

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967 3083

In the year 1966, the crime rate of the City of Newport News decreased 22.5%. I feel, without a doubt, that the fine program instituted in this City by the Office of Equal Opportunity has contributed largely to this rate of decrease in crime.

As a result of the activities and programs of the OEO in Newport News, there has been a marked improvement and change with reference to lower income people that this Program is able to come in contact with.

The OEO Program was started in this City on February 1, 1966, and at the present time they have an able Staff of 30 personnel.

The Neighborhood Youth Corps, which is a part of the OEO Program, has given opportunities to at least 250 Youths to be gainfully employed.

The primary objective of the local OEO Neighborhood Youth Corps is to offer Youth proper job experience and proper job attitude, besides the secondary purpose of giving the Youth of our Community an opportunity to be gainfully employed.

The Youths under this Program also attend regular counseling sessions, and information given to me from Mrs. Downing indicates that at the present time there are openings for at least 250 more Youths, and I have been further advised that if further funds were available, at least that many more Youths would be able to be gainfully employed, properly counseled, and also given the opportunity to gain proper job experience and attitude, which would most certainly be an asset to them in their adulthood.

I wholeheartedly, without hesitation, endorse the Office of Equal Opportunity as being immensely beneficial to the Community and to the citizens as a whole.

I would therefore respectfully request of you that every effort be exerted by your Office to assist this beneficial Program, and every effort be made to obtain additional funds to expand the Program.

I feel certain that every effort will be exerted by your Office in this matter, and rest assured that in the event I may be of any assistance, please let me know.

Yours truly,

W. F. PEACH,
Chief of Police.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, July 21, 1967.

HON. DONALD D. CLANCY,
*House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR DON: It was with great elation that I read of your request for a Congressional investigation of the anti-poverty program in Cincinnati, and it was with equal dejection that I learned that your request was turned down. I feel that little can be accomplished by summoning executives of the Cincinnati program to Washington. They will be able to give evidence of projects that look marvelous on paper, but offer little in reality.

As you know, I spent five years as assistant pastor at St. Leo's in North Fairmount and just two months ago, I was transferred to St. Bernard's in Winton Place and the Mother of Christ Mission in Winton Terrace. All of these places are so-called "target areas" for the anti-poverty program.

I am no expert on these things by any means, but I have observed enough of these programs in action to say (and this is about the most charitable comment I can make) that they leave much to be desired.

One of the complaints of negroes during the recent riots in Cincinnati was that they have been lied to. It is my feeling that they are right in many instances and that the very anti-poverty program which is supposed to help them is actually becoming a cause of increasing discontent. What I mean by that is this: tremendous promises are made about what will be done and statements are forthcoming about the hundreds of thousands of dollars being appropriated for this that and the other thing, and then nothing happens. The effect is the same as when a parent keeps promising his child things and then never delivers.

To make this concrete, allow me to cite three examples of what I mean:

(1) Shortly after the June riots \$140,000+ was designated for the hiring of additional recreation workers to supplement the "Cool Summer" program. In our area of Winton Place-Winton Terrace-Findlater Gardens, seven additional workers were hired. By their own admission, they have been able to do nothing, because they have no funds available for equipment, programs, etc.—all of their appropriation was spent on salaries. The net effect is that seven people collect salaries for doing nothing and the area benefits not at all.

(2) The Metropolitan Housing Authority last year promised to set up six "Tot Lots" in the above-mentioned areas. They were to be ready for July 1,