

Breaking Up Programs Illegal

"OEO's activity declared illegal, and Howard Phillips enjoined by Judge Jones from continuing the dismantling of the Office of Economic Opportunity, highlighted the recent National Association for Community Development (NACD) annual convention in St. Louis," declared participant Michael C. Harper, Executive Director of Rural CAP.

NACD, a national organization composed of members who are human services-oriented, has successfully organized all types of people from the grassroots level through and including Congressmen and Senators to form coalitions for the purpose of retaining community action agencies and the War on Poverty since 1965.

Harper commented that they went to the NACD April meeting with the idea that it would be a tremendous opportunity to gain strategies on keeping the programs alive and viable in light

of the proposed Fiscal Year '74 budget which calls for the elimination of the poverty program.

He said, "This was a golden opportunity for me to find out other things that were happening across the nation relative to CAAs. For instance, the States of New Jersey and possibly Ohio, are going to pick up the funding for the community action agencies of their states."

Other activities centering on "What You Can Do For Yourself" included workshops on Big Business Support, Building Coalitions, Streets or Courts, Rural Funding, Can Minority Groups Afford to be Partisan, and Head Start Caucus.

An explanation of the suits that had been brought against Howard Phillips' dismantling of OEO activities revealed: (1) The suits challenge the legality of Howard Phillips as director of the OEO because he has not

received confirmation of the U. S. Senate.

(2) Suits challenge rules and regulations that OEO has recently issued regarding phase-out orders to CAPs, and instructions banning inter-state travel. Law requires that any rules or regulations of government must appear in the FEDERAL REGISTER for 30 days prior to their becoming law.

(3) Suits say that the combined effect of dismantling OEO amounts to reorganizing a branch or agency of government and such a reorganization plan must be approved by Congress.

Understandably, a joyous moment was experienced on the last day of the convention when Judge Jones in Washington, D.C. handed down his ruling that declared the OEO dismantling illegal.

In other business, Jewel Mason of Anchorage, was chosen as one of the Northwest Region's national delegates.