

November 6

1100 E| Washington, Ann Arbor

HAZARD REPORT

(Reprinted from the Appalachian Committee for Full Employment's newsletter, Voice for Jobs and Justice: November 5, 1964)

Illegal Procedures Charged in Connection with Picking of Election Officers

Hazard, Ky. -- William Engle, Chairman of the Perry County Democratic Executive Committee, filed suit in the Circuit Court against the Perry County Election Commission charging illegal action in connection with the selection of election officers. The Perry County Election Commission is made up of Charlie Combs, High Sheriff, Eulus Napier, Democratic Election Commissioner, and Mrs. Lester Baker, Republican Election Commissioner.

It was charged that the election officers were to have been picked by September 20, but were not selected by this commission until a week before the election. It was also charged that the Perry County Election Commission picked election officers who were not on the submitted list in 11 precincts.

Circuit Judge, Don Ward, issued a mandatory injunction and requested that the coroner notify the allegedly illegally picked election officers not to serve, and to inform the 1963 election officials to serve instead. The coroner was unable to find the High Sheriff. The result was that on election day there was confusion, and voting was held up at some polling places for as long as 2 or 3 hours.

Sheriff Combs stated that the charges were not proper because they had not been filed within the five day limit before the election. He emphasized that the election officers were picked in an attempt to assure fairness.

People Needed to Plan Programs

There is going to be a planning meeting for community people who are interested in developing programs to be used in applying for federal money through the Economic Opportunity Act. The meeting will be held on Monday, November 9 at the office of the Appalachian Committee for Full Employment.

Bob Heifetz, a community planner for the Committee For Miners, will be there to help put the demands and needs of the community into a formal program. The programs drawn up will be presented at the next meeting of the Upper Kentucky River Area Development Council which will be held on November 23 at the Power Company.

At the last meeting of this Council, 21 members of the ACFE were present to find out from State and Federal officials how to get some benefit from the new Anti-Poverty Bill. Applications for money for programs do not have to go through county and state officials. They can go straight to the federal government. However the federal govt. has set up area councils, like the Upper Kentucky River Council, which covers Perry, Knott, Leslie, and Letcher Counties.

Don
file

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We don't know about people in Knott, Leslie, and Letcher Counties, but the ACFE know that there are a lot of people in Perry County who have ideas for programs to do some real good here. We want programs that will give us jobs at decent wages, better schools with better pay for our teachers, better houses to live in at rent we can afford, better hospitals and doctors, and roads that are fit to travel on even in winter. In fact there is not much that we don't need here in the county if it is to become fit for people to live in. The Hazard Herald, in an editorial on October 22 said that if the ACFE meant what it said about doing something to help the county, we "should come forward and participate in" the Anti-Poverty Bill.

We did not have to wait for this invitation. Twenty one of our members were at the above meeting and the reporter said nothing about this. At the beginning of the year after we sent a delegation to Washington, we asked Mayor Dawahare for representation on the board of the Perry County Development Association. He said we did not need representation but could come to the meetings. The reporter said nothing about that. Nobody has ever gone to the trouble to ask us people in the county if we have ideas about bettering the county. The reporter said nothing about that.

Well we are not going to wait to be asked. We are tired of having nothing and getting nothing but insults. We are all citizens of Perry County and if we want a better county, who is better to do it. But we need all the help we can get to help ourselves. So come to this meeting on Monday with all your ideas for helping the county. We are going to make our own programs to help us, not just the business people in Hazard. Our programs will help them too. More jobs for us means more business for them.

Grapevine Meeting Held

On Sunday, November 1, there was a community meeting held at Walter Gemble's Store on Grapevine. About 45 people attended. The speakers were Jason Combs, Everett Sharp, Berman Gibson, and Bill Bailey.

There's a Hole in our Mimeograph Machine!

