

1586 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

(paled) at some time in their past, former addicts, toil-worn grandmothers, aspiring students, have grown into effective articulate leaders of their peers able to exercise a common sense and wisdom and reasonableness which bodes well for the future of the nation.

We must be willing to encourage and develop the participation of these people in the planning for their own lives.

Traditional programs promote dependency. The OEO programs promote leadership development. This is probably the single most significant contribution of the anti-poverty program to date. In Washington, we now have 20 Neighborhood Planning Councils in which youth, parents, professionals and government staff representatives contribute to the setting of priorities and the determination of programs for their own neighborhoods. These Councils have actually set the program and the budget for this year's youth programs.

In Washington, therefore, as in communities throughout the nation, OEO has been the catalyst for developing leadership among those who have been traditionally excluded from local decision making. It has provided the opportunity for an emerging group of capable and knowledgeable "indigenous" persons who are a continuing network for reaching into the slums, and who serve as living proof that there is indeed hope within "the system."

Just as parents are ambivalent about the developing and competing powers of their own adolescents, so too are existing governmental and private agencies taken back by the vigor and imagination of this developing segment of our society. And just as we must expect to see adolescents make some errors of youthful enthusiasm and excess, so too, will there be errors and problems as this hitherto undeveloped and neglected group of Americans emerges into full citizenship.

My overall concern in this testimony is to urge that OEO be permitted to continue to function without crippling amendments; that the Community Action Programs be funded at increased strength as probably the most fundamental and promising aspect of this "war"; that Job Corps, Neighborhood Youth Corps, VISTA, and other OEO programs remain under OEO direction; that involvement of youth and parents be increased and their role strengthened by providing leadership training resources for them; and that the Office of Economic Opportunity remain the central agency for planning, coordinating and evaluating programs already begun.

RESOLUTION ON SOCIAL WELFARE BY WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM—U.S. SECTION

(RESOLUTIONS AT ANNUAL MEETING, ASILOMAR (PACIFIC GROVE), CALIFORNIA,
JUNE 19-24, 1967)

To: The President of the United States.

Senator Lister Hill, Chairman, Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

Representative Carl D. Perkins, Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor.

Mr. John W. Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Mr. W. Willard Wirtz, Secretary of Labor.

Mrs. Esther Peterson, Assistant Secretary of Labor.

A. Philip Randolph Institute.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, at its Annual Meeting at Asilomar, June 19-24, 1967, recognizes the need of the United States government and its citizens to take measures to correct the malfunctioning of an economy which has a growth rate of 5.5% a year, a gross national product of \$750 billion (1966) while allowing 33,000,000 of its citizens to exist in utter deprivation. No American can remain untouched by the menacing consequences of poverty—the undermining of faith in political and civil rights, the mass frustration produced when legitimate hopes are unfulfilled and the decay of social services which leads to violence, crime and chaos. All America is involved in the plight of the migrant workers, the deprived American Indians, the Spanish Americans in the New Mexican hills, the habitants of the tent cities of Mississippi, the displaced miners of Appalachia, the rumbling masses of the urban ghettos and the young lives on the streets of cities everywhere.

There is little evidence that current programs designed to eradicate poverty have made significant progress or that they can do so in the future. We urge