

NEWARK

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AUGUST

NOCCP in this collected report

Housing

EMAP-64-9

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AUG 1964  
STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

2

The focus of activity for the past week has been rent strikes buildings began major rent strikes with two more considering Newark laws provide absolutely no legal protection for the legal basis for withholding rent, no rent control and no tenur sufficient reason for a strike. Everything is on the landlord right to assess the value of a tenant's furniture and have it of money. (Response of tenants in one building: So what -- it companies anyway.) Anytime after the rent is due the landlord to court, sue for dispossession, and win, unless the tenant h money. Tenants can sue the landlord for repairs but he can g paying a relatively small fine. Given these obstacles we may. On August 1, three learned that there are some legal precedents for a rent strik it. Unlike New York, housing conditions. A ray of hope.) Our weapons are publicinant. There is no other blocks. Many of the strikers are on welfare. Although e. Nor is poor housing tions are terrible it is still a toss-up whether welfare willd's side, including the duce their checks. Thursday 10 local people including two gr hauled away in lieu staff members visited Granville Cherry in Harlem to discuss r belongs to the loan fiery and got everyone excited about rent strikes but had d can take the tenant that was applicable to the Newark situation. as come across with the get away with merely well lose. (Just another. Most of this building -- 25 units -- is participatie based on poor from them...Monday night they will talk with our lawyer and tty and support from Ridgewood apartment house has seven out of nine families on s the housing condi- their superintendent : who is great. One building went on support them or re- project guidance although they had been talked with previousleat youths, and five six families are withoylding rent but not as a group. ent strikes. He was little information

The Hillside building is tough, very nitty. Many have been t well lose. (Just another. Most of this building -- 25 units -- is participatie based on poor from them...Monday night they will talk with our lawyer and tty and support from Ridgewood apartment house has seven out of nine families on s the housing condi- their superintendent : who is great. One building went on support them or re- project guidance although they had been talked with previousleat youths, and five six families are withoylding rent but not as a group. ent strikes. He was little information

We also learned a valuable lesson about approaching rent stri a really terrible apartment on Belmont wanted to organize a s was drawn up which she distributed. Although she was warned jail at sometime or of a rent strike immediately, she got very excited and talkedng. Above quote is little response. Apparently the rent collector lets everyonehe landlord. \* The their rent so that no one will protest the conditions. The ltrike and are led by the woman to leave and on Friday the apartment was torn up anstrike without any set it on fire. Moral: Pick carefully the person who will hoy. Three out of learn what the rent situation is; and find out whether or not can be trusted before you t'y to organize a rent strike.

BLOCK ACTIVITY

Action on other blocks is varied but generally moving ahead. kes. One woman in trike. A leaflet not to broach the idea it up. There was be slightly behind in ndlord has asked an attempt made to d the first meeting ; the superintendent grips with the real issues than any other group we've worked w mothers and tough.

\* These tenants tend to be more radical, more aware and more rthe superintendent grips with the real issues than any other group we've worked w mothers and tough.

Strategies

gender

People have made ing signs, and to the people made another iate police interven- eady to come to ith. Many are ADC

tion. When challenged, after two hours of talking to people, everyone refused to give identification. The police threatened arrest for loitering but didn't actually do it. Two block on Hunterdon have merged and are doing a housing survey with the intention of demanding inspection and code enforcement. Chadwick, the only block within the rehabilitation area, is running into strong opposition from the rehabilitation people. The head of their token local-participation front, Ralph Simms, attended and dominated their last meeting. Block reaction to him was hearteningly negative but there is still a danger of cooption and we see a long struggle.

SMEAR CAMPAIGN

Tuesday evening the following leaflet was distributed on the three streets closest to the office, including the police-picket street; also on Hillside and Belmont. "Who are the OUTSIDERS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD? DO-GOODERS or NO-GOODERS. DON'T TRUST STRANGERS who don't belong in our neighborhood. What these strangers are doing in Newark. LET'S KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE FOR OUR CHILDREN.

CLINTON HILL COUNCIL FOR BETTER HARMONY"

As far as we can tell, most of our contact shrugged it off but we have no measure of its effect elsewhere. Several people thought we had written it and felt it was poor taste for us to be calling people who don't come to meetings, strangers. Others, mostly active block people were quite concerned and added several names to our list of possible sources. Contenders for the honor are the rehabilitation people; the cops; local muslims; Councilman Bernstein or some of his friends. The last seems most plausible although a few of the staff feel it may represent an alliance between the first and the last two groups.

THE "HOT SUMMER"

The racial situation has intensified in the past week. Two Negro girls were threatened after they leafletted with guys from the project. At a Hunterdon meeting the staff person (a girl and the only white present) was questioned hostilely by one of the men who felt she had no right to be in the neighborhood. He was extremely drunk and the incident shook everyone up for a while but there have been no repercussions.

A rally to protest police brutality in Newark and the killing of Powell was called Wednesday night by Coggins of Negro Labor Vanguard. On the heels of Harlem, this was sufficient to panic a good portion of the Negro and the white community. In general we saw the possibility of a riot as a good opportunity for confrontation over some basic issues. In a long discussion Wednesday morning we planned how we would get people together to draw up the demands. However, there was no riot. There was hardly even a rally. The Negro and liberal "leadership," scared of a situation they couldn't control, didn't have the guts to fake it. In a colossal sell out they asked the mayor to take control. He agreed to meet regularly with civil rights leaders (He will choose them and call the meetings) and the purpose of the rally was changed to voter registration. The cops had told all nearby storeowners to close up which tended to frighten people. Our staff observer at the rally counted an equal number of cops and "people," about 150 each. (The cops mostly stayed on the roofs.) About 50 reporters and photographers also showed up. Several politicians spoke but a rainstorm scattered every one before Jesse Grey's late arrival. ("I'm not accustomed to rallies starting so early.") There was concern that a Mississippi Freedom Project rally Sunday would turn into a riot but it was merely innocuous and dull. A block leaders meeting Monday Night will take up the issue of formulating and presenting demands particularly around housing.

Food expenses are down to 45¢ a day. Occasional contributions of dinners and other food have helped a little. Our "executive director" Warren Grover, had been

Survey

diff obs-ct  
2/2 gender  
C. 6  
attempts

Police

complaining about the amount of money we spend a week. We note that an entire project of 13 people is fed for a week on his salary (50 dollars). And to date he has earned this money by a) fund-raising (55 dollars), b) running to Stanley Winters when he doesn't like what we are doing; c) talking to people. (We've yet to see a report on any of these "meetings.")

HAZARD

1165 BROADWAY NYC

JULY 31

The Federal 'conspiracy to dynamite a railroad bridge' trial of Berman Gibson and seven other miners ended last Thursday. The jury brought in the following verdicts: three of the men were found not guilty; four were found guilty; and there was a hung jury in Berman's case. The men who were found guilty had been tricked by the FBI into signing confessions at the time of their arrest a year ago. The judge ruled that these statements were admissible as evidence and the jury found the men guilty on the basis of the confessions. It is clear that if the men had money available for bond at the time of arrest, or good lawyers there would have been no time for the FBI to talk these illiterate men into signing statements. If they were not desperately poor there would have been no trial! Berman did not sign a statement but was cited as the leader of the conspiracy. Because the jury could not come to a verdict there will have to be a new trial in Berman's case. We will also be faced with the job of appealing the guilty verdicts to a higher court.

TRENTON

521 MARKET

The Trenton project might be considered strategically important in several respects: it is a liberal city, and therefore might be more likely to be moved into a radical path than a conservative city. It is the state capital of New Jersey and would be essential to any pan-Jersey idea. Its urban renewal program is the basic city problem that a city can attempt to deal with and is also one in which liberal-type solutions are inadequate.

We have had some successes and developed some commitments in South Trenton. We have established four block organizations and our work to change the city's urban renewal program will not succeed unless it is continued until the time of actual clearance. The area includes 400 units in the South Ward and 200 in the Mercer-Jackson area. There is a possibility our efforts, if continued, might result in more low-cost housing being built in the city.

There are many reasons, however, why this project should not get priority in the allocation of permanent personnel: we have not found sufficient leadership potential; there has been an absence of action so far, and possibilities for a city wide movement are not bright because of 1) fairly low unemployment with many people on the government payroll, 2) there is only one other solid depressed area of any size, and 3) housing in the city includes a very high percentage of owners and one-family renters. There is also the possibility that Princeton people may be sufficient to take care of our commitments.

Actual resources are few. Relations with the small, suburban CORE group have been non-existent for the last three weeks and there is no hope of further useful

cooperation. Unions all identify with the liberal Democratic machine that runs the city. We have reasonably good relations with the Mercer St. Friends Center and the city's Mercer-Jackson project director, both of whom we expect to remain cooperative, but not enthusiastically so. Other city officials are becoming progressively more alienated.

Two Princeton people on the present staff will be available to work in the fall, and there is the possibility of a dozen more workers who have gone to Miss. for a month this summer. The head of this group is very amenable to such work. There is also the possibility of help from Trenton State, where the local civil rights group's president has sought our help in establishing a program for the fall, and from Trenton Junior College, the editor of whose paper has been working with us this summer.

Some money might be raised in Princeton, but little or none from the community.

In regard to the allocation of money and personnel for the fall, we would use the following criteria:

- Continuation  
Criteria*
- a) projects which are building radical political structures rather than just protest groups should receive priority.
  - b) Projects which are now or can in the near future work with whites as well as with Negroes should receive priority.
  - c) Experimentation should be within projects meeting the above criteria. Special considerations may admit independent experimental projects, but these should be kept in lower priorities.
  - d) Little significance should be given at this time to any projects because they relate to the pan-Jersey idea or because of pan-JOIN considerations.
  - e) The ability of the project to serve as the base for a campus organizer should receive serious consideration.

## LEGAL ASPECTS OF RENT STRIKES IN CHESTER

In Chester the rent strike is a means of social protest outside the legal framework. As long as a tenant inhabits a dwelling, he is legally obligated to pay rent. The law bolsters the position of the slumlord; the magistrate's job is imbedded in property and entails ordering tenants to pay rent. Delaware County is not the best place to challenge the legal system, but local courts anywhere would be reluctant to over rule the long-established claims of property.

Jesse Grey said to "hell with the law" in regard to rent strikes; lawyer Harry Levitan would recommend that we know it. He is a Philadelphia lawyer with much experience in civil rights law who must represent landlords in order to be able to afford to help the honest poor.

He recognizes that we are involved in social protest and social change; consequently his forthright pessimism about the law did not dim his interest in the possibility of success of a social nature. He would not be able to be our counsel of record here in Delaware County because Pennsylvania is one of the few states that forbids a lawyer from practicing outside the county in which he has his office.

His information did not deal with the appropriateness of the rent strike as a tactic. He did not talk about the Chester dialectic or which form it would take -- whether protest would produce a co-optive Greater Chester Movement or incite a brutal police reaction. He knew the particulars and they are the following:

Two warnings were given. First, advantages accrue in attacking a landlord who does not use written leases (they are not required). Lawyers have been writing leases for a long time and are hired to write them by landlords. Almost anything in them is bound to take away the rights of the tenant. Second, he recommended that we next stage a rent strike unless a housing inspector has recorded violations of the Chester Housing Code for that house. Records of violations must be filed, probably at the courthouse in Media, the county seat. Levitan stressed that you can look pretty silly in court with only a rent striker's say-so that his roof leaks. However, in Chester the existence of violations has no legal effect on the tenant's obligation to pay rent. The city's four lethargic housing inspectors inspect only a handful of the thousands of dwellings which do not meet the standards of the Housing Code. Considering these two facts, we feel that Levitan's second point of advice should not and can not be binding in Chester.

In the preparatory stage before a rent strike begins, the tenants' fear of the landlord could be crippling. The fear does have some justification. If there is a ritten lease it will set the terms for eviction; if there is not, the legal presumption is usually that the tenant must have 30 days notice. The tenant may also take his landlord to court where the tenant must show why he should not be evicted; for example, because he did not break the lease. Few tenants know their legal rights; even if they do, a persistant landlord can evict them.

Levy and eviction are the landlord's weapons against the tenant. The former is ostensibly only to collect money for rent, but, because landlords don't like freedomites and troublemakers, it can double as an attempt at eviction. The landlord might choose it for this purpose because levies don't have to go through the courts. The constable is the official, loosely affilitated with the magistrate's court, who the landlord has bound to make the levy. Levitan says that the constable can get in trouble if he doesn't follow the landlord's orders; however, we have found in Chester that constables seem to act with some independence and engage in wheeling and dealing. The landlord tells the tenant that he is going to send the constable to his house because he is behind in his rent. When the constable comes, he shows the tenant the distraintment notice listing the furniture on which he is going to establish a lien so that it can be sold to get the money for the rent. At that point the tenant should had him a paper sbying "I claim my \$300 exemption," an exemption which he has under Pennsylvania State law. The establishment of this claim insures that if the constable proceeds with the sale, the tenant will receive the first \$300 from it. Above that amount the landlord take s the rent owed and the money to pay the constable's costs. Any momey above that amount returns to the tenant.

The claiming of the exemption may be enough to stop the levy, particularly if the tenant has moved his television set and other valuables out of the house before the constable comes. He puts a lien on what he sees; if what he sees wont bring \$300 at a public auction, he may decide not to go ahead with the levy. The constable cannot remove the furniture from the dwelling; the public au is held there. The buyer removes it, with the sheriff's help if necessary.

The Landlord's lease usually grants him great discretionary power to evict tenants. If the lease includes what id known as a "judgment by confession" clause, all that is required for the eviction of the tenat is the landlord's signature under a note telling him that he is evicted. If no written lease exists, the landlord must ask the magistrate or justice of the peace to issue an eviction notice. The tenant may appear in court at this time to argue against the landlord's repossession of the dwelling. If he hasn't been paying his rent, the magistrate will order him evicted. The tenant can appeal the decision, but it would be costly because he would have to put up a bond of the amount of the judgement, the costs, and the

such demonstration for a swimming pool. On Tuesday, the head of the Dept. of Recreation met with the 14-year old representative of the group and Stanley Branche. At that meeting, the City talked re-opening the central YMCA to west-end kids, and having a pool available by next summer. We are awaiting concrete news. Also this week: Stanley Branche came out in favor of partisan, pro-Democratic registration.

The voter registration drive has been extended and intensified during the week. Many more people have been involved in doing leg-work and office-work. The CFFN street corner rallies, sound trucks and floods of leaflets have been employed to inform the public of the drive and stimulate registration. The presence of the roving registrars who will be in town next week should also serve to increase the effectiveness of the campaign. We came up with a proposal calling for democratically elected police, mimeographed and distributed the demand on a leaflet for one of the CFFN rallies. A few hours later Herman Dawson, head of the Negro Democratic constituency in Chester and chairman of the voter registration drive approved and supported the measure. We worked with the Democratic party on a platform which includes public housing, elected police, rent control, tenants' councils, and medical care for all those who need it.

The block organization are continuing their activities. On Monday, Mary St went up to City Hall and won for their block 3 stop signs, 2 watch children signs and a promise that the trash would be collected -- which it was. Also, the kids barefooted and barechested, went up to demand dirt to fill in holes in their yards. While they did not succeed in getting the dirt, they were highly honored by the Police Department, who sent over two flashing cars with a number of wonderfully obese cops. Kerlin Street took a trip to City Hall demanding a street light and a stop sign. They also went to a corporation bordering their houses to demand that it provide lights in the alley which it shadows. Other blocks have been circulating petitions asking for rent-control and low-cost public housing. The Department of Public Safety has been deluged by 93 of our housing complaint forms and requests that they inspect the houses (16 of these from a single block). Because of our decision last week to abandon work on one of the blocks which had been organized during the school year, we put two project members to work on the formation of another organization on a street which is plagued by bad housing, and which serves also as a hangout for Negro unemployed men in the west end.

The staff too, has seen some changes this week. On Monday, Ellen Churchill joined the group for the remainder of the project, on Wednesday Tom Large left -- honored with ice cream and cake. Wednesday night we engaged in an all-night discussion. The catalyst that precipitated this meeting was our real-estate agent, who appeared in our doorway in the afternoon, demanded to see the head of the house (project member Don Jackson) who was not here, and appeared visibly distressed by the maps, CFFN notices and WE SHALL OVERCOME signs which enhance our office-living room walls. He was, however, ultimately concerned with the fact that we had not paid our rent. What he referred to was the fact that we, thinking our landlord had not procured a certificate of occupancy before we moved in and thus thinking we had some legal rights, had, in a fit of uncontrollable glee, stopped the rent check which was on its careful way to the Man's office. So we sat -- all Wednesday night -- trying to determine what our strategy would be in attempting to remain in our original abode. We did not arrive at any conclusions. We did come up with the previously mentioned proposal that the people be able to elect their police democratically ward by ward, and with the decision to push that demand as an issue. On Thursday, "our" agent returned (with an inspector who "happened" to be there too) and told us that he did not want our rent any-

Victory

way, that we were to consider ourselves evicted, and that we had to be out by the following day. His grounds were that we were not occupying the place under the terms of the lease, and that it was overcrowded. After searching all afternoon and early evening for another house, we found out in the evening that we had a legal right to stay at least until the 19th of August. Two project members stayed to straighten out the situation on Friday while the rest of us enjoyed a day at the beach and informal informative talks with members of three other projects. Important note re: internal learning experiences: Those of us who considered sun tan lotion bourgeois and taboo have since been compelled to sell out to a spray on pain killer called "Compassion"...

On Sunday we held another lengthy staff meeting. At this meeting, we pulled together some of the loose threads that had been left hanging from the Wednesday meeting, and discussed the continuation of work in Chester during the year. Specifically, we noted the area which will come under the Project 70 program (see last week's ERAP report from Chester) as being of particular importance in our efforts to organize blocks to make demands against the city and succeed in making housing a major issue.

AN ARBOR NOTE

The Flacks questionnaires (completed by project members) should be brought to the Philadelphia meeting. If extra copies are needed, the precise number should be known, and such information should be conveyed to Dick at that meeting. This is in the interests of Science.

REPORT FROM BOSTON July 25

1. Scalettar raised over \$200 on a fund-raising jaunt in Great Neck. Nat Riley and Rick Doble are working on a fund-raising proposal--got large assist from Booth.
2. Newsletter to be called Conversion Report; took up much time this week and looks like to will probably have been worth it. Will appear on Thursday or Friday.
3. About ten fearless BPREPers ventured to Bedford for the survey; it has now been handed over (including remaining interviews and data analysis) to part-time people.
4. Major breakthrough in Bedford: The Fellowship for Social Action, a fair housing group, is looking for something new to do. Rev. Whitaker will probably become the head of it in the fall and it will probably then concentrate on Conversion. We are now involved in a discussion of our relationship to the Fellowship.
5. Two new staff members who have worked into the organization beautifully: Diana Klein, upper senior at Hunter, and Marcia Lutwick, senior at U. N. C.
6. We have begun contact work in Lexington--this is going slowly.

----Reporter, Chuck Levenstein

# PHILADELPHIA 721 MARVINE

JUNE 27

During the last two weeks both the form and content of our organizational activities have become more definite. Probably the most important factor contributing to this was the decision to modify our internal organizational emphasis from geographical areas to economic sections of the population. Our last report stated that we were considering working with seven groups of people: 1) Longshoremen; 2) Agricultural workers; 3) Construction workers; 4) the unemployed; 5) Youth; 6) Mothers on welfare; 7) Domestic workers. We have decided to concentrate our efforts on four of these: 1) longshoremen, 2) agricultural workers, 3) the unemployed and 4) mothers on welfare. We decided that youth, construction workers, and domestic workers would be too hard to find and would not provide the ready basis for organization which we need at this point. A number of people have been assigned to be responsible for each of the four groups. The organizers for each group will make up a program, make and maintain personal contacts, and do the necessary research. It was felt that such organization would eliminate much of the inefficiency and frustration involved in large group discussions and would facilitate the creation and execution of a program based on the experience of those working with the people as opposed to a program arising out of general discussion which runs the serious risk of being too theoretical. We are thus carrying on several parallel organizing activities which relate directly to the specialized needs of each group, but which could also be combined when the issue is appropriate. The division of labor will not prevent a concentration of effort on one activity where needed, but each person's primary and continuing responsibility will be to one particular group of people and the issues which concern them.

## LONGSHOREMEN

Those working with longshoremen have been limited in making personal contacts to the few hours around lunch each day when they engage in extensive leafletting and talking to large groups of people along the shore. This is felt to be the most efficient way of reaching people, and as yet only a handful of people, or less, have been contacted who seem actively interested. As previously mentioned, the unions are a large obstacle to any organizational work. Talking to union people and Port Authority people has taken up most of the time and energy not devoted to leafletting and talking to longshoremen in person. The two ILA locals have been contacted repeatedly, and although we have received certain information from them, there seems to be little possibility of their cooperating with us actively. One of them may be hesitant because of a suspicion of our being a "leftist" group.

Because of the power of the unions, our activities should be seen by longshoremen as supplementary to and outside the scope of the unions. We are therefore talking most about the federal government's support of company demands without any provision to take care of the hardships the implementation of demands would cause.

The first concrete step toward action for longshoremen is scheduled to occur on Tuesday. A meeting has been called for the purpose of getting individual longshoremen active in organizing and to plan a possible action in the form of a demonstration or petition. Such plans are, however, still very indefinite and the prospect for the immediate future seems to be continued leafletting and discussions with the hope of eventually breaking the workers out of their stoicism toward their impending unemployment and their subjection to union control.



## WELFARE MOTHERS

Although it was originally thought that the unique nature of the needs of this group of people would make them an unwise group of people to work with, two considerations have changed our minds. First is the fact that there is an immediate issue available which is important to the people, which has some chance of being acted upon successfully, and which has a relation to other economic issues. This is the need for a child day care center for mothers who are working or would like to work but are unable because of their children. Work in this area has been centered upon, and thus far restricted to, mothers living in an integrated public housing project. There is a large number of people living on public assistance in the project and discussions with many of the people have revealed that the need for such a center is widespread and deeply felt. A meeting has been called for this Wednesday to make plans for action.

CSA  
The second consideration is that there is another organization in the city which has already met with substantial success in organizing families on welfare. It would appear that there is at least some chance of organizing to take action on public assistance allotments on a city-wide basis. At least the already existing organization should be helpful in making the transition to more far reaching issues if we have any success in our initial endeavor.

Research is now being done on what kind of day care already exists in the city, who provides it, what services are available, etc. There is some question as to whom it is best to petition for a day care center. It might be desirable for instance to have the school system provide this service. Further research is needed before a decision can be made on this, however.

## THE UNEMPLOYED

The issues being dealt with in this group are those which specifically relate to problems of people who are unemployed. There is likely to be some overlap with other groups on certain issues. For instance, retraining is the issue which we are focusing on now, and there appears to be a basis for eventually getting longshoremen interested in this also since their jobs are being automated. Also the families on welfare are obviously a specific part of the unemployed who will be joining forces with this group on certain issues.

The rationale for having a committee to work on organizing the general unemployed is basically that it is necessary to make and maintain active contact with many people in the community who would not naturally be interested in the issues which affect the more specialized groups. Contacts have been made by going door-to-door, by getting referrals from priests and others in the community, by leafletting in front of the comp office, and by talking to people who come into the office.

A meeting has been planned for this Tuesday evening which will try to make definite plans for action around retraining, although we are keeping ourselves open to suggestions for other issues to work on. At present the most likely plan seems to be getting vast numbers of signatures on a petition and having a small delegation go to the Mayor to present it to him in person. This idea has been favorably received by those we have talked to about it.

## PROPAGANDA

In addition to the organizational plans described above we have undertaken a systematic propaganda campaign to spread our ideas and to make our name known throughout the community. We made up a simplified general leaflet which we distributed to every house in our sixty-six square block area. The purpose of this was to lay

a foundation of knowledge about us in the community which would hopefully remove some of the suspicion about us in the neighborhood. There are some indications that we were successful in at least making people aware of our existence, but the suspicion of us as outsiders will diminish mostly with time.

We have also put out a series of pamphlets primarily to be handed out at the comp office. We have a person handing out leaflets at the comp office whenever it is open and have met with a favorable reaction, even among those who show no interest in participating.

Further leafletting may be done on questions which affect the whole community, such as the effect of highway construction on employment, but no definite plans have been made for this.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

We have met with the vice-president of the neighborhood civic association who was very interested in our activities. He thinks it would be advisable to approach the civic association formally with a request to get their support so that we could use their name to give us a legitimacy in the neighborhood. He said that there would be no strings attached, but we find this hard to believe. We will probably approach the civic association anyway to see what they have to offer us.

Finally, the Chester people joined us for a showing of a film on the Vietnamese war produced by the Front of National Liberation.

# REPORT FROM HAZARD

Report of the special committee of their meeting with the Perry County School Board, which was held on July 17, 1964.

We were advised beforehand that the meeting would be public, but upon arrival we were advised that the time would be limited to ten minutes.

We entered no objections to the time limit but thought it kindly out of the ordinary that a group of citizens, whose children were entrusted to the care and supervision of the Perry County School Board, should be limited in time for the discussion of all the inequities of the administration, not only of the administration of the Federal School Lunch Program, but the inadequacy of the transportation system and the dilapidated condition of some of the school houses. The attitude of the board was negative from the beginning and conveyed the impression that they were the masters and we were the slaves without any right to question their administration in any way.

We were aware that this condition existed in other public offices, but it came as a surprise that the Perry County School Board should express themselves in such a manner as to defy the investigation of their conduct by any citizen or group of citizens.

The investigation disclosed that all high schools and consolidated schools were adequately taken care of as far as the school lunch program was concerned but about fifty percent of the school children were being deprived of any participation in any kind of a school lunch program.

The superintendant flatly rejected any idea that we join forces and apply to the Federal Government for a program to build consolidated schools and eliminate all one and two room schoolhouses. He also rejected the idea that we initiate a program that would assure all school children having a school lunch program at all schools.

The superintendant, who seemed to control the thoughts and aspirations of the individual board members, made it clearly understood that they would run the program as they thought best to further their own aspirations, even though their administration excluded a large percentage of the school children of Perry County. The superintendant expressed the thought that we begin at the Federal level and work ourselves down through the various Federal and State departments but, we informed him that we would start at the school district level and work our way up to the school board and that we would demand that all schools be allowed to participate in any Federal and State supported school program.

It is obvious that the people in the various school districts will not receive any support from the school board in their endeavor to reap some of the benefits from large Federal and state appropriations of the taxpayers' money for the express purpose of furnishing lunches for the children unless they organize and demand full participation in the administration of such programs. It is the intention and purpose of the Apalachian Committee For Full Employment to render all aid possible to the citizens of each school district in their endeavors to gain recognition as free American citizens and a responsibility and duty to aid and assist the Federal and State departments in their attempt to wage a successful War on Poverty.

Reporter: Everette Sharp  
Chairman of the School Lunch Committee