

Some of the respondents, however, described these groups as weak and ineffectual and lacking good leadership. "Neutral—neither helped nor hindered," "Weak, no factor," were some of the comments. A labor official called them "basically ineffective" adding: "They could have done a lot more to support the programs."

"Their backing has been nominal and they wouldn't fight for the programs! Civil rights leadership in Cincinnati has been poor."

Another labor leader declared that "the NAACP is immediately involved in community action, but it has also unfairly criticized administration of the programs as inaccessible and not doing enough." He added "There is a lack of communication—these people don't understand the scope of the programs. When hope is aroused but then their kids are turned down, it causes criticism."

An education official pointed out that "civil rights organizations are supposed to protest—not be satisfied. Most of them would like to see more OEO programs, but they are not critical of the existing ones."

An elected official commented sharply: "The civil rights organizations are weak. They have criticized the program and have been fighting internally. They have been competing with each other and helped to create a negative atmosphere."

(In Clermont County, according to a CAC executive, there are no civil rights organizations. Less than 2 percent of the population are Negroes and most of these have jobs—there is a very little Negro participation in such work programs as the Neighborhood Youth Corps.)

Most of the CAC staff and community leaders describe Cincinnati's business community as passive but not unfriendly. "Overall, CAC has received tolerance from the Cincinnati business community," a senior CAC official said. "They recognize that we have run a clean organization and they respect us even if they don't agree with our ideas." He noted that the Chamber of Commerce was one of the original incorporators of CAC and that businessmen on the CAC board showed a continuing interest in the agency.

The respondent nevertheless believes that business support of the programs has been very weak. CAC had had no contact with insurance companies. General Electric, whose Evandale plant is just across a street from the Lincoln Heights target area, has been no help to the Community Action Program. On the other hand, he observed, the most business help had come from Federated Department Stores. This company, which had a vice-president on the CAP Board, had assigned a public relations officer to advise on CAP public relations jobs.

However, the respondent said, the average businessman was poorly informed about CAC. "He tends to get his opinions from the newspapers, not directly, and it is hard to evaluate his views."

Community leaders generally see business as passive but at least not obstacles to the CAC programs. Several respondents, however, see businessmen as unaware, mixed in reactions or even hostile.

One union leader described business as giving mild support to the programs, and hiring OEO trained people. And he added, "They recognize that OEO brings money into the community and that they stand to benefit if the programs work." Another labor official pointed out that workers are in short supply in Cincinnati—the 3 percent left unemployed are the long-term jobless and there are almost no production workers available. As a result industry, formerly reluctant, is now interested in training people. Despite this, he felt, business had shown very little activity—"They are from Missouri and must be shown. Their first reaction was against payment of the \$1.25 minimum wage."

A civil rights leader, reporting that business had gone along; "business had never fought the OEO programs because it has never been threatened by them. No one really objects to individual services—and they don't cost the community money." Another civil rights leader who felt that business had had a hands-off attitude towards OEO—"not all out for the programs but not trying to block them"—noted as relevant that "there hasn't been the massive political activity connected with the OEO programs in Cincinnati that there has been elsewhere."

A respondent active in politics noted that a number of businessmen on the CAC Board had become involved with OEO through being on private agency boards. These had become somewhat positive in attitude but he predicted that in any conflict with the city establishment, they would back off and remain neutral. Another respondent pointed out critically that the business community had not sponsored any OEO programs. He felt that business could help with job training and similar programs.

A school official cites as evidence of top business support a recent meeting between the Board of Education and a high-level committee on interracial rela-