

Also, under title II, I recommend that Section 203—Financial Assistance for Development of Community Action Programs—be strengthened to guarantee 100 percent Federal assistance for local research projects leading to the development of community action programs.

If we are to succeed in our crusade for opportunity in Syracuse, as we prefer to call it rather than a war on poverty, if we are to root out the seeds of poverty, we must know the exact causes, we must deal in detailed specifics not in indefinite generalities. Only through sound research can we obtain the answers we need for success. I believe the general purposes of the legislation will be better served if the Federal Government can completely guarantee the funds needed to conduct sound research programs on the local level.

I also ask that section 206, under this title—Research, Training, and Demonstrations—be broadened to specifically allow institutions of higher learning to work with public agencies in performing the research needed to develop community action programs.

I generally support title IV—Employment and investment incentives—part A, incentives for employment of long-term unemployed persons, section 411. The concept of long-term, low-interest loans to firms that employ long-term unemployed persons is a good one. However, the section should be expanded to explain, in detail, the firm's responsibilities under the legislation, for example, the length of employment of a long-term unemployed person hired as a result of a loan under this section. It should also include a section on training unemployed people so that they can adequately perform their jobs. This includes not only skill training but remedial education as well.

Also, section 412, paragraph (b), should be strengthened to more tightly integrate loans granted under title IV with the community action program activities outlined in title II. This would help to assure more local control in the administration of this proposal.

We believe that the bill as proposed is also lacking in other respects. For example, there are many aged people in our population who are living on grossly inadequate incomes and whose problem as long as they live will become increasingly desperate. Every time the cost of living goes up, or real estate and other taxes increase, their real income decreases proportionately, and there is no way whatsoever that they can supplement these incomes. I would strongly recommend additional and broader social security coverage at the earliest possible dates. I would also further recommend a study of the possibility of direct grants to municipalities and communities that would allow us to upgrade our retirement programs.

I also believe that great efforts must be made to stem the growing tide of divorce, separation, and desertion. I am convinced that one of the basic causes of poverty and social breakdown is the direct result of these factors. Great efforts should be made to keep families intact.

I would recommend the provision of funds to establish marriage counseling bureaus to help prevent the breakup of families, and to reestablish normal family relationships in already broken homes.

I would further recommend stronger legislation to cope with the deserting husband and father, who transfer their parental responsibility to the community. I would suggest considering legislation that would make desertion a Federal offense. This would make it easier to arrest and prosecute deserting husbands and fathers.