

CHARLES A. VANIK
21ST DISTRICT, OHIO

256 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

COMMITTEES ON:
BANKING AND CURRENCY
MERCHANT MARINE AND
FISHERIES

CLEVELAND OFFICE:
506 FEDERAL BUILDING
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

October 1, 1964

Mr. Sargent Shriver, Director
Office of Economic Opportunity
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Shriver:

Enclosed herewith please find a Critique of the Cleveland Community Action Program which was submitted to me by the Citizens Committee for an Adequate Cleveland Community Action Program temporarily headed by Rev. Milan C. Brenkus, 3105 Ashwood Road, Cleveland, Ohio. The other members of this committee are listed on the attached sheet submitted as "Exhibit A" to this critique.

Because of the prolonged legislative session demanding my time here in Washington, it has been very difficult for me to follow the Cleveland Community Action program as closely as I would like. It seems to me that there is very considerable merit to the criticism "loading the directive board" with suburbanites and people not intimately familiar with the poverty needs in Cleveland which concentrate in my district.

Furthermore, there is a great need for including on this board leaders who are "in viable communication" with the effective leaders of Negro and white intercity churches.

I certainly feel also that there should be a greater involvement by the persons of the affected areas of poverty in Cleveland to the end that they may have a real part in the administration and conduct of the program. This was one of the concepts in my mind at the time I supported this legislation in the Congress.

Mr. Sargent Shriver, Director

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I want to do everything in my power to see this program succeed in Cleveland as well as throughout the country. It is my hope that your careful consideration of this critique may result in an improvement in the Cleveland program.

Please be advised that I have also forwarded this critique, along with a copy of my letter to you to the Mayor of Cleveland, the Honorable Ralph Locher, and to the Superintendent of Schools of Cleveland, Paul Briggs.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Vanik
Member of Congress

CAV:fw
Enclosure