

He said, "Where is your invitation?"

She was getting a little nervous, but she pulled out the 14th amendment. He said, "This is no good."

She said, "I have something else." She pulled out the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He said "That is no good, either."

Then she got a little more desperate and she pulled out the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and she handed that to him.

The man said, "Sorry, lady, where do you think you are?"

He began to pass these laws around and began to point out Cindy Lillie and everybody in the ball began to laugh and laugh. Cindy Lillie stood there and she began to cry and cry.

This little girl, about eight or nine, in Mississippi wrote this story about 3 years ago. Three years ago, the Cindy Lillies were crying in Mississippi. Today, they are kicking, they are fighting, as well they may. Unless the laws of this Congress that pass and which have to be passed are going to get people into the balls of this society, into the jobs, into the houses, out of the hunger, into the schools so that they can get decent lives, we are going to be in more trouble than ever before.

Now, either you are serious about it or you are not. The key point I think you must recognize as legislators is that you cannot continue to expect people to remain responsive to institutions that everyday, persistently and clearly, show them that you do not care about them. People respond to institutions that respond to them. After all, this is a government of people and people are not have to serve institutions, it is the other way around!

I think nobody can deny that what has gone on since 1954, with all the laws, all the Federal grant programs, and the existence and growing existence of poverty in this country, somebody is failing because somebody does not care.

The Poor People's Campaign is here to say to you, make the laws work. Give us the money that is going to help us be decent. We are not asking for handouts. In this country we have the resources, we have the money to appropriate—it is a matter of priorities and what you choose to have cut—why must it always be the poor that is cut? This is the last chance, I think, for this country to respond to the quiet and peaceful petitions of people who are asking for very, very just solutions to very, very real problems.

Mrs. Brooks can lead off on this.

Senator MUSKIE. Mrs. Brooks?

Mrs. BROOKS. Giving honor to Mrs. Wright, I would like to say my name is Mrs. Lela Mae Brooks, I live in Sunflower County, Miss., which is a decent county.

I would like to say today to you all, Mr. Eastland has been to Washington telling that we are satisfied in Mississippi. But I am working with poor people like myself and that is where people are trying to get more social security and jobs.

I understand Mr. Eastland to say we are satisfied in Mississippi, but his plantation people are not satisfied, because I have been on his plantation, and I am not afraid to say it, and they are hungry, too. Because people went there to buy food and his house is not decent, either. We want you all to know that we are tired waiting for a decent place to live in, a decent home, decent food to eat. We are tired of