

particular field cannot see the Executive Office, or the duties and responsibilities of the Presidency, as a whole or in balance. If the President does not express a need to strengthen or revise the machinery available to help him discharge his leadership and coordination responsibilities, it is not wholly practicable for the Congress to thrust a reorganization of his own office upon him—no matter how strong a case can be made in the abstract for the need for change.

Solution by Improving Existing Mechanisms

The Administration has proposed, in lieu of reorganization, to enact new language on coordination, superseding sections 604, 611, 612, and 613. The redraft eliminates the unused preference clause and substitutes language encouraging OEO and the agencies to proceed along lines which have been found more useful—as in combining their funds to assist joint projects, particularly those included in community action programs.

All of the new language, however, is strictly hortatory. It merely expresses more explicitly the objective of coordination that the Congress and the President have already set for the agencies and which the agencies themselves verbally endorse. No one ever opposes coordination in the abstract; it is only the particulars that cause trouble. And the revised language assigns no new powers to anyone to enforce coordination when conflicts arise.

The Economic Opportunity Council would be given a specific statutory charter, but only to do what it is already empowered to do—to review, evaluate, recommend, and advise. The statute also authorizes assignment of staff to the Council by the Director of OEO as its chairman, but this likewise is not new authority; the needs of the Council are now served by OEO staff.

If the Council is to be made significantly more effective than it is now, the essential step would be to alter its character as a simple extension of OEO by making it a true Presidential-level instrument of coordination, much as the National Security Council is constituted for purposes of coordinating foreign and military policies. This could be accomplished by designating the President, rather than the Director of OEO, as chairman of the Economic Opportunity Council and authorizing him to name any member—the Vice President, the OEO Director, or a White House or Executive Office official, as he might choose—to act as his alternate as its actual head. The Council should then be served by Presidential staff rather than OEO staff, with the added influence that would come both from their identification with the President and from their neutrality as among the agencies which are being subjected to coordination.

Such a staff, presumably, could be developed by the President into a coordinating unit with duties extending beyond those of the Economic Opportunity Council and the war on poverty to encompass, ultimately, as many of the other related problems of coordination as the President might wish to assign to it. In this manner, the strengthening of the Executive Office that is sought by the advocates of reorganization could be achieved through a Presidentially-guided evolution rather than a Congressionally-imposed revolution.

LANARK, W. VA., August 10, 1967.

DEAR SIR: I am a head start driver, and the reason I think head start school is necessary in our community is, because (A) It will help the children get acquainted with each other. (B) It will teach them how to get along with each other. (C) They will learn to have respect of person. (D) They also will learn more about how to play together, and how to obey the teacher.

I have observed them since I've been driving and they seem more together. It is very educational for me to be a member of the CAA, it is very helpful to our community and our people. It makes us realize how far apart we have been. So by having the CAA in our community has drawn us closer together and we work together in unity and peace.

Thank you.

JOHN LAMBERT.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y., August 13, 1967.

Representative CARL D. PERKINS,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERKINS: With hearings being held on the Economic Opportunity Bill I want to enter my plea as a citizen for increased funds.