--Yes a bullet hole!--Right in the side. The poor ol' machine chugs and groes and spits each week as it tries to turn out Voice for Jobs and Justice. And the bullet hole isn't all that's wrong with it! It doesn't hold its ink well at all, but cripplingly black gooey stuff on stacks of clean paper. Last week it decided not to work electrically, and page 5 had to be run by hand. Sometimes the machine forgets to sit a mimeograph and decides to be a paper folder. During these seizures, it can ruin up to a ream of paper. We've got to have a new machine soon, or the Voice will be silenced.

Please send your contributions to: A. J. C. F. E.
501 High Street
Hazard, Kentucky

Big Branch

The people up on Big Branch who formed a branch of the ACFE report that they have made some progress in their immediate goals. This group was formed during the summer met in a ram-shackled, bat and bedbug infested school house, and determined that they were going to protest until they got their children hauled out to a decent school. It was difficult to carry on a meeting in that school house because the bats periodically came down and once a mouse ran up a small boy's pants leg causing quite a bit of

commotion. Nevertheless, out of these meetings a delegation was chosen to go to a school board meeting to demand a school bus be put on the road. The school board would make no promises, claiming that the road was too narrow for a school bus. Everyone on Big Branch knew that if huge tandem trucks could use the road, a school bus should have no difficulty.

As far as would have it, the old school house was struck by lightning and burned down at the end of the summer. The children had to be hauled out to a better school. But they were not given a standard school bus until more protests were made by the Big Branch Committee. The Big Branch Committee has recently been carrying on a letter-writing campaign in an effort to get road improvements. They now have a promise from Carl D. Perkins that their road will be widened and graveled sometime this fall.

Think of Something -- by Clayton Turner
Busy, Kentucky

What on earth would we do without the dollar-an-hour program? Some of you were scabbing and eating surplus food and getting your conscience hurt when a gang of me called the pickets got together and begged you to please take a stand with them to keep decent wages. Those pickets had our county's future at heart. They were pleading for your own children's future as well as their own children's future. I know it's true because I'm one of those men.

You've heard my name over the radio and read it many times in your newspaper. I'm accused of attempting to dynamite a bridge at Daisy. I've heard the judge sentence me to five years in federal prison away from my family. I can only hope the Court of Appeals will see things more in my favor. At the present time I'm with you other guys who don't want to be a scab or can't get the chance to be one because so other man is doing three men's jobs under that mountain of black dust. Do you know something--if they ever stop this project we've had it--along with our nine children: our wives, our friends, our grocers. I'm not a proud man. I can't tell my kids that I'm best in anything right now. I don't even stand in the stamp line longest. The always a gang of you guys ahead of me. I nearly didn't make the project because I caught a ride and was seen with a man who our magistrate didn't like, because this other fellow had sent in a petition against the magistrate. The judge lets me work with another man who doesn't like the magistrate. All was fine until the old magistrate starts needing me on the job. I would hate to let the guy down who went my bond and put myself back in jail by taking my own part---so he wins that round.

Yes sir, I'm thankful for the project. My family would starve to death without it. I asked for it along with Berman Gibson and about 26 other men when we went to Washington last winter. But I'm going to feel sorry for my wife standing in the stamp line this winter. You know there's no shelter from the sun or rain or snow. I guess if you other men can put your old bodies out there I can too---that is if they give us a day off. But then we get cold too, don't we. Think of something, big man, please.

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The complete, unexpurgated version of the summer summary report of the Boston project can be obtained from the Ann Arbor office free for the asking. A condensation is in preparation.

ANN ARBOR REPORT

The "slick" magazine has undergone a change of name. The editorial board has decided to change its title from New Era to Venture. Venture was the name of the magazine published by the Student League for Industrial Democracy in the Fifties, and by SDS in 1960-61. Another related piece of information is that the first issue will go to the printer in about a week. At long last.

--Paul Booth

P.S. The reason for an issue of the newsletter coming out at this unusual time of the week is that the Cleveland meeting caused a disruption of schedule, and some of these reports are slightly out of date. With the next issue we will resume the normal schedule.

