

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967 3085

The fact that the exact opposite seems to be the case convinces us even more that the congressional review is a good thing.

JULY 7, 1967.

Mr. WILLIAM WICHMAN,  
*City Manager, City of Cincinnati,*  
*Cincinnati, Ohio.*

DEAR MR. WICHMAN: You are no doubt aware of a public announcement appearing on Friday, July 7th, concerning the establishment of a "temporary labor exchange" involving co-operation of several job finding agencies which is to begin Monday at the Community Action Commission. The release indicated that plans had been worked out among four agencies, including the Ohio State Employment Service and contained a plea to all employers who have summer job openings to contact the Community Action Commission.

Our office was completely unaware of this arrangement prior to reading the announcement and did not participate in the planning.

The Cincinnati office of OSES, including the Youth Opportunity Center, began planning early this spring to participate in the President's campaign to secure summer employment for youths which was spearheaded by Vice President Humphrey. Much publicity attended the initiation of this campaign and included the mailing of hundreds of letters to local employers to solicit their active participation in the program and encourage them to list all their summer job openings with OSES. The program has been pursued diligently and, of course, is still in progress at the present time. We are also heavily involved in a permanent program of Human Resources Development (HRD), in which the full cooperation of other agencies and groups is not only heartily welcome but is mandatory if the desired results are to be achieved.

We are not in a position to delegate the responsibility assigned to our agency by the President of the United States and we consider the "temporary labor exchange" as a dilution of this nation-wide effort, a situation which we have constantly tried to avoid in Cincinnati and which surely can only work to the disadvantage of those whom we are obligated to serve.

Sincerely yours,

LEWIS H. EVANS, *Area Manager.*

STATEMENT OF COUNCILMAN JOHN E. HELD, CINCINNATI, OHIO

Mr. Chairman, I am John E. Held, a member of the Cincinnati City Council. Cincinnati is a community of 502,000 people in a metropolitan area of one million people. I am not here today as an official representative of the Cincinnati City Council, but you can be sure that my queries and observations and my appeal do reflect the sentiments of the vast majority of the citizens of our Cincinnati community.

Our City is in deep and serious trouble. The criminal riots and lawless actions of irresponsible anarchists have placed our City government in a physical and financial crisis that might well be classified as an emergency. We are told that we are going to have to reduce essential city services before the end of the year to try to continue to make ends meet.

Our people—the citizens of Cincinnati—are scared and disgusted. Millions of dollars worth of businesses have been destroyed. Countless employees have been thrown out of work by the destruction. The morale and outlook of the business owners who have survived these riots is bad. In short, Gentlemen, Cincinnati is genuinely at the crossroads, and we need all the help we can get. Under these circumstances, to waste one Federal dollar that could be put to productive use in our urban area constitutes a criminal act against the taxpayers. If the war on poverty in Cincinnati is a boondoggle, the public has a right to know it. If it is being used for political purposes, the public has a right to know. If it has been a hopeless failure, the public has a right to know. If the public doesn't know, if we local officials don't know, and certainly if you gentlemen don't know, there's really very little hope for truly effective action.

You, Gentlemen, are the only ones who have the power to get the answers, and you can't get them here in Washington from professional witnesses; you can only get these answers by coming out into our area and getting the facts first hand. We urge you to investigate, assess and evaluate the effectiveness of the