

3718 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

SUMMARY

In the consideration of legislation relating to the extension of the Economic Opportunity Act, we recommend:

1. The most effective means of alleviating rural poverty is to encourage unemployed and under-employed rural people to equip themselves for employment in activities and areas where employment is available.

2. Government programs to invest funds to increase the number of persons engaged in agriculture are uneconomic and ineffective, and wasteful expenditures for such purposes should not be authorized.

3. Government investment of funds to promote economic activity in rural areas which are not developing economically because they have insufficient resource and locational advantages are wasteful and ineffective and should not be authorized.

4. We favor transferring administrative responsibility in each state to state governments, and the provision by statute of formulas for allocation to the States of any funds that may be appropriated for such programs. State governments should not be by-passed by the allocation of funds to local agencies.

5. We favor greater reliance upon utilizing the capacity and resources of private enterprise in the solution of poverty problems.

6. We urge inclusion of a prohibition against use of OEO funds to pay any salaries or expenses of persons engaged in union membership drives or associated boycott activities.

7. The current situation with respect to federal budgetary deficits necessitates substantial reductions in spending for anti-poverty programs.

We appreciate the opportunity to present Farm Bureau's views with respect to the issues under consideration.

THE COLUMBUS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Columbus, Ohio, July 25, 1967.

Mr. WILL HELLERMAN,
Nationwide Insurance Companies,
Columbus, Ohio.

DEAR MR. HELLERMAN: After our conversation at the United Community Council meeting last week, I felt it might be useful to state the interest the Chamber of Commerce has developed in the Community Action Programs in Columbus. First, I should say that we totally understand that our cities are the center of a complex social and economic system which is suffering from constant change and disturbing unrest.

Unusual conditions call for new and unusual programs that cannot be completely financed and developed through local municipal action. For this reason we have supported the Community Action Programs with which you have been working. Several business men who are members of the Chamber are on the Board of Directors of CMACO, and, of course, we have felt that your leadership has been extremely helpful to the business point of view. Your activity as an officer of the Chamber's Downtown Area Committee has been greatly appreciated and has kept us in close touch. Obviously, we completely support the concept of encouraging community action to lessen racial and cultural tensions and to train people through vocational and technical training programs so Columbus business will have greater manpower resources.

We recognize that while social problems and educational needs of the cities have been rising, their physical inventories have been becoming obsolescent. Therefore, the Chamber has attempted to back up the federally supported programs with which you have been working and we have been maintaining an interest in these programs regardless of their financial arrangements. The Chamber has endorsed programs of urban renewal in Columbus and has worked to support related community action programs. Some of these programs like "Operation Head Start," "Operation Back Up," the "New Careers" program and the worker training programs are operating directly in the interest of business by preparing a stable and healthful community in which business can operate.

Starting three years ago the Columbus Chamber endorsed a community meeting on Civil Rights to discuss the need for the involvement of civic leaders in helping the city to come to grips with the problems of the central city. Since that time the commitment of public funds has been reinforced by much private business activity.