

STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
URBAN COALITION ON A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION
FOR THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The Executive Committee of the Urban Coalition recommends the prompt passage of a supplemental appropriation of \$279 million for the Office of Economic Opportunity.

If the nation is going to begin to meet the legitimate needs of its deprived citizens, this appropriation is necessary to offset the impact on federally-supported programs of two recent budgetary decisions.

These decisions were:

1. To divert existing OEO appropriations to the funding of the "Job Opportunities in the Business Sector" (JOBS) program, and
2. To refrain from seeking supplemental funds for special summer programs of employment, education and recreation in urban areas.

Prompt passage of a supplemental appropriation is required to continue existing programs and to fund special summer programs. Federal funds now available are inadequate to meet even minimal OEO program needs in employment, education and recreation. The Executive Committee of the Urban Coalition believes these programs can contribute significantly to enhanced opportunity for young people in the impoverished areas of our cities, especially during the school vacation period. Only last week the report of the

President's Commission on Civil Disorders warned of the perils at hand in the cities unless such opportunity is provided.

The Executive Committee therefore calls upon the Congress to enact a supplemental appropriation of \$279 million to give the Office of Economic Opportunity sufficient funds to realistically meet on-going program needs and to sustain the minimum commitment of last year's summer programs. The supplemental appropriation should include:

1. \$104 million to upgrade the current OEO appropriation to the requested authorization level for fiscal '68 (prorated for the remainder of the fiscal year);
2. \$100 million to replace funds diverted to the JOBS program;
3. \$75 million for special summer programs.