

have their own name for ONEO, in Navajo. Translated, it means, "The Giving of a New Life to the People."

There is one, and only one reaction among the Navajos to OEO for giving them this "New Life." We are grateful, *we* deeply *appreciate* the opportunities it has made possible. We cannot therefore understand why we must be penalized for the hostile acts of other people.

We believe the Indian people should have a separate funding in OEO. We believe they should not be made to suffer the consequences of the resentments and violence of some people in far-away urban centers. The Indians do not condone their aggression; they are not participants to their acts; Indians are thankful for this era of new hope for them. This hope should not be jeopardized; it should not be destroyed. Indian programs should not be curtailed. Indian CAP funds must not be cut back.

We call upon you to help expedite and continue adequate funding to the Office of Navajo Economic Opportunity so that all the work, and all the progress, and all the new-born dreams of our people will not have been in vain.

Very truly yours,

PETER MACDONALD,

Executive Director, Office of Navajo Economic Opportunity.

KNIGHT & GLADIEUX, MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS,
New York, N.Y., July 28, 1967.

Congressman CARL D. PERKINS,
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERKINS: Your telegram of July 21st requesting my views concerning amendments to the Economic Opportunity Act poses an exceedingly difficult and urgent issue, the resolution of which may be of central importance to the future viability of the program. The issue of whether more effective administration will be produced by abandoning the OEO as a leadership entity and dispersing its functions among HEW, Labor and other existing agencies is highly complex and not susceptible of facile decision. Nevertheless, a firm decision is critical at this time in order that the program may advance with confidence and dispatch.

The question of optimum structural arrangements for the antipoverty program has been a matter of interest and observation on my part since enactment of the original legislation. I know the agencies involved and am close friends of many of the principal Federal officials concerned. However, most of my insights arise from associations with voluntary private agencies which are participating in the program. First of all, I am a member of the Board of Directors of the National Social Welfare Assembly, which played an active role in support of the original anti-poverty legislation and which maintains a continuing review of its policies and progress. Also, I was an incorporator and am still a member of the Board of Directors of Training Resources for Youth Incorporated, which is administering a vocational training and educational program for dropout youths in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area of New York City under a \$4.5 million grant financed by OEO, HEW and the Department of Labor. Finally, I am a Vice President of the YMCA of Greater New York, which participates in a number of OEO programs as a voluntary agency. All these associations have afforded me an appreciation of the need as well as the complexities of current efforts to reduce poverty.

There is no absolute or unequivocal solution to the problem of anti-poverty organization. Nevertheless, on balance, after careful consideration of the alternatives, I come to the conviction that it would be a mistake to eliminate OEO as the coordinating and directing center of this great effort. Let me say quickly that in the opinion of many qualified observers OEO has not been a model of administrative efficiency. OEO has lacked some of the conventional organizational and management practices which are the hallmark of a well-run agency, even though there has been evidence of tangible improvement in recent months. Furthermore, OEO has not always been effective in its coordinative role partly at least because of jurisdictional obstacles inherent in the huge Federal establishment. More important, however, is the fact that OEO attacked the problems of launching a massive program with vigor and imagination and must be given full credit for resourcefulness and a capacity for dramatizing this crucial effort.