

have an important role in the creation and administration of such programs.

Wise and concerned community leadership will, of course, recognize that plans created by, for, and of the people affected possess a powerful dynamic and that the role of the leadership is not only to assure that such planning occurs, but, also, that the resources necessary for the realization of the plans are provided.

In hundreds of communities throughout the United States there are powerful arrays of public and private resources which can be mobilized. There are 400 welfare planning councils in our local communities in the United States and over 3,000 local public welfare departments.

In every county of our country there is a local public welfare agency which can and should be a primary and basic resource in any community action program. Although such agencies have as their first responsibility the provision of assistance grants—the foundation program in any attack on poverty since the recipient group is at the very bottom of the economic ladder—they are also the agencies that know and should know and work and should work with other primary programs, the employment services, the educational system, the health agency, the housing agency, and a wide variety of specialized voluntary groups in family counseling, child welfare and day care and neighborhood organizations. Many of these local public welfare agencies and voluntary organizations provide counseling and social services designed to help recipients become employable and to maintain and strengthen family life. Under the 1962 Public Welfare Amendments all these local public agencies are now charged to provide such services and have access to funds needed for such provision. Furthermore, these agencies may now provide such services to individuals and families who have been or are likely to become applicants for assistance. So in every county in the United States this public welfare agency represents in some degree a present resource or a potential resource designed or capable of being redesigned to in some measure prevent poverty. What this legislation and this community action section particularly does, is to energize this resource by focusing upon the partial solubility of the problem of poverty by providing resources for coordination and planning and through a call to action to community leadership.

This committee has already seen the response to this call to action represented by this legislation in the endorsement and testimony of business, labor, and community leaders and the mayors of many municipalities. We are prepared as an association to enlist behind this community action proposal the interest and support of our 165 chapters located in every section of the United States.

The association also supports the Job Corps and volunteer proposal—our association has testified previously before subcommittees of the House Education and Labor Committee in support of both the Youth Conservation and National Service Corps legislation.

Title I, the youth opportunity program, represents in our judgment an improvement over the original youth conservation bill through the inclusion of training centers in addition to conservation camps. This legislation provides an intriguing series of educational levels that flow from essentially work-habit training—the conservation camps—