poverty is so large and pressing that its solution requires resources well beyond what public agencies alone can command; and, in the economy of this nation, people who ultimately escape poverty and gain self-sufficiency will do so in most cases through employment which only the private sector can provide.

The bill seeks to provide a basis for expanding private participation still further in a way that takes account of both of these facts. It would, for example, authorize a new urban employment program, specifically designed to operate with an unusual measure of private employer cooperation.[24] It would also expand the possibilities for including on-the-job training elements involving private employers in other work-training programs.[25] In the case of communty action, it would specifically recognize the necessity for involving private business, labor and professional groups, not just through community action agency board membership, but also through projects using the capabilities of these groups in activities to help the poor obtain jobs or to make managerial and technical expertise more readily available to neighborhood groups.[26]

Finally, the bill contemplates a large increase in private individual citizen participation—in connection with Head Start and child development programs and in a variety of other activities where there is a critical need for the talents and energes of dedicated people. It would, for this purpose, authorize a new part-time volunteer program designed to extend to many thousands of people, young and old alike, opportunities for meaningful and rewarding service in helping the poor to help themselves—opportunities which VISTA, with its requirement for full-time service, can today offer only to a relative few.[27]

Administration Sends to Congress Tightened and Strengthened Economic Opportunity Act of 1967

A revised and strengthened antipoverty program for Fiscal Year 1968 is proposed in the Economic Opportunity Act of 1967, submitted to Congress by the Office of Economic Opportunity today.

In effect, a "new" bill has been presented to the Congress. It would:

Establish precise procedures and standards to assure fiscal and administrative controls over all programs, including locally administered community action programs. These include requirements for audits, regulations over the rate of local agency expenditures, evaluation reports, and employment standards.

Establish safeguards against the use of Federal funds for illegal picketing or demonstrations, and against participation by antipoverty employees in any form of direct action in violation of the law, or in partisan political activity.

Expand participation of states in the War on Poverty through expanded use of state agency resources. This includes provision for state-operated community action programs serving rural and smaller communities, and a broader role for state technical assistance agencies. States will be given expanded opportunities for participation in Job Corps, including operation or administration of state-operated programs which carry out the general purposes of Job Corps.

Increase involvement of the chief, locally-elected officials, and business, labor, religious and other private organizations, and individuals.

Establish a new placement system for the Job Corps to provide maximum employment opportunities for enrollees.

Declare as ineligible for Job Corps persons with a record of violent anti-social behavior and require enforcement of standards of Job Corps conduct that give Job Corps Center Directors authority to take appropriate disciplinary action, including dismissal.

Define new Job Corps practices requiring establishment of relationships between the Centers and surrounding communities, including community advisory councils, which will give communities a new voice in center operations.

Tighten regional assignment provisions so that enrollees will go to centers nearest their homes—thus further reducing enrollee costs.

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[24] New title I-B (sec. 102 of the bill), sec. 123.
[25] New title I-B (sec. 102 of the bill), sec. 122.
[26] New title II (sec. 103 of the bill), secs. 201(5), 211(a), 212(b)(5).
[27] New title VIII (sec. 107 of the bill), sec. 820.