

3694 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

A continuing social-value program of NAM's is STEP. This stands for Solutions to Employment Problems. The program was started in 1964 with a basic goal of involving the industrial community in the specifics of solving employment problems. NAM felt that by exploring particular techniques used to solve particular problems of employment, a basis for innovative programs could be developed. The STEP staff investigated approximately 200 employment action-programs conducted throughout the nation by either companies or communities. Out of this investigation and research, about 60 case studies have been developed, so far, and almost 200,000 copies of these studies have been made available to industry and any other interested groups—both the independent and government sectors—who might find the case histories and methods helpful in their efforts to solve social and economic problems. In early 1966 after a year and a half's operation of this program, the National Commission on Technology, Automation, and Economic Progress had this to say about it:

The STEP program can prove to be very valuable to the overall manpower adjustment capability of the nation by emphasizing the problem-solving approach to adjustment situations and by greatly increasing communication relating to such problems among management.

The NAM believes that this has proved out and that its own role of interchange and distribution has been a creative one, since it has stimulated not only further, but more sophisticated, industrial response to employment problems.

THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

In terms of history the expansion of public welfare had been relatively swift. The Elizabethan Poor Law of 1601 was the great hallmark attesting to a public responsibility for the destitute. From that time to the massive depression of the 1930's, personal charity, religious organizations, private agencies, and local governments dealt with the problem of poverty. In this country in pre-depression years, all levels of government spent only a few hundred million a year for welfare purposes. Today a comparable figure—for public welfare, school lunch, food stamp, and economic opportunity programs—would probably be between \$8 and \$9 billion. The poor population is high and rising. In a July 17, 1967 report—"After 30 years—Relief a Failure?"—*U.S. News and World Report* estimated that 8 million people were on "relief" and more than a million were getting pay from antipoverty programs. *The New York Times* of July 30, 1967 carried a feature article entitled, "City's Welfare Rolls Soar Despite National Prosperity and Decline in Unemployment."

The present involvement of the national government in the war on poverty includes a far different range of activity than the depression approaches of providing work, food, or lodging. The traditional work or cash-payment programs are based on the concept that the poor are poor because they lack employment or income. The newer programs are based on the idea that the poor are poor because they lack good health, good home life, good housing and environment, adequate education or training, incentive or opportunity. The "Great Society" combines both approaches, and involves over a hundred different programs of several major types. The full level of their financing by the national government is indicated by the program costs planned by the various departments and agencies spear-heading the activities.

NAM has catalogued these various programs, grouping them by major function and summary figures follow:¹

THE 1968 "COUNT" OF PROGRAMS

[Dollar amounts in millions]

	Number	1963	1968 estimate
Welfare-oriented programs.....	21	\$3,853	\$7,914
Health programs.....	10	509	1,724
Education programs.....	16	602	4,116
Economic development programs.....	22	226	514
Employment opportunity programs.....	8	161	830
Community development programs.....	25	423	1,583
Miscellaneous programs.....	3	321	557
Total.....	105	6,081	¹ 17,238

¹ Up by 184 percent.

² NAM's Government Expenditures Committee's Report on the Federal Budget for 1968.