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September 23, 1974

SUBJECT:

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS

Congress considered legislation earlier this summer to retain the Community Action program of OEO, but never took final action because of threats of a Presidential veto.

According to Evans and Novak, Representative Albert Quie met with President Ford and discussed the Community Action Programs. Apparently, he came away convinced that there would be no veto of the CAP programs or their transfer to HEW. Is this correct; would the President veto the funding of and retention of CAP's?

GUIDANCE: President Ford is opposed to legislation continuing Community Action Programs with Federal funds. However, the President has also said that he would carefully consider any proposal that Congress might make, and has not said that he would definitely veto such a proposal.

Why is the President opposed to Community Action Programs?

GUIDANCE: The President believes that Community Action Programs, by their very nature, are best run at the State and Local levels. That is where the responsibilities and decisions and the money must come from to best serve the needs of each community. The initial role of the Federal Government was to get these programs started and then turn them over to the local people. After more than eight years of Federal domination, the President believes that it is time that was done.

How much money are we talking about for funding the CAP programs?

GUIDANCE: The Community Action Programs were funded at \$330 million in Fiscal Year 1974.

When do OEO and the CAP programs die if there is no further legislation?

GUIDANCE: OEO and the CAP programs are now operating under a 90 day resolution and will go out of existence September 30 unless there is passage of another Continuing Resolution.