

REPORT FROM

JUNE 20-28 1964

CLEVELAND
COMMUNITY PROJECT

2908 JAY AVENUE

ERAP-64-3

Review of the Events of the Week:

- Saturday, June 20th -- Twelve ERAPers arrive at 3:00 am at 2908 Jay St. (pardon, Jay Avenue) -- nine will stay, three move on after sleeping.
- After sleep and breakfast, outline of the day is prepared, and two committees appointed: the paint-up committee of the whole and the potatoe keepers -- who prepare the menus and buy food.
- Three rooms of the main project house are painted: this activity consumes the entire day.
- girls also set-up house at 3128 Woodbine Avenue

Internal
only

Sunday, June 21st -- Slept late, and met most of the day, making plans for the week. The group decided on the following areas of responsibility;

W.M.
Indig/ea

- Potatoe Keeper: Kathy Boudin plan menus and buy food.
Charlotte Fein
Nanci Hollander
- Broom Keeper: Oliver Fein fix-it and clean-up.
- Treasurer: Dave Neuberger bookkeeping
- Research Keeper: Paul Potter prods research outline fulfillment
- Internal Education: Dickie Magidoff stimulates such programs.
- Tutorial: Joannie Bradbury organize and stimulate a program in co-op with ICPP.

Dave stress

- Ollie and Dave N. attended the CORE Employment Committee meeting, where plans for surveying the Bureau of Unemployment Comp were finalized.
- the evening was settling in time: free for all.

research

- Monday, June 22nd -- Ollie and Sharon met with David Antebai, social worker at the West Community House and Rev. Don Armstrong, pastor at St. Paul's Community Church. Plans for the summer voter registration project were discussed, and suggested contacts from both men were written down.
- The Ward 8, which comprizes the Near West Side Community east of West 45th Street was divided into "turfs" and teams for each area were established:

Strategy

Lakeview Terrace Projects:	Nanci Hollander
	Paul Potter
Riverview-Abbey Road area:	Judi Graham
	Ollie Fein
Jay Avenue Area:	David Strauss
	Charlotte Fein
Clinton Avenue Area:	Dickie Magidoff
	Joannie Bradbury
	Sharon Jeffrey
Orchard Area:	Kathy Boudin
	David Neuberger

Making connections

Tuesday, June 23rd

- discussion from Sunday on VR approaches was continued.
- two hours of house-to-house contacts were made
- a visit to the Library on 38th Street, brought contact with Mrs. Prescott, the librarian, who offered to maintain a shelf in the library for interested project members, of books that she felt the project would find profitable.
- a talk by Mr. Andreas, of the Urban Renewal Department was heard at St. Paul's Church together with the summer staff of the Inter-City Protestant Parish (ICPP)
- the evening was occupied by further settling in, and a visit to city council meeting -- which was demoralizing.

Wednesday, June 24th

- Judi and Dave S. began to participate in the CORE survey at the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation (BUC)
- Mounds of food was purchased for enforced consumption
- A visit to the Welfare Office brought in much interesting information: Ohio ADC mothers, though on the food stamp program, receive only 70% of the standard for decent living established by the state; general relief clients receive on 63%. A family of 11 feeds, cloths, and travels on no more than \$0.61/day/person.
- visits to the Catholic Church, St. Patrick's and the Frankl Circle Church, showed these churches to be turning toward the inner-city and its problems with greater force.
- internal education docketed for the evening, had to be postponed as telephone calls began to communicate the story of the missing Civil Rights workers in Mississippi and the chaos of Viet Nam ambassadors from Lodge to Taylor...the group responded to these events with some depression. Tutorial discussed.
- West Side Civic Council meeting attended: Baseball attempt
- Joannie and Kathy assisted in the BUC survey, all morning.
- Mr. Eiban of the AFL-CIO COPE committee, who is working on VR was visited by a delegation of project members. Mr. Eiban wanted the project workers to compile lists for Ward 24, which they refused to do -- this caused some hurt feelings, which were cleared up some the next day by telephone.
- Nancy and Dave S. attended a meeting of the Emergency Council of Clergy for Civil Rights, at which the Mississippi events were explained and calls were extended for financial and personal participation, if necessary.
- the entire afternoon was spent in the field on house-to-house contact.
- evening was spent with Sam Pollock and Frank Cimino of the Meatcutters Union, Local 427 -- Mr. Pollock offered the use of his library; the use of Union Local 500's mimeo machine,

and an opportunity to raise funds by picketing for the Union as well as addressing envelopes. Sharon was chosen as liaison with the Union to arrange these opportunities.

