

Moreover, Councilman Addonizio conceded that he had no knowledge of Mr. Wheeler's being active in the riots in Newark during July (TR 4394).

Councilman Bernstein charged that UCC was an "outside political group" attempting to gain political power in the City of Newark (TR 4394). It is patently untrue that our corporation is a political group. We are the local community action agency who seek to alter the course of our community and to improve our community, through the types of programs referred to in effectuating the purposes and policies of the Economic Opportunity Act. Moreover, a long time ago, our Board adopted a policy that anyone who became a candidate for office was required to take a leave of absence from the Board to assure that there would be no utilization of the corporation for political purposes. In passing, I note that all nine councilmen, including Councilmen Addonizio and Bernstein, are members of the Board of Trustees and serve by virtue of their elected position. They have never been requested to absent themselves from participation in the affairs of UCC because they are elected officials of the community, but, to the contrary, we seek their active participation which, regrettably, we have never had on a constant basis.

Despite the irresponsible statements and lack of foundation for the assertions by the witnesses referred to who appeared before the Committee, when pressed by members of the Committee they had to concede that they had no knowledge of any involvement of any particular employees of UCC who engaged "in the riot or in incidents that incited others to riot" (TR 4414, 4421, 4422, 4433, etc.).

The lack of informed and factual data on the part of the witnesses is reflected by the absurd contention that the former president of our corporation, Dean C. Willard Heckel, and former vice president, Rabbi Jonathan J. Prinz, resigned because they were "disgusted with the conduct of the affairs of the corporation" (TR 4457). Attached hereto is a copy of a newspaper interview with Dean Heckel, following his retirement as president, in which he clearly expressed his intent to remain active in the corporation (he presently serves as a vice president of the corporation), and in which he asserted his confidence in the corporation and its goals. Attached hereto is a letter concerning a sermon delivered by Rabbi Prinz in which he reaffirmed his belief in the design, purpose, and function of the corporation.

It is apparent that the distress of Councilmen Bernstein and Addonizio with the activities of the UCC is because they reject the fundamental philosophy of the Economic Opportunity Act which urges maximum feasible participation of the poor. They resent the involvement of the community because it impinges upon the control they seek to exercise in the affairs of the corporation. It is their contention, as testified before this committee, and as earlier asserted in their own inquiry two years ago, that the anti-poverty program should be run by the elected officials of the city and not by the people of the community. It is this very distinction, the guarantee of involvement of the poor which makes the Economic Opportunity Act unique and in the ultimate is the assurance that its objectives will be achieved.

The tangible results of the riot in Newark in terms of death, property damage, and injury to the people of our city is horrible to behold. Resultant attitudes can bring about disaster to the social structure we have been working to improve. Our corporation does not agree with or condone resorting to violence as the answer to the social evils we have sought to overcome by our activities in our communities. Neither do we condone or agree with resorting to violence by those charged with maintaining order. It is our view that it is the responsibility of our entire community to address itself to the creation of a new and social, economic and political climate which will eradicate the ghetto and all of the personal indignities and deprivations associated with this type of life. It is through active and sympathetic and sensitive support by the private and public sectors of our community that this war against the social evils of our time can be won.

The solution to our problems does not lie in rejection of the concepts of Congress which gave birth to the Economic Opportunity Act. We cannot abandon those whose hopes and ambitions have been stimulated by this law. The same creative thinking and action that spawned the War on Poverty must be continued and expanded by discovery and devising new methods and techniques to eliminate poverty from American life.

It is my fervent hope that God will give our elected officials and other leaders in our community, divine counsel to enable them to recognize that they do an