

Mr. BERNSTEIN. Twenty-six.

Mrs. MINK. Twenty-six members out of 105?

Mr. BERNSTEIN. That is right.

Mrs. MINK. Going back to your response to questions involving Harry Wheeler, you testified that he made certain inflammatory remarks at a June 26 meeting but at that time he was not a poverty employee.

My question, then, is: When did he become an employee?

Mr. BERNSTEIN. To correct the record, he was a poverty employee last year and his employment was renewed in the same capacity this year and I think it was shortly—I am trying to get the time in my mind—I think at the very beginning of July.

Mrs. MINK. Were you in attendance at the meeting where his appointment was discussed?

Mr. BERNSTEIN. I was in attendance at the meeting of the personnel committee of the play street program which endorsed him, although they had no legal right to endorse him and they endorsed him without looking at anybody's application, including his and they sent the letter to the personnel committee of the UCC.

That meeting I did not attend and he was hired for whatever good reasons they chose to hire him.

Mrs. MINK. When did this hiring become authorized by the personnel committee?

Mr. BERNSTEIN. When the play street program was funded.

Mrs. MINK. Which would be what date?

Mr. BERNSTEIN. I wouldn't know the date on that.

Mrs. MINK. What role did the PAL program have in recommending the appointment?

Mr. BERNSTEIN. I understand the director of PAL was opposed to it.

Mrs. MINK. Did he submit a letter in opposition to this appointment?

Mr. BERNSTEIN. I don't know what the form of opposition was but he made his voice heard.

Mrs. MINK. Your second comment about the poor not being represented on the area board, my question is: How does a person become a member of an area board?

Mr. BERNSTEIN. Fill out a simple application and that is it.

Mrs. MINK. How many members are elected to each area board?

Mr. BERNSTEIN. I have a chairman, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer who has no function.

Mrs. MINK. Those are the four elected officials to an area board?

Mr. DeFINO. It is approximately six or seven.

Mrs. MINK. It has been discussed several times in this committee in various ways that the poor ought to be given a more ample opportunity to be represented in these area organization.

One suggestion that was discussed several times was that the matter of providing a regular election so that the poor within a community could, through a regular election procedure much the same as you are elected to the city council, elect their members on the area boards.

Would either of you two gentlemen who serve on the city council care to comment on such a suggestion?