

or five presidents of the bar, the League of Women Voters, the National Councils of Negro Women, Catholic Women, Jewish Women, United Church Women, YWCA and dozens of other organizations are not only currently running poverty programs but have indorsed the central effort.

The U.S. conference of mayors, the Urban League, NAACP, National Jaycees, Association of United Funds and Community Chests, PTA have all indorsed their program and NEA is working very closely with us in many of our programs.

Industry and labor both have provided indispensable resources both material and intellectual. All of these groups are united in the support of the war on poverty because they have been given a chance to do something themselves, to use their own skills, to operate programs, to have their ideas listened to and acted upon.

They have had a place to go. An ear to hear them, and a source for funds, if their programs warrant funding.

OEO has not fought this battle alone but it has stood at the center of the action. OEO has not had a monopoly on the good ideas but the programs, most of the programs it has initiated have worked and are helping millions of Americans right now to make the long journey out of poverty.

OEO has not been immune to mistakes but it has worked hard to eliminate error. It has leaned heavily on the administrative expertise of both the private and the public sector.

The bill you have before you incorporates into the practical experience which has been gained by OEO in 2½ years of operations.

As you begin consideration of the Economic Opportunity Amendments for 1967, I ask you to contemplate the significance of this unparalleled national consensus which has unified us as a people at a time when so many conflicts are dividing us as a world.

We no longer have to be shown that there is poverty in America. That debate is over. We no longer have to argue whether or not the programs we have launched are effective. That record speaks for itself.

The central question now is whether having revealed the poverty, launched the programs and achieved the consensus, we are going to tear apart the engine which has powered our progress.

In the current issue of Look magazine there is a vigorous and unequivocal editorial entitled, "We Can't Quit Now." Editors of Look magazine spoke to their 8 million readers last week. They said this.

It is up to the Office of Economic Opportunity, not only to cope with the problems of poverty, but to argue the just demands of the poor from within the Government . . . We must make up our minds to do the whole job. It will be costly. It can't be done overnight. Business as much as government must help. But we can end welfare waste, earn back our investment from the taxes and increased production of millions of new consumers. We have promised to let the poor in—and we can't quit now.

This is what the OEO stands for. This is what you have begun and what we are pledged to continue. Much remains to be done.

We can't quit now.

That is the end of my prepared statement, Mr. Chairman. I would welcome the opportunity, if it is agreeable to you, Mr. Chairman, to start our presentation of the detailed program today with the Director of the Job Corps, William Kelly, who would be prepared to go into as