

Many low-income people have entered enthusiastically into CAP activities. The 13 low-income members of the CAP board seem to be giving themselves and others who identify with them a real feeling of participation in local affairs. The low-income aides employed by CAP to identify, survey and aid other low-income families evidently are building good relationships between CAP and its "target" people.

[We are] concerned over Congress's appropriations for the poverty program in its last session. They earmarked great amounts for Head Start, NYC and other socially acceptable programs, but greatly curtailed the more free-wheeling activities of the Community Action Program. We feel it is much too early to stop experimenting and creatively trying to find new ways to solve problems of poverty in the U.S.

From the League of Women Voters of Gainesville, Florida

Alachua County's efforts to implement a community action program under the provisions of the Economic Opportunity Act date from February 1965, when the Board of County Commissioners established a Community Action Organization that was unique. Known in some quarters as "the three-headed monster," it featured an appointed Board of Directors, and a Policy Advisory Committee which was to be broadly representative of community groups concerned with poverty. Considerable responsibility for program development was delegated to these two bodies, while ultimate responsibility for projects approved and funded by OEO remained in the hands of the County Commissioners.

When it became clear that the "monster" could not move ahead with clogged lines of communication, responsibility, and authority, two of its heads, the Board of Directors and the Policy Advisory Committee, voted themselves out of existence and returned full control to the Commissioners.

A list of the accomplishments of this defunct creature will perhaps surprise you. In spite of the troubles it had:

1. obtained a year's grant (\$23,000; 10% locally funded) to support a research director (Dr. Madelyn Kafoglis) and a staff of five to survey the county and identify "target areas;"
2. approved and supported 1966 Summer Head Start, directed by Cornelius Norton under the county school system;
3. undertaken volunteer projects, including an adult basic education program and day care centers in Newberry, northwest Gainesville, and Hawthorne;
4. brought VISTAs to the county and put them to work;
5. conducted a highly successful 8-week "Medicare Alert" campaign early in 1966;
6. prepared project proposals for submission to OEO: a. neighborhood development centers, b. legal aid machinery, and c. year round Head Start-type child development program.

Action on these was suspended by OEO, however, until our local organization could put its house in order.

Reorganization got under way in the fall of 1966, when the County Commissioners called a public meeting to consider the plan they had submitted and OEO had approved during the summer. As accepted at the meeting and established, we now have a Policy Advisory Board whose membership is to be open ended, starting with a minimum of 60 representatives. Of these $\frac{1}{3}$ are to be from the target areas, chosen by the poor; $\frac{1}{3}$ from major public and private agencies concerned with poverty; $\frac{1}{3}$ from other important elements in the community, i.e. religion, labor, business, civic interests, civil rights. (LWV is presently represented by the chairman of this national item committee.) No representatives are to be appointed by the County Commissioners or by the PAB itself. As of this writing, there are still only 56 members, although more than 60 have been invited. The number is expected to grow quickly.

The Policy Advisory Board is empowered to advise the County Commissioners on all matters pertaining to development of anti-poverty programs. Its support is required for any such program. It will be identifying areas of unmet need in the community, acting as a forum for citizen groups wishing to propose changes, establishing program priorities, exploring proposed projects. Its committees are currently working on by-laws, organization and membership regulations, day care for pre-schoolers and additional recreation facilities for all. Its elected chairman is Dr. J. Anthony Humphreys (Gainesville Tutorial Association), its secretary Dr. Madelyn Kafoglis (Human Relations Council).