

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967 3743

The wide range of services provided by Judicare demonstrates the substantial need for legal assistance as well as the ability of private counsel to meet this need.

THE DETROIT EDISON CO.,  
Detroit, Mich., August 25, 1967.

HON. CARL D. PERKINS,  
*Chairman, House Education and Labor Committee, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERKINS: I am writing to you of my deep concern for the Economic Opportunity Act of 1967 and related appropriation requests now being considered in the Congress.

It has been my valued privilege to have served for the past two years as Chairman of the Business Leadership Advisory Council for the Office of Economic Opportunity. This group of key executives of many leading corporations from all sections of the United States consults with and advises the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, Sargent Shriver, and participates actively in the planning and evaluation of the programs of that office.

As business and community leaders deeply concerned with the causes and effects of poverty in our society and as citizens who have been privileged to assist those directly responsible for the work of O.E.O., we know full well of the many problems which must be faced and overcome if meaningful progress is to be made. I and other members of the Council have personally visited and seen firsthand the work of many of the organizations and establishments associated with the endeavors of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Our approval of the beginning which has been made and our confidence in the organization and the leadership to which this great task has been assigned is well expressed in a resolution adopted at our recent meeting on May 10 in Washington, D.C., at which time we also met with President Johnson to tell him of our support for the Poverty Program.

Introduced by Mr. R. H. Carter, President of the Fostoria Corporation, the following resolution had the unanimous support of Council members.

"Whereas, the Business Leadership Advisory Council, which includes members of both political parties, reaffirms its support for the programs of the Office of Economic Opportunity, which the Council believes are being effectively administered in the interests of our country, and,

"Whereas, the Council believes that the success of the O.E.O. programs has been made possible by its organization as a central command post in the War on Poverty which enables it to coordinate a broad spectrum of programs that represent many needs and touch many age levels with strong thrust of purpose, be it

"*Resolved*, That the Council be on record that it believes the Office of Economic Opportunity should remain as presently structured, retaining the overall administrative responsibility of the scope of the entire Poverty Program, and that dispersal of its programs with divided responsibility would seriously deter the impact of the total campaign that is now the charge and responsibility of the Office of Economic Opportunity."

This position has been further endorsed by a number of chief executives of major corporations in a statement which will appear in the September Nation's Business. A reprint is enclosed for your information.

As with all citizens, I have been deeply concerned with recent unfortunate events in many of our cities, including my own City of Detroit. Many of our Detroit Edison employees were closely involved in maintaining and restoring service in the riot areas, with support and protection of civil and military personnel. I have personally gone into these areas and have talked with many who are involved at all levels of our community. As a member of the Mayor's "New Detroit" Committee, I have a deep and continuing concern for those endeavors which will contribute to the well-being of our people and our community. It has been a significant part of my daily life.

During the riots and following, I find only good work being done by those involved in programs here developed and supported by the Office of Economic Opportunity. Many are working actively to contain the disorder and to keep others from participating. Considering the short time these programs have been under way, I believe the present and potential benefits are clearly evident. This good work must be continued and strengthened if we are to resolve the crucial matters facing us today. Time cannot be lost.