

3802 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

vision of opportunity for education and employment are achieving some exciting successes here in Santa Clara Valley with our large minority of Mexican Americans with their high degree of low skills and low education.

The Office of Economic Opportunity Community Action Program has been especially successful in establishing nine Area Service Centers here. Based on the concept of helping people help themselves, they provide much needed and wanted information and referral help, job placement, services and classes such as auto repair, sewing, typing and consumer advice. Such simple things as working together to provide Christmas baskets for those less fortunate than themselves have given low income participants a new sense of community spirit and responsibility.

Imaginative ideas such as a small transportation service for an area without public transit are being tried. Local creativity in solving local problems has been greatly stimulated by OEO-CAP funds. These are some of the reasons we urge support of the OEO with appropriate funding of CAP without stringent earmarking of funds.

Many programs have promoted job training and stimulated employment. The Small Business Development Center has created jobs for 250 people and saved 120 existing jobs. 62 families are off welfare in businesses of their own through loans from SBDC. A San Jose man, Emilio Flores, is the first in California and possibly in the nation, to have repaid his loan. More than 1268 people have received management training.

The Neighborhood Youth Corps and other vocational training programs are developing on many levels from enabling Mexican American youth to stay in high school and college to retraining hard-core unemployed in such trades as hospital services and groundskeeping.

Operation Headstart is being enlarged and a similar program, Day Care Centers, has provided valuable experiences and help for over a thousand farm workers' children during the harvest season.

Not only are the poor being helped by these programs, but we are beginning to see some evidences in the community of increasing awareness and concern for the problems and needs of the 'other' Santa Clara Valley in our affluent midst.

We recognize the problems inherent in the planting and growth of the OEO-CAP but we feel that careful evaluation of results instead of changes and cut-backs will produce a rich and much needed harvest for all of us.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. RAYMOND STRAUSS,
President.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BEVERLY HILLS,
Beverly Hills, Calif., July 10, 1967.

Hon. CARL PERKINS,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERKINS: The League of Women Voters of Beverly Hills supports Economic Opportunity Amendments of 1967.

We feel highest priority should be given to the continuation of Community Action Program. The Vista Program in our local Venice community has instilled hope and opportunity for our needy and has had a catalytic affect on community action. Any earmarked funds which would curtail the Economic Opportunity program would seriously affect the progress underway. Our League also supports other EOA programs including those that provide basic education, work-training and experience for both adults and youth, such as the Venice Neighborhood Adult Participation Program, Neighborhood Youth Corps and Head Start.

Increased funds to continue these programs is imperative. We urge your support.

Very truly yours,

JOY RABIN, *President.*