

Representative CURTIS. This is true, but this is what I am saying, that this kind of study and further studies are the way to go. I honestly do not know the answers. I think I know some questions that need to be studied to come up with the answers.

But let me illustrate. Ever since the problem of the young Negro was identified, we have had the incidence of unemployment of the young Negro go up. Actually, you can look it up, before all this publicity was directed toward it and we moved in on it, the figure was going down. I would think that this would make some people pause to question whether they have not been moving in haste and overpromising with all their labeling and all this PR that has been going on. Maybe we have driven out of the area those who want to study the darned thing and see what maybe are the correct solutions.

So this is what I am saying, or trying to say. Because we have these problems, and we do, let us not push the panic button. Yes, there are emergencies, but the best way to meet an emergency is to keep a cool head and get to work.

This Congress has not been working on these problems. This committee has been. Why are we waiting here? Remember just 2 weeks ago, our committee was the first committee to even call the Kerner Commission before us to hold hearings on these issues. The report came out in March. The congressional committee that ought to have been concerned about various areas of the Kerner Commission Report have done nothing. I think it was overall a pretty poor report, I might say, but there were some spots of good, excellent work done in there that deserved this kind of specific attention. But this Congress has flunked, has not done anything on it.

But it has been passing all sorts of labels. That is what I mean.

I am not faulting our committee. Right now, I am very, very pleased. I was only responding to what I felt was your plea to put this on an urgency basis. I have it on an urgency basis, I think, but I am not going to get panicky about it because I do not think that does any good.

Senator PROXMIRE. Well, I think we have to do the job, though. We have to get it done. Congress so often, in the past, has gone for years, sometimes decades, making very, very little progress on serious social problems. Unless we recognize that we have a very, very dangerous situation in some of our cities, an appalling situation of social injustice in some parts of our country, and determine to do something thoughtfully and prudently and with study, but do it, act, it seems unless we do something like that, we are unlikely to get through. I think we have a very large consensus that has come out of these whole hearings.

Representative CURTIS. Here is what I am afraid of, and I do not want to be misunderstood. I am not at all sure that the Government has not overacted and has created damage. I am not sure that the best thing the Government can do is not to stop doing a lot that it is doing. I am not sure where in our society we use government, where we use the Federal Government, the local and State governments, where we use the great private and nonprofit sector, where we use the profit sector. I am not sure where we come out. But the assumption that the Federal Government must act, to me, is an assumption.

It may be that maybe there is something we can do that we have not done, but I want to find out, because we have already done a lot of things, in my judgment, which have been very damaging.