



a news summary of the **war on poverty**

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY - NOV. 18, 1968

ATLANTA, GEORGIA will host an estimated one thousand visitors from eastern states, who will participate in a five-day conference beginning November 17 to explore new ways to improve Project Head Start. Workshop and discussion sessions concentrating on operation of local Head Start programs and new policies of OEO's Community Action Program will be held at Atlanta's Sheraton-Biltmore Hotel. The conference will also include an original half-hour play called "Scattered Showers" which will illustrate how live theatre techniques can be used to present Head Start concepts to parents and staff members.

Another feature of the conference will be a "trade fair" exhibit of children's books and play equipment, as well as displays of the key elements of Head Start--nutrition, health care, parent participation, social services and education. The Atlanta meeting is the first of two national conferences conducted annually by Head Start. Delegates from OEO's three eastern regions and Washington headquarters staff will attend. The second conference is scheduled for December 1-6 in Houston, Texas at the Shamrock Hotel with delegates from the other four OEO regions.

A POOR PEOPLE'S CONGLOMERATE will soon be in operation in Los Angeles. The firm, called Action Industries Inc., plans to sell \$1 million in stock to finance its operation, but will remain controlled by residents of the Venice area.

The company already operates two service stations, a real estate company, a maintenance firm and a subcontracting business. It plans to expand into food service and also open an auto diagnostic and service center and an employment agency. The stock will be sold to corporate, institutional and private investors. Action Industries will receive business help from the Commonwealth United Corp., a diversified firm which helped create the ghetto business. Similar efforts are underway in many other cities and OEO is taking a growing interest in such development schemes.

NEW JOBS FOR WASHINGTONIANS will be provided by a plant soon to be opened by the Control Data Corporation. The computer firm has leased a building in the northeast section of the nation's capital where electronic modules and subassemblies will be produced. These items will then be shipped to other plants and used in the production of larger products. Production is expected to begin in February. The temporary plant will employ from 150 to 200 people. The firm plans to open a permanent plant to replace the leased building in 1970. When the new building is opened, employment should expand to 300. In making the announcement Control Data announced that job preference will be given to unemployed or underemployed persons in the area. The plant will be part of Washington's Concentrated Employment Program which provides inducements for employers to expand in inner city areas.

OEO HEALTHRIGHT PROGRAMS were discussed and lauded last week in Detroit when thousands of doctors and public officials gathered for the 96th annual meeting of the American Public Health Association. In the week-long session of APHA's medical care section, the OEO programs were cited most often and many speakers called for their expansion. Dr. Joseph T. English, Assistant Director of OEO for Health Affairs, participated in the APHA-sponsored dialogue "between those responsible for local delivery of services to the poverty stricken, and those responsible for administering federal and state programs to support such efforts."

THE FORD FOUNDATION announced plans to spend more than \$1.5 million to help Negroes and members of other minority groups get better jobs. The grants will attack employment problems on an across the board basis. Organizations throughout the nation will receive money to improve employment opportunities for minority-group Americans on all levels, from "hard core unemployed" to professionals and businessmen. Among the grantees announced by the Ford Foundation last week are The Manpower Assistance Project, which will receive \$317,066 to train administrators and coordinate local manpower programs and the Potomac Institute, which has been granted \$290,000 to help Negro businessmen. Washington D.C.'s Community Action Program, UPO, is also the recipient of a \$144,000 grant to help train hard-core unemployed for jobs in the roofing and beauty-culture trades.

A NEW NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTER in Denver will be one of the ports of call when Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson makes a "farewell" tour of America, the last of some 40 trips she has taken as First Lady, from November 22-25. The 6,071 miles coast-to-coast trip has as its theme "This is Our Country" and will highlight all the areas of American life Mrs. Johnson has focused on over the past five years. Mrs. Johnson told Washington newsmen "We'll be seeing efforts to bring the arts to the people; to conquer poverty through the Teachers Corps, VISTA and education grants: to revitalize old neighborhoods and create new parks. To me these things represent the real America--a country filled with impatience, energy and zeal." Mrs. Johnson will dedicate a new neighborhood health center in Denver and visit an existing center there. She will also attend a premiere of a film describing OEO's Healthright programs.

