

Mr. AYRES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for arranging for the committee to meet so that these gentlemen could come down from Newark and tell us firsthand some of their observations and views.

As you know, the situation there has been very serious and these gentlemen are very familiar with the problem with which the committee has been faced.

Our colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Gardner, is the one who is directly responsible for our witnesses being here, although I know it is of interest to all the members of the committee to have them here.

I think it would be proper and probably to the advantage of everyone, including the press, for Congressman Gardner to explain just how this panel which will be answering our questions came to be here.

I yield to the Congressman from North Carolina.

Mr. GARDNER. First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to the chairman for allowing these men to come and I would like to express my appreciation to the committee for waiting over 1 hour for these witnesses. I might mention that part of the delay was caused by two of the witnesses having to drive all the way down from Boston.

Through my contacts with the Newark Police Department, I have had an opportunity to meet the other gentlemen. They expressed an interest in coming down and testifying before our committee on a nonpartisan basis over various difficulties they actually saw happening in Newark.

On my far left we have Mr. William Mallard, a police intelligence officer from the Newark Police Department.

Beside him Mr. Tony DeFino, area board chairman No. 9, United Community Corp. of Newark; Mr. Frank Addonizio, city councilman, Newark, N.J., and Mr. Leo Bernstein, also a city councilman from Newark.

Mr. Chairman, they have not had an opportunity to sit down and work up a formal statement. With your permission, I would hope that each would be able to give an introductory statement and then possibly we would go into questions and answers.

Chairman PERKINS. Unless there is objection, that will be the procedure.

Mr. GARDNER. May we start out with Mr. Frank Addonizio, the city councilman?

Chairman PERKINS. Let me state that I hope we can carry on this hearing. We have had it on a real high plane all along and I know that the gentleman from North Carolina is not a supporter of the program.

Nevertheless, he is entitled to call any witnesses. It would be the height of folly for us to think the workers throughout the country have been involved in politics. There may be some instances where some members of local community action agency boards have gone overboard and acted in a political manner but he should not have so acted.

We have the local law enforcement agencies and other investigative and judicial systems to handle such matter. I would hate to see us get into an investigation that took us beyond the scope of these hearings.