

3288 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

[Telegram]

LYNDHURST, OHIO, July 26, 1967.

HON. CARL PERKINS,
Education and Labor Committee,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.:

Please give the Job Corps a chance to function creatively and keep up the good work that has been started. People are important and the best investment in the world in terms of the future of our country.

GRACE BROWN.

[Telegram]

PHILADELPHIA, PA., July 28, 1967.

Congressman CARL PERKINS,
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.:

I have been following the results of the deliberations hearings dealing with the poverty program closely and although I was unable to accept your invitation to participate in the actual proceedings due to a previous engagement that took me out of the country I feel compelled to make my opinions known.

As founder of the Opportunities Industrial Center manpower movement and as chairman of the OIC National Conference which represents OIS units in more than 60 cities across America with thousands and thousands of manpower trainees in OIC schools and installations I wish to go on record as being clearly in support of the work of the office of economic opportunity and to defend without qualifications the importance and the necessity for this independent agency within the Federal Government which speaks for the needs of the American poor and which serves to energize other departments in the Government toward more significant efforts on behalf of the poor. As one who is working intimately and closely with the problem, there is no question in my mind but that the continued existence of OEO is essential to the successful prosecution of the work of the Nation in dealing with problems of poverty.

Unquestionably the creative initiating and demonstrated capacity of this agency is indispensable for this cause. Further it will be a tragedy to take from OEO jurisdiction programs initiated and promoted by that agency and even should this be done in any particular instance close coordination and maintenance of cooperatives OEO direction must be insured to preserve the spirit and prior intent of those programs involved. Finally, current disturbances are evidence of need of more OEO programs and more public fund support for OEO methods rather than cutbacks particularly in crucial areas of education and manpower training. For in the alleviation of poverty, the need for education and jobs is the key. I urge your committee, therefore, to overlook and to forgo any partisan political considerations in this matter and to support the OEO statute as has been proposed. Please, please do not cut it back for funds. Let it go. The value of OEO is clear to me conclusively and personally for had there been no OEO then O.I.C. could not have survived.

Rev. LEON SULLIVAN
Chairman, O.I.C. National Council.

Chairman PERKINS. Our next witness is Mr. Cabell Brand, President, Ortho-Vent Shoe Co., Inc., Salem, Va.

Unless there is objection, your prepared statement will be inserted in the record. You may proceed in any way you choose. If you can shorten your testimony we would certainly appreciate it.

Mr. BRAND. If you put my statement in the record I am here at your request and I am at your disposal.

Chairman PERKINS. I would appreciate a summary. Your statement is in the record.

STATEMENT OF CABELL BRAND, PRESIDENT, ORTHO-VENT SHOE CO., INC., SALEM, VA.

Mr. BRAND. I am a businessman from the southwestern part of Virginia and in addition to my business activities on a volunteer basis I