

I see a chain of events led by the UCC, the poverty workers, that led up to this situation on July 12 that actually got out of hand and developed into a riot the next day.

I would like your comments if you agree or disagree with that.

Mr. BERNSTEIN. I agree with you. I would like to add the night before the Wednesday night that the taxi driver was arrested—

Mr. GARDNER. What was this taxi driver arrested for?

Mr. BERNSTEIN. He was following very closely to a police radio car, as I understand it. When the police pulled him over, he became very abusive. As it so turned out, he was on the revoked list and he couldn't even drive. But what is interesting to note that night—

Mr. GARDNER. Do you mean he actually had no license to drive a cab?

Mr. BERNSTEIN. That is correct.

Mr. GARDNER. I ask unanimous consent for the witness to finish.

Mr. HAWKINS. Mr. Chairman, I am not going to object to this extension of time, but I will object to the next one because some of us are not going to have an opportunity to even ask a question if we continue to do this. We have been here for 2 hours.

Chairman PERKINS. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. AYRES. Can't the gentleman answer the question?

Mr. HAWKINS. I have objected to the extension of time.

Chairman PERKINS. You may proceed.

Mr. BERNSTEIN. It is interesting to note—

Mr. O'HARA. Is my time beginning, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. AYRES. I asked unanimous time that the gentleman be permitted to answer the question.

Chairman PERKINS. Objection is heard. Proceed, Mr. O'Hara.

Mr. O'HARA. I would like to try to sum up the events to this point. First, as I gather from the testimony of the witnesses there is no direct evidence which is sufficient basis for arrest of paid poverty workers for involvement in the actual rioting.

Second, the complaints of the witnesses have to do with activities preceding the rioting, which they believe created a climate in which the rioting occurred. Is that correct?

Third, there is some intimation that Sargent Shriver, in connection with Mr. Spina's telegram, was derelict in not requiring the dismissal of persons involved in the statements that you believe created the climate that lead up to the riot.

I would like to cite to you gentlemen, and to the committee, provisions of the Federal law applicable to this situation. The poverty employees, through an amendment adopted last year, are subject in whole or in part (depending on the agency employing them) to the Hatch Act—which governs the political activities of Federal employees.

What does the Hatch Act say that is pertinent to this situation? The Hatch Act says that employees, such as those involved here, shall retain the right to vote as they choose and to express their opinions on all political subjects and candidates. The Hatch Act further states that nothing contained in it shall be construed to prevent or prohibit any persons subject to the provisions of the act from engaging in any political act—any political activity—in connection with any question which is not specifically identified with any national or State political party.