

formed by the United Community Corporation, the staff, inviting people to come out to a meeting. Then those who come out decide what they are going to do and who the officers are going to be.

They may send out hundreds or thousands of letters and maybe you will get 30 or 40 people to come out.

Mr. PUCINSKI. Is this a good way of doing it, in your judgment?

Mr. BERNSTEIN. No. In my judgment, I would not have poverty boards.

Mr. PUCINSKI. Would you support an action or an amendment that these poverty programs be fundamentally controlled by the responsible elected public officials in a community?

Mr. BERNSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. PUCINSKI. Why would you do that?

Mr. BERNSTEIN. Because somebody has to answer to the people. You cannot put money and power in the hands of groups and we are seeing it happen in Newark now, who are not directly responsible to the people.

Mr. PUCINSKI. As I understood your testimony, you say poverty people did not participate in the riots, but they helped create a climate that led to the riots?

Mr. BERNSTEIN. I assume you meant throwing the Molotov cocktails and stones. No, they did not do that, to my knowledge. They were smart enough not to.

Mr. PUCINSKI. As I understood your testimony—I ask unanimous consent to proceed for a few more minutes.

Chairman PERKINS. Without objection you may proceed.

Mr. PUCINSKI. For instance, the Students for Democratic Action took over two local boards and the ones they took—once they took over these boards, you literally lost control and the elected officials of that community.

Mr. BERNSTEIN. The elected officials never had control. The people of the area never had a chance to get control when they took over and they did it in a very well-planned manner, because I attended the initial meetings. They would put their people in the audience and spread them out a few here and there—

Mr. PUCINSKI. In other words, what you are saying is under the procedures now being operated in Newark, it is very difficult for the responsible elected officials, who have to respond to the people at election time for their stewardship, to have any effective control over these actions. Is that what you are saying?

Mr. BERNSTEIN. They have no control over the community action programs.

Mr. PUCINSKI. I want to congratulate you for your good sense and I would just like you to know, that this is one Member of Congress who has been trying to tell my colleague just what you said here.

I think that one of the weaknesses of the program and one reason why we have had the difficulties, is the responsible elected officials too often have no control over the programs.

Mr. ADDONIZIO. Mr. Chairman, may I make an observation to highlight a glaring problem in the area boards?

Chairman PERKINS. Yes, you may.

Mr. ADDONIZIO. To show you how ridiculous the total poverty board