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE ORVILLE FREEMAN endorsed an expanded role for the department's Extension Service in tackling urban problems. Mr. Freeman was commenting on an advisory committee report on the future of the Extension Service released last week, that called for the service to concentrate on helping "core city" urban poor as well as

low-income farm people. The committee report stressed the need for more work with rural poor, such as hired farm workers and migrants, but suggested that poor urban residents could also benefit from Extension Service advice in matters such as family financial management, nutrition (how to get the most out of the food stamp program), health, vocational guidance and general homemaking. Pilot projects are already underway in major cities such as St. Louis, Chicago, Indianapolis and Buffalo.

POOR JOB HUNTERS in New York City will be given special bonus credits when applying for some fifty clerical positions in the city's Human Resource's Administration. The New York City Personnel Department announced that applicants for the jobs who pass a qualifying exam will have five extra points added to their score if they come from a slum neighborhood. Another five points will be added if the applicant is poverty-stricken, as defined by OEO guidelines. Another two points will be added if the job seeker is over 55 years old. The new credit system represents the first such bonus consideration for poor people seeking city jobs. The exam for the fifty positions, ranging in salary from \$5,755 to \$4,350 will be held December 21.

HOW TO BE A SHARP SHOPPER will be on the agenda in Kansas City in early December as the Federal Bureau of Credit Unions continues its series of consumer education programs. The Bureau, an HEW agency, has an agreement with OEO to present the two-week course at ten health centers throughout the nation. Sessions have already been held in Beckley, W. Va. and Louisville, Ky. At the meetings community leaders are taught how to get more for their money by "price and quality" shopping and the use of buying clubs and cooperatives.

VISTA IS SADDENED to announce the death of John Carr, 40, Acting Chief of VISTA in seven mid-Atlantic states and Washington, D.C. John died of injuries received in an auto crash Nov. 8 in Lumberton, North Carolina.

*THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF POVERTY PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY ACTION - Total during Fiscal 1968, \$853,989,399 in Federal funds for 8,350 grants. Project Upward Bound new funding for 1968-69 school year 298 projects, 26,450 students at a Federal cost of \$30,569,082. The Foster Grandparents program for Fiscal 1968, includes 68 refunded projects financed by \$9,885,634 in Federal funds. Under Project Head Start in Fiscal 1968, 218,000 children have been enrolled in the year-round program financed by \$192,164,191 in Federal funds. For the summer of 1968 program, 476,173 children were enrolled at a cost of \$91,417,000. Neighborhood Health Centers for Fiscal Year 1968 includes 29 grants for \$32,835,264. One hundred fifty-six Family Planning projects have been funded in Fiscal 1968 totaling \$9,156,589. Two hundred sixty-six Legal Services programs have been helped in Fiscal 1968 at a Federal cost of \$43,612,235. The Migrant projects are financed by \$26,585,000 in Federal funds for Fiscal Year 1968. There are 198 Indian programs at a Federal cost of \$25,199,000 in Fiscal 1967 and 1968.

JOB CORPS-33,085 youths (22,942 males, 10,143 females) are enrolled in 82 conservation centers, 6 urban centers for men, 18 for women, and 3 special centers. Obligated Federal funds in Fiscal 1968 - \$282,255,382.

VISTA-There are now 4,354 VISTA Volunteers. Since inception, there have been 14,159 VISTA Volunteers.

NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS-(Dept. of Labor) In Fiscal Year 1968, 482,809 enrollment opportunities at a Federal cost of \$268,337,705.

WORK EXPERIENCE-(H.E.W.) Fiscal 1968, 248 projects have been approved for 27,849 enrollment opportunities at a Federal cost of \$42,305,357.

LOANS-Rural loans (Dept. of Agric.) Total \$26,933,975 for Fiscal 1968.

*The above statistics are based on information available as of November 12, 1968, and are not final.
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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS on CAA Speakers Bureaus - the Community Action Program of Oklahoma City and County, Inc., 5th Floor-Center Building, 331 West Main, Oklahoma City 73101 has recently added John Mayfield to the staff as Coordinator of Volunteer Services. Plans include the establishment of a Speakers Bureau. (Contact Mrs. Irene Mields, Public Affairs, OEO, Washington, D.C., 20506 to place your Speakers Bureau on file for referral purposes...WELFARE, SOCIAL AND ANTIPOVERTY workers in Maryland banded together last week to form a new union affiliated with the AFL-CIO. The union assimilates the Baltimore's City Social Services Employees Union, a group of Baltimore antipoverty workers from Baltimore County and five other Maryland counties. The statewide group is chartered as local 112 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees...OEO duty office for Nov. 18-25 is Job Corps Operations Center, telephone: (202) 382-7353.

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