

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967 2835

The Technical Assistance Office has been helpful to me in establishing a close link between the Governor's Office and the various health and welfare connected agencies. It has also served me as a useful troubleshooting arm.

The drive for decentralization of services in the federal government is strengthened by OEO, the Technical Assistance Office. Through this Office, we have a vehicle for the decentralization of agency functioning. The Office of Economic Opportunity's insistence upon innovation and agency cooperation are important factors. Through this Office, I have a means for getting federal and state information directly and then relaying this on to the various local communities. By this decentralizing move, I feel that the State of Kansas is able to keep government closer to the people.

I know the service I envision for this office does involve money. To staff such a Technical Assistance Office with state money, at the present time, would be extremely difficult. We appreciate the fact that the Congress is responsible for the major portion of the budget for the Office. If this were not the case, we would have to take immediate steps to close the Office.

The Technical Assistance Office, OEO, has been helpful in my administration. I hope the Congress sees fit to fund the program on a continuing basis.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT DOCKING,
Governor of Kansas.

STATE OF VERMONT,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Montpelier, July 5, 1965.

HON. CARL D. PERKINS,
*Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Rayburn Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERKINS: It has come to my attention that the Congress is considering legislation affecting the nation's anti-poverty efforts. The effectiveness of the anti-poverty program in Vermont leads me to believe that we should support the funding of this program at least at its current level.

During the past fiscal year, administrative procedures within the program have improved markedly. Further, the relationship between Washington OEO and the state of Vermont continues to strengthen with the resultant improvement in program administration. The Office of Economic Opportunity should be preserved and strengthened as a national agency; particularly since this organization focuses on the task of coordinating all governmental agencies for more effective social service, and is the only agency with a strict anti-poverty focus.

The rural poor person does not live in a ghetto which insults our sense of decency by the drama of its poverty. Although less visible than the urban poor, because he lives in isolation throughout the environment, the poverty of the rural poor person is no less real. He is far removed from the services and resources which are available to most of the people in Vermont and would tend to be, if not for the anti-poverty program in this state, an unknown man by the very nature of his invisibility.

Poverty is still with us, and I hope that Congress can continue to maintain, if not expand, its effort to meet this challenge.

Sincerely,

PHILIP H. HOFF, *Governor.*

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Charleston, July 19, 1967.

HON. CARL PERKINS,
*House of Representatives,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERKINS: In these United States both federal and state governments have initiated new and innovative programs to alleviate detrimental conditions throughout our great land. Because these programs are not fully tried and proven, we reach a time each year when we must determine and evaluate our success and failures in these efforts.