

Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc.

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T. M. Parham
Executive Administrator

November 8, 1968

Mr. Boisfeuillet Jones
Chairman
EOA Board of Directors
210 Peachtree Center Building
230 Peachtree Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Jones:

Attached is a sheet from the weekly Economic Opportunity Report for this week noting that Mr. David Rockefeller is urging business to lobby for social programs.

Considering the results of national and local elections this week, it would seem advisable that those members of our business community who believe that "war on poverty" programs have had positive effects should now begin an effort to stress the desirability of their continuance. Such an effort would not have to be a blanket endorsement of all current activities but would emphasize the main thrust of creating opportunity and removing unnecessary obstacles to social and human growth.

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As you know, ~~these~~ ^TThese programs have in the past four years brought thirty million dollars in federal grants to the Atlanta community. Our social problems have not been eliminated but many needed programs, too costly for local resources, have been made possible:

...5300 job placements have been made during the past twelve months through EOA Centers...
330 Neighborhood Youth Corps slots were available for school dropouts...80,000 hours of

part-time work were available for youngsters in the summer program...1100 boys have been recruited this year for Job Corps enrollment... 1048 persons were enrolled in ACEP training programs...EOA staff positions provided 350 jobs for residents of target neighborhoods.

...OEO-EOA funds supported twelve day care centers providing two-thirds of all available "public" day care slots available in the community (800 of approximately 1200)...EOA Neighborhood Centers helped develop five youth centers in neighborhoods with sparse recreational facilities...a number of low income youngsters have been given otherwise unattainable educational opportunity through the Upward Bound Program... 2300 children received the benefits of Summer Head Start Programs.

...OEO-EOA supported legal services have successfully challenged antiquated welfare regulations and given a new degree of equity to the poor in their dealings with those who exploit their ignorance...the Comprehensive Health Center will provide a badly needed experiment in delivery of preventive medical services to 28,000 residents of an inner-city slum...the Employment Evaluation Center, now operated by Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency and a valuable part of the city's employability effort, got its start with a two million dollar grant from OEO...Planned Parenthood is serving 7500 women in nine centers with a large share of the funds from EOA... Senior Citizens Service, largely through EOA support, provides counselling, recreation, training, and transportation to 2500 aged participants monthly...forty senior citizens work in the Foster

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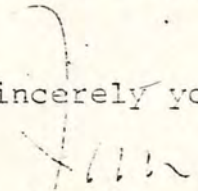
Grandparents Program providing tender loving care to children at Grady Hospital, the Fulton Juvenile Court, and Carrie Steel Pitts Home.

...Aides in fourteen Neighborhood Service Centers contacted 35,596 persons during the past twelve months...15,763 new requests were received for social service assistance... total attendance at more than 2000 community meetings during the past twelve months was 124,260 and provided a badly needed means of expression and communication for the poor... countless acts of kindness have helped relieve immediate distress.

Of course, no one argues that these programs have been perfected. Much has been learned, but we are still grappling daily with such tough questions as developing leadership among the poor, moving groups toward constructive activities, motivating the hard core unemployed, stretching limited dollars and using them most effectively, etc. Regardless of criticisms, the fact is that many things, tangible and intangible, have been achieved that have made this community a better place to live. It is hard to imagine going back to a time when such programs were not possible, but if federal funding is severely diminished the programs will be impossible to continue. During these four years when thirty million dollars in federal money has been made available, only approximately five hundred thousand dollars has been allocated by city and county governments.

I hope that Atlanta business and political leadership will express themselves strongly to the new national administration on the value of these efforts to continued community growth and development.

Sincerely yours,


T. M. Jim Parham
Executive Administrator

TMJP/j

cc: Mr. A.H. Sterne
Mr. Bradley Currey
Mr. Albert J. Bows, Jr.
Mr. Curtis Driskell