

DR. CURTIS: Thank you, Senator Harris. I want to deeply thank Wayne State, all the people who will be testifying, all the people in the audience for being here today. At my hotel everyone was going to a football game. You're here today with us.

This is about you. We want to hear what you have to say, your opinions, your objections, your policy.

To set the tone for what the Eisenhower Foundation has done in the past, we'd like to show you a short CBS tape on our update of the Kerner Commission after 25 years. Periodically we update the commissions. This update was in 1993, right after the disturbances in South Central Los Angeles.

If we could show this Charles Kuralt DVD now, that would be great.

(The film was shown at this point.)

DR. CURTIS: So we'll ask you today, how do we change political will? I want to conclude with Reverend King, 1967, Riverside Church. "There is at the onset a very obvious and almost facile connection between the war in Vietnam and the struggle I and others have been waging in America. A few years ago there was a shining moment in that struggle. It seemed as if there was a real promise of hope for the poor, both black and white, through the Poverty Program. Then came the buildup in Vietnam, and I saw that program broken; and it eviscerated as if it were some idle political plaything of a society gone mad on war, and I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds and energies in rehabilitation of the poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic destructive suction tube. So I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it such. " I'll now turn it over to our vice chair, Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich.