

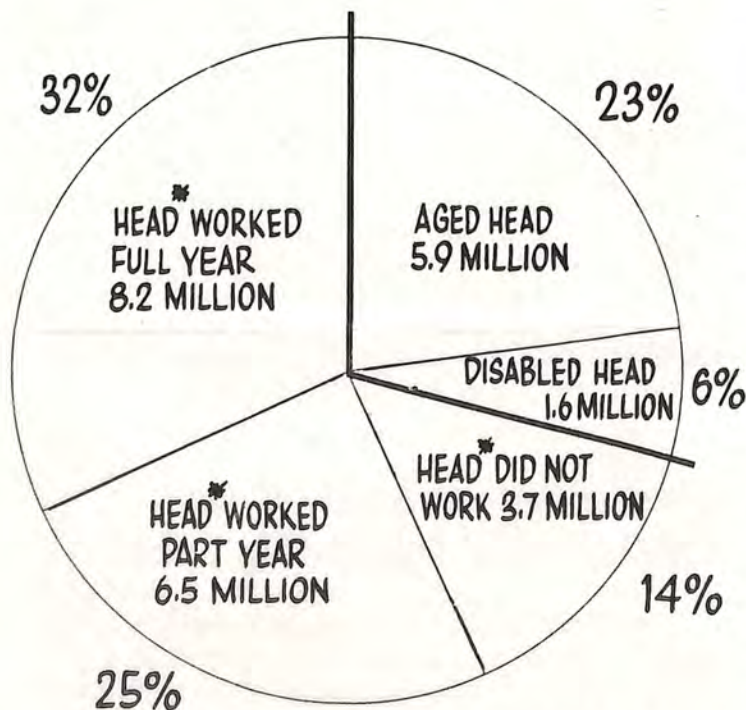
House Hearings on Poverty Forecast Floor Fight on OEO

Hearings on legislation to extend the antipoverty programs of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) for five years began in the House Education and Labor Committee March 24. Comments at the opening hearing made clear that committee members will be sharply divided over a one-year or five-year extension of OEO.

President Nixon has asked for a one-year extension, saying that would allow time for his Administration to conduct a comprehensive review of antipoverty programs. However, the House chairman, Rep. Carl D. Perkins (D Ky.), favors a five-year extension and has introduced HR 513 to accomplish that.

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ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION OF THE 25.9 MILLION POOR PERSONS IN 1967 BY STATUS OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD



* Employment status of non-disabled, non-aged household heads

ACTION COUNCIL LETTER

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN OF THE
URBAN COALITION ACTION COUNCIL

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HEW Proposes Increased Funds For Community Health Centers

Much larger federal grants for outpatient clinics, neighborhood health centers and skilled nursing homes have been proposed to Congress by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

HEW Secretary Robert H. Finch asked the House Subcommittee on Public Health and Welfare March 25 to rewrite the Hill-Burton Hospital Construction law to put increased emphasis on outpatient health care.

"The distances traveled and hours spent in waiting for such services by millions of our people testify to the critical nature of this need in almost every community," Finch said.

Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R. NY) has introduced a bill (S 1733) that carries out the HEW proposals. It authorizes \$150 million this year for allocation by the states to the facilities Finch suggested. However, the present federal program of grants for acute-care hospital beds would be changed to a federally guaranteed loan program, without interest subsidy to the hospitals.



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In opening the hearings, Rep. Perkins said a one-year extension would be "demoralizing" to the poor who have found hope in the government's antipoverty efforts. He said that OEO programs needed the "stability" that a long extension provides. He also criticized the President's plans to transfer four OEO programs, including Head Start and the Job Corps, to long-established Departments.

GAO Report

A lengthy and generally favorable report on the OEO was issued March 18 by the General Accounting Office. The GAO, which is often referred to as Congress' "watchdog" over the executive departments, was directed by Congress in 1967 to determine the efficiency of OEO programs and the extent to which they achieve the objectives of the Economic Opportunity Act, the basic antipoverty law of 1964.

The major recommendation of the GAO was that the President establish in his Executive Office a well-staffed office responsible for broad planning, coordination and evaluation of all the government's antipoverty efforts. The OEO would continue as an independent agency to operate the Communi-

ty Action Program and closely related activities, such as VISTA. Other programs should be transferred to established Departments, the GAO report said.

Comments by Sen. Nelson

The report was dismissed by Rep. Perkins as "not worth the paper it is written on," but more favorable comments came from his Senate counterpart, Gaylord Nelson (D Wis.). Sen. Nelson is chairman of the poverty subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee.

In a statement March 19 Nelson said: "Some enemies of the war on poverty apparently had hoped that this report would justify a surrender of this under-financed, late-starting effort to help millions of Americans escape from poverty. It does no such thing.

