

Final Action on Appropriation For OEO Today

Final Congressional action on the 1968 Fiscal Year Appropriation for the Office of Economic Opportunity was expected today, following approval by a House-Senate Conference Committee of a \$1.773 billion measure.

That figure represented a compromise between the \$1.612 billion approved by the House on Wednesday, December 13 and the \$1.98 billion voted by the Senate on Thursday, December 14.

The Conferees approved

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Appropriation . .

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the \$1.773 figure a week ago and also deleted the earmarking of funds so that OEO can spend where it believes the need is greatest.

The Administration first submitted its anti-poverty program to Congress in April when President Johnson asked for \$2.06 billion.

Extensive hearings were held and in September a \$5.5 billion anti-poverty bill was introduced into the Senate. It included \$2.26 billion to finance the programs of OEO and \$2.8 billion for an emergency job program.

On October 5, by a vote of 60-21, the largest majority in the Senate in the history of anti-poverty legislation, a two-year authorization for OEO was approved with \$2.258 billion for Fiscal 1968, and \$2.4 billion for Fiscal 1969.

The job program was dropped.

Debate on the House version of the bill began in early November and on November 15, the body voted 283-129 to approve the measure.

The margin of victory on final passage was the largest ever given the anti-poverty program by the House.