

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Dellenback?

Mr. DELLENBACK. I yield my time to my colleague, Mr. Gardner.

Mr. GARDNER. I do thank my colleague from Oregon.

It is true in the Hatch Act that it says an individual cannot do certain things, but I think we have a clear-cut case here of a very different situation where we have a Government organization, not an individual but a Government organization, a community action program actually putting the entire weight of this organization behind certain events that led up to a dangerous situation in the city of Newark.

In my mind there is a very vast difference between one individual who might during his lunch hour or after hours go out and protest the hiring of a secretary as opposed to the entire community action program as we had in Newark, the UCC actively opposing the situation.

I think the crux of the problem we are faced with today is just this. I would be alarmed to think Congress was committing large sums of funds for organizations to go out to 150,000 communities throughout the United States for the sole purpose in mind of trying to oppose the local democratic form of government, be it partisan or nonpartisan, and yet they are doing just this.

They did it in Newark, and they did it in Durham, N.C., and we feel they are doing it in very many other cases, too.

I am afraid that it has been brought out before this committee. I think it is our responsibility to look into this situation and if indeed there is a loophole in the law which allows a Government agency such as OEO to get around the law, I then think it is our responsibility to plug that hole up.

Mr. DENT. Would the gentleman yield for an observation?

Mr. GARDNER. No, not at the present time.

My colleague from Florida mentioned an individual, Willy Wright, and I would like to explore this a little bit more. It is my understanding that he serves on the local board of trustees or whatever it is called of the UCC in Newark.

Mr. DEFINO. He did.

Mr. GARDNER. Does he at the present time?

Mr. DEFINO. No, he does not; no.

Mr. GARDNER. Do you know, and I will ask this of Detective Mallard, at any time prior to the riots did this one Willy Wright get involved in any protest movement or protest demonstrations either at the hospital or the meeting for the purpose of hiring the secretary or at the police station to protest police brutality?

Mr. MALLARD. At the city hall demonstrations Willy Wright was one of the leaders in disrupting hearings.

Mr. GARDNER. Do you have documentary proof of this?

Mr. MALLARD. He even spoke at the meeting.

Mr. GARDNER. This is on public record?

Mr. MALLARD. You can get the minutes of these meetings and they are being documented now.

Mr. GARDNER. Going back and picking up briefly the comment of my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. Daniels, he made the point during his cross-examination that we had a number of leading people on the board of trustees and certainly we have seen OEO do a very effective