

he be dismissed? I would like for you to cite the provision of law that guarantees these people a job with OEO when the local Community Action Agency says they will no longer be on the payroll.

Mr. PUCINSKI. What you are saying is correct, as far as you are saying it, but look at this situation, and this Congress wrote these things into the act.

You have set up certain limitations and certain regulations on these Community Action Boards. The Congress wrote in the regulations on what kind of boards you should have and the various participation. The Congress took away the very thing that I have been saying here for a long time. You took away from the elected officials the right to institute discipline and the right to manage these programs, and you gave them to a lot of people who had no responsibility to anyone except themselves—just a second—and as these four witnesses testified—just a minute—

Mr. GOODELL. I have heard this speech.

Mr. PUCINSKI. The Students for Democratic—

Mr. DEFINO. The Students for a Democratic Society.

Mr. PUCINSKI. Nobody had anything to say about it except this renegade outfit that took over these two boards.

Mr. GOODELL. I don't think we are serving any particular purpose in—

Mr. PUCINSKI. You asked for an answer and I gave you an answer. Chairman PERKINS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mrs. GREEN. I would like to have somebody point out where in the act the Office of Economy Opportunity has had the authority to give Federal funds to any CAP Agency for the purpose of putting people on the payroll who would be demonstrating and who would be trying to overturn the political structure, or who would be trying to have different decisions made by the duly elected officials. I think this is the problem.

Mr. PUCINSKI. I will show you where.

Mrs. GREEN. There is nothing in the bill that says that or in the law which say this, and surely the Office of Economic Opportunity, in its guidelines doesn't give them the authority to carry on these kinds of procedures.

Mr. GOODELL. I would put it the other way. The gentleman from Michigan put it very cleverly as to what requirement there was to dismiss them, and what authority do they have under the law to dismiss them. I would like to ask the gentleman from Michigan what in the law guarantees these people a job. They can be dismissed at any time, and the OEO can refuse to fund it, and the local Community Action Agency can refuse to fund.

The gentleman is saying, I am afraid, that no matter what a poverty employee says or does, we are powerless, and OEO is powerless to do anything about it. I don't believe that.

I don't know whether or not what these poverty workers said and did was sufficient justification under the circumstances for dismissing them, but I am sure the authority was there to do it.

Mr. O'HARA. May I respond?

Mr. GOODELL. Absolutely.

Mr. O'HARA. I refuse to accuse the gentleman of being clever