Wink THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY 1016 SIXTEENTH STREET N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 July 24, 1967

TO ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

THE ATTACHED TELEGRAM WAS SENT TO ALL OEO REGIONAL DIRECTORS WHO IN TURN SENT IT TO ALL COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES IN THE NATION.

> BRADLEY H. PATTERSON, JR. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TWX TO ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Please get this message out at once to all CAPs in your region and be sure that all CAP employees are made fully aware of its contents. Message follows:

> Recent cases of violent protest and riots have led to unfounded and irresponsible charges that anti-poverty programs and officials have caused such violence. You and I know that the over-all anti-poverty program has turned out to be probably the best anti-riot weapon ever devised. Through all OEO programs we have provided the disadvantaged and previously inarticulate citizens of many communities an opportunity for self-help and for self-expression. We have started to eliminate the basic causes for unrest and impatience. In numerous cases, local anti-poverty officials have been particularly helpful in stopping or minimizing violence in situations where tempers had almost reached the breaking point. Over and over again, we have stressed the firm policy of the Office of Economic Opportunity not to permit the use of Federal funds for any activities that are contrary to law or are partisan in nature. In the very rare circumstances where this policy has been violated, we have acted forthrightly in correcting the situation and in reprimanding or punishing the offender. Soon after the enactment of the 1966 amendments to the Economic Opportunity Act, you were sent an explanation of the new "anti-riot" provision adopted by the Congress. On June 8, 1967, CAP Director Theodore Berry issued CAP Memorandum No. 65 as a reminder of this anti-riot amendment. You were reminded that "the initial and primary responsibility for enforcement of Section 1201 (anti-riot amendment) rests with the local grantee agencies responsible for those projects." That remains true and I must look to you for full implementation of this OEO policy.

Lest there be any misunderstanding about what OEO policy has been and continues to be, let me make it unmistakably clear once again. There will be absolute insistence that every OEO employee and every employee of an OEO grantee scrupulously avoid and resist participation by OEO-funded resources in any activities which threaten public order in any community. I shall insist upon immediate and full penalties for any individuals found guilty of wrong behavior in this connection. Furthermore, I shall insist upon the withholding of OEO funds from any grantee or delegate agency which is shown to be encouraging or tolerating such behavior. We must not, and will not, permit the reckless behavior of any individual or group to jeopardize the continued existence of the OEO programs which have started to bring hope and escape from poverty for millions of Americans. Your personal assis- : tance in seeing to it that this policy is fully understood and scrupulously followed is deeply appreciated.

Sargent Shriver Director