

doubtedly have them in the future. But the essential fact is that this program is a considerable success and deserves support, not censure. And if it is not to go down the drain as a result of the recent events—and it was on that brink a few days ago—a lot of people are going to have to rally around.

And much the same can be said for the North Carolina Fund. George Esser has the background, the ability, the knowledge, and the commitment to do a unique job. And he has done this. Howard Fuller, the center of so much controversy, is a man whose assets far outweigh his liabilities. But he *does* have *both*. Fuller, for example, along with a few others, is the single person most responsible for there not being riots in Durham. Had he been withdrawn from the picture, there would have been a leaderless mob. I believe that when time permits you to weigh all the facts surrounding the involvement of Operation Breakthrough and the North Carolina Fund, you will extend a commendation rather than a condemnation.

All of this adds up to one conclusion, as I see it. Durham is immensely blessed to have an opportunity to listen to its people and to act. Whether some on our City Council and perhaps the majority of the white community will listen is another question. When people speak to them in “ghetto” which they do not understand, and when their private reaction to the appearance to a group of Negro citizens is “What are those niggers up here for this time?” then there is very little communication left. To put it in the vernacular, virtually everyone lost a little of their “cool” during the period of obvious crisis. It is time for us all to regain our “cool.” We have a unique opportunity in Durham to show what can be done. And we can’t afford to lose this opportunity because we may never again have so great a one.

And that is what we need to remember of this situation. That is what the Mayor knows, that is what Congressman Galifianakis knows, that is what George Esser and Bill Pursell know. And that is what a relatively small group of us in the so-called white and Negro “power structure” know. That is the opportunity we are going to work together on and attempt to realize. This is a possibility because of a longstanding effort of both communities to work together toward a single community.

Most sincerely,

WATTS HILL, Jr.

STATEMENT BY NORVAL D. REECE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SOUTHEASTERN
PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER OF AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, ladies and gentlemen, I want to extend the appreciation of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of Americans for Democratic Action for being asked to appear before this committee regarding our experience with the AntiPoverty Program in Philadelphia.

ADA has been closely related to the development of the AntiPoverty Program in Philadelphia since its inception in 1964. While never a part of the official Anti-Poverty organization, ADA was instrumental along with labor leaders and civil rights officials in bringing about the structure of the present Philadelphia Anti-Poverty Action Committee and its 12 elected community councils.

Before discussing the Philadelphia program, however, I would like to make some comments about the Office of Economic Opportunity:

1. We believe the Office of Economic Opportunity must be retained as a separate agency of the Federal Government to coordinate the War on Poverty. We think it would be a serious mistake to spin off existing programs into old line governmental agencies. Not only is the continuity of programs under OEO important, but the disappearance of the agency, we believe, would have unfortunate repercussions in the poverty communities. Abolishing OEO would be interpreted by a frustrated community as indicating that the Federal Government had abandoned the War on Poverty and therefore was no longer interested in helping the poor.

2. We feel very strongly that the Office of Economic Opportunity must have additional funds. We ask that there be no cut in the administration's proposal for OEO funds. In fact, the appropriation should be much higher and we have urged President Johnson to ask for a supplemental appropriation of one billion dollars for unearmarked community action programs this year. The community action programs under Title II have been one of the most important parts of the AntiPoverty Program as well as being controversial. One important achieve-