

But just exposing untrained youths to job training won't be enough, those who planned the project realized.

Many of the youths are on parole or probation, and all are high school drop-outs.

A key element is to restore self-confidence destroyed through repeated failures since early childhood.

Organized labor is strongly in favor of this program. Our experience with it indicates that it has been efficiently administered, and imaginatively programed. We feel that this program should have added funds for fiscal 1968 rather than have its funds reduced more than \$50 million as requested by the administration. The NYC, like Headstart, has been one of the "success" stories of OEO. It deserves to be expanded.

Organized labor has developed a unique partnership with OEO in connection with the training of union members for active service in the war against poverty. In three programs which have been funded by OEO, one in Appalachia, which is currently in operation; another in the New England States; and a third in Pennsylvania, union men, and women, are being given training to enable them to participate in the OEO program in their home communities.

They are being given specific information about the war on poverty and its programs. They are being taught how to help citizens groups apply for Federal funds when such funds are available to meet specific local problems. They are being taught the skills needed to help poor people get together in their neighborhoods to discuss and seek solutions to their problems. They will also train other union members for active participation in community action programs.

In the Appalachian region where 104 of the unionists have completed their training course, these men and women have gone back home and provided a leavening in the community for citizen action through Community Action agencies.

We can look for similar results from the New England and the Pennsylvania projects. We feel that these projects, by injecting trained and dedicated people into the community action program, will be of invaluable help in carrying forward local action in the antipoverty war.

In 1964, President Meany heartily endorsed the provision which called for Federal assistance up to 90 percent of funding for local community action programs. The experience of local labor leaders who have participated in literally hundreds of local CAP agencies, emphasizes the validity of our support of the 90-percent Federal contribution.

Unfortunately, the Economic Opportunity Amendments of 1966 call for the lowering of Federal contribution to community action programs from the present 90-percent level to 80 percent after June 30, 1967. This amounts to a 100-percent increase for local communities wishing to participate in community action programs.

Such an increased local contribution would create a severe hardship for the poorer urban communities, for many rural areas, and for many smaller communities. For the larger cities with many poor neighborhoods, this increase would severely limit the residents of these poverty areas from developing new and needed programs.

As we have already indicated, the community action programs are an essential component of the war on poverty offering the opportunity