



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

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY - JAN. 23, 1967

LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES are being informed that by March 1, 1967, one-third of the members on their governing boards must be representatives of the poor, selected by the poor. These representatives need not themselves be poor. Failure to accomplish such representation will result in a suspension of OEO funds. The requirement for this specific percentage of representation is contained in a 1966 amendment to the Economic Opportunity Act. CAAs have been advised that because of the limited time available prior to March 1, those not now in compliance will have to act promptly to develop and accomplish a plan that will satisfy the one-third requirement. Regional OEO offices will work closely with such CAAs to provide assistance in achieving this compliance.

In those instances where persons are presently serving as representatives of the poor on a CAA governing body, but were not directly selected by the poor--such as being appointed by a mayor--they may continue to serve on an interim basis, until the CAA has proposed, and OEO has adopted, an acceptable selection procedure. However, no interim representative will be allowed to serve after the March 1 date unless he is a resident of the neighborhood or sub-area he represents.

A number of methods through which the one-third representation may be obtained have been suggested in a memorandum issued by Theodore Berry, Director of Community Action Programs. These include elections, selection at a meeting to which all neighborhood residents have been invited, or selection of representatives to city-wide boards by members of neighborhood or sub-area boards who have themselves been selected by

neighborhood or sub-area residents. Latitude has been allowed in the selection process as long as it meets the test of insuring the maximum feasible involvement of the poor.

The requirement for the one-third representation is applicable not only to central governing bodies of CAAs, but to any other board to which the CAA delegates policy-making, as opposed to only operating responsibility. This means that if policy-making functions and responsibilities are delegated to an executive or steering committee, or to a neighborhood council or board, etc., membership in such units must meet the one-third requirement.

The memorandum also pointed out that representation on CAA boards should include each of the major public agencies concerned with poverty, and important groups in the community whose members may not themselves be poor, but who are concerned with poverty. In those cases where community action programs will be concerned primarily with compact geographic areas in which poverty is concentrated, such as a neighborhood or sub-areas, representatives will be selected by the people in such areas and must be residents themselves of the areas they represent. In other cases, where it is not feasible for representatives to be selected on a neighborhood or sub-area basis--for example in a rural area, representatives of the poor shall be selected by poor persons whom the community action program is intended to serve and who reside outside of areas where poverty is concentrated.

CAAs are urged to communicate promptly with the appropriate OEO Regional Office if they have any questions about meeting the representation requirement.

THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty will hold the first in a series of hearings on January 26-27 at the Pioneer International Hotel in Tucson, Arizona, to "hear from the people" about future policy and action on rural life. Covering the western states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Montana, Oregon, Texas, Washington and Wyoming, this is the first of three such regional

hearings to be held by the Commission. The other two will be Memphis, Tennessee on February 2-3 for the south and mid-west states, and in Washington, D. C., February 15-16-17, for the east and northeastern states.

Established by Presidential order, the Commission will make a comprehensive study and appraisal of existing rural programs, policies and activities throughout the country for the purpose of developing recommendations for action. Such action would mean providing opportunities for the rural population to share in America's abundance.

SECRETARY OF LABOR W. Willard Wirtz has announced approval of 96 Neighborhood Youth Corps projects which will open 24,786 job opportunities to young people in 34 states. The projects will provide work experience for 10,464 in-school and 10,921 summer enrollees and 3,401 out-of-school youths. The projects will cost \$21,360,683 with the Federal government providing \$17,142,734 of the total cost.

Since its inception in 1964, the Neighborhood Youth Corps has become a major arm in the war on poverty, providing more than three-quarters of a million disadvantaged young men and women with part-time or full-time work experience. The Neighborhood Youth Corps, administered by the Manpower Administration of the U. S. Department of Labor, is an Economic Opportunity program directed at dropouts and other disadvantaged youngsters.

