Oliver Elected President

Acadiana Neuf Expands Director Membership

By Henry Liberal

Dr. James R. Oliver, dean of the graduate school, University of Southwestern Louisiana, has been elected president of the board of directors of Acadiana Neuf, six month unit of the federal war on poverty program, either because of the suspension of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. Election of Oliver as president, one of the earliest workers and pushers in the organization of Acadiana Neuf, occurs after a general meeting called for last October in the organization’s former charter granted by the federal government which specified that the former board of directors would serve as a temporary and transitional group.

Dr. Lott C. Conner, University of Southwestern Louisiana chairman of the first board, and did not choose to run again for re-election. Consequently, the board of directors passed a resolution in commendation for his service as chairman.

Dr. Joseph H. Knott, Vermilion Parish, was re-elected vice president. Also re-elected to service on the board for another term was Dr. James R. Oliver, Vermilion Parish, secretary and partner from J. Arnaud, Lafayette Parish, treasurer.

The mass meeting of poor and interested parties last October led to the expansion of the board of directors to include three more representatives from each of the six parishes. Formerly, the board was composed of two from each parish, one nominated by the parish and one appointed by the school board, and two representatives from U.S.E.C. But as requested by local minority groups, the National Office of Economic Opportunity directed that three men be appointed to the board to represent the minority.

In the current election, again another two were appointed, to represent the minority. The October meeting finally elected a new board. Since the new board and minority causes in agreement that the new and formal constitution would now be comprised of the total 12 men from the six parish, plus ten two from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, and adding two more men elected by the poor association from the six parishes. Washington’s recommendation was that at least two be added from each parish.

New board members and officers they represent are as follows:

Acadia Parish: Father Albert McNight, C.H.S.; director of Southern Cammagerie Cooperative and expert in farming programs; and Peter Velten, a school teacher.

Iberia Parish: David May, city planner; vice president; Dr. James Bolet, Rev. H.A. Hill, Lafayette Parish; Clyde Coons, St. Martin Parish; Joe Neighbors, Vermilion Parish.

St. Martin Parish: Joe John, Acadia Parish.

St. Landry Parish: Joshua Hite, Holy Family and Overious White.

St. Landry Parish is the only parish having these members elected by the poor.