

# Local Poverty War Hearing Planned

Washington County Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting Tuesday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m. has given formal notice that it will hold a public hearing on consideration of the commissioners designating their body as the Community Action organization for Washington County.

The hearing comes under authority of the so-called Rep. Edith Green amendments to the 1967 Federal Economic Opportunity act.

Under the Green amendments several options are open:

1. The existing Community Action agency may be designated to carry on the county program of war on poverty. Under these circumstances the existing agency has already met requirements for recognition by the Office of Economic Opportunity.

2. The Board of County commissioners may designate a different agency. This would include the commissioners designating their board to act in this capacity or to designate a

separate public or private non-profit organization to function.

3. The commissioners may choose not to designate any agency. In this case the director of the OEO, Sargent Shriver, could recognize group which he approved.

The purpose of the amendments is to provide for greater local government participation in local poverty program.

The Board of Commissioners have until March 15 to make a decision as to their course of action.

Established guidelines must continue to be observed and programs already approved and in operation would continue to February, 1969.

Among the requirements for the Community Action Organization is that its board must represent in its membership one-third of low-income group selected by democratic procedure. One-third of the membership can be public officials, elected or appointed, with one-third being the maximum. The

remaining one-third of the governing board is to represent the public drawn from groups which may include labor, religious, minority, welfare, education and a wide range of interests.

Up until the present the Board of County Commissioners has kept itself separated from the County Community Action organization. Although a county commissioner was named to the board, he withdrew. The CAP program in the county has operated independently of the Board of Commissioners with its initiation and functioning apart from the courthouse.

Marko L. Haggard, coordinator of the Economic Opportunity Programs working from the office of Governor Tom McCall has set Friday, March 8, at Ramada Inn at 1 p.m. for meeting of local government officials from Clackamas, Columbia and Washington counties for the purpose of presenting information relative to the new amendments to the Economic Opportunity act.

Bill Masters