen to be a Democrat?

Mr. ODHAM. This is true, but I ran against Senator Holland 2 years ago and was defeated 2 to 1, but I think the people gave me credit for being sincere and honest and very much interested in any program that concerned the problems of the poor people or of the indigent people and that is why I think I was selected.

Chairman PERKINS. As president of the county board of directors in Orange County, you are denying the charges and telling this committee that there is not any politics being played?

Mr. ODHAM. I am telling you, sir, that it is absolutely untrue and there are not any politics being played.

I have made it my own purpose to not know any of the employees of the organization other than those who are in the headquarters office. I couldn't name you but maybe five of that 125 people that we employ.

It is not politically controlled.

Chairman PERKINS. Is the core represented—I should say are the poor represented on your council?

Mr. ODHAM. One-third of them are and they are the brightest thing in the whole program. They are so very much interested in this. They come to all of the meetings, they come to all of the committee meetings, and they are doing an outstanding job.

They understand the problems. They give you insight to these problems, they know how to communicate with the poor people.

Seventy percent of the poor in our country are Negro and they render invaluable contributions to our committee. They are the most encouraging thing I have seen really in this whole program.

Chairman PERKINS. So the statement before this committee that it was nothing more or less than a political portion of an organization is untrue?

Mr. ODHAM. It is absolutely untrue. In the last mayor's race which took place this fall, I do not know how a single employee voted in the local mayor's race. It was not even discussed.

Chairman PERKINS. Your employees have not gone out there and participated in elections?

Mr. ODHAM. No, sir; the Hatch Act prohibits it—not since I have been president, anyway.

Chairman PERKINS. How long have you been president of that organization?

Mr. ODHAM. Since January and they had city, county, and State elections since January.

Chairman PERKINS. Since January of 1967?

Mr. ODHAM. Yes, sir.

Chairman PERKINS. Are there any further questions?

Thank you very much. We certainly do appreciate the hardship that we have imposed on you, Mr. Odham. Thank you for being so patient with us.

You have been most helpful to the committee.

The committee is now recessed until 9 a.m. tomorrow morning.

(Whereupon, at 8:55 p.m., the hearing was recessed to reconvene at 9 a.m., Tuesday, August 1, 1967.)