Major effort in the past week has been on the preparation of prospectuses for the B-PREP program and pursuing early steps toward a questionnaire for the employees of the Navy Yard and the Arsenal. Mike Kirby and I talked with Kenneth Lyons, President of the National Association of Government Employees. Our pre-conceived strategy was to offer to help him and the Union by tabulating any information on the union members that they had in their files that they'd like to have summarized or analyzed, which same information we'd like to have as part of our research effort. We stressed that we were interested in such information on the employees of any installation or company in the Boston Area that was vulnerable to either cutbacks or shutdowns. We listed some of the items we'd like to have and promised to send him a follow-up letter with a more complete and systematic listing. Our strong expectation is that we can make a good case for getting additional employee information that isn't in the files -- once we know what they do have. We expect that if they become interested enough in such background items as "skills acquired in previous jobs but not used," etc., we can also put in a few attitude questions without their raising strong objections. Our "strategy" will remain flexible, however, to say the least. But, step number one was completed when Lyons said we could come back next week and sit down with the staff member who keeps the files and go over their contents with him. It turns out, incidentally, that NAGE represents the maintenance and manufacturing workers at both the Navy Yard and the Arsenal.

Mike Weinstein, Harvard SDS member who has been helping us formulate the questionnaire so far, visited the Arsenal's Public Relations office and picked up some descriptive material. Mike plans to return next week and talk with the PR director about the status and planning at the Arsenal. At the same time, I (Jim Morey) plan to talk with the Director of the Personnel Placement Team, which is a special unit brought in to help facilitate the "phase down," now scheduled at 250 personnel reduced per quarter up to 1967. I expect they can give full information on retraining programs that are available, how many are participating, what the unemployment benefits are, etc. Mike and I will write up the results of the interviews into an article for next month's Conversion Report. I plan to check with Mike Kirby about doing the same thing at the Navy Yard.

The prospectus preparation proceeds painfully but purposefully, with the likelihood existing that drafts (rough as hell) will be ready on each of them before the end of next week. Rather than let the thunder and lightning dribble out in advance here, I'll reserve comment at this time. My goal is certainly to have the drafts reproduced for comments by all at the Executive Committee meeting in the week-end of Nov. 6 and 7. One thing I will say is that as I formulate plans I'm impressed with the need for somehow or other organizing a good-sized work-force from among the fractional-time people available and interested in the chapters plus some TTP'ers. In this regard, I mentioned to Steve Max that Benello of TTP was going to Vermont this weekend to talk to Goddard (women) students about full-time work in the TTP (and PREP if we're interested) office during the work-term, which comes in January and February.

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Steve cautioned that Goddard was on the beatnik side and that maybe a better arrangement could be made with girls from Barnard (could this be Pennington? P.B.). Steve said he'd make inquiries there through a friend. In either case (Goddard or Barnard) we'd have to supply maybe \$40-\$50 a month plus arrange for room and a bit of board.

I had a good talk with Reverend Tex Sample of the Mass. Council of Churches (Episcopal) and he invited me to speak to their International Affairs Committee and said he could include descriptions of our work in their World Affairs Newsletter (which goes out to 2000 or so), would distribute some of our literature, and would expect some of the ministers to say something about it. They can't do direct solicitation through the Newsletter but presumably we could get some private, small donations through the publicity. In addition, I'll press for getting on a speakers list so that we can appear before Church groups and describe our work.

This week we're just beginning to get some organized support in the office and can look forward to more of same in coming weeks.

The SDS meeting at Brandeis was on the small side -- not more than 8 or 10 different people during the evening. The choice of nights was bad -- with two other fairly big events going on that evening. The publicity was strictly last-minute and there had been very little personal contact work of those who might have been induced to come. We still had an interesting talk on conversion, but the set-up so far doesn't look terribly healthy. Steve Max has been looking the situation over and will give me his diagnosis and recommendations before he leaves.

