

the department know that just because they are on welfare, they have to have the same respect as any other American citizen.

We do do house-to-house canvassing. We go to the department and we talk to the people, because in some centers, take, for example, you will find people that will sit from 9 to 5 for a whole week, sometimes for a whole month, and get no attention at all. Because of the groups that have branched out across the country, we have been able to go in and see that these people get immediate service, because the department has refused to deal with the problem as it comes in. We are there to make sure that they deal with the problem and stop, you know, just lingering along and shuffling papers around instead of giving people service. This has caused the rolls to rise.

For example, we have been accused in New York by our good commissioner, George K. Wyman, who was here yesterday; he said that we were killing the goose that laid the golden egg and I am still trying to find where in the hell that goose is. I have not seen him yet, because if he laid a golden egg, I want to know why did I not get my share of it, why did not my brothers and sisters get their share? This is what we have been accused of.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Now I would like to ask you what I think is the \$64 question. Did the welfare department ever attempt to find a job for you?

Mrs. SANDERS. No.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Did the Department of Labor ever contact you?

Mrs. SANDERS. No. I had a job.

Representative GRIFFITHS. And what happened?

Mrs. SANDERS. I will tell you about it. They set up the poverty program about 3 years ago and they said that they were setting them up for poor people, they wanted total participation of the poor. They also had written in some of their requirements that one-third of the poor should sit on their boards of directors and they would oversee the program to see that the poor people benefited from them. I could sit here and tell you today, I worked in a poverty program for 1 whole year. I learned nothing because they could not teach me anything. I was hired on my own experience and knowledge, working in the community free, helping my neighbors. I was hired on that experience and that background. I was one of the key persons that helped that program to get off to a very good start. The minute the program got on its feet, there were 35 of us poor people who were just phased out of the program, for no reason whatsoever that we thought was valid.

We had no one to turn to. We even took it to the department of welfare and asked them to fight for us so we could keep our jobs, and they could do nothing.

The poverty program has only created hostility among people instead of creating jobs. I worked as a community worker for a whole year and I was phased out of the program. That was a year ago. I have only been unemployed for 1 year.

Representative GRIFFITHS. But neither the welfare nor the Labor Department has ever attempted to find a job for you?

Mrs. SANDERS. I have been to the Labor Department. There are no jobs.