

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1967

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to recess, in room 2175, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Carl D. Perkins (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Perkins, Green, Thompson, O'Hara, Hawkins, Gibbons, Ford, Ayres, Quie, Goodell, Ashbrook, Reid, Erlenborn, Dellenback, and Steiger.

Also present: H. D. Reed, general counsel; Robert E. McCord, senior specialist; Louise Maxienne Dargans, research assistant; Benjamin Reeves, editor of committee publications; Austin Sullivan, investigator; Marian Wyman, special assistant; Charles W. Radcliffe, minority counsel for education; John Buckley, minority investigator; Dixie Barger, minority research assistant; and Phillips Rockefeller, minority research specialist.

Chairman PERKINS. The committee will come to order. A quorum is present.

The first witness this morning is Edward Robie, vice president, the Equitable Life Assurance Society of New York. Mr. Robie, I am delighted to welcome you here today and I am most anxious to know your views on the Economic Opportunity Act. Unless there is objection, your prepared statement will be inserted in the record and you may proceed in any way you prefer.

(The prepared statement of Edward Robie follows:)

STATEMENT BY EDWARD A. ROBIE, VICE PRESIDENT AND PERSONNEL DIRECTOR,
EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

I am Edward Robie, Vice President and Personnel Director of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States. I'm here today to discuss with you our viewpoint, and share with you our experiences in an area of major concern to the Equitable and to the Nation. This concern centers around what can and should be done to help the growing number of our nation's unskilled, untrained and unemployed young people, many of whom face the additional handicap of coming from poverty-ridden households and racial minorities.

It is my hope that my comments will be helpful to you in your deliberations concerning HR10682 and specifically regarding Title IV of that Bill calling for an Industry Youth Corps.

The Equitable is the third largest life insurance company in the country. We are headquartered in New York City and have offices in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. We have approximately 12,000 salaried employees, 7,000 at our Home Office and 5,000 at field locations. In addition, we have more than 6,500 commissioned agents who sell our insurance.

The Equitable's concern regarding the employment of youth grows out of two separate circumstances. First, our Chairman, James F. Oates, Jr., has for many years had a deep conviction that employers have a social responsibility