

of the most helpful in developing the programs and as one of CAC's leading opponents.

His criticisms fall into three general sectors: tactics—the way OEO set up the Community Action Program and its relation to existing public and private agencies; priorities among the various programs; and the basic approach to dealing with the people in the target neighborhoods.

"The general result has been good—CAC has made a major contribution in stirring interest in the poor," he declared, "but a lot more could have been done" if CAC had been set up differently. CAC should have spent a year at the outset to plan the programs "instead of giving out money quickly to whoever applied."

Specifically, CAC—

Should have tied its activities in more closely with city departments.

Should have been "less critical, less of a thorn in the flesh of the existing public and private agencies. Now CAC wants to work with these agencies and runs into resentment that is hard to overcome."

Should have worked more through the state agencies instead of going around them—"This would have helped to strengthen them."

"Although I realize that the poor, particularly Negroes, have unmet needs," he said, "programs for the poor are only *one* of Cincinnati's problems. Only the most worthwhile parts of the poverty program can be continued. The Community Action Commission should have recognized that it would have to set priorities to save the best programs. Now they'll wind up cutting out many good programs."

On this question of priorities, the respondent was particularly critical of the Neighborhood Centers. "Less should have been spent on this and more on jobs, health, and services," he declared.

This criticism is closely related to the respondent's unfavorable view of the organization of target people for community action that took place at the Centers. "Don't stir up the neighborhoods so much," he urged. "It just arouses unrealistic expectations. A lot of time and effort are required to argue against the demands of these people. In the end the poor aren't any happier and we have just used money unproductively."

The other major critic has a diametrically opposite viewpoint. A civil rights leader declared, "The individual services are being more effectively offered and are producing better results, but I originally expected that OEO would offer a power base for organized action—and this generally has not happened. Community organization has been secondary to the extension of individual services to the poor." He concedes that the Agency has set up neighborhood services, but asserted that CAC had not tried to pull people together to take their own action. "OEO programs are not reaching people at the grass roots," he declared. "The community organizations and councils tend to be tea-party type operations. The result is increased social welfare paternalism."

Social workers, he feels, had too much say: "The control that the social welfare agencies have over the neighborhood services should be drastically limited," he declared. "Perhaps I'd even put them right out of the picture and have indigenous advisory committees instead."

*Reactions of Various Segments of the Cincinnati Community to CAC Activities.*—The respondents were queried about the reaction of ten individual segments of the community, as well as the general public, to the OEO programs. Of these groups, education officials and the social welfare agencies are consistently rated the friendliest and most cooperative. The press and the public—perhaps a significant linkage—are considered to be the least friendly. The role of elected officials is the most controversial, with respondents giving them both top and bottom ratings.

The top leadership of CAC describes Cincinnati's ELECTED OFFICIALS—considered as a group—as basically against the OEO program. A majority of the City Council are seen as generally critical of Federal programs with a conservative outlook typical of Cincinnati.

Community leaders on the other hand see Cincinnati's elected officials as having a somewhat friendlier attitude. More than half the respondents state that the officials have responded favorably to the needs of the program. Those who are themselves active in political life consider that this group have been real spark plugs but add that "the tide has changed and feelings are now becoming negative."