

## RurAL-CAP

## ACTION REPORTS

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## SUITS FILED TO STOP OEO DISMANTLEMENT

10 Regional  
OEO Offices  
Will Be Closed

The national Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, D.C. has announced that the ten regional offices across the country will be closed as of April 28.

Word was received in the Seattle office about the middle of March, which allows a little longer than the usual 30-day reduction in force (RIF) notice.

Howard Phillips, Acting OEO Director, stated that it would be wasteful to continue operation of these offices since President Nixon has announced that no further funds will be available after June 30, 1973 for the regions.

There are approximately 937 employees in regional offices located in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, Mo., New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Seattle. RurAL CAP is in Region X in Seattle, which employs around 70 people.

OEO Headquarters information is that 200 to 300 employees would be retained for record keeping. They will be assigned to the General Services Administration (GSA) and will probably be working for another year, until June 30, 1974.

Resolution in  
U.S. House Asks  
OEO Continuation

A resolution has been introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives which requests continuation of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

In a letter to Mike Harper, Executive Director of RurAL CAP, Senator Mike Gravel enclosed a copy of the "Concurrent Resolution" which calls on the President to continue the OEO, and to submit a revised budget request for such activities for fiscal year 1974.

The Senator stated that the



DIRECTORS OF PCC CENTERS — Left, Ernie Norton, Director of Kotzebue PCC; Ruth James, Hoonah PCC Director; and Mike Harper, Executive Director of RurAL CAP in Anchorage.

Child Center Employees  
Train in Anchorage

Thirteen Parent Child Center employees from the two PCC's in Kotzebue and Hoonah attended a training session held in Anchorage, March 5-9.

The week long workshop was aimed at training the PCC employees in working with children of low income families where both parents work.

A few of the topics discussed at the training session included: working with babies; dealing with fatherless children; communication with 2, 3, and 4 year olds, and the attention span of children.

Immediately following the Anchorage training session, six of the PCC employees flew on to Geneva, Wisconsin for a 3 day National Parent Child Center

Conference.

The Anchorage training session was conducted by Peggy Sherman, Director of Child Development. Each of the participants received 2 units of college credit for the workshop.

Attending the Parent Child Center Workshop were: from Kotzebue, Ernie Norton, Director; Vera Chelsey; Velma Stein; Irene Gallahorn; Bonnie Thomas; and May Henry.

From Hoonah, Ruth James, Director; Violet Mayeda; Katherine Hamlon; Benita Cain; Mayna Schearclane; and Sharon Schoonover.

Kay Moor, Assistant Director of Child Development also attended.

Chairman, Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, Room 4230, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510.

Senator Ted Stevens also wrote to Mr. Harper, and said that he had joined with other Senators in introducing the resolution.

Suits Seek to Compel  
Administration  
To Submit New Plan

Several suits have been filed to try to stop the dismantlement of the Office of Economic Opportunity, and a hearing has been scheduled in Washington, D.C. for March 22, 1973.

The major point in the suits seeks to compel the administration to submit a formal reorganization plan to Congress May 1.

Another issue raised is that Howard Phillips, Acting Director of OEO, is serving illegally, since his nomination has not been submitted to the Senate for confirmation.

Also, the plaintiffs OEO national union employees, some CAAs and individual poor persons say the OEO Act authorizes continuation of most OEO programs through fiscal 1975.

They contend that the President's elimination of OEO is a violation of Congressional intent that the programs and the agency should continue.

The administration says that the authority for the programs will remain intact there will be no funding to continue the agency and community action programs.

U.S. District Court Judge William Jones denied a temporary restraining order against Phillips, and said that he was virtually powerless to stop the Administration from carrying out its objectives. Although Judge Jones did not discuss the merits of the complaints, he commented that the court cannot compel the executive branch to carry out a program that has not been funded.

The 1974 Fiscal Year budget proposes no funding for OEO and CAPs.

The court battle to save OEO will be expensive, according to organizers of the lawsuits. An estimated \$40,000 to \$75,000 will be needed for legal fees and research.

OEO backers are requesting that donations to finance the legal battle be sent to: OEO

Legal Defense, 1828 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

The foregoing information was taken from the ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY REPORT, an independent weekly which gives news of OEO programs.

RurAL CAP has joined this effort by supplying information that explains some of the benefits to low income people that have been provided through OEO.

Mike Harper, Executive Director of the anti-poverty agency, commented that, "We must continue to fulfill our mission, to advocate for the poor and disadvantaged."

Asks Heavy  
Equipment  
From Overseas

A resolution to request that heavy equipment be returned from foreign countries for use in rural Alaskan communities was passed by the SEACAP Board of Directors at their January meeting in Haines.

Bob Bradley, Executive Director of the Southeastern anti-poverty agency, said that they discussed it with several legislators, and Terry Gardiner introduced a bill in support of the resolution which had passed the House, but had not yet been acted on by the Senate.

SEACAP Board members felt that in any consideration of priorities for the use of the surplus equipment, the needs of the American people should be met first.

## University of Alaska Study of Atmospheric Inversion

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FAIRBANKS — The University of Alaska's Geophysical Institute is continuing its study of atmospheric inversion in connection with air pollution here, employing a 15-foot-long finned balloon which is flown some 1,500 feet above College Road several times a week.

The balloon carries aloft a small black telemetry package containing a transmitter and sensing elements which send back data on wind speed, temperature, air pressure and humidity. The data is needed, scientists say, to help interpret signals picked up by acoustic radar on the ground.

The scientific station is located just off College Road about a half mile northeast of the College Post Office and under the approach path to the

Fairbanks International Airport. The balloon is sent aloft three or four times a week and is up and down several times during each flight.

The operation has been fully approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, and scientists are in continual contact with the airport control tower. They inform the tower when they plan to put the balloon up, two hours in advance, and when they plan to retrieve it and shut the operation down.

The winch used to haul down the balloon can retrieve it in about two minutes. Made of clear polyethylene, the balloon flies on a nylon line. The balloon is visible but the line is difficult to see, so red streamers have been attached to it.

Personnel of the National Weather Service at the airport are cooperating in the project, and data obtained is being shared with them.

The balloon flights will continue through the winter. Directing the operation this winter is Bjorn Holmgren, assistant professor of geophysics.

Vaccination  
Against Rubella

If all children between 1 and 12 years old are vaccinated against rubella, the number of birth defects caused by that disease can be sharply reduced, the March of Dimes reports. Youngsters are the main sources of infection.