

3790 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

Neighborhood Youth Corps, Upward Bound Program, Tutorial Program, Headstart.

During the last session of the New Mexico legislature a group from the centers successfully lobbied for an increase in the state minimum wage. Several years ago these people would not have ventured to the state capital to present their problems. The poor are finding that they can help themselves.

The League feels that this self-help is generated through *one* agency responsive to the needs of the poor and responsible for originating, coordinating, and implementing needed programs. Adequate funding for CAP programs is imperative.

Very truly yours,

ROMOLA REINEKE,
President.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS,
Newark-Granville, June 19, 1967.

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

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERKINS: I am writing in my capacity as president of the Newark-Granville League of Women Voters to ask you to support the federal agency of the Office of Economic Opportunity, and to vote to give adequate financing to the Economic Opportunity Act programs.

The League members believe that the O.E.O. represents the best means of dealing in a coordinated fashion with the problems of poverty, and the League is opposed to seeing the responsibilities of the O.E.O. divided amongst numerous federal agencies, where no coordination, and much duplication, of effort will be effected. The League supports amending the present act (H.R. 8311, S. 1545) to include specific provisions for evaluation of the O.E.O. program. We also favor increased funds for research and pilot demonstrations projects.

In Licking County, our local O.E.O. (LEADS) office has just received grants to establish neighborhood centers, which could represent an enormous step forward in "getting at" the problems and needs of the poor in our area. We hope that funds will be voted by Congress to enable this and other programs to move forward. The riots in our major cities clearly indicate that there is a great need to educate, train, and assist the alienated poor of this nation. The O.E.O. presently represents our best hope of achievement in this area.

We deeply hope that Congress will decide to retain the Office of Economic Opportunity as a single federal agency, with its job of originating, coordinating and evaluating programs related to the education and training of the poor and underprivileged of this nation, and hope that you will vote and work toward this end.

Sincerely yours,

LOUISE MILLER,
President.

BETTY GRUDIN,
Chairman, Development of Human Resources Committee.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OAK RIDGE,
Oak Ridge, Tenn., June 28, 1967.

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

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERKINS: The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge encourages your support for the Economic Opportunity Act Amendments of 1967, House Bill 8311. We feel the Office of Economic Opportunity should be strengthened and continue in its role of coordinating, innovating, and initiating new ideas. Adequate funds should be made available for programs designed by local community action agencies to meet the specific needs of their communities. Programs such as Headstart, Neighborhood Youth Corps, and Job Corps, should not be spun off to existing agencies but should be kept under the direction of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Now is not the time to weaken or eliminate the Office of Economic Opportunity. For the first time, many of our established institutions which have not been