

where people are alienated and are hostile as a result of their experience with society in general. Thus, we recommend: Thorough involvement of those we are trying to help, an emphasis on putting trained personnel into the field, and a willingness to engage in long-range experiment.

With these emphases, we support the purpose of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 as a first step in war on poverty. We see these strengths in the proposed legislation:

First. By attacking the educational and job problems of youth, it can get at the vicious circle of poverty at one important point.

Much has been said about the difference between our present poverty and that of the depression years because of its lasting quality today. It is deeply entrenched. We are dealing with second and third generation poor. The young people fated to enter this poverty class are frustrated, and rightly so, for without some skillful aid and some fairly revolutionary happenings in our economy they are indeed trapped in an environment of poverty. In introducing the proposed legislation, it has been said, "For the rebel who seeks a way out of this closed circle, there is little help. * * * He cannot make his protest heard or has stopped protesting."

This is a true statement in general, with the exciting exception of the civil right protest movement. To date this group has provided the most eloquent spokesmen of the poor—Negro or white or Spanish-speaking or American Indian, young or old. The issues of civil rights and economics have been joined in the protest movement. Can we hear that message and act on it?

It is a heartening sign of life, of the strength of the spirit of our youth, that hope can exist for them. For the protests are a sign of hope as much as they are a product of despair and frustration. Their call—one of impatience with rights too slowly granted—includes a concern for jobs needed now, adequate education for the jobs of the future, adequate houses and neighborhoods in which to raise the families of the future.

The Economic Opportunity Act can be one important response from the elected officials of the land to these fervent pleas from the youth of the land.

2. In considering the projects proposed for work with youth, we have welcomed the assurance of those who have designed the programs that they will be nonmilitary in character and will remain 100-percent voluntary.

The Job Corps in particular will require every imaginative effort to meet its purposes. Its voluntary quality will be important in achieving its goals, in keeping it from the danger of having a punitive aspect, of seeming to be the place one is sent instead of to a reform school or after being rejected in the draft. It must be more than a convenient way to remove troubled young people from the headlines they may be making. To achieve its training goals, the corps will require top personnel with experience in working with youth and with the educational qualifications needed to establish programs with relevance to the future job requirements of this country. Because of the difficulty of this task, perhaps it would be wise to specifically charge the Citizens Advisory Council with an annual review of this aspect of the program.