

Women Support The War On Poverty

The Congress is now determining the direction—perhaps the very fate—of the War on Poverty. We call upon the Congress to give the Office of Economic Opportunity renewed and strengthened authority to get on with the job. It has earned this vote of confidence. It must be given the tools to make even greater progress.

American women have responded to the challenge of OEO and the War on Poverty in greater numbers than any other national effort except in time of war. This humane war against poverty has moved us, has changed us, has inspired us.

TAKE WICS, FOR EXAMPLE. Thousands of women have given their time and their heart to Women In Community Service, formed by four national women's organizations, in order to help seek out disadvantaged girls in the 16 to 21 age group who need the "Human Renewal" Program of the Women's Job Corps. Thousands of these girls have now been recruited, trained, motivated, placed and started on the road of self-sufficiency. Some are working as secretaries or airline hostesses or computer operators. Some are serving in the Armed Forces of their country. And many are now at home, better equipped to raise the families they are starting.

TAKE HEAD START, FOR ANOTHER. Hundreds of thousands of women have already had the excitement of participation as volunteers in this program for pre-school children from poor families. This program has already reached about 1½ million children and many of their parents.

AND MUCH MORE, TOO. Women have been given opportunities for service in Consumer Education Programs, Remedial Reading Programs, Legal Services, Health Centers, Neighborhood Youth Corps, and others.

OEO has made this service possible. It has been the articulate champion of the poor. And it has given the poor a voice and a role in their escape from poverty. It has encouraged communities and social agencies and private industry to give new opportunities to the disadvantaged. America needs the War on Poverty. The War on Poverty needs OEO.

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