

TITLES III AND IV

The National Education Association has no specific comments in relation to titles III and IV since they are not primarily related to education. However, the NEA agrees with the sponsors of the Economic Opportunity Act programs to combat poverty in rural areas and programs to provide employment and investment incentives should be an integral part of the overall "poverty war" and should be included in the Economic Opportunity Act.

TITLE V. FAMILY UNITY THROUGH JOBS

The objective of this proposal is especially commendable and should result in experience, through experimental pilot programs and demonstration projects, upon which a long-range attack on the causes of poverty can be based. Stable family life is the cornerstone of our Nation. The necessity for the head of the family to be able to secure and retain employment is a basic social as well as economic factor in family stability.

We would urge that the Adult Basic Education Act, H.R. 5542, as previously approved by this committee either be included in the Economic Opportunity Act or passed as supplemental legislation in the war on ignorance and poverty. Hearings on H.R. 5542 have developed ample evidence to show the necessity of substantial expansion of existing basic adult education programs. The experience to date with the Manpower Development and Training Act proves conclusively that many of the chronic unemployed need basic training in simple skills of reading, writing, and simple arithmetic before they can be helped by MDTA or similar programs. Title V can help in discovering new ways to improve family unity, but cannot cope with the widespread need which H.R. 5542 is designed to help fill.

TITLE VI. ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION

This title appears to have been drafted with considerable care. The granting of quite broad authority to the Director, while somewhat unusual, seems justified by the urgency of the job to be done. The Economic Opportunity Council including all members of the Cabinet (except the Postmaster General and the Secretary of the Treasury) as well as other agency heads, should insure broad interagency cooperation. The NEA is also pleased that the National Advisory Council provides for participation of the public in recommending courses of action.

We particularly approve of section 603 providing for the recruitment of skilled volunteers along the line of H.R. 5625, the National Service Corp., already approved by the Special Subcommittee on Labor of this committee. Perhaps a better title than "Volunteers for America" can be found, to avoid confusion with existent civic and patriotic organizations.

The National Education Association strongly urges that the Economic Opportunity Act be considered as a totality—a combination of elements to solve problems that have no single solutions.

The National Education Association appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and congratulates the chairman and members of this committee for their dedication and diligence in seeking solutions to the problems of our disadvantaged citizens. The resources and staff of the NEA are ever ready to assist the committee and its staff in every way possible in this war on ignorance and poverty.

Dr. DORAN. I want to say to you and to the committee, Mr. Chairman, that back in 1957 the Acting Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky appointed what came to be known as the Eastern Kentucky Planning Commission. Later its title was changed to the Eastern Kentucky Regional Development Commission.

From 1957 until 1960, this nine-member commission, which was a cross section of the professional and business and educational interests of our region, and containing representation from the two major political parties in Kentucky, worked on a plan to develop the approach to the attack on the underdeveloped region of eastern Kentucky and other countries in other States that constituted the Ap-