Last but not most, we managed to take in \$133.65 in donations in spite of the fact that our funding campaign is still in the holster. This amount will pay Conversion Report expenses plus some old (nearly bad) debts accrued during the summer. A program of funding activities by the SDS chapters will be discussed at next week's steering group meeting.

Our staff goes from the October rate of two-fifths man-month per month to one man-month per month, as of Monday, November 1st. That is an increase of 150%, be gory!

--Jim Morey

Urban Renewal

Last Monday (Oct. 26th), despite last minute confusion over the meeting place (due to the church minister's having to oppose his Board of Trustees), we had a rally with over 100 people. Don, Jimmy Williams from Philadelphia CORE, Wilbur Johnson and Val Chambers from the Young Adults Council (the civil rights group that brought Stanley Branche into the Chester movement) and Herman Dawson of the New Democrats (a pretty independent Negro branch of the city organization) spoke against urban renewal - Negro-removal programs. Jimmy Williams told of Philadelphia CORE's similar anti-urban renewal fight. He also offered their facilities to print a newspaper for us when he was told of a press blackout against our position.

Last minute efforts to put our views across to as many people as possible will include: Fred Chambers (former VP of CFFN and a Penn Project member) and Bill Daindrige drawing up a comic book on how urban-renewal hurts a poor family to be printed up by CORE; our making posters with "Negro, Wake Up Vote No on the Debt Increase" to be put in store and home windows; block leaders drawing up an information leaflet to be circulated by community people in their areas, by Swarthmore kids in other areas. The Swarthmore kids will also try to determine the effectiveness of intensive leafletting by comparing results from an intensively leafletted white area with an unpropagandized one. Pending a permit from the city fathers, the New Independent Committee for Better Urban Renewal (NIC) probably will have the use of sound equipment on Monday. On Tuesday Swarthmore Dems and SDS members, block and NIC people will serve as poll watchers along with some Negro Democrats who will also push our stand. In addition, all of the blocks know about urban renewal and will help until the campaign for a high protest vote against the bond issue and for a Democratic ticket is over.

This may sound great BUT, except for the Chester Parents' Association (our version of the New York Tax Payer's Association and Birchers), the Orbit Artists Association, the Committee for Freedom Now and the other previously mentioned organizations, we are alone in our fight. Just this past week, the NAACP and the Negro Ministers' Association came out for the City's program.

Block Work

Blocks, with the exception of the Mary St. and the Kerlin St. groups, have suffered from inactivity due to time spent on protest rallies. The last block leaders' meeting produced seven people from Mary St. and six from all the rest of the areas.

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Saturday afternoon the Mary St. and Kerlin St. groups will take a break from the Nov. 3rd rat race to begin building a playground; that is, to clear a city-owned lot and to put up a fence and a swing. They will then try to get more equipment from the city. The City recreation department has been notified of our intentions. One fellow and I talked about presenting a bill to the City for our work. If we pull this one off (and maybe even if we don't) we will try for another playground and recreation building. The men on the two blocks are helping each other on their particular projects. Most of the men are unemployed most of the time. Eeo Volente, the beginning of a modified JOIN organization. The meeting that produced this project also produced a letter to the state welfare department protesting inadequate checks and medical care, asking for an inspection of the local DPA; and the leaflet for the playground project.

action

Wednesday night block leaders will continue last week's long discussion on how much we should become ensnared with or dependent on the Greater Chester Movement (GCM). This discussion involves many questions that staff disagreements have focussed on: radicalization, effectiveness of block organization toward radicalization, JOIN vs. GROIN, mass movement vs. block organization in relation to democratic participation and city-wide economic and social change, protest of GCM and the President's anti-poverty program vs. reaping the few fruits it offers vs. a combination of these two positions. We will write more on this later.

Every Sunday night, staff, community leaders and part-time staff will meet in an effort to lessen the force of ideological differences by starting to make certain decisions as a group. This group has a loose structure and a limited area of decision making.

