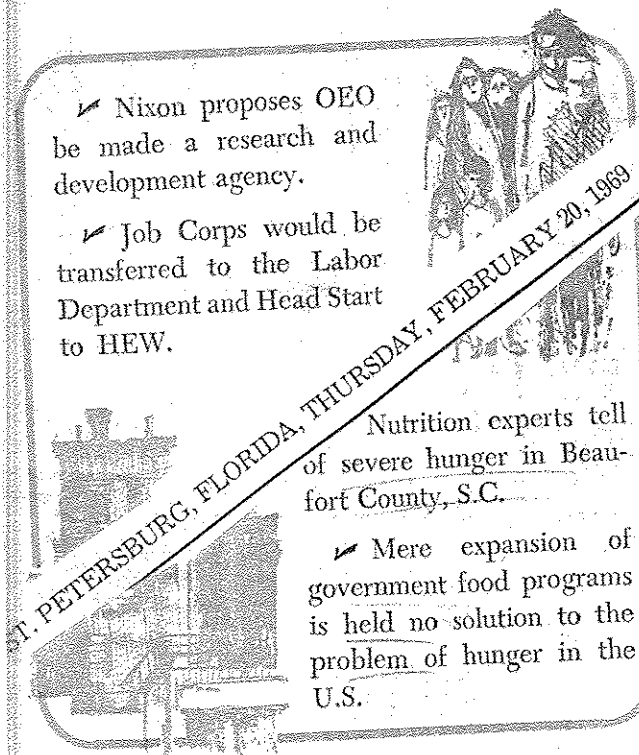


NIXON ASKS JOB CORPS SWITCH

OEO Streamlining Urged

✓ Nixon proposes OEO be made a research and development agency.

✓ Job Corps would be transferred to the Labor Department and Head Start to HEW.



Nutrition experts tell of severe hunger in Beaufort County, S.C.

✓ Mere expansion of government food programs is held no solution to the problem of hunger in the U.S.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Nixon pledged yesterday to continue the war on poverty, but told Congress he intends to try to learn from the mistakes of the past to find better ways to help the poor.

In his first message to Congress, Nixon asked for lawmakers to extend the controversial Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) that he inherited from the Johnson Administration. But he proposed that OEO, in a series of operating changes, be made a research and experimental agency that proposes and tries out new approaches rather than administers the main assault on poverty.

POVERTY, NIXON said, "cannot and will not be treated lightly or indifferently or without the most searching examination of how best to marshal the resources available to the federal government for combatting it.

"We have learned some lessons about what works and what does not," the President said. "The changes I propose will be based on those lessons and those discoveries and toled in a determination to press ahead with anti-poverty efforts even though individual experiments have ended in disappointments."

Nixon said he would use presidential authority to delegate two of OEO's best-known programs to other agencies. Job Corps, the away-from-home training program for youthful drop-outs, would go to the Labor Department. Head Start, the preschool program for poor children that had Ladybird Johnson's special patronage, will go to the Health, Education and Wel-

(Please See OEO, Page 4-A)

Rush Food Aid Asked

WASHINGTON — The chairman of a special Senate committee urged immediate federal food distribution in rural South Carolina yesterday after hearing testimony about extensive malnutrition — especially among Negroes — and widespread in-

festation by stomach worms.

"If the people get 800 or 900 calories and the worms get half of that, that's an emergency," Sen. George S. McGovern, D-S.D., said. He is chairman of the Special Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs which is hold-

ing hearings on South Carolina this week as part of a year-long study of the hunger problem.

McGOVERN and Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., agreed to seek a meeting today with Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin to

ask him to designate the area so emergency shipments can be made.

The South Dakota senator said, "There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that the government has the authori-

(Please See HUNGER, 4-A)

Federal Food Doesn't Keep Bellies Full

By HOMER BIGART
Special To The Times
From The New York Times (c)

PRESTONBURG, Ky. — The hollows of Appalachia and their hidden nests of tarpaper shacks are breeding another generation stunted by hunger and virtually programmed for a lifetime of poverty.

Eight years have passed since President John F. Kennedy focused the nation's attention on the hardships of thousands of unemployed miners and marginal farmers and their families existing in these mountains. Vast sums of federal money have been poured into the area. There has been a reduction in human misery. The miners no longer riot. But unemployment is heavy and poverty remains endemic.

WHEN SEN. Robert F. Kennedy visited this area a year ago he found a county — Wolfe — where about 5,000 of the 6,500 residents lived below the poverty line — \$2,000 a

Hunger

From I-A

ty" to do it, even though the Johnson administration took the position the authority only covered emergencies from natural disasters.

The need for immediate food shipments was supported by the head of a medical team from the University of South Carolina who reported he found stomach worms in 73 per cent of Negro preschool children but said it might take as long as 10 years to educate the people of the area on proper health practices.

"For the complete eradication of these practices, it's going to take 10 years. But

the food should go down there in 10 days," said Dr. E. John Lease.

PROF. JAMES T. Carter of Vanderbilt University and Meharry Medical College, who headed a second team that went to Beaufort and Jasper counties, S.C., said, "None of the children appeared to be dying of acute starvation" but "significant numbers of them are seriously malnourished."

"As far as hunger is concerned, you can ask them and they will tell you that they are hungry," he said.

Food

From I-A

family of four — and where half the total amount of food consumed was acquired through the federal food stamp program. Today the reliance on federal help has not diminished.

