

3808 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

to "believers." For many of them, this is the first example of support and confidence from their community, and they have been quick to repay this with a job well done. We urge not only continued support, but increased support for this excellent program.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. SARAH S. MARTIN,
*President, League of Women Voters,
Los Gatos-Saratoga.*

STATEMENT OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MODESTO, CALIF.

The League of Women Voters of Modesto has been studying the poverty programs in Stanislaus County during the past two years and has found them to be a very complex subject because of the many proposed and existing programs and the many different groups involved. We have attached two copies of material we used in our study about organizations and programs both proposed and underway.

By the fall of 1966, some programs were in effect. Several programs that really represented participation in planning by the low income groups were on paper and had been cleared by the local Community Action Commission and forwarded to San Francisco for approval by the OEO, but were not funded because time ran out or for other reasons. It is evident that having the recipient groups participate in the planning of programs requires skilled leadership and patience of all concerned to allow time for these groups to learn the "how" of group effort and the complicated "how" of applying for funds.

Our membership did not censure the controversial activities of Benny Parrish of the California Center of Community Development and his associates in the local conflict-oriented Community Poverty Council. It was felt that possibly the conflict this group created helped focus community attention on the problems faced by the poor and stimulated a re-evaluation of established methods of social work and community attitudes toward the poor. Dialogue between social organizations and the recipient poor has been established and several meetings have already been held to exchange ideas between recipients and social workers of the local Welfare Department. This, we think, is a remarkable development on both sides but it took time to come about.

Compensatory education efforts were originally in the hands of local schools who were naturally better organized and knowledgeable about forms and procedures and were planning programs even before our local Community Action Commission was formed. These programs have been very successful. We now have Headstart-type programs under other groups, but all have been widely approved though, as our second chart will show, they vary widely in cost due to differing approaches.

But the program most widely approved up to now in our area was the adult training program carried on at New Hope School located in the heart of the lower economic area of Modesto and run by the adult division of our Modesto Junior College. New Hope was funded under the Manpower Development and Training Act to give pre-vocational and vocational training to the "hard-core unemployed" and it did a remarkable job under its dedicated director, Dr. Patricia Hertert. As the program continued, however, complications developed which lead to extreme frustration on the part of the director and the college.

Experience showed that training our local unskilled and underprivileged adults requires the following: 1) before vocational training is begun, students must develop a "can do" attitude and must learn the "three R's" needed to successfully handle school work; 2) they must understand the expectations of the employer and learn to present an employable attitude and appearance; 3) they must be paid while learning in order to support themselves and their families to be able to concentrate full attention on their schoolwork; 4) they must have counseling and help in solving the more pressing personal problems which entangle so many of them; and 5) funds need to be available without a specific cancellation time to allow class scheduling so that some workers, farm workers particularly, can complete the training during the off-season.

In two years, New Hope trained 1008 adults. After training at a cost of \$450,000, 52% obtained full-time jobs and another 9% found part-time work. Training programs for kitchen helpers, custodians, dry cleaners, vocational nurses and nurses' aides were set up. Statistics show that during the first year after training, welfare expenditures decreased for those trained by 200%.