

night illumination systems for public recreational areas. This amendment would read :

Page 50, at the end of line 12, insert the following : Component programs may also include projects for the construction of night illumination systems for public recreational areas.

Such an addition would serve the purpose of directing OEO to allow funds allocated for summer programs to be spent on erecting the lighting fixtures so that the recreational programs at the swimming pool, playground, or baseball diamond could be continued into the evening hours.

I very much favor the expenditure of funds for summer programs. I have seen how helpful these programs can be in keeping young people occupied and out of trouble. The President, in his message to the Congress requesting the appropriation of \$75 million for summer programs, specifically mentioned that the funds would be used "to keep schools, libraries, and playgrounds open, to build swimming pools, and to light basketball courts and baseball diamonds in the evenings." Congress acted with dispatch and passed this appropriation, with the understanding that playground lighting was an integral part of the program.

And yet, when the community action agency in my home district in Miami submitted their application for funds for their summer program, they were told they could not have the money for providing illumination. The policy of the Office of Economic Opportunity was to provide funds for the operation of recreation programs, insofar as this includes the payment of salaries of youth workers to supervise the playground or the swimming pool at night, but not to construct or operate the lights. OEO cited legislative restrictions on construction in its programs. I talked to Mr. Shriver personally about this and, Mr. Chairman, he affirmed this understanding of the limitations against this sort of provision in the law.

Fortunately, in this case our local authorities were able to work out an arrangement to provide part of the lighting needed. But I think we should remove any doubt that, while we prohibit use of OEO funds for general construction, the Congress does not intend that OEO should be prohibited from assisting in the provision of lighting equipment where this is necessary to permit recreation areas to operate at night. We are all too aware this summer of the use of time and energy, for violence, which might be channeled into the playground.

I would strongly urge this committee to consider adding a sentence to the act to specify that it is the intent of Congress that funds may be used for this purpose to encourage wherever possible wholesome recreation and help reduce restless and lawless activity in our crowded urban centers.

The second area of concern to me is the matter of programs for senior citizens. One-third of those persons over the age of 65 do not have enough income to escape from being poor. The number of persons in this category is approximately 5 million. This means that the aged constitute one-seventh of the poor in this country.

A primary emphasis of the programs authorized by the Economic Opportunity Act is to assist young people in gaining the education and training to enable them to break out of the cycle of poverty and become self-supporting adults. The Job Corps, the Neighborhood