

FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS THREATEN EOB JOBS

David Hoggard, executive director, Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County is not optimistic about the future size of the federal budget that provides for this social services organization.

The very existence of the organization is being threatened by federal budget cuts ordered by President Reagan. Similar agencies throughout the country

have been hurt in Reagan's effort to balance the budget.

Cuts have been "nibbling" away at the foundation of EOB, said Hoggard. EOB has experienced cuts of at least \$750,000 and 110 federally funded employees and regular staff members.

As reported earlier, transportation programs for senior citizens and the handicapped have

been cut, its planning department by one third and its financial department by 25 percent, Hoggard said.

The agency's weatherization program has been eliminated and two energy programs have been taken over by the state as a means of cutting costs.

Weekend bus services for the needy, transporting primarily seniors and han-

dicapped for medical and nutritional needs has been eliminated, he said.

The agency is sitting on pins and needles waiting to "see what kind of Christmas present the EOB will get from Mr. Reagan," Hoggard said.

Congress is expected to debate Reagan's budget proposals Dec. 16. Hoggard said he does not expect to know

how the EOB will fare until after Christmas.

The Community Services Administration which provides funds to administer its more than 40 programs is the conduit through which the EOB gets the lion of its administrative funds.

Last year, the EOB received \$420,000 from the CSA. It does not know what money it would get through the

block programs. Hoggard said he was confident EOB would get its proportionate share.

EOB was paid \$1 million by the Comprehensive Employment Training Act to operate the Summer Youth Employment Training Program this year, but indications are showing that CETA will operate the program itself next year, Hoggard said.

KCEP Radio Opens New Radio Studio

"Friends of KCEP Radio, together with the Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County celebrated the opening of the new KCEP Studio with an OPEN HOUSE," announced Sarann Knight, Chair, Friends of KCEP Radio.

"The event took place Saturday, December 5, 1981, 12 noon to 5 p.m. at the Westside School lawn and Suite 12, 330 W. Washington," Ms. Knight added.

Ribbon cutting and ceremony was at 1 p.m. with refreshments following. Main speaker for the event was Dr. Claude Perkins, former Chairman of the Economic Opportunity Board of Directors.

"In the last four years, KCEP Radio has grown from a 10 watt radio station to a new 5,000 watt plant to be installed in early 1982," stated Mr. J. David Hoggard, Executive Director of the Economic Opportunity Board.

"KCEP is a non-commercial public service station. While being a music station, it does not ignore community needs, affairs and news. Its purpose is to respond to the community's interests, conveniences and necessity by

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Published every Thursday by Galaxy Composition, Inc., 2450 Industrial Rd., Las Vegas, Nevada 89102. Betty Brown, Publisher.

Subscription Rate by Mail
Annually Only \$25.00
All mail subscriptions must be paid in advance. No refunds.

POSTMASTER Send address changes to Las Vegas Sentinel, 2450 Industrial Road Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

What Is Secret Witness?

Secret Witness is a program geared toward public involvement in the fight against crime. It offers cash rewards (up to \$1,000) and anonymity to citizens who furnish information leading to arrest and indictment of felony crime offenders, to the capture of felony fugitives, and for the recovery of stolen property. Since its inception, the program has been remarkably successful, having been responsible for a significant number of criminal case solutions.

Most of the information coming into the Secret Witness Program is transmitted via telephone to the Hotline, 386-3213. It is manned by Detective Nage Palmer five days a week, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. At night, an automatic answering device is used to record any information people want to leave.

When a call is received by Secret Witness, the caller is given a code number, the call is logged with date, time, and a brief summary of the caller's information. If the caller gives his name, address, or phone number, that date is logged, but is not given to any investigator in order to protect the identity of the caller. Phone numbers, names and addresses are kept in a locked file at all times. The only person that has knowledge of informants' names, addresses and phone numbers is Detective Palmer. The key to Secret Witness success is the program's ability to allow informants to remain anonymous.

If a person's information results in the arrest and indictment of an offender, or the recovery of stolen property, the reward is paid in cash within twenty days. The informant's code number is printed in the newspapers and broadcast by TV and radio so that the informant can call and arrange for payment. To make sure the right informant is paid, he must recite the information he gave to Secret Witness which led to the arrest and indictment. A secret meeting is then arranged so payment can be made. Cash is used, again, to protect anonymity. A twenty-five person civilian Board of Trustees oversees the operation of the program and controls the reward to be paid to the informant. Of significance is the fact that the vast majority of callers refuse a code number — stating that they are simply calling so the police can use the information they are offering.

Secret Witness furnishes TV, radio and newspapers with a specific unsolved case each week, offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and indictment of the offender.

Secret Witness is a non-profit corporation. The program is funded entirely through contributions from the public. Contributions are tax deductible under the Internal Revenue Code.

Although Secret Witness has been in existence in Southern Nevada for only two years, it has surpassed records of success set by similar programs in other states by a significant margin. This success is directly attributable to the hard work of the Board of Trustees and the support of the citizens of Clark County.

CHILDREN'S LETTERS TO SANTA

The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL will print children's messages to SANTA in the Dec. 17 and Dec. 24 issues. There will be a limit of 25 words. Let the children tell Santa what they want for Christmas. All of this for only 50¢. For the Dec. 17 issue, the deadline is Dec. 14...for the Dec. 24 issue, the deadline will be Dec. 18. Call the SENTINEL office NOW...call 384-9907.

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