

Reports by Committees

Committee on Appropriations and Audit

Mary Bourdette, Director of the Office of Government Relations, reported to the Board on the progress of the Corporation's reauthorization and appropriation measures in Congress. She explained that the Corporation was concerned with three separate processes in Congress for 1981. The first was the appropriation for 1981. Second was the authorization measure. Third was the budget resolution.

She explained that the Corporation had submitted a request to Congress for \$353 million in 1981.

Ms. Bourdette said that the appropriation process had not yet proceeded very far, but that it was expected that the \$321.3 million recommended by the Office of Management and Budget would be the agreed upon figure for 1981.

Ms. Bourdette reported progress in both the House and Senate on the authorization measure for the Corporation. She explained that the House Judiciary Committee recommends a three-year authorization for the Corporation without amendments. The Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources suggests a two-year authorization without amendments. She explained that many amendments had been offered in committee debate, but were all defeated. Ms. Bourdette also noted that the great amount of support from local legal services programs on behalf of the Corporation's authorization and appropriation measures.

Committee on Provision of Legal Services

Mr. Trudell reported on the committee's meeting in Denver. He explained that the committee members discussed the Delivery Systems Study, Antioch Law School, the Legal Services Institute, expansion activities, the Reginald Heber Smith Fellowship program, the development of standards, regional training, QUIP grants, and the 1007(h) study of elderly and handicapped.

Alan Houseman, Director of the Research Institute on Legal Assistance, and John Dooley, consultant to the Corporation, then reported on the continuation of the 1007(h) study dealing with the elderly and handicapped. Mr. Houseman and Mr. Dooley reviewed with the Board their March 14th memorandum summarizing the findings on the special legal needs and problems of access to legal services for the elderly and handicapped. In particular, Mr. Houseman and Mr. Dooley reviewed the specific recommendation for Corporation action with the Board.

During this discussion, Director Howard R. Sacks, joined the meeting.

The Board voted to make the following modification to the report:

* Section F. Actions and Recommendations; Non-Institutionalized Elderly:

Recommendation number 3 reading "The Corporation will specifically indicate in all job announcements for LSC staff that elderly are encouraged to apply" was deleted on a motion by Ms. Esquer and a second by Mr. Trudell. Voting for the motion were Ms. Shump, Mr. Trudell, Ms. Esquer, and Ms. Rodham. Voting against the proposal were Mr. Kantor, and Mr. Engelberg. Mr. Sacks abstained.

On a motion by Mr. Sacks and a second by Ms. Shump, the Board clarified the previous action by unanimously voting to include the words "including employment" at the end of Recommendation Number 1 of this section. The section now reads, "As part of a general effort to define the civil rights responsibilities of programs, the Corporation will enact a regulation to enforce the age discrimination act including employment."

On a motion by Mr. Trudell and a second by Mr. Kantor, the Board unanimously voted to delete paragraphs 2 and 3 from Section E: Actions and Recommendation; Recommendation 1. This recommendation deals with funding for services to the elderly institutionalized.

With these modifications Mr. Trudell moved and Mr. Kantor seconded a motion to accept the report as submitted. The Board passed the motion unanimously.

After the Board returned from a lunch recess, Directors Robert J. Kutak and Ravius O. Ortique joined the meeting.

The Board then heard a report on the Delivery Systems Study by Leona Vogt, Director of the study, and Judy Riggs of the Corporation's Executive Office. After hearing the report of Ms. Vogt and Ms. Riggs, the Board discussed the DSS effort in detail and heard comments on the draft report from field and client representatives. The Board continued discussion of the DSS report until adjournment at 6:00 p.m. The discussion resumed when the meeting reconvened the next morning, Friday, May 2. All Directors from the previous day's meeting were present.

On a motion from Mr. Trudell and a second by Ms. Shump, the Board voted unanimously to consider the complete Delivery Systems Study policy report to Congress at the June Board meeting. Mr. Bradley was directed by the Board to send a letter to the appropriate congressional committees explaining that the Study's findings do not indicate any need for a change in the Legal Services Corporation Act.

Discussion of Future Funding and Policy Issues

Ms. Rodham introduced the discussion on the future of the Corporation and asked each of the Board members to make a brief statement about their personal goals and objectives for the Corporation's future. The Board then heard further discussion on the future of the Corporation from field staff and client representatives in the audience. Ms. Rodham emphasized the importance of reviewing studies and planning materials already developed by the Corporation and others in regard to legal services.

On a motion from Mr. Kutak and a second from Mr. Kantor, the Board unanimously voted to have the chairman appoint one of their members as a reporter on the future of the Corporation and to deliver a written report to the Board for its consideration of this issue at the June Board meeting. Ms. Rodham selected Mr. Sacks to be the reporter on the future of the Corporation.

President's Report

Mr. Bradley explained to the Board that the Corporation had formed a very effective structure for dealing with the authorization and appropriation measures in Congress. He indicated that there was an enormous amount of help on this effort from the American Bar Association, the client community, the Project Advisory Group, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, and others.