

Cherry Grove, Ore
November 3, 1967

Mr. Wendell Wyatt
Oregon Congressional District
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Wyatt:

CPM

I am an American, a parent, a tax payer and a republican voter. My land is my refuge, my home my castle and I am free from debt. I have never been rich—never have I known want—I'm just an average American. Proud and patriotic. Five of my sons and step sons have served in the military, and my Navy airman was killed in the service.

Great as our country is, it is not without corruption. America staggers under a load of violence, aggravated by inequality. Our Constitution guarantees with flowery words, that all men are created equal. This is a myth, a fantasy, a flagrant distortion of truth. Millions of poor people, especially the Negroes, suffer deprivation and despair. Our economy suffers when its citizens are down-trodden and in want.

Many of the poverty programs have helped and dignified people who would never have been helped otherwise. This salvage of American manpower is incomparable. It cannot be measured by graph or told in words.

Why then are you advocating the closing of OEO, Job Corps and other agencies which are designed to help the poor? I would only concur if you have a better idea. Perhaps many people are not aware of their own potential and could be spurred to action for self betterment by individual help. Actually giving them a hand, and I mean a willing working helping hand. I like to work with my hands and I'd be most happy to try to help people in this way. I like OEO because it stresses self help, getting off welfare and being self sustaining.

Respectfully,

Bingotta Nixon

WENDELL WYATT
FIRST DISTRICT
OREGON

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

November 9, 1967

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Nixon
Box 7
Cherry Grove, Oregon 97119

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Nixon:

Thank you kindly for your petition and also for your letter in support of renewal of the Poverty Program.

As you know this matter is being debated now in the House. My position on this matter has been misrepresented. My objections to the Poverty Program to date have centered on the extremely high costs of administration. There are more super-grade high-salaried employees in the OEO right here in Washington than in any other government agency except the Space Agency where scientists are employed. In all too many cases these jobs are in the hands of political hacks. Far too much of the appropriation money is wasted in administration costs and too little of the money is available for the good programs of the OEO which are rapidly improving.

The status of the entire bill on the Floor of the House is in grave doubt. I certainly shall do nothing to kill the program but during the debate and the consideration of literally hundreds of amendments which will be offered, I hope to participate in improving the administration of this program.

Your communication is most helpful to me and I do appreciate your writing.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,



WENDELL WYATT
Member of Congress

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