Rent Strike

Chester is considering a rent-strike strategy similar to Newark's. We have, in the past week and a half, stumbled into the landlord-realtor-constable complex, and are looking for a lawyer who will fight any and all illegal actions by this part of the Establishment. Tony Amsterdam, one of the best lawyers in this field, is getting information for us but we need a Delaware County lawyer, which he is not. So far, the NAACP and ACLU have produced no one.

Finances

Recently our financial picture has been very bleak. Only with the special efforts of outside friends were we able to pay our last rent (five days late). One ray of hope came to dinner last night, Lloyd Lewis from Pendle Hill, a Quaker Adult Education Center in Wallingford, Pa. Lewis also works with the Race Relations Committee of the Friends Yearly Meeting in Philadelphia. He was on special assignment to Chester from this group last year and participated in the demonstrations. Mr. Lewis is going to put in a good word for us with a foundation which gives money to SNCC. This may net us \$500 or \$600. In addition he's offered us some facilities at Pendle Hill for meetings or relaxing/meditating purposes away from the whirl of Chester. Great.

Love,
Don, Molly and Peter

Hello Drapers,

This is a copy of a letter sent to the Chester local paper. It contains a synopsis of our critique of urban renewal and our objections to the Greater Chester Movement.

The demands at the end of the letter are all the demands of the "grass-roots" folks--with, perhaps, one or two exceptions.

The demands came out of block meetings, meetings of the New Independent Committee for Better Urban Renewal, and long sessions with the membership of the Committee For Freedom Now, the Young Adult Council, and the head of "Murderers" Row"--a local "gang" of appreciable strength and containing some "real sharp cats"--(my brother used to "swing with Row").

The letter was signed by Wilbur Johnson, president of the Young Adult Council (YAC); Stanley Branche, chairman of CRAW; and me, chairman of the New Independent Committee (NIC).

The paper did not publish this letter, but we are sending copies of it to people in the state and national capitals.

Don Jackson

Dear Sir

There are two reasons for this long editorial letter. First, we want to point out a few basic criticisms of the urban renewal and community development programs that the City of Chester and the Greater Chester Movement are propounding. Second, we want to put forth urban renewal and community development proposals and demands from the people themselves who inhabit our slums, ghettos; and blighted areas.

Historically, the officials of this city have used urban renewal and community development programs as political grab-bags with no consideration for the poor and working-class Negro; and almost as little consideration for poor whites and Puerto Ricans.

Chester's Puerto Rican population has shrunk from a high of approximately six thousand to the present figure of about one thousand because our city has offered these citizens nothing but slum housing, poor education, and joblessness.

Poor white citizens, especially on the far West End have been almost ignored by the city-- except when it has been advantageous for the city to exploit them or curvy their labor. The prejudices of some of these whites have been shamefully used by the powers that be.

Now, in the wake of the Negro unrest that threatened both the Delaware County Republican machine and Governor Scranton's short-lived drive to the Republican presidential candidacy, we witness the blooming forth of the Greater Chester Movement. Besides the fact that the Greater Chester Movement has yet to back up its rhetoric about progressive social change for Chester, we have a moral and philosophical apprehension about the Greater Chester Movement. There are no "grass-roots" citizens on the Greater Chester Movement. It was neither started nor staffed by the poor and working-class people in Chester. Yet, the Greater Chester Movement claims to represent these people. In the fall of 1963 and the spring of 1964, thousands of people marched and protested, hundreds of people were arrested and beaten, while fighting for the very same

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causes that the Greater Chester Movement merely talks about. Yet none of these people were approached by GCM until after it was established. None of these people, with the possible exception of a few leaders, were offered jobs and salaries to continue the fight of the freedom movement for better schools and improved housing conditions.

Whether intentionally or not, the Greater Chester Movement has become the most widely publicized cover-up and buy-off organization in the history of Chester. We, the poor and working class Negroes of Chester, regret and resent this. We call on poor whites and gentlemen and women of good character, of liberal dispositions, and of moral fibre to support our protest.

