

and Neighborhood Centers develops and operates, through its existing member houses and through newly established neighborhood councils in heretofore unserved neighborhoods, a network of multi-service neighborhood centers in three counties in two states. These programs are under constant review and assessment by the local CAP staff. Voluntary agencies have long since demonstrated a high capacity to perform these functions well. Further, they have assured meaningful participation by residents of the target neighborhoods, consumers of these anti-poverty services, both as employees and volunteers as well as in policy-making bodies such as Boards of Directors and committees.

This experience of successful delegation to our member houses and other voluntary agencies is replicated in New Orleans, Houston, Detroit, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Chicago, New York City, Los Angeles and many another.

Such continued involvement of local voluntary agencies, as autonomous contractors responsible to CAP and OEO for executing their contracts in good faith would help to assure the effective utilization of all local resources in the War on Poverty.

The reasonableness of this approach has been demonstrated by OEO itself, in its contracts with the YWCA for Job Corps centers for girls, with universities and our NFS Training Center for research and for the training of VISTA enrollees.

It may be necessary for the CAP to undertake responsibility for direct operations in certain areas where voluntary and public agencies are not available, such as in some rural counties. But even here, we suggest, past experience dictates the creation by it of new corporate bodies, independent from the CAP, for the administration and operation of programs and services.

This would preserve for the CAP its principal roles as described above.

OEO in Perspective

During its relatively short life, and despite its handicaps of inadequate financial resources and constant harassment, the OEO has made a tremendous impact on our communities, its institutions and the life chances of the poor citizen.

The history of our country since pre-revolutionary days, is in real part, a history of the struggles and conflicts in which we have been engaged as we have striven to translate the American creed, "All men are born free and equal," into American reality.

The forms which these strivings have taken have changed from time to time, but the goals are constant.

In the first half of this century, the great domestic issue was the establishment of decent and dignified standards for working men. Here at home, as in some other countries, the result was the emergence of a trade-union movement and a revolution in our thinking on the relations between management and labor.

The great issues of these latter years of the century, other than the over-riding issue of survival under the threat of nuclear holocaust, are (1) the waging of a successful war on poverty and, (2) the peaceful resolution of the revolution for civil rights.

Just as with nuclear war, these are not merely domestic problems, but confront every nation and the total world society. All human strivings for freedom, decency, personal dignity and justice depend now on our desire and ability to resolve these issues.

In the North, both require for their success the extending and translation into reality of a whole series of guarantees of equality in education, employment, housing and the command of sufficient goods and services for participation in the main stream of American life. Targets are school desegregation and enriched educational opportunity, not only for reasons of racial pride but also, in the long run, economic survival; an increase in job opportunities not only at the entry level in low pay-low status jobs, but in management and the executive suite, and a drastic change in the image of the black ghetto. In the South, in addition to all these and perhaps of prime importance is the dismantling of a complete system of color castes which has too long enslaved Negro and Caucasian poor alike. In the South, the Negro wants and needs his "courtesy" title—(Mr., Mrs., etc.). At the heart of this is the problem of stigma, or as Richard M. Titmuss put it at the recent NCSW Forum, (Social Policy and Economic Progress—R.M.T.—Professor Social Administration, London School of Economics, May 30 1966), "of felt and experienced discrimination and disapproval on grounds of moral behavior, ethnic group, class, age, measured intelligence, mental fitness and other criteria of selection rejections. The problem then," says Mr. Titmuss, "is