

What if the program were cut instead? The effect on the children, the businessman believes, "probably wouldn't show up until adolescence." But, he adds, "the grandparents would be returned to a void. While the program lasts, they are living happier and probably longer lives. The activity may well be keeping some of them out of mental institutions."

Little likelihood is seen that local government would pick up the program—"they have never recognized the problem in the past." The voluntary agencies are viewed as a possibility: "Catholic Charities might turn the program over to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which has elderly members." Or possibly HEW might provide Federal money under Aid for the Aging.

Critics of Foster Grandparents downgrade the project in relation to other programs. "It may do some good for older people," an elected official declares, "but it won't break the poverty cycle. It would not be high on a priority list." And a businessman states: "I am not sure the Foster Grandparents program is near the center of the target." A journalist believes: "this is a nice program but too small in scope to have much impact—and I don't know what good it is going to do either. The main emphasis should be taking care of the young, rather than working with the old."

This respondent adds: "I can't see paying people to do a job that volunteers will do," a sentiment echoed by a businessman. But a supporter of the program gives this answer: "The social welfare agencies tried the same thing before OEO, but using volunteers. It didn't work. You couldn't count on the volunteer grandparents to show up."

Lighted Schools

The Lighted Schools program is praised by one community leader, a civil rights leader. (The Lighted Schools are public schools kept open in the evening.) The respondent points out that "the Lighted Schools are the only place in most target neighborhoods where the entire family can go together in the evening. The activities there—neighborhood clubs, discussion groups, self-improvement courses, for example—bring family members closer together." The program also gives families a sense of community spirit and "provides opportunities for self-improvement and gives individuals a heightened self-image."

The respondent believes that as a result of this program families that had been on welfare for two generations were becoming conscious that there was another way of life. "As they become aware of their own plight," he states, "they begin to demand more of the Welfare Department." In the long run this may mean higher welfare costs as the demand grows for a more realistic level of payments.

The program is described as a definite factor in reducing delinquency—"kids go to the Lighted Schools at night instead of roaming the streets." The respondent believes that the program needs more workers, to increase the amount of family involvement. He also urges the addition of more schools to the program and the "opening of schools around the clock."

Curtailment of the program, the respondent declares, would "leave the people out on a limb and angry at the government. Many of the Lighted Schools programs would stop entirely."

Adult Literacy

The Adult Literacy program is strongly supported by a journalist. "This program gives people a chance to better themselves by preparing for better jobs," the respondent declares. "At the same time it gives those who are parents a better understanding of how important it is for their children to get an education." The reporter, pointing out that most of the classes were in the West End neighborhood, urges expansion of the program to provide classes in all the target areas. "And if possible, some classes should be scheduled at times when *men* can attend—most of those going to the classes now are women."

Curtailment of the Adult Literacy program would upset and discourage the people it serves, this respondent contends. "If you take the trouble to go to a class to learn to read and write and then somebody cuts it off, you'll be pretty disgusted and blame the government."

The Clermont programs

Although rural Clermont County is part of the area covered by the Community Action Council of Cincinnati, its antipoverty programs are separate and administered locally by a CAC office in the County.