

3080 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

1. The Michigan State Bar Foundation has submitted a program which will assume the responsibility of coordinating all Legal Services programs in Michigan. It will also function as the clearing house for all educational material, test case litigation, briefs, and legislation, either prepared by, or referred to, the Legal Service Programs.

2. A program to provide legal aid to the indigent in the 33 counties located north of Mt. Pleasant and south of the Straits (commonly referred to as the NORCAP area).

AVONDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL, INC.,
Cincinnati, Ohio, July 25, 1967.

Representative CARL PERKINS,
*Chairman, House Education and Labor Committee, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERKINS: It may be well to note that the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 was introduced to Cincinnati in early 1965. Since that time hundreds of persons who never before had decent jobs have been hired to work in various phases of the program. Hundreds more have been helped to enter training programs and find decent jobs outside the program. Pre-school children who are never really expected to be able to compete with their more fortunate counterparts in later life are now reading, writing and speaking as well or better than the average 5-year-old. Little children who have long suffered from malnutrition and lack of adequate medical care are now well-nourished and healthy because of programs like headstart and pre-school.

Senior citizens who many times feel unwanted and useless are now engaged in healthy productive activities which are not only beneficial to themselves but to others as well because of programs such as Foster Grandparents and Recreational Therapy for the Aged.

Many young mothers who have been burdened with unplanned, unexpected and untimely childbirths are now able to live happier and more productive lives because of the planned parenthood program.

Many youth who have been caught in the throes of an urban ghetto community which discourages normal cultural and intellectual development have been uplifted through tutorial, library and other experiences which have been a part of the School-Community Center program.

Adults, who never before have been part of community life, find themselves in leadership positions and willing to accept leading roles in the determination of their own destinies. The merits of this program are, no doubt, well documented elsewhere so there is no need to belabor the point here.

One of the founding fathers of the Community Action Commission was the *City of Cincinnati*. Since this is true it seems utterly stupid for an elected representative of city government to request information from Washington about programs which the arm of local government he represents has some responsibility for operating. Councilman Held seems to have proved on more than one occasion that he is making political hay out of programs which could seriously affect the lives of many people, but this time he surpasses himself. Councilman Held is in no way qualified to speak to the issue of the operation of the Poverty Program in this city, nor is he qualified to speak for any of the persons for whom the program was intended. Any testimony he might give should be regarded as another attempt to ensure his re-election to Council and not an attempt to render a service to the people of this city.

Congressman Clancy seemingly has only been concerned with the Poverty Program when community groups began to move toward voter registration. This concern, no doubt, was expressed because he felt that the newly registered voters would not vote for him. He probably knows less about the program than Councilman Held and can hardly speak for those persons for whom the program was intended.

If it is necessary to have hearings on the use of Federal Funds to support this program or any other program operating in this community, I would strongly urge that people close to the program be heard.

Sincerely,

BAILEY W. TURNER,
President, Avondale Community Council.