Here in Eastern Kentucky, as in the rural South, in the migrant farm labor camps of Florida, the Mexican-American slums of San Antonio and in the Indian Reservations of the Southwest, a visitor hears this constant complaint: the federal food programs, whether food stamps or direct distribution of surplus commodities, do not provide enough sustenance to stave off hunger for the month.

THE MONTHLY allotment of food for a family usually runs out in the third week. People complain that the food stamps cost too much, although there is general agreement that the stamp program, in principle, is better than free distribution of commodities that often fail to meet nutritional requirements. Persons eligible for stamps pay in "an amount equivalent to their normal expenditure for food," according to the plan, and the stamps, which are worth more than their pay-in value by varying amounts, are then exchanged for any food of their choice at groceries.

But the set-up was unrealistic, Marian E. Wright, civil rights lawyer and counsel to the 1968 Poor People's March on Washington, explained in the capitol, because despite some lowering of the buy-in scale, there was still the assumption that people with little or no income needed less to eat than people with more income. Families with no income — and there were many of them, Miss Wright said — could hardly have a "normal expenditure for food."

fare (HEW) Department.

THE SHIFTS would be made July 1, the date on which OEO's requested one year extension of spending authority would begin.

The President also asked Congress to authorize transfer of the smaller Foster Grandparents and Comprehensive Health Center Programs to HEW.

Nixon's proposals did not seem likely to provoke a great uproar in the Democratic-controlled Congress, which set up OEO five years ago.

MOST LAWMAKERS seemed to agree with Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis., who said Nixon "seems to have set the stage for a working partnership with Congress."

Nixon also made clear his initial anti-poverty proposals were only the beginning of his administration's intention to give the subject "priority attention." He said before July 1 a "comprehensive proposal for the future of the poverty program" would be sent to Congress.

The message did not mention money for OEO in the proposed additional year of operation. Johnson asked for \$2.1-billion in new spending authority in his outgoing budget and Nixon Administration sources said yesterday this total was expected to be about the same level.

Job Corps at present has 31,000 enrollees in 109 camps and training centers. Its current budget is \$201-million.

HEAD START, which does

its major work during summer school vacations, enrolled nearly 700,000 preschool children at a cost of more than \$280-million last year. The health centers program is spending \$22.4-million and foster grandparents \$2.4-million in the current fiscal year.

While Nixon's embrace of the anti-poverty program might have surprised some students of his 1968 campaign speeches, he carefully qualified his endorsements of the individual programs.

He said OEO itself had been "a valuable fount of ideas and enthusiasm, but it has suffered from a confusion of roles." He said OEO's greatest value under his reorganization would be as an "incubator" for new ideas to help the poor.

"One of my aims is to free OEO to perform these functions more effectively," Nixon said.

NIXON BACKED OEO's controversial Community Action Programs as "vital," but made a point of saying tighter program administration would be forthcoming. The Community Action Programs have been criticized by some for lax administration of their funds.

"When poverty fund monies are stolen, those hurt most are the poor — whom the monies were meant to help. When program are inefficiently administered, those hurt most again are the poor," Nixon said. "The public generally, and the poor especially have a right to demand effective and efficient management. I intend to provide it."

House Leader Calls Revamp Of OEO 'Tragic'

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A leading congressional antipoverty warrior has attacked President Nixon's plan to remove two key agencies from the Office of Economic Opportunity. But despite the harsh words, the administration's program appears to be in no danger.

Chairman Carl D. Perkins of the House Education and Labor Committee said the administration plan to shift OEO's showcase Head Start and Job Corps programs to other agencies was a "tragic mistake" that would leave OEO "to defend less popular programs."

Another House source said that by taking away OEO's most dramatic and appealing programs "we simply won't have the goodies to get the votes" if it comes to a showdown next year on whether to wipe out the antipoverty agency altogether.

In the Senate, however, Wisconsin Democrat Gaylord Nelson said that the programs handled by OEO covered only 10 per cent of the government's over-all poverty attack.

"We need some kind of new job creation program, fitted into a comprehensive manpower policy," Nelson said in a favorable reaction to Nixon's plan.

The Wisconsin Senator is the new chairman of the Senate subcommittee on employment, manpower and poverty which handles OEO legislation.

Nixon announced yesterday he would keep OEO alive but would turn Headstart and the Job Corps over to old-line departments.

Both Democrats and Republicans at the Capitol praised the message although

there were dissenters besides Perkins.

Some Democrats said they felt it marked a considerable retreat from GOP statements in the 1968 campaign that OEO should be downgraded or abolished.

Nelson said that, "By requesting an extension of the present poverty program, and by avoiding any proposals to wreck or abolish the program, the Nixon administration seems to have set the stage for a working partnership with the Congress to attain these common goals."

Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) senior Republican on the Labor Committee, which is the parent of the Nelson subcommittee, said the message shows that fears about dismantling of the anti-poverty program were unfounded.

Both Senate and House Labor Committees indicated they hoped to start hearings on OEO legislation in April.

It would be possible for the Congress to reverse Nixon's order delegating Head Start and Job Corps to the Health, Education and Welfare and Labor Departments respectively, but this seemed unlikely.

"I think we could get a bill out of committee," said one source.

"But I don't know what would happen now on the floor. And anyway, with a one-year extension you'd be right back in the same boat next year."

Loss of Head Start and the Job Corps will remove from OEO about half its \$2-billion annual budget. Nixon, in his message to Congress, said he wanted OEO to remain as an "incubator" for new and innovative programs.