

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967 3781

CITY OF BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER.

August 3, 1967.

HON. CARL D. PERKINS,
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor, Congress of the United States,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERKINS: Reference is made to your letter of July 27, 1967 seeking an appraisal of the Anti-Poverty efforts in this City since the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

I cannot comment specifically on each of the individual programs mentioned as I am not that fully knowledgeable of their separate activities. All my training and experience has been in the field of law enforcement and I must, therefore, respond to your communication from within that frame of reference.

The police by the very nature of their duties have a very close and personal relationship with the people in target areas. It is their realistic observation that poverty creates the seed-bed for delinquency and youthful delinquency too often leads to adult crime. Until we make an impact on our core city pockets of poverty, we cannot hope to resolve our escalating crime problems.

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 has made excellent initial efforts in this regard; the Federal Government, however, must be even more responsive in the future to the needs of our plagued cities. This summer of crisis has dramatically shown that massive Federal support is necessary if we are to resolve our current predicament. We must mobilize a major assault on the social and economic problems in American cities if our democratic system is to survive.

In my professional judgment as a police administrator, the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 should be extended and all necessary funds appropriated to implement its purpose.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views in this subject matter.

Sincerely yours,

EDMUND L. McNAMARA,
Police Commissioner.

JUNE 30, 1967.

Representative CARL PERKINS,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: In the last few months I have been writing to my own Congressmen plugging for support of programs which have proved themselves of value under the O.E.O. Now, I have learned that you are chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor, so I should write to you. I am hoping that you are not one who wants to throw out O.E.O. and try a new tack "Opportunity Crusade". As to the Amendments of 1967, I am glad to see that there is no ear-marking of funds.

But many of us of the League of Women Voters are frankly worried about the C.A.P., which has certainly provided a fresh, new method of attack on local problems of deprivation and poverty. Many communities have learned, thru it, of needs they did not recognize, or even know existed. True, political considerations have given it tough sledding in some areas (geographical and otherwise) but on the whole, many good and imaginative programs are getting underway.

Because of objective studies and research into programs in Iowa undertaken by the Iowa League, we know something about our own state, and have been alert to experiences in other parts of the country. We believe that this is no time for drastic changes or cut-backs, and are extremely concerned over a major set-back, just when there is more need than ever for funds for research and pilot demonstration projects to lead the way. People, in general, expected too much, too soon, and the minority party quite naturally exploited this state of mind.

In these recent days of middle-east crisis, it has been desperately hard to put one's mind on anything else, but I understand that domestic business does continue to go on in Congress, and in your committees! I only hope I am not too late to register an opinion in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

ELAINE SCHRAMM,
Burlington, Iowa.