

APPENDIX B—DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COORDINATION IN ARKANSAS

The Western Arkansas Economic Development was designated in February 6, 1967 and funded in March of 1967. The counties involved were Crawford, Sebastian, Franklin, Logan, Scott, and Polk.

It was necessary that each county update its Overall Economic Development Plan and submit an annual progress report so that an Area OEDP could be developed for counties that were in compliance with EDA. County Agents in the six county area were requested by the State EDA Field Coordinator to assume the leadership in organizing county leadership to meet with the county requirements prior to development of an Area OEDP. County Development Councils previously organized for Overall Economic Development were mutually agreed upon as the organized group to update the OEDP's. Once this was completed, public hearings in each county were held by the Director of the Economic Development District, to provide further evidence of immediate and long range needs for economic development. Again the county agents working in connection with the Resource Development Agent assumed the responsibilities of selecting county-wide leadership for the public meetings and to provide current data on agriculture development.

When this phase was completed work was begun on a preliminary Area OEDP. A request was again made from the director of the district to the Area Resource Development Agent for an identification of specific problems and opportunities for agriculture business oriented industries. Each county through the County Agent presented economic data to support leadership thinking that there were further opportunities in certain areas for further agriculture business development.

The Resource Development Agent then prepared this on an area basis and submitted this to the director for use in developing an area OEDP. Four specialists on a state basis, The Extension Poultryman, Extension Vegetable Marketing Specialist, Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist and Extension Forest Products Marketing Specialist, also contributed to the area OEDP by making available to the Area Resource Development Agent, economic data on the six county area to use in projections for the OEDP.

Cooperation with the Director of the Western Arkansas Development District has been excellent in every way. Office conferences are set up periodically to discuss activities where there is mutual concern. Some examples are working with county and city leadership on industrial development, commercial recreation, educational facilities, OEO and municipal water systems for industrial development. *Extension's chief contribution is in working with local leadership to the point where they can use specialized services in planning, financing, and action.*

With the enactment of the Economic Development Act of 1965, Franklin County was designated as a re-development area eligible for 80% grants with EDA for assistance in Economic Development.

As soon as interpretations of the act were printed the Franklin County Extension Agent met with the Ozark Chamber of Commerce Industrial Committee and explained the features of the act and gave examples of how the area could make use of these funds in economic development. Shortly thereafter a large industry wanted to locate in the area but could locate only if certain facilities were provided including additional industrial water, an additional sewer, an industrial street, an airport, rail barge facilities across the Arkansas River, an industrial site and evidence of an adequate labor supply.

From the previous discussion of the Economic Development Act of 1965, leadership recognized that it was possible to enter negotiations with the industry to try to work out plans for locating in the area.

The County Development Council, the County Extension Agent, Job Development Coordinator with the community action program, Chamber of Commerce, and State Employment Security Division of the Department of Labor, coordinated efforts to conduct a detailed labor survey through the smaller communities program. This was used to prove to the industry that an adequate supply of labor existed. The Chamber of Commerce Industry Committee (of which the County Agent is a member) established contact with the State Field Coordinator for EDA to plan the facilities needed and start an application for EDA grants. In the meantime the Western Arkansas Economic Development District was funded and the Director assumed the application work and coordination with the EDA. The application has been presented to EDA. A plan for county