Acadiana Neuf
Fails To Revamp

The board of directors of Acadiana Neuf failed to come up with an acceptable reorganization plan for the anti-poverty agency Wednesday night at an emergency executive session held in Lafayette.

There was 100 percent attendance of the board members at the meeting, which came as a surprise to War on Poverty officials, since only five members had indicated they would attend the executive session, to which the public was barred.

The meeting had been scheduled at the specific request of W. Asse Kirke, acting director of the Austin, Tex. Office of Economic Opportunity, who appeared to the board to make a last-minute effort to recognize or lose his funds after March 1, 1962.

Negative Attitude
Kirke's plea that Acadiana Neuf recognize along acceptable guidelines, which primarily meant more representation of poor and minority groups on the board, was met with entirely negative responses by the board members.

During the meeting, Kirke repeated his earlier request that the board recognize the value of the program and its potential for success.

Phase Out Programs
Kirke said if no more meetings of the board were planned before the March 1 deadline, Dr. Oliver replied that some sessions would be called, but only for the purpose of phasing out the programs administered under Acadiana Neuf.

A second motion to determine the disposition of equipment and furnishings acquired by the agency during its tenure failed to gain support.

In addition to the main office in Lafayette, there are two dozen smaller centers in parishes of Lafayette, Acadia, Iberia, St. Martin, St. Landry, and Vermilion that will be closed.

Funds originally allocated for Acadiana Neuf will be used for emergency programs in other Louisiana areas which are in compliance with federal and state standards.

According to Charles Baker, supervisor of the poverty program, the collapse of Acadiana Neuf would not reduce the total amount of funds coming into the state from the OEO.