

MAY 22 1965

Allen-Scott Report

Congressmen Knock Shriver

By ROBERT S. ALLEN and PAUL SCOTT



Mr. Allen

WASHINGTON — Sargent Shriver, the President's commander in chief in the war against poverty, appears caught in the eye of a growing political storm in Congress.

Encouraged by Shriver's back-down to Representative Adam Clayton Powell's demands for a bigger voice in New York's anti-poverty program, an increasing number of congressional delegations are lambasting Shriver for failing to consult them on projects for their states.

The lawmakers are keeping the wires and mail to the White House and Shriver sizzling with complaints that they are being bypassed on local projects and job appointments.

Illustrative is the protest lodged with President Johnson and Shriver by the entire New Mexico delegation, headed by Senators Clinton Anderson and Joseph Montoya, D.

Senator Anderson, a former Cabinet member and one of the President's original political supporters, notified the White House, "If Sarge Shriver hasn't any more control over this program in other states than he has in New Mexico, it's a mess."

He ironically reported, "Shriver never needed any help

on a single appointment in New Mexico. His organization is terrible and his aides apparently made all the appointments. He can't run the Peace Corps and the poverty program at the same time and expect to do a half decent job with either organization."

To underscore his complaint, Anderson had all members of the New Mexico delegation sign a letter to Shriver, with copies to the White House, stating:

"We are disturbed that we were not notified of the Office of Economic Opportunity's approval of Camp Luna in San Miguel County as a job corps conservation camp.

"We can well appreciate the President's desire to announce a new series of conservation camps at his press conference. We have no quarrel with that. Following the press conference, our office received inquiries as to which facilities had been approved for New Mexico. We had no information on which to base replies.

"Earlier, one of our offices (Anderson's) inquired of the Office of Economic Opportunity as to the status of Camp Luna; there was no indication that action was imminent. It was not until an hour and a half after the press conference, and after a good deal of telephoning, that

we were able to obtain the information from OEO.

"We strongly suggest that in the future, if the White House should make announcements on other OEO activities in our state, your liaison people promptly notify our offices."

In addition to Senator Anderson, the letter was signed by Senator Montoya and the state's two representatives, Thomas Morris and E. S. Johnny Walker, D.

The legislators were less diplomatic in their telephone calls. They made it clear to aides of the President that they wanted to be consulted in advance on poverty projects in their state, and all major appointments cleared through their offices.

Senator Carl Hayden, D-Ariz., chairman of the powerful Appropriations Committee, also has let Shriver know he is unhappy about the way the program is being handled in his state.

"Another problem I have is eliciting the most elementary information from the Office of Economic Opportunity about projects in my state," wrote Hayden. "My staff has repeatedly found it difficult, if not impossible, to carry out my requests for various status reports on applicants, information about staff offices, and even a

working telephone list."

"In the future, I hope your liaison office will receive the cooperation it needs from other units; thus making it possible for me to serve the constituents of my state in the way they deserve."

Other Democratic congressional delegations have served similar notices on Shriver and the White House. They frankly warned that if the administration expects their help in voting larger amounts for these programs, they must be given a "voice" in the projects and hiring within their states.

Use of the anti-poverty program's Job Corps as a "disaster brigade" in flood and storm-stricken areas hasn't worked out as hoped for by Johnson administration officials.

Many Job Corps recruits sourced on the government's program, packed up and went home after a six-week assignment last January and February in the flood-ravaged areas of Oregon and northern California.

Director Sargent Shriver reports that Oregon's Governor Mark Hatfield was enthusiastic about the Job Corps help, but the boys were not. They complained they didn't join the Corps to dig ditches and build dikes.