

3674 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

Because we believe that local initiative and innovation are essential in combating poverty, the League supports adequate funds for Community Action Programs, and the League opposes Congressional earmarking of funds which result in drastic cuts in money available for locally developed programs.

Since the purpose of the League of Women Voters is to develop informed and active participation in government, we have been pleased and impressed to see that the Community Action Program in our area is effectively developing citizen participation not only in federally financed programs, but in the programs and services of local and state governmental, educational, and social agencies. In the past two years Pittsburgh and Allegheny County have had a proliferation of citizens groups which address themselves to the various problems of the poor which must be solved, not just through federal funding, but through local, county and state governments. Public officials and agencies have been concerned with the improvement of housing, education, legal aid, employment, and welfare services for many years—long before these new organizations were formed. Nevertheless, the formation of new groups and committees is a vital and healthy occurrence in a democracy. In Pittsburgh, more people, both poor and middle class are becoming interested in the problems of the poor and simultaneously are becoming more informed about and active in governmental programs.

The Community Action Program is the catalyst for increased communication between the poor and governmental, educational, and social agencies. It is vital for the war on poverty that the federal legislation should strengthen rather than weaken the Community Action Program.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. EUGENE SCHUSTER, *President*.

AUGUST 16, 1967.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PERKINS: I have been reading the testimonies before your House Committee on Education and Labor. It is good to know that your committee is carefully weighing so much evidence.

I am enclosing newspaper re-prints of Women's Job Corpswomen and Women in Community Service articles; I hope this visual help will help you see the benefits the girls are deriving from their enrollment. It is true all are not at work, but they need our (WICS) supportive services and the faith of their communities to help them "up the ladder" to success.

I have written my own representative, but I want to add my concern to those who must be writing you. I hope your committee will take a close look at the girls who have been taught at the Training Centers. I wish the girls themselves could testify. If you could read their letters to the WICS organization which screened them, you'd know they appreciate the effort put forth for them. I'm sure you know that most of those gainfully employed were last year's school dropouts.

Sincerely,

MILDRED BOHN.

[Houston Chronicle, Aug. 9, 1967]

JOB CORPS TRAINING PAYS FOR AREA YOUNG ADULTS

When they left their homes they were seeking training that would enable them to hold jobs with dignity and skill. When they returned 11 months later they were Corpswomen—graduates of a Women's Jobs Corps Training Center.

But what of these girls who are between the ages of 16 and 22? Where did they go? What did they learn? Did they find it worthwhile?

Several girls who were among the 25 recent graduates were interviewed this week and all were enthusiastic about the center they attended. All had received academic and vocational training and all were equipped to hold down a job in the field they had chosen.

They praised the teachers and counselors and said they had made friends from all over the United States. They learned something about another section of the country and came home filled with confidence in themselves.

Nancy Lambert of 7506 Ley was graduated from the Jobs Corps Center for Women at Cleveland, Ohio, where she chose the psychiatric aide course. Nancy had attended Fonville Junior High School but had not gotten her high school diploma.