"It simply tells the White House that fighting poverty is such a big task that it must be supervised by the President and that the fight must be coordinated throughout the vast federal bureaucracy. It tells the Congress that programs cannot function if appropriations are withheld or seriously delayed. It tells both OEO and the many agencies -- federal, state and local -- with which it works that meticulous recordkeeping and evaluation are vital if the poverty program is to achieve its objectives."

Nelson said the GAO's recommendations on the whole were "constructive and forward-looking."

Discrimination Study Cites Obstacles in Upgrading Jobs

The need to upgrade employment opportunities for members of minority groups is getting increased attention. It is buttressed by statistics in a recent government report showing that racial discrimination, rather than lack of skills or education, holds back the ad-

vancement of Negroes, Spanish-speaking Americans and Indians.

The president of the National Alliance of Businessmen, Donald M. Kendall, told an April 1 meeting of businessmen participating in the JOBS program for the hard-core unemployed that the major need is to provide jobs with marketable skills, not just menial jobs. As evidence of discrimination in upper-level positions, Kendall said that of some 50,000 corporate officers in this country, only two dozen are blacks.

The statistical report on discrimination was issued in March by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Among industries

where discrimination is most prevalent, the report said, are those with a large proportion of well-paid employees with better-than-average educational backgrounds. The EEOC found that minority group employees who succeed in getting jobs in such companies "can expect few promotions."

Proposals for developing marketable skills in lower-level jobs were made in the General Accounting Office's review of antipoverty programs. It found that "intensive classroom and work-experience programs" are essential to develop skills needed to rise above the helper and laborer categories for workers.

Congressional Liaison Men Named for HEW, HUD, Labor

The Departments of Health, Education and Welfare, Housing and Urban Development, and Labor have new appointees in charge of carrying their legislative programs to Congress.

The Urban Coalition Action Council has had meetings with these officials and plans to keep in close touch with the legislative programs they develop.

HEW liaison with Congress is in charge of Creed C. Black, Assistant Secretary for Legislation. A newspaperman and editor, with an M.A. in political science from the University of Chicago, Black was executive editor of the Chicago Daily News until he joined HEW.

His principal deputy, with responsibility for education legislation, is Charles B. Saunders Jr. Saunders has been assistant to the president of Brookings Institution since 1961, and before that was an assistant to former HEW Secretary Arthur S. Flemming.

The Assistant for Congressional Affairs for the HUD Secretary, George Romney, is Jack Woolley, former director of government relations for the TRW Systems Group, a Redondo Beach, Calif., space and defense contractor. A graduate of



Two Departmental Congressional Liaison Officers
Creed C. Black, HEW



Jack Woolley, HUD

the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Woolley gained Washington experience as legislative affairs assistant to the Secretary of the Navy and to the Secretary of Defense in the Eisenhower Administration.

The Labor Department's new Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs is William L. Gifford, a former student of the law and political reporter. From 1959 to 1968 he was the administrative assistant to then-Representative Charles E. Goodell, now a U.S. Senator from New York. Gifford is a graduate of Fordham University.

Democratic, GOP Urban Plans Issued by Economic Committee

Recommendations for action in the urban field were made in an April 1 report by the joint Congressional Economic Committee.

Democratic Recommendations

Employment, manpower and training programs should be expanded and improved by:

- providing comprehensive coordinated assistance;
- meeting critical skill shortages such as medical services and housing;
- adding to the JOBS Program, conducted by private business, a public sector program to hire the disadvantaged for public service jobs.

Income maintenance (welfare) programs for those unable to work are underfunded and uncoordinated. They must be improved by:

- provision for equal treatment of every needy citizen regardless of location;
- establishment of a single local office or representative to whom the needy can turn with assurance for assistance.

The highest priority must be given to developing programs for a massive environmental reconstruction of urban and rural America, including:

- allocation of the necessary resources, both public and private, to economic development of maximum social impact;
- achievement of the goal of a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family, as provided for by the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968;
- increased funding for antipoverty programs, especially on the neighborhood level, and for the model cities program.

Republican Views

Employment, manpower and training programs benefit the in-

dividual and the economy and should be expanded and improved:

- consolidate various approaches into single comprehensive program;
 - insure that MDTA programs train people for skills in demand;
 - stimulate job training through Federal tax credits;
 - improve job information and worker mobility;
 - recognize that overly rapid increases in the Federal minimum wage may reduce employment opportunities;
 - intensify efforts to reduce discrimination in employment.
- Welfare and poverty:
- recommend guaranteeing employment opportunity rather than guaranteeing income as best approach to alleviating poverty;
 - study national minimum level of welfare assistance with increased Federal support;
 - expand efforts to stimulate welfare recipients to become more self-sufficient.
- Improving the urban community:
- expand resources available to State and local governments;
 - revenue sharing should be seriously considered;
 - enlist the help of the private sector in community development through approaches such as the Community Self-Determination Act;
 - improve the quality of housing through activation of the National Corporation of Housing Partnerships and fair housing, zoning and tax reforms.

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