

who aspire to political office put their name in nomination and they run for it and the people pick the person they like best based upon qualifications and I would like to enter into the record that I resent your statements.

Mr. HAWKINS. I would like to respond them.

Chairman PERKINS. Go ahead, and then we will stop.

Mr. HAWKINS. Certainly I am not suggesting any of the things that the witness apparently drew conclusions on, but I see Newark is in such trouble, I can see why at the end of the term of the present councilman, his district might be better off if he does retire.

I did not indicate in any way that a Negro has to serve Negroes or a white cannot serve Negroes, nor drag the Catholic issue into anything I said.

I merely said that anyone who represents a district today in a city such as Newark, who is not out in the forefront advocating better schools, integrated schools, who is not giving support to a poverty program, certainly with the involvement of the people in a poverty program, is not representing Negroes, because half of them are in the poverty classification, and certainly I don't think that the views that have been expressed today by the individuals who apparently are trying to represent their districts represent at all the needs of disadvantaged people. And I certainly think, if this is called bigotry, that certainly it is a distortion of the meaning, and certainly I feel that the gentleman has certainly misunderstood the whole essence of our democratic government, and really, I think, is just completely ignorant of the changing times in which we live.

Mr. PUCINSKI. Mr. Chairman, a point of order? I think that Mr. Bernstein probably would agree that he would want to strike from the record his accusation of our colleague as bigoted. If any Member in this Congress is not bigoted, it is Gus Hawkins. He has worked closely with all these bills.

I would like to give the witness an opportunity to correct the record.

Mr. BERNSTEIN. I would like to withdraw that statement.

Mr. GARDNER. I would hope my colleague from California would withdraw his statement.

Mr. HAWKINS. If there is a statement I made that reflects on the personal honesty or integrity of the individual, I certainly did not intend that, but I did say that his views did not really correspond with the needs of the people in his district.

Mr. GARDNER. Are you familiar with his district?

Mr. HAWKINS. Yes; I am. I was in Newark just a year and a half ago. I am not as familiar as he is himself, but I do know this, that anybody who in any way weakens the fight for an antipoverty bill is certainly not reflecting the views of Negro people.

Mr. GARDNER. May I say this in comment to my colleague from California, and I do not in any way doubt your sincerity in this situation, but I do think we should at all times be openminded and want to hear any criticism of the program in order that we in some way may strengthen the program and in the end result the poor will have a better and more effective program. This is the purpose of this committee.