

## 3008 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

to attack the root causes of poverty. As an agency of the Office of Economic Opportunity CRT continues to be more than a contracting agency channeling funds to other agencies. It is an operating agency itself. It innovates, develops new programs and passes those that succeed along to city, state or private agencies.

In addition to financial support received from the Office of Economic Opportunity, CRT has received grants from the City and the Greater Hartford Chamber of Commerce. These grants were for a 3-year period ending in September 1967. Hopefully they will be renewed. In the spring of 1967 the Connecticut Legislature passed a Community Development Act, which will bring an infusion of State money. The business community gives CRT both financial support and the concern and leadership of business executives who participate in CRT activities.

All elements of the community participate in CRT. The 72-man Board of Directors includes business, labor, professional, religious, government and civic leaders—and 29 elected members who represent their neighbors in the poor sections of the city. The poor were a key part of the enterprise from the beginning.

On balance the success of our combined effort exceeded expectations. CRT currently supports 14 major activities. Rather than outline all, I will cite a few of the outstanding ones. (The appendix contains a list of all activities.)

The Neighborhood Youth Corps has been functioning with overall success, but two notable examples come to mind. One is a young man who on release from a boys' reformatory applied for help. They helped him find his first job—at the minimum wage—and encouraged him to secure training that brought him employment as a laboratory technician. Another young man a year after joining the Corps was employed as a chef in Alaska at \$16,000 a year.

The Manpower Development Program has established a high degree of inter-agency involvement. Welfare, government, business, labor and churches work together to counsel and guide the unemployed. One young man they placed works as a commercial artist earning \$8,000 a year—quite a step up from welfare.

Contrary to reports from other sections of the country, Headstart is extremely successful in Hartford. The Board of Education feels that a large part of the success comes from the involvement of parents. The children find encouragement at home from parents who understand and appreciate the opportunity being offered.

The Community Service Corps hires neighborhood people at the minimum wage to serve for 6 months as welfare, training, instructional and recreational aides. The services they perform are useful. Even more valuable in the spreading effect in the neighborhood that comes when their friends see them leave welfare and start off on their own. With the new-found self-respect, many aides find places in the job market and their success encourages others.

What is the future of CAP in Hartford? For the long range, hopefully it will play a diminishing role as it eliminates the causes of poverty and equalizes the opportunities for education, jobs and decent housing. For the near future it must play a much larger role. Economy demands that we move ahead faster so that our work will be completed sooner. The continued financial support of the City, the Chamber and the major corporations is still needed. Desperate human wants will go unserved.

Both for humane and economic reasons the work of The Office of Economic Opportunity must go forward as rapidly as possible. To do this it must have much greater financial support on the municipal, state and federal levels as well as the continued and increasing support of the business community.

Admittedly our nation has pressing international obligations. It also has domestic fiscal responsibility not to impair the system that serves so many of us so well. But I urge federal administrators and congressmen to travel the path of true economy by giving the full financial support needed for a successful assault on the root causes of poverty.

There is no economy in doing less than our humane instincts demand from us.

### THE COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM IN HARTFORD

The overall CAP organization in Greater Hartford is the Community Renewal Team. The current CRT program shown below includes the funding rate for the year just ending. Budgets for the year ahead have not been approved.