Acadiana Neuf To Eye Revamp

By Bob Angers Jr.

President James R. Oliver has called a special meeting of the board of directors of Acadiana Neuf for Wednesday to reconsider aTabled motion on the question of reorganization of the governing agency of the anti-poverty program in six Southwest Louisiana parishes.

His call was prompted by a telegram from Herbert L. Tyson, district supervisor of the Office of Economic Opportunity Office in Austin, Texas.

"We have recently received applications for funding and re-funding of all Acadiana Neuf projects," Tyson advised Dr. Oliver in the telegram. "The funding date of these programs is Jan. 1, 1967 and in order to assure continuity of operation of all projects, including central staff, the applications must be processed by this office at least two weeks prior to Jan. 1, 1967," he added. "Although a temporary delay was granted," said Tyson, "it is necessary that the board take initial steps towards reorganization immediately in order that we may proceed with the orderly processing of the applications on file."

"Any further delay in acting on recommendations may result in breaks in the continuity of operations and seriously jeopardize our OEO program as OEO funds are scarce and demand is heavy," the OEO district supervisor warned. "Further delay might result in the available supply being utilized in other areas where the community action agency's organizational structure meets the requirements of the enabling legislation. I urge you to act immediately and communicate your decision to us," he told the Acadiana Neuf directors.

In a covering memorandum to board members, Dr. Oliver stated "The enclosed telegram was received by me. I believe it is self-explanatory, but the urgency and shortage of time lead me to call the special meeting of the board as indicated in the next paragraph. I feel we must decide at that time whether the motion to consider the recommendations is to be taken from the table or not." He asked for the special session at 4 p.m. Wednesday. The meeting will be in the War Memorial Building in Lafayette.

At its regular meeting on Nov. 16, the board tabled indefinitely a motion to accept recommendations made by Tyson calling for reorganization of the board.

The Tyson formula called for increasing board membership to at least less than 24 nor more than 36 members. As presently constituted, the board is made up of 14 members named by the police juries and school boards of Lafayette, Acadiana, Iberia, St. Landry, St. Martin and Vermilion Parishes, as well as the University of Southwestern Louisiana. Thirteen additional members are chosen from the six parishes to represent the poor and minority groups.

Tyson's guidelines would call for 12 representatives of public agencies, 10 minority representatives, two from the general public and 12 from the poor.