

Chairman PERKINS. Are there any further comments?

Mr. O'HARA. The witnesses have put the Newark situation in perspective. They were brought here following charges, which appeared on segments of the press and elsewhere, that employees of the poverty program in Newark participated in the riots in Newark and/or participated in inciting the riots in Newark.

It is clear from their testimony that they make no such charge. Their charge is that—

Mr. GARDNER. Would the gentleman yield at this point?

Mr. O'HARA. Yes.

Mr. GARDNER. I would have to disagree with the gentleman. I think your first statement is absolutely right. I know of no one who has ever made a public statement that poverty employees were directly involved in the actual rioting, but I think each of these gentlemen, when asked the question, "In your opinion, do you think that the poverty workers were involved in a situation that led to the riots," each of them answered yes.

Mr. O'HARA. I didn't get to that point. Let's be specific. Do any of you gentlemen contend that any person employed by the poverty program incited the people of Newark to riot?

Mr. ADDONIZIO. It is never any one person.

Mr. GARDNER. Again, would you yield for one brief question?

Mr. O'HARA. Has any individual or group of individuals employed by the poverty program incited the people of Newark to riot?

Mr. GARDNER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. O'HARA. I want an answer.

Chairman PERKINS. You asked a question, didn't you?

Mr. O'HARA. I asked a question.

Chairman PERKINS. The gentleman will answer.

Mr. ADDONIZIO. The response to that question—

Chairman PERKINS. Answer from your own personal knowledge, Mr. Addonizio.

Mr. ADDONIZIO. Would the Congressman please restate the question?

Mr. O'HARA. I asked if any of you gentlemen are accusing any person employed by the Newark Community Action Agency with inciting the people of Newark to riot.

Mr. ADDONIZIO. No, I'm not.

Mr. BERNSTEIN. No.

Mr. MALLARD. No.

Mr. O'HARA. I thank you. That bears out my statement.

I think you have, however, indicated that some of the demonstrations and protests and some of the statements made by various people—one or two specifically employed by the poverty program, others elected to governing boards of the poverty program, and others who later became employees of the poverty program, helped to create a climate in which the riots occurred. Is that right?

Mr. ADDONIZIO. Yes.

Mr. MALLARD. That is correct.

Mr. O'HARA. I have been attempting to clarify just what the opinion of the witnesses was.

I would like at this point to reiterate the fact that to the extent these people were engaged in legally protected freedom of expression,