

3776 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, would be interested in our feelings about the Economic Opportunity Program in general and the Economic Opportunity Acts of 1967 in particular. We are convinced that what is true in Iowa and Johnson County is true in states and counties all over the nation and we urge you to support the passage of this legislation.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. HAROLD W. SHIPTON,
President.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS,
Iowa City, Iowa.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SCHWENGEL: The League of Women Voters of Iowa City wishes to add its voice to that of the nations' poor which is being heard for the first time through the Office of Economic Opportunity and, more specifically, through local Community Action Programs. We urge you to support the Economic Opportunity Act Amendments of 1967 (H.R. 8311) which authorize appropriations of 2.03 billions for fiscal 1968. Every one of those dollars is urgently needed, and more must follow if we are going to make the effort we must to solve the problems of our needy.

Since 1965 Iowa has received more than \$26 million in funds from OEO and it has been estimated by the regional headquarters of OEO in Kansas City that 63,951 needy Iowans have been reached. The Des-Moines Register (June 25, 1967, p. 4L) notes that "there is no question that the anti-poverty campaign has become an identifiable entity in all 99 counties." There are more who must be reached. The job of OEO has just begun. We must not let the people in 99 counties down.

In Johnson County alone we have a low-income and disadvantaged population of approximately 2,500 families (13,000 individuals) who can potentially benefit from OEO programs administrated and delegated by our increasingly effective Hawkeye Area Community Action Program. Since its initial grant in April 1966 HACAP has compiled an impressive record. Its community workers are filling a void by just going out and talking to people—by being in the neighborhoods and county areas and listening. Community workers also promote and develop interest in the specific anti-poverty programs, work with neighborhood councils, encourage and help them to use to capacity existing community resources, guide them into specific HACAP programs and perform innumerable small but essential services for the poor such as lining up a visit by the county nurse, arranging baby-sitting and explaining the new Food Stamp plan.

In the area of specific programs it has started or delegated HACAP can point to a Summer Head Start program for 75 children in 1966 and one for 85 in 1967, a year-round Child Development Center to begin operation in Summer 1967, a Neighborhood Youth Corps which provides jobs for 56 teenagers and a new and pioneering Legal Services program to be run in collaboration with the University of Iowa Law School and to be initiated this fiscal year. It is our earnest hope that these programs can be continued and expanded and that others can be added to the list.

These programs have only just begun, are just now effectively reaching those for whom they were developed. They are increasingly gaining community support through information programs and through the involvement of citizens on the Advisory Board and various sub-committees. A very important by-product has been the gradual education of the community at large to its responsibility for those whom our unprecedented prosperity has passed by. With a new understanding of its responsibility, the locally supported and initiated poverty programs you support may one day be possible.

We urge you, in addition to supporting the pending legislation, to keep all Economic Opportunity programs under the one federal agency best designed to be responsive to the needs of the poor and able to originate, coordinate and evaluate programs to answer these needs, the Office of Economic Opportunity. We hope, further, that the discretion over the expenditure of these funds will be left to the OEO and the local Community Action Programs so that those who understand best the local needs can determine how best to meet them.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. HAROLD W. SHIPTON,
President.