

COORDINATION-COOPERATION; TITLE I, E.S.E.A.—TITLE II, E.O.A.

Background

A firm pattern of cooperation and coordination between the Office of Education and the Office of Economic Opportunity had been established by the time the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 was signed into law by the President. A formal memorandum of agreement to have a joint staff in education signed by Secretary Celebreze and Sargent Shriver had been effected and functioned (without a formal memorandum of agreement) during the period of April 1964 to the actual signing of the document.

The groundwork for a cooperative relationship between the Office of Education and the Office of Economic Opportunity concerning the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—particularly Title I, was based upon one full year of intensive interchange of ideas, common use of personnel and living through the problems of funding education programs for the disadvantaged.

O.E. (DPO) EFFORTS TO COORDINATE WITH O.E.O.

At the time the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was signed into law, coordination and cooperation were intensified.

1. Two members of the joint O.E.-O.E.O. unit were detailed to work on task forces, organized to write rules and regulations for Titles I and III.

2. Between early May and late July, 1965, the following actions were taken:

(a) Publication and distribution to education leaders of a question and answer document—May 1. (See Appendix "A" and "B").

(b) Development of an "in-house" document which described in detail methods and procedures for the joint funding of projects—July 12. (See Appendix "C").

(c) Memorandum and materials to O.E.O. regional offices from the joint unit emphasizing the need for coordination of Community Action programs and those which would be designed under Title I, ESEA—July 23. (See Appendix "D").

3. On August 5, 1965, Mr. Keppel and Mr. Shriver issued a joint letter to "Head-Start Grantees" which detailed how follow-through efforts for Head-Start graduates of summer 1965 programs might receive continuing help from ESEA and the Economic Opportunity Act, and suggested program efforts that might be funded by each. The letter went on to emphasize the serious need for coordinated program efforts in the behalf of the disadvantaged. (See Appendix "E").

4. On August 25, the Commissioner of Education addressed a letter to each Chief State School Officer drawing attention to the Shriver-Keppel letter of August 5. The letter stressed the importance of the State Department in assuring coordination-cooperation of the two acts and requesting the name of an official who would carry out this assurance. (See Appendix "F").

5. On August 23, a general meeting was held with key personnel of the field services staff of the Office of Economic Opportunity. These officials were presented with preliminary guideline materials for Title I. (See Appendix "G").

6. Between August 26 and September 16, 1965, the seven regional offices of the Office of Economic Opportunity were visited by members of the joint unit in order to (a) review a guideline document for review of education programs in CAPS, and (b) emphasize and discuss the problems and potentials in utilizing the combined resources of OEA and ESEA for common populations. (See Appendix "C").

7. Extensive opportunity was provided officials of OEO to review and comment upon the draft rules and regulations for conduct of Title I (Jule Sugarman, Lisle Carter, Theodore Berry). This was done in person, in writing, and by phone. The same format was used in relation to the draft guidelines first issued on October 8, 1965. Suggestions were considered carefully and a number incorporated into the documents. (See Appendix "H", "I", and "J").

8. On September 28, 1965, the Associate Commissioner for Elementary and Secondary Education extended a written invitation to the State Community Action Coordinator (Governor's representative) and the director of each O.E.O. regional office to participate in meetings called to discuss ESEA with State Department of Education officials in Atlanta, October 14-15; Dallas, October 18-19; San Francisco, October 21-22; Chicago, October 24-25; and Boston, October 28-29. (See Appendix "K").

9. In November, 1965, the Division of Program Operations issued the first in a series of "Information Packets" to Title I coordinators. Materials published by OEO were included. (See Appendix "L").