ALL FIRED UP — Opelousas Attorney Marion White, a member of the Acadiana Neuf board of directors, gesturing across the room to Joseph Glorioso of Lafayette, during an explosive meeting of the board Wednesday. Sister Agneta Catherinie, board member from Abbeville, is at left, and a large gallery is in the background. (Advertiser Staff Photo)

TEMPERS RAW

Revamp Rejected
By Acadiana Neuf

By GEORGE FAWCETT
Advertiser Staff Reporter

Tempers flared and confusion reigned Wednesday afternoon at a board meeting of Acadiana Neuf. Directors of the six-parish program, scheduled after more than three hours of debate, without formulating plans for reorganization before the March 1 deadline set by the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Dr. James H. Oliver, president of the board, said after the meeting, "OEO will surely discontinue funding the program and, with no funds no operation."

He said there were no plans for another meeting prior to the March 1 deadline.

The group did not vote to abandon the program, however, failure to come up with a plan for reorganization, said OEO representatives from Austin, will be considered by OEO to be the board's final decision on the matter.

OEO spokesmen told the directors Wednesday war on poverty programs already in operation in the area may be able to apply directly to OEO for funding after March 1. These programs would include:

- Head Start
- Southern Consumers, a cooperative of poor parents banded together to raise their economic status.
- Franklin Moftit, attorney for OEO, warned however, that allocation for these operations should be on a priority basis with monies from a new program only for use in the western district, and the Austin area.

"Any new individual program in the area would have to be the priority," Moftit said, "not the other way around."

"We're going to look at the present board structure. We're going to make a decision and go with that," Moftit said.

The Austin attorney said that OEO could not go along with the representation of the board. He said, "You can't have representation of the poor, you can't have cooperation of the poor."

Mr. Glorioso, representing the Lafayette Parish School Board, said, "We are going to ask you to remove my shoes."

He said, "We have given you (Continued on Page 4, Col. 3)"