- Thursday, June 25th
- First baseball game umpired by CCP for community kids
 - Paul and Dave S. went for the final morning at the BUC office
 - Free morning for most
 - House-to-house contact during the afternoon -- Nanci left for several days in Dallas
 - Paul's paper on research was presented, and topics chosen by the group:

Established Poly Power in NWS -- Sharon Jeffrey
Cleveland Politics and Power -- Dave Neuberger
Recreation -- Dickie Magidoff
Schools -- Dave Strauss
Landlords and their business -- Judi Graham
Public Housing -- Nanci Hollander and Paul Potter
Credit Structure -- Charlotte Fein
Welfare -- Joannie Bradbury
Unemployment -- Kathy Boudin
Public Safety -- Paul Potter
Medical Care -- Ollie Fein

Nanci Hollander will be able to chose differently on returning if she wishes.

- Friday, June 26th
- free morning
 - continued house-to-house field work during afternoon and early evening
 - internal education discussion was taken up, from the postponed Tuesday night event: Dickie Magidoff presented his paper. A loose structure for the internal education was decided upon, and four areas of concern: theories of organizing, urban problems, the economy and the movement... discussions will be held once weekly for the group, with a second meeting with a speaker also included. The nature of the next internal education meeting will be determined at the meeting preceding it by one week.
 - discussion trailed into the night and early morning on the question of a new member for the project, Mike Gallantz. Decision was not reached on Friday night.

- Saturday, June 27th
- The entire day from 11 until 5:30 was spent in discussion: Several issues were brought up --
 1. the Review of the Week, with projections for the future
 2. the Mike Gallantz "problem" -- which was decided in favor of his coming, provided that he bring some financial support to the project, as other participants had; that he stay the entire length of the summer; that he come by Sunday evening, June 28th; that he realize the difficulties that may be wrought by coming late in terms of his having to "break into" the group. Contact with Mike has been unsuccessful as of this writing. (later reports indicate Mike has decided not to come to Cleveland)
 3. Policy on visitors to project discussions. A broad policy was spelled out, saying that some discussions would only be effective if the project could be free

to discuss problems without the presence of visitors. Such meetings will be scheduled early in the week... and visitors should be invited at other times accordingly. Also members of the project will feel free to suggest that unscheduled discussions in their mind should be held with project members only, and visitors will be requested to leave at such times.

-- the evening was spent in making further neighborhood contact and just relaxing.

Sunday, June 28th -- this day was declared, time-off: project participants in small numbers attended St. John's Church; some went to the beach, others relaxed in the project house.

II. Program

A. Community Organization:

Strategy
Voter Registration was chosen before the summer project began, as a good first introduction to the Near West Side, on both the "establishment" level and the house-to-house level. Accordingly, the Cleveland Community Project concerned itself with the issue of Voter Registration during its first week -- using VR as a method of introduction to individuals in the community, although pairing this introduction with demonstrable concern for other problems in the community. No one was optimistic about the potential of VR in building neighborhood organizations: settlement house workers, ministers and most of all the project shared this pessimism. Indeed, the experiences of the first week bear out this presumption -- VR was dropped in most house-to-house contacts, and conversation focused around other problems. Nevertheless, strategically two goals were kept in mind:

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1. House-to-house contact should seek to elicit names of additional contacts for VR or just plain organization; as well as a description of the neighborhood and the character of its inhabitants.
 2. House-to-house contact should provide a sounding board for issues and a source of problems and possible issues.

The success of this method of contact in meeting these goals will be discussed later.

C.M.
Geographically, the 8th Ward became the locus of project activity, for reasons of economic dependency, transiency, poor housing, political impotence, and so on. The ward was divided into five areas, and a team of two organizers was assigned to each area, except one, which had a team of three organizers. Each team developed its own methodology of approach. In general, two methods were ultimately used: either, the random, hit or miss, door-to-door approach; or the contact-to-contact approach (several contact names and addresses in each of the five areas were suggested by ministers and community house leaders, which were followed up first, asked for additional contacts, which were followed up second, and so on). In the final analysis, all teams used a mixture of both methods, and it is impossible at this time to indicate which method would be most successful in organizing endeavors.

Generally, a positive evaluation can be given to this aspect of the first week. In terms of the goals of house-to-house contact, organizers got the impression of an extremely heterogeneous area with regard to nationality backgrounds and also with regard to economic well-being. The former east European constituency is now the main component of the population over 60 years old, and is heavily speckled with small concentrations of newly arrived Puerto Ricans, Appalachians, and deep Southern whites. Economically,

poverty and slum conditions do not exist uniformly, or even visibly. Some organizers were surprised to see that the "Spanish-Harlem-type-treeless" poverty did not exist in the Near West Side. Others were impressed by the sense of institutionalized poverty (\$2100) of the public housing projects, which might be likened to living in a prison: no one starves, everyone has some clothes and food, yet these people are poor. It is an organized system of poverty as opposed to a community of poverty. All agreed that the Near West Side was an interesting place to live in -- the narrow alleys, with closely packed housing makes it "fun" to walk around in. In terms of issues, little progress seemed to be made. Recreation, playgrounds, removal of condemned houses, and street lights were most frequently mentioned, but not universally. The disjointed nationality configuration, working together with alienation, prevented neighbor from knowing or associating with neighbor. Some teams found people ready to join an organization, others found no one who felt there was value in banding together. There was general agreement that part of the lack of success in finding an issue, may be related to the neutrality of our position in talking with people. It was resolved that we will try to give people more than a neutral impression during the following weeks.

In conclusion, it was decided that VR will remain our entry into the households of the Near West Side, but issues and broader causes of problems will be more strongly stressed. An outline of additional emphasis for our second week of house-to-house contact includes:

1. Recontact: attempts should be made to recontact individuals interviewed in the first week. This should be done out of a sense of maintaining a friendship, as well as presenting more specific organizing plans or issues for sounding out. This recontacting should be done with two types of people: first, those that appeared to be potential organizable on the first go-around and second, those randomly selected among the previous contacts, to see if impressions change over a period of time.
2. Increased contact with Established Groups: teams working in areas around St. Paul's Church should keep in contact with Rev. Don Armstrong; around St. John's should increase contact with Rev. Eichenberger. Community House contacts should be increased: Dave Antebai and Mr. Betea. Union connections should be expanded from Eiban, Pollack and Cimino.
3. Extended Community Contact: in broadening contacts on the house-to-house level, attention to five points should be kept:
 - A. Try to determine if there has been a progression "westward" of invader groups over the past decade, and whether that has increased or decreased recently.
 - B. Try to determine which group in the community has a majority of the constituents: groups should include nationality groups, and economic groups.
 - C. Try to find out which group has the largest number of children.
 - D. Try to discover the proportion of families on welfare in each area.
 - E. Try to determine how permanent each group is, in terms of remaining in the area of the Near West Side.

B. Unemployment

As outlined in the prospectus, the issue of unemployment and real effort in organizing the unemployed was planned for later in the summer, after a community base had been established. However, since CORE's Committee on Unemployment has started to be action in this area, it was decided that we should become familiar with their approach. To do this, several representatives were sent to the committee meeting at the CORE office, and we volunteered to help take an "Unemployment Survey: outside the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation on several mornings during the week. Both white

and black were to be approached on the survey. Joan Bradbury's observations were typical: "What struck me most was the difference between the two racial groups. The Negroes I spoke with were mostly young and intelligent and had given quite a bit of thought to the problem of unemployment. They thought for the most part that unemployment was not due to some personal failure but rather that there were not enough jobs to go around... They thought that organizing was a fine idea. They also gave their names freely. This was not at all true of the whites. They were a motly assortment of old and sick, and those whodidn't speak English well. They were hesitant to give their names, and although they too felt that there were simply not enough jobs, they didn't think that organizing was the answer." During the coming week, we will continue to cooperate with CORE, without extending our activity into the unemployment sphere any more directly.

C. Tutorial

This service oriented aspect of the program was discussed at length. Originally it was thought that this program could be conducted together with the summer interns of the inner-city Protestant Parish. Joannie Bradbury made contact with Leslie, one of the workers at St. John's. In the project, there was division of opinion about participation in such a program, which had little organizing value. The question boiled down to whether or not it was worth spending the time to work with such kids, so as to derive another slant on the community, and to participate in tutoring for its own sake. It was decided that the project as a whole would not participate in tutoring, leaving that choice to the inclination of the individual. In any event, such a program would not commence before next week, when time adjustments could be better estimated. Also, it was felt that each individual participating should be able to choose his own tutee, that older age groups would be preferable, and that tutoring should take place in the home where possible.

III. Internal Functioning:

C.2
The general internal functioning of CCP could best be described in the words of Dickie Magidoff, as "loosey-goosey". In many senses, authority is evenly dispersed throughout the group. This concept is embodied in the notion of "keepers" rather than directors. That is, the research director is really called, and acts, as a research keeper, who prods others, as well as helps them, to work on their research. This informal structure causes some rambling at times, but so far it is safe to say that no large problems have arisen because of it.

