

*From the League of Women Voters of Missoula, Montana*

We feel that the local CAP program has done an excellent job of (1) surveying needs of low income families in the community and (2) setting up citizen advisory committees and with their help formulating plans to strengthen existing programs and institute new ones for the low-income families to improve their economic status. A number of programs are in progress. We feel the office has been very ably administered and that criticisms found in the news media as to graft, inefficiency, political involvement, etc. do not apply here.

*From the League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls, Texas*

The local programs under Titles I and II of the Economic Opportunity Act have seemed to work quite successfully under the sponsorship and guidance of the Wichita Falls public school system. Alas, at the moment funds have run out for carrying on the Basic Adult Education classes but they may be resumed again in September if federal funds become available. It is our League's considered opinion that these local programs are needed and well worth the cost, generally speaking. We deplore the loss of time from now until such time as additional federal funds become available. The time is Now.

*From the League of Women Voters of Denver, Colorado*

The Neighborhood Health Center has been a true "community action program" in that it was locally created. It operates on an essentially new medical concept of total health service to a whole family which is essentially preventive rather than a response to a crisis situation. The center was organized to handle 400 outpatient cases a month and is currently seeing 1600. Denver Opportunity has now applied for funds for a second health center.

A secondary purpose of the Neighborhood Health Center has been to employ disadvantaged neighborhood residents. This is aimed at (1) providing specific training in various health disciplines to improve the aides' vocational potential; (2) providing an adequate wage to help lift the aide out of the poverty status; (3) serving as a communication bridge to other neighborhood residents; (4) helping provide the manpower necessary to operate the center.

This system has worked out well so far as an "on-the-job" training program. From 6 to 10 of the clerical help have gone into private industry. Arrangements have been made with the Denver Career Service for the clerical help to be certified for eligibility for appointment after working for the Health Center for approximately six months. Arrangements are now being made with the Career Service to have a new "subprofessional" category in Mental Health and Social Welfare so that the trained aides can find jobs with the city. Some of these workers have been employed as "psychiatric technicians" by private institutions, but if the city had a classification for them and employed them, it would help to establish this field in the community.

*From the League of Women Voters of Lewiston, Idaho*

One portion of the Homemaker program under CAP that is a success without planned intent is the nursery school experience provided for the 30 to 45 preschool children while mothers are participating in the Homemaker classes. The children's delight with this school more than insures attendance of the mothers to the classes. No one is typical, but I would like to cite the experience of M. B. which might reflect the help that many have received from the Homemaker program. M. B. is 28 years old, a drop-out from school at the seventh grade. She has three children aged five to nine. She is separated from her husband. Her income is Department of Public Assistance. Though she had an evident need for dental care, her most serious handicaps were a feeling of friendlessness and shyness. Homemaker classes changed this. She developed a warm, friendly attitude and a concern for other people. At the present time she is employed part time to conduct surveys for CAP. She is using the money she earns to get her needed dental care. Her own words portray her development: "I never was the first person to speak before, and now I can speak first."

*From the League of Women Voters of Victoria, Texas*

The League has become concerned at the growing discouragement of the local members of the Neighborhood Councils formed by our Community Action Committee. Citizens of the poverty areas of our county have spent a great deal of time since December organizing these councils and planning projects to meet the needs of the individuals living in their neighborhoods. The delay in funds for the Multi-Purpose Center which will aid them in solving some of their problems is