



# WASHINGTON REPORT

Prepared by *Education-Training Market Report*

OEO EMPHASIZES INNOVATION: Role of Office of Economic Opportunity as major focus of War on Poverty has been further deemphasized as indicated in President Nixon's speech on welfare on Aug. 8. OEO will continue to administer toned-down community action program, but will stress innovation.

Word from inside OEO has it that new Division of Regional Operations will replace present national CAP, and that local Community Action Agencies will be stripped of programs not showing results. CAA's will be expected to stress means of helping individuals to become self-sustaining, but will have no voice in manpower programs. They will continue to act as referral agencies for services and, to some extent, as spokesman for poor. It is not yet clear whether CAA's will be funded through states or directly by OEO.

There are now 1,000 CAA's throughout the nation. These will be divided for purposes of national administration into urban CAP's, metropolitan CAP's and rural CAP's.

New major division of OEO will gather research and innovation under heading of Program Development. While extent of division's activities are not yet known, it is expected to be concerned with activities involving education-training community.

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COMMERCE DAILY UPGRADED: Education-training community concerned with federal contracting could benefit from upgrading of Commerce Daily, agreed upon by Commerce and Defense Department, and Government Services Administration in consultation with Senate Small Business Committee. Major changes would require increase in lead time for bidding notices to 30 days for most items affecting education-training contractors; listing by agencies of need for personal and professional services and urging departments and agencies procuring goods and services to list needs in CBD. Publication has circulation of 25,000 among government contractors.

INSIDE JOELSON PACKAGE: Led by AFL-CIO legislative strategists, some 300 educators swarmed over Capitol Hill on Aug. 1 to win one of most brilliant legislative victories of year. Bolstered by support of educators and their allies, House of Representatives liberals mustered more than adequate strength to add billion to proposed Nixon budget for Office of Education programs, and \$894 million to amount approved by House Appropriations Committee.

House by final vote of 242 to 106 approved package introduced as amendment to appropriation bill for HEW and Labor Departments by Rep. Charles S. Joelson (D., N.J.), who leaves Congress shortly to assume federal judgeship. Joelson informed educators and others in coalition comprising Emergency Committee for Full Funding of Education Programs that he would accept their guidance during legislative battle.

Joelson package places new emphasis upon vocational education, increasing appropriation from \$297.2 million sought by Administration to \$488.7 million. Of \$488.7 million approved, \$357.8 million would go to support state vocational education programs; \$40 million for post-secondary vocational education; \$10 million for vocational education work-study; \$10 million for exemplary programs creating bridges between school and world of work; \$14 million for cooperative school-work experience vocational education; \$15 million for consumer and home-making. In making these appropriations, House took first steps so far in implementing Vocational Education Amendments of 1968.

UPGRADED GI BILL: House of Representatives has passed and sent to Senate bill increasing veterans' educational and training allowances by 27 percent. If enacted by Senate and signed by President as expected, measure would raise benefits of unmarried GI in college or vocational training from \$130 to \$165 monthly. Married GI's without children would receive allowance of \$197, up from \$155. GI with two dependents would be raised from \$175 to \$222.

Measure would also raise subsistence benefits paid disabled veterans taking fulltime education or training from \$110 to \$127 and that of married disabled veterans from \$150 to \$173. Subsistence allowances are in addition to educational benefits for disabled veterans.

Meanwhile, Sen. Allan Cranston (D., Calif.) has introduced legislation requiring Veterans Administration to promote GI education benefits aggressively. One bill would require VA to "reach out" to high school dropouts in service to encourage them to complete school. Other would make it easier for GI dropouts to complete high school equivalency while in school.

According to Cranston, more than fifth of current crop of veterans-- about half million--lack high school diplomas, but only one in 10 of these has returned to school under GI benefit provisions.

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