Acadiana Neuf OK’s Plan
To Aid Small Businesses

The establishment of a Small Business Development Center in Lafayette was approved yesterday by Acadiana Neuf, the local war on poverty committee.

The venture, if accepted by the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, will serve the parishes of Lafayette, Vermilion, St. Martin, Acadia, Iberia, and St. Landry, the same parishes served by Acadiana Neuf.

Marvin Byn, chairman of the committee which studied the possibility of establishing the SDBC here, presented a budget of $41,816 for the first year. Ninety percent, or $37,000 will be federal funds, and the rest, $4,816 will be contributed locally in kind, office space, telephones, etc.

The purpose of the office will be to help persons, with a poverty status, buy or establish a small business. Through the Small Business Administration, with regional offices in New Orleans, these persons will be loaned funds if they have exhausted other possibilities and have been unable to finance their businesses.

The purpose of the Acadiana Neuf group will be to study the requests and provide counseling and technical assistance as needed, to insure the success of the business.

A director will be hired to supervise the office through Acadiana Neuf. The director will be expected to have a degree in business or a related field, and to have some business experience.

At yesterday’s meeting, Henry Liberstat resigned as Acadiana Neuf’s representative from the Vermillion Parish Police Jury. Liberstat now makes his home in Lafayette Parish. He was replaced by Kern Broussard.

In a prepared statement, Liberstat urged this group to bring into the organization persons from lower economic levels and asked that jobs available through Acadiana Neuf should specify that persons of any race or color may apply.

“I vacate my chair, urging your continued efforts in the war on poverty, and urge more specifically that your vision forever include the complete human you seek to serve—his intellect and skills, his emotions, his need to belong, his need to be a part of his own economic and material salvation,” Liberstat said.