

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967 3811

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES DEVELOPMENT CORP.
OF SAN ANTONIO AND BEXAR COUNTY, TEX.,
San Antonio, Tex., August 11, 1967.

SARGENT SHRIVER,
*Director, Office of Economic Opportunity, Executive Office of the President,
Washington, D.C.*

SIR: The Board of Directors of the Economic Opportunities Development Corporation, the Community Action Agency for San Antonio and Bexar County, applaud and endorse the statements of President Johnson in recent news conferences calling for "another home front effort to stimulate employment and opportunities for the poor" not only to avoid additional riots in our cities but eventually to bring about an end to the blight of poverty in the United States.

In a summer torn with civic strife, San Antonio has been blessed with not having any. Our experience leads to a re-affirmation of our belief in the correctness of the grass-roots and community involvement philosophy of the CAA, and to a concern that the program's slowly-achieved gains may be imperiled by those blinded by the glare of the summer's riots who would choke off funding and even threaten the existence of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

The thirty-three members of our Board, representing all elements of the 687,000 persons—including 186,000 in the poverty level—in Bexar County, are unanimous in joining with the President when he asks that the nation move forward in seeing "that people are employed, that there are more opportunities that are equal, and there is better education and housing."

To achieve the President's goals, we know that the action must begin on the community level. A resolution passed at the Board's most recent meeting urges that the Office of Economic Opportunity be kept in its present form and its funds expanded to help CAAs, because the CAAs represent the voice of the people in the War on Poverty.

We believe the War on Poverty can be won—it is a people's war, waged by all the people, for the poorest of our peoples, in keeping with the traditional beliefs and generosity of all Americans.

Respectfully,

JAMES D. KAZEN, *President.*
PEPE LUCERO, *Executive Director.*

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE,
Boston, Mass., April 7, 1967.

HON. PHILIP J. PHILBIN,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PHILBIN: I am herewith transmitting for your consideration and support a position statement adopted by the New England Public Welfare Administrators at a Boston Conference on March 10, 1967, and which was subsequently presented to you and other members of the New England Congressional Delegation in Washington on March 21, 1967, by the New England Regional Governors' Conference.

We are greatly concerned with the 1966 amendments to the Economic Opportunity Act which require clarification to interpret the actual intent of the Congress as opposed to the apparent current interpretation promulgated by the United States Department of Labor, whereby it assumes full authority for administration of the Work Experience and Training Program under Title V of said Act. Our concern is further intensified by proposed legislation represented by HR5710 amending Sections 409 and 410 of the Social Security Act granting full authority to the United States Department of Labor for the administration of Community Work and Training Programs. I earnestly request your support of the attached statement and the recommendations adopted by the New England Public Welfare Administrators.

May we hear from you at your earliest convenience as to what may be done in this matter.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT F. OTT, *Commissioner.*