

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

A new concept of Federal legislation, is, I believe, the most flexible of the devices for waging the war on poverty. Kentucky is no novice to this concept, however, for we have already organized broad-based community structures to deal with the problems in the local area development councils which cover Kentucky, based on the representation of all the groups and individuals I previously mentioned. Within these council areas a definite course has been charted for dealing with common ills. More recently we have inaugurated a program which aims to coordinate the economic development and improvement of defined subregions of the State. The adoption of community action at the national level can and will widen the limits which presently exist. This will make it possible to do more without appreciably changing the character of the council structure or diminishing the internal cohesiveness which the people in the council areas feel.

Programs to deal with low income farm families requested in the bill being considered here today are of special interest to me and to Kentuckians. Kentucky's greatest portion of its economy is based on agriculture. Kentucky's median income for men from farming in 1959 was \$1,644 and \$807 for women. Some 72.3 percent of the men and 88.2 percent of the women whose income was derived from farming made less than \$3,000. I have pledged to begin, during my administration, the journey down the road to a specific billion dollar farm income as a Kentucky goal. The enormousness of this task is challenging and I appreciate the help which a program of this kind will make to the overall effort in Kentucky. In Kentucky we have created an economic development commission and now this year an agricultural development commission whereby we are mobilizing all resources to stimulate our agricultural economy.

We think that the provisions of this bill will be a great help in advancing this program.

The business incentive program is, in my view, an oblique, rather than a direct attack on an element of poverty. It will not be as easy to see the results of this program since the individual businesses must subordinate the desire and intent of this program to the capability of these individual firms to expand. Loans to small businesses may bear fruit more readily, however, and I think have greater relevancy for Kentucky. We have recently activated small business effort at the State level which, while limited in scope, is giving technical and managerial assistance to those firms who request it. Our effort will be materially enhanced by the new program.

Kentucky will soon complete a pilot project to demonstrate the value of putting unemployed fathers to work on socially useful projects. Without question, this approach has made it possible to restore dignity to men who would have otherwise been welfare recipients in the usual sense. More importantly, the willingness of unemployed fathers to support their families grew with their material ability to do so. We