

local levels, and it is difficult to see how this would be accomplished by transferring CAP to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. One reason the OEO was established and the CAP concept put into practice was that established agencies had not been overly sensitive to the basic inequalities faced by the hard-core poor in the United States. In contrast, OEO has been imaginative in its development of new programs. Also, while coordination of the various poverty programs run by different government agencies has not been always smooth, there is little reason to see why disbanding OEO or "spinning off" major programs would improve relationships between, for example, HEW and the Departments of Labor, Agriculture, and Housing and Urban Development. If anything, the coordinating role of OEO and CAP (on the local as well as national level) should be buttressed in order to better insure that poverty programs administered by other agencies (including delegated EOA programs) actually are directed to the needs of the poor.

All the above is not to say that League members believe current OEO programs to be perfect. But this is the time for continued and sophisticated evaluation of results rather than drastic changes and cutbacks. Therefore the League supports amending the present act to include more specific provisions for evaluation both by OEO itself and outside professionals. The League also supports increased funds for research and pilot demonstration projects.

To turn to specific programs: the League, of course, is giving the highest priority to the continuation of the Community Action Program which, by stimulating local initiative, innovation, and participation of the groups to be served, has become a vital element for encouraging social progress in hundreds of communities throughout the country. Needless to say, the League supports adequate funds for CAP and is opposed to the kind of earmarking in the 1966 Amendments which stringently cut back money available for locally developed programs. It is encouraging to note that the proposed Economic Opportunity Amendments of 1967 do not earmark CAP funds.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BROOME COUNTY,
Binghamton, N.Y., June 29, 1967.

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

DEAR MR. PERKINS: The League of Women Voters of Broome County is very concerned about the Economic Opportunity Amendments of 1967—H.R. 83111, S. 1545—and strongly urges your support. On the local level we have been able to see under the Economic Opportunity Act, programs beginning to tackle the problems of poverty in many ways. We want to see these approaches continue and further efforts taken.

League members have been attending Neighborhood Councils in poverty areas. This has given us an opportunity not only to offer voters' service information but to observe our least sophisticated citizens learning to face and solve some of their problems. We can see the very principles of democracy in action in seeing these people learning to help themselves.

We live in a county that has both urban and rural poverty. Some of this poverty is just beginning to be seen. A local chapter of WICS has been formed. This group of church women, Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Negro women, has started recruiting and screening young women for the Job Corps, and in the course of their volunteer work have gone out of their own neighborhoods and into the scattered poverty sections throughout the county. They are concerned, as we are, with the need for the Job Corps and with the work yet to be done in the whole problem of breaking the cycle of poverty.

Community Action Programs have involved church groups and interracial groups in local programs ranging from literacy training to day-care for children. Schools and industries have been involved in training problems, the most recent program being New Careers for women. We have been following closely the growth and the growing pains of Community Action Programs in our county for the last year. Though this is, fortunately, not a region facing riots, there are still many serious needs not yet faced and not yet solved here. Your vote for the Economic Opportunity Amendments will be a step toward their solution.

Sincerely,

Mrs. ALBERT V. HOUSE,
President.