

against violence is sufficient, and I think that it ill-behooves individuals who represent officially a city to tell us these things that we have been listening to today and to not bring to us the problems of their city, and tell us what we can do to help the people get jobs and get better schools, what we can do to help mothers who have problems with their children and who are trying to take care of them on aid to families with dependent children, and discuss these things honestly and forthrightly.

I think it is most unfortunate that the gentlelady from Oregon sought to take an exception to my trying to find out to what extent minority groups in cities have a voice in the Government.

I think nobody in the Congress has fought more for the rights of women than the gentlelady from Oregon. She has sought to bring them into the mainstream, and I want to see people, black or white, brought into the mainstream, and for people to tell us that they are so colorblind today that they don't know how many Negroes are on the police force, in the schools, and in the other areas, I think that is most unfortunate or dishonest.

I think they well know, and I simply suggest we had better hurry up and try to represent these people and not condemn them, and we had better hurry up and get a poverty bill out of this session and some of the other legislation, that is now being filibustered to death and killed, if people—if we intend to do something, to bring hope and not despair, and support responsible leadership to prevent the disorders in American cities that have had them, and prevent them—

Mr. BERNSTEIN. Can I answer him?

Chairman PERKINS. Go ahead.

Mr. BERNSTEIN. Congressman, I sat back and listened, and I wasn't going to answer you, but I think you, in your own way, have raised a very serious question in our democracy here.

I think what you have intimated—at least this is the way I understood it—that since I represent a district that is 65 percent Negro that I should step down and let a Negro take my place because there are 65 percent Negroes, and likewise, to go one step further, if a district has 65 percent Catholics, and it is represented by a Protestant, then you should step down, and I think this is a direct violation of our Constitution, and I dare sit here and say to you that if your formula were followed then such a fine Senator as Senator Brooke would not be sitting in the Senate today, because he is a Negro and there are less than 5 percent Negroes in the State of Massachusetts, and I am sure there are many other such similar situations across this land of ours.

I like to feel that the people who are most qualified get elected regardless of race, color, or creed.

You cannot say we should have equal rights, or we should have a representation that one part of the city has to be one way and go into the suburbs and say, "You have to hire a Negro." Because we have a majority in one area, the rule shouldn't fall that way, and if that same group is the minority in the other area, they should be accepted.

I think you are bigoted in your thinking. I don't think this great country of ours was ever designated to be judged by how many Catholics we have, or how many Jews. I like to feel that the people