

2532 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

not understood in these Target Areas. One of our Councils is disintegrating because of this sense of frustration.

The Councils have acted as referral sources for candidates for the Neighborhood Youth Corps, students and teacher aides for the Head Start program, and have recruited individuals interested in job training. In addition, they have become centers for the starting of local projects which can be accomplished through local resources.

From the League of Women Voters of Des Moines, Iowa

The most noteworthy accomplishment of our CAP in this short time is the involvement of the poor and their effort to improve themselves. I have been astonished at the individual development of the neighborhood leaders, many of whom came to first CAP meetings dirty, shouting, and waving their fists. These same people have acquired dignity and self-respect when they realized their ideas would be listened to with respect. Many of the natural leaders have been employed by CAP, and are replaced as spokesmen by a new crop who have developed the sense of community responsibility.

In Des Moines CAP has proved to be the purest example of democracy, and a training ground for people who were unaware of the proper channels for voicing their opinions. It is interesting that when race riots occurred last summer, CAP staff members were the first to propose evening activities for Negro youth. VISTA workers are already planning to recruit young people to staff "Drop-In" centers for youth activities each day and evening until midnight, in the hope of preventing further riots this summer.

From the League of Women Voters of Phoenix, Arizona

The South Phoenix Community Service Center is serving an average of 700 families or individuals per month, even though it is barely two months old. Gradually the hope is to be able to serve upwards of 2,000 each week. In an effort of necessity to keep operating expenses at a minimum, a good deal of the work will be done by volunteer workers from the community.

This is an example of a CAP service which is in its infancy here, certainly will and must expand in services rendered, and will prove the concretely positive results of a program which has community approval, city sanction and federal assistance.

From the League of Women Voters of Savannah, Georgia

Project Enable, federally funded as a one-year demonstration project, came to an end March 31, 1967. Under the direction of the Savannah Family Counseling Center, it operated as a special detail of social workers and aides hired from the ranks of the poor to serve in EOA's War on Poverty in Chatham County. There have been cutbacks in this program. Since the 1967 appropriations for EOA were so severe, the national program of ENABLE from Washington on down was totally dissolved. In Savannah, the whole structure of ENABLE was taken and moved from the supervision of a delegate agency (Family Counseling) to a newly established division known as Human Services. Although the service that was being provided under Project ENABLE is now being provided by the Social Service Division of Human Services, it yet has to be proven whether or not the service can be provided in depth under this new format. Hopefully, it will achieve depth as well as added breadth but only time will tell.

This was an ongoing program when the project was stopped because of the cut-backs in funds. It was able to be absorbed in the new division and the staff who wished came along with this project. We were able to have an orderly transition period of two months so only minor interruptions of service for the people for whom this program was intended to reach. Savannah was able to absorb the program this year, but if any major cutbacks in appropriations come in 1968, services will have to be discontinued for there won't be any money to hire staff to handle this program.

From the League of Women Voters of Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Our local CAP agency in Baton Rouge, Community Advancement, Inc. has proved itself to be an honest and effective effort in the war on poverty. The director and the staff have shown themselves to be able and dedicated people.

Although this agency has been operating for only ten months, it already has many accomplishments, to list a few:

1. Fifteen thousand people have been contacted.
2. Six hundred fifty people have been taken off the welfare rolls.
3. Three thousand people have been referred to the proper agency.