OF SPECIAL NOTE TO THE PRESS: On February 13 through 15 a press seminar will be conducted at OEO headquarters in Washington on OEO progress to date and plans for the coming year. Director Sargent Shriver and other top OEO officials are on the agenda. Publications and radio-t.v. stations should contact OEO Public Affairs (202-296-2980) immediately if they wish to send a delegate. Attendance is limited to 40.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING of an Opportunities Industrialization Center in Harlem, Senator Jacob K. Javits said last week that he is going to try to enlist the nation's businesses in the attack on poverty through the establishment of an Economic Opportunity Corporation. The Harlem OIC school is one of a growing number of OIC job training centers that have been set up throughout the United States, after the initial success of the OIC center in Philadelphia under the guidance of Rev. Leon H. Sullivan. In September the OIC program received a \$5 million grant from OEO, the Department of Labor and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to establish centers in Harrisburg, Pa.; Menlo Park, Calif.; Little Rock, Ark.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Erie, Pa.; Roanoke, Va.; Seattle, Wash.; and Washington, D.C. The OIC centers have a record of 90 percent job placement of their first 500 graduates.

THE ALBERT EINSTEIN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, Yeshiva University, New York, received a Federal grant of \$578,495 this week to continue a mental health aide demonstration project that operates out of three neighborhood centers in the South Bronx, New York City. Each of the centers, administered by Lincoln Hospital Mental Health Services, serves approximately 50,000 people with a median income of \$210 per month per family. It is expected that when these neighborhood centers have completed the OEO-funded demonstration phase, they will be supported through permanent sources such as the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, the Labor Department training programs, and regular Section 205 funds from the New York City Community Action Agency.

A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT on poverty and other domestic problems is appearing in a 10-part series in the Washington Post under the title: "Promise and Fulfillment of the Great Society." The series credits the Office of Economic Opportunity with having made a real dent in alleviating conditions of poverty.

RECENT ARTICLES OF INTEREST:
Challenge, Jan.-Feb. 1967, "The Public Sector is Still Starved -- interview with John Kenneth Galbraith," p. 18.

***THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF POVERTY PROGRAMS:**

COMMUNITY ACTION - Total during Fiscal 1967 \$205,569,116 in federal funds for 1,140 grants. Project Upward Bound has awarded grants to 220 schools to serve 20,139 students at a federal cost of \$26,655,605. The Foster Grandparents program now includes 37 projects financed by \$5,750,829 in federal funds. Under Project Head Start 266,960 children have been enrolled in the year-round and follow-through programs, financed by \$160,421,386 in federal funds. For the summer '66 program 573,000 children were enrolled at a cost of \$97,000,000. There are now 172 Legal Services programs at a federal cost of \$32,795,118. The Migrant projects are financed by \$36,265,928 in federal funds. There are 117 Indian programs at a federal cost of \$13,703,323.

JOB CORPS - 28,473 youths are enrolled in 116 centers including 91 conservation centers, eleven urban centers for men, twelve for women and two special centers. The program, including capital outlays and other costs, is financed by \$303,400,861 in obligated federal funds in Fiscal 1966 - \$83,422,054 in Fiscal 1967.

VISTA - There are now 3,251 Volunteers In Service To America, including 246 in training, at a federal cost of \$15,976,713 in Fiscal 1966 and \$9,657,335 in Fiscal 1967.

NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS (Dept. of Labor) - In FY '67 1,013 projects have been approved for 288,949 at a federal cost of \$231,597,923.

WORK EXPERIENCE (H.E.W.) - In Fiscal 1967, 17 projects have been approved for 3,365 participants at a federal cost of \$5,109,974. Approved are 52 renewals of the Fiscal 1966 projects for 15,980 participants at a federal cost of \$18,606,061. Approved under amendments are projects for 1,485 participants at a federal cost of \$3,904,873.

LOANS - Rural Loans (Dept. of Agric.) - Total \$11,227,728 for Fiscal 1967.

*Statistics as of January 13, 1967

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