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Menus are prepared by a committee of three: but cooking is shared with all in the group, cooks rotating every day. Clean-up or broom-keeping is organized on a weekly basis. CCP is operating on a pooled treasury, of individuals and foundations, with expenses limited by the group. It is a little known, but proud fact, that our food costs for the week averaged \$0.49/day/person. After having held back for the first four days, Sharon Jeffrey announced, "I thought everyone was being polite. I've been starved all along." In reality, the group has been fed pretty well, and the weekly allotment of \$3.00/week/person, has been operable for extra expenses.

Research for the summer will be strongly community oriented around eleven topics: public housing, credit structure, public safety, recreation, schools, welfare, the political establishment on the NWS, the politics of Cleveland, landlords, unemployment and medical care. Each member of the project has selected a topic, and will prepare a research outline for the group. These outlines will not be sophisticated approaches to the broad topic, but rather specific questions, with definite answers, which will require no more than one morning a week for its completion. Research is viewed as augmenting community work, not substituting for it.

C.2?

Internal education was discussed at great length. Four general areas were outlined, with broad questions in each, for the basis of internal education: theories of community organization, urban problems, the economy, and the movement. The structure of internal education was developed loosely -- the nature and reading for the next discussion will be determined at the meeting preceding it. Resource people will be invited to some internal education meetings, and it was suggested that one such meeting with a speaker could be held once a week, while internal education for the group alone should be held at least once a week. Strategy sessions will be called when needed.

Fund raising will take several forms, not all of which have been decided upon. The group will take responsibility for speeches for labor and church groups for fund raising purposes. Work for the Meatcutters Union as envelope stuffers and pickets would also bring monetary return, and could be shared by all members of the project. Concretization of fund raising plans and objectives still must be discussed within the project.

IV. Internal Discussion

Part of a measure of a project's cohesiveness, is the number and quality of internal discussion around policy issues that effect the project's direction. Several such opportunities for discussion occurred during the week. First, was an issue precipitated by Sharon's invitation to Thurmond Harrison to visit Cleveland. Thurmond being Negro, raised the question of the project's relation to the community on this issue. The discussion that followed challenged the group to deal together with a problem that had moral as well as pragmatic dimensions. On the moral ground the presumption was for Thurmond's coming, and pragmatically it was decided not to hold open-house while he was here, although his mere presence was thought not to be detrimental to community relations because the rumor structure of the community was judged undeveloped. But the questions that were raised were valuable. One person writes, "On the personal level, I feel as if I've already compromised my values, by being here at all, by deliberately not inviting Negro friends to come here, by responding non-committally when presented with derogatory comments re the "colored". Strategically, I have no basis to judge its effect on the community or our position in it: but it seems foolish at this point to do something which may prove a significant hindrance to our achievement of long range goals. But, on the personal level, I couldn't argue for Sharon to call him back and tell him not to come. So he's coming: we'll see."

Another issue which stimulated internal discussion revolved about the question of inviting a community youth, Jerry Hamilton to our internal education meetings. Jerry attended the discussion which determined the program for internal education, and requested that he be able to come to those meetings. Opinion was again divided within the project: some feeling that Jerry's presence would inhibit a free discussion of ideas and the use of jargon, and might even give him a wrong impression of the group; while others felt that the innocuous character of some topics, such as urban problems, and the educational character of the meetings, would provide excellent ground for Jerry's introduction into new ideas. An uneasy final conclusion of this discussion delineated three principles: 1) internal education should be held primarily for the project group alone; 2) however, some meetings should be open for Jerry; 3) he should be made to feel that we really wanted him to join us when possible, but that there was good reason that he not come to all meetings.

These have been just a few representative issues over which discussion ranged during the past week. Strategy discussions have been held in ad hoc sessions, at ad hoc times, and have covered a number of the organizing issues. In sum, all these

discussions have bound the group together: perhaps, what is lacking presently, is informal discussion among project participants to build up the personal as well as the communal.

V. Introduction to the Community

Together with the summer staff of St. Paul's Church (part of the inner-city Protestant Parish) the project visited established community groups: the welfare department, the urban renewal director for the NWS, the library, the public housing projects, the churches in the area and the community house. These contacts are mentioned here for evaluative purposes. The general impression was that representatives from these groups "knew just what was wrong (though not from a radical perspective), but seemed to have a vested interest in what did exist." As noted in the events of the project, these visits were concentrated in the first few days of the project. There is some feeling that this was good, although better spacing of work in the community, with organized informational contacts could be developed. Some felt that more info about government programs should be presented at the Institute or in the first couple or weeks in the city. Generally speaking, most all the visits were valuable, in learning about government programs and the people who run them.