But it never has been the intention of the Freedom Movement to protest without offering alternative programs, anymore than it has been our intention to attack those whites in Chester who have problems similar to ours. Just as we recognize that our real enemy is the system of a Republican political machine and its financial cohorts, we also recognize that our protest must be substantiated by a program to combat the racial, political, and economic evils that infect the core of our city. We have programs, and we are preparing more programs. We have found the "grass-roots" people who want to work, and we are searching for more. We do not order these people to work; we ask them if we can help.

But, first, we would like to make clear why we are opposed to the current urban renewal plans. Basically, the city's proposed plan fails to help poor Negroes and whites in need of better living conditions. This program would move them from old slums to new slums. For other segments of the population, urban renewal presents a patchwork approach to problems; and, obviously, lacks the all-over unifying design which is necessary. Problems of heavy unemployment, low educational levels, and low income levels demand serious consideration in an urban renewal program. The City's plan fails to deal with the ramifications of these problems.

Numerous considerations other than the real needs of Chester's people have determined the selection of the different renewal areas. The new "Towers" construction for the aged is being built by the expressway to dramatize this entrance into the city of Chester. However, this is hardly the best site for such a construction for the aged in view of their special needs.

Pressure to keep the federal money flowing in for urban renewal has resulted in the hurried development of a number of vague proposals for additional projects. The city has called proposed projects in the Waterfront Industrial Area and in the Central Business District study areas. It has not outlined specific proposals for action in these areas. The fact is that the City just has not figured out how to deal with the needs of these two areas. In order to obtain support from various special interest groups and because of certain federal requirements for urban renewal programs, the city has had to allege falsely that it is dealing with the needs of these two areas.

Moreover, the recent inclusion of the Waterfront area in the program has resulted in constant refusals to enforce the Housing Code there. Urban Renewal in the vague future is no excuse for failure to enforce codes and ordinances now.

Of course, more industries must be attracted to Chester to give jobs to our larger reservoir of unemployed. Some of these industries could be brought into the

waterfront areas. However, these areas should not be cleared for industry until the relocation needs of the area's population are met. Plans for relocation must take into consideration the high level of unemployment and the extremely low income of the average family in that area. It has been stated that the relocation needs of these people will be met by offering them older houses in other parts of the city on long-term mortgages. Why must these people whose homes are being torn down, in turn be offered the discards of other groups?

A dissenting, forthright member of the City Planning Commission has stated that this proposal will fail to meet the needs of large numbers of people in the Waterfront Area who have limited incomes; and, thus, cannot afford to buy homes even on long-term mortgages. Given the low level of their incomes, publicly-financed low-cost or low-rent housing is the only solution to their problem. However, the city has stated that no more public housing will be built to meet these needs.

The Smedley and North Central Redevelopment areas, with their vacant land, would present ideal sites for construction of new, low-cost publicly financed housing. The city's proposed program for these areas lean heavily on rehabilitation of existing buildings. That approach to renewal is derived from a plan which was used in New Haven, Connecticut; however, this plan does not meet the needs of Chester. Much of the housing in these areas is really too old to be repaired. New Housing must be put up in these areas.

The City's program depends entirely on privately financed housing. Thus, the current housing shortage and the probable increased shortage with the demolition of housing in the waterfront area will force the continuation of high rents. Yet, there is no rent control law, and we have been told by a city official that, "politically, rent control is impossible". Special interests are being allowed to dominate urban renewal planning to the exclusion of those citizens most in need of help.

Besides, these other problems, the City of Chester must face the problem of financing an urban renewal program. The City cannot borrow money without paying it back. At present, we cannot be assured that there will be increased assessments for industrial or residential development. Construction of industries below 2nd Street cannot raise the tax base more than ten per cent according to an urban expert involved in the current plan. We cannot expect urban renewal to meet the needs of the city until a new source of revenue is developed.

The facts are that a member of the City Planning Commission has told us that urban renewal is impossible in Chester until the following conditions are changed: high unemployment rate, low average income levels, inadequate EPