

that the Office of Economic Opportunity has been powerless to cause or demand their dismissal, and so I don't think that anyone could suggest that the Office of Economic Opportunity has been derelict in its responsibilities under the act for not doing so, and would anyone wish to take exception to that statement?

Mr. ESCH. Mr. Chairman, I think that the purpose of this committee is not to—is to investigate only insofar as future legislation is concerned. In this particular case, I hope we will look carefully at this question for future legislation.

Mr. O'HARA. I think the gentleman is correct, but he would not take exception to that statement I have made, would he?

Mr. GOODELL. Well, Mr. Chairman [laughter], I don't know who you are questioning here.

Mr. O'HARA. I asked the member from New York if he would take exception to that statement.

Mr. GOODELL. Make your statement again, then, if you are going to have us on the witness stand.

Mr. O'HARA. That the Office of Economic Opportunity has been without power under the statute to demand the resignation or the termination of the employment of persons engaged in the sorts of activities these witnesses have just described.

Mr. GOODELL. Yes, I take exception.

Mr. O'HARA. In what way?

Mr. GOODELL. I take exception. If the testimony of these witnesses is true pertaining to some of the activities poverty workers were engaged in, some of the statements they made, and the making of contributions at meetings, and the speech of the one gentleman calling for a blood bath, or suggesting there was going to be a blood bath, I think OEO has full authority to insist these people be dismissed if these are the true facts.

I think the local Community Action Agency has the power. We haven't got our full report, and apparently you want to give a complete whitewash to the situation before we get the report. I don't want to deal on inadequate facts.

Mr. O'HARA. My question is not concerned with what the later report will establish, but under the law, on the basis of what we have heard today, would the gentleman suggest that the Office of Economic Opportunity has the authority to require the——

Mr. ESCH. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. O'HARA. I would like to ask the gentleman a question.

Mr. ESCH. I would like——

Mrs. GREEN. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. O'HARA. I would be happy to to yield——

Mr. GOODELL. Mr. O'Hara——

Mr. O'HARA. Can you tell me under what provision of law they have that authority?

Mr. GOODELL. Under the poverty law, I know of no guarantee of employment given to any employee of the poverty program. If OEO or a local Community Action Agency feel that an employee has dealt irresponsibly in terms of his authority or responsibility, they may have him dismissed. We do not require this. You are saying the law should say that whenever somebody does something of this nature