

2830 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

(The letters referred to follow:)

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Trenton, N.J., July 11, 1967.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERKINS: I understand that your Committee has recently completed hearings on the Economic Opportunity Amendments of 1967 and will shortly be reporting out this legislation. I should like to take this opportunity to indicate my strong support for the war on poverty and my belief that it should be strengthened and expanded as provided in the bill submitted by the Administration.

In the three short years since the President declared war on poverty in these United States, much has been accomplished. Hundreds of thousands of people have received assistance which has enabled them to break the bonds of poverty, and millions across the nation have received assistance of one form or another through one or more of the various agencies created under the Economic Opportunity Act. We in New Jersey have felt from the beginning that this was one of the most important pieces of legislation ever to be passed by the Federal Congress, and we attempted to respond at the State as well as at the local level in the most imaginative ways we could. It is my firm belief that New Jersey is a better State today because of the assistance we have received under the Economic Opportunity Act.

No revolutionary effort of this kind could be mounted so quickly without running the risks of both mistakes and controversy, and the war on poverty in general and the Community Action Programs in particular have had their share of both. However, it is a tribute to Sargent Shriver and the Office of Economic Opportunity that they have learned from these mistakes so that today elected officials at local and State levels, who were among the early opponents of certain facets of the legislation, can now be said to be among the most ardent supporters of increased appropriations for the entire anti-poverty effort.

I strongly urge you to support the full increase in authorization requested by the Administration and to endorse the basic purposes of the substantive amendments proposed as well. There are undoubtedly some minor modifications which can be made that will strengthen the bill, but I believe that its basic concepts are sound and I strongly urge your support thereof.

Sincerely yours,

HON. RICHARD J. HUGHES,
Governor.

STATE OF ARKANSAS,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Little Rock, June 30, 1967.

HON. CARL PERKINS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERKINS: Because of the hearings that are presently being conducted concerning the future of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, I have taken this time to outline some of my thoughts in this matter.

Our state has strived to derive the maximum benefit from the various programs in keeping with the original intent of Congress when the bill was enacted. As a whole, the various programs have met with approval from the public, and Arkansas will feel the impact long into the future. However, I am unable to see the wisdom in separating the more popular programs and placing them under other agencies. The present proposals asking for greater involvement of the states is definitely an improvement, and should lend itself to a more successful program. We are in a new era of growth, and I feel that our state should have a more active position in the direction of the War on Poverty. Success can always be improved upon, and we must each work in that direction.

With all good wishes,
Sincerely,

WINTHROP ROCKEFELLER,
Governor.