

NBS

**NEW STANDARDS**—The National Bureau of Standards' new facilities at Gaithersburg, Md., were dedicated by Secretary of Commerce John T. Connor and other dignitaries. The rural location takes the Bureau away from the mechanical, electrical and atmospheric disturbances in a city and reduces the effect of these factors on precise scientific measurements.

SOCIOLOGY

## Cuts Threaten OEO

► **THE SQUEEZE** for scarce Government funds this year threatens to flatten the War on Poverty.

Actually, Congress's cut in poverty funds was relatively small—\$100 million from a \$1.75 billion request—but it came precisely in those funds that up to now have been used to stimulate local initiative and innovation—the sociological hinge on which the whole program swings.

The cut has two major implications, said Dr. Joseph T. English, chief psychiatrist and deputy assistant director for health affairs at the Office of Economic Opportunity.

First to be affected will be self-help programs in 220 rural communities in 525 counties throughout the nation, and their two-year-old plans to improve their own literacy, vocational training and employment.

No money is available to make their plans operational, Dr. English said, and the heart may go out of "self help."

The other effect may well be a dent in the War on Poverty's long range suc-

cess, since OEO's tack all along has been to draw its programs from the poor themselves rather than offer them ready-made.

Underlying this grass-root plan, Dr. English said, was the social concept that a community only makes real progress when its people participate in the planning—a concept patterned after the Peace Corps. He was formerly chief psychiatrist of the Corps' medical staff.

Dr. English pointed out that overseas volunteers learned their success would depend not on what they as Americans did, but what they could get the local people to do.

OEO gave "unearmarked" funds to encourage the poor to organize, determine their own needs, plan programs and submit them to the Government for funding.

OEO's most successful projects—Headstart, community health centers and so forth—were spawned in this way, Dr. English said. The major Congressional cutback—in unearmarked funds—means, in effect, trouble for the community action groups.

As a youth leader in Watts, recently told Sargent Shriver: "welfare without representation is tyranny."

This, plus riots in the cities undoubtedly had its effect on Congress. But rural areas, in the Midwest, South

and Appalachia, not cities, will bear the biggest brunt of the cutback.

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