

One other Ohio county is included in the CAC area: Clermont, immediately to the east. Hilly and rural, with a population of only 93,100 people, Clermont is essentially part of Appalachia. The Negro population is only 1.2 percent. There are 24,700 households. The proportion with annual incomes below \$2,500, and below \$4,000 is similar to Hamilton County (29.5% below \$4,000). The 1960 unemployment rate was also similar, 4.8 percent. The county is lacking in public facilities—it has no hospital for example with its residents being advised to make use of hospitals in surrounding counties—and is seeking industrial development.

Three Kentucky counties across the Ohio River from Cincinnati also come under the Community Action Commission. Among them, Kenton, Campbell, and Boone counties have a total population of 243,000 people, with 71,100 households. The proportion of households in these counties with less than \$4,000 annual income is also just below 30 percent.

The median income per family is \$5,363, and 16.4 percent of the families have incomes below the poverty level of \$3,000. About 9.3 percent of the children under 18 live in one-parent or substitute homes. The median educational level is 9.4 years of schooling. Figures for two of the three counties show 2,200 "dilapidated" dwelling units. The unemployment rate in Campbell County in 1960 was similar to the Ohio counties, but was much lower in Boone (2.3%) and Kenton (3.6%) counties.

There are only about 5,000 Negroes living in these three counties or a little over 2 percent of the population. Kenton County is more than 3 percent Negro, the others below 1 percent. About 61 percent of the Negroes are said to be engaged in menial jobs. Judging from figures for Covington, the largest city in the area (50,000 population), their standard of living is markedly lower than that of their white neighbors. Some 15 percent of the Negroes in Covington have family incomes of less than \$1,000 a year, as compared to only 4 percent of the whites. The Negro median family income is \$3,288 a year, over \$2,000 less than the median for Covington's white families, and barely above the poverty level.

This study was made at a time when Cincinnati was enjoying a high level of prosperity. Unemployment had fallen sharply and industry was actively seeking workers with job skills. It was also a time when, in the eyes of a number of local leaders, Cincinnati was placing renewed emphasis on its traditional conservatism. Various attributed to the ethnic or religious background of the city, the city's conservative outlook is viewed by many residents, regardless of their own position, as the most distinctive characteristic of Cincinnati.

Two recent events reinforced this feeling. In November, a liberal Congressman, one of the founders of the Community Action Commission, had been defeated for reelection by a more conservative opponent, and conservative candidates in general had made a notably good showing. Secondly, two successive referendums had turned down a special school tax levy that the Board of Education had declared essential to pay for many school programs—among them a number of OEO anti-poverty programs. The question of whether these would now have to be suspended because of the inability of the School Board to make the required matching payments was unanswered at the time the field work for this study was done. Since that time, one Board of Education program has been transferred to ESEA funds, one has been dropped, and two are being carried on with the local contribution made up by services in kind.

#### *The CAA*

The roots of the Community Action Commission predate OEO itself. Early in 1964 a committee of the Cincinnati City Council held hearings on the extent and nature of poverty in the city. This was followed by a study of poverty problems carried out by three task forces under the auspices of the Community Chest and Council. When OEO came into existence, the Committee's proposals to a large extent became the program of the Community Action Commission established as the local OEO agency in the fall of 1964. The City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, the AFL-CIO Labor Council, the Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Education, and the Community Chest joined in setting up the Commission.

#### *Funding*

The Commission received its first Federal funds in January, 1965. Various grants and renewals provided a total of \$3,276,000 in Federal funds for 22 Title II programs and one Title II-B program. These ran for varying periods through September, 1966.