

ences developed an interest and involvement in the coordination of Federal, State and local programs and a renewed commitment to improved communication and cooperation at all three levels.

2. During the past three years, the OE Regional staff have joined with Regional staff from the Public Health Service, Bureau of Family Services, Children's Bureau, Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, Economic Opportunity, etc. in regionwide conferences and smaller group meetings under the auspices of a group called the "Great Lakes Area Conference," of which I have the honor to be Chairman. This Conference is composed of Federal, State and local public and voluntary agency officials in our five States, engaged in the functional fields of Education, Welfare, Health, Mental Health and Employment Security. The basic purpose of this relatively informal organization is to further our mutual capacities for communication and cooperation in the area of community planning. Although at present relatively inactive, this Great Lakes Area Conference has the potential for productive activity if additional resources and staff could be devoted to it.

3. The Economic Opportunity Coordinator in my office, with the support and encouragement of the DHEW and OEO Regional Director, and the help of the Regional staff of OE, PHS, BFS, CB, Mental Health and the Office of Economic Opportunity, has planned conferences in two of our States, first in the State Capitols and then in a major city in each State. The primary goal of these meetings has been to discover and deal with any problems of multiple agency coordination; to work out joint fundings of projects where possible; and to increase the capacity of those concerned to plan mutual efforts to deal with priority needs in the local community. Similar meetings are now projected in our other three States. It might be significant to point out that these more comprehensive coordinating efforts arose from the initial concern of Regional OEO and OE staff that maximum use was not being made of the "check-list" procedure in the Community Action and the Title I Elementary and Secondary Education Act projects. As this problem was explored informally by Regional professional staff, we soon found that the responsibilities and program contributions of public health, public welfare, mental health and other programs had to be considered at the same time. Thus evolved the more broadly representative conference.

4. Recently, in one State, I have interested the Governor in taking leadership in an experimental plan for Joint Visitation by State Agencies to Local Communities. The hope here is that State Departments of Public Instruction, Health, Welfare, and perhaps others might mutually profit by having joint visits made by top Department staff and the Governor's representative to local communities for discussion with the local directors of those agencies, plus the political, religious, labor, minority group, civic, etc. leaders in that community. By frank review of any existing obstacles to coordination and seeking local recommendations for eliminating or ameliorating them, I believe the State agencies and the Governor's office would find such a program of joint visitation productive and enlightening. Of course, DHEW Regional staff would be willing and able to assist in this process if called upon for consultation, but I believe the basic initiative in this kind of effort belongs with the State. And, of course, your Committee is well acquainted with the national concern currently being expressed regarding the ability of State and local governments to strengthen their roles as partners in a "Creative Federalism."

5. Fifth and finally, there are three separate project activities which I believe have characteristics which are basically related to adult education, and which could usefully be supported by the activities of a Regional Office specialist on Adult Education, if we had one. These three are (a) the "Project Moneywise," sponsored by the Bureau of Federal Credit Unions of the Social Security Administration and the Office of Economic Opportunity, for training of selected local residents in consumer education and Credit Union development; (b) the pilot program in Health Counselling, jointly sponsored by the PHS and the SSA, to measure the effectiveness of health counselling to the aged who contact Social Security District Offices; and (c) the Medicare Alert program, recently concluded, supported by OEO and administered by State Commissions on Aging. The purpose of this was to inform persons over 65 of their rights and obligations under the Medicare program, and in the process, utilize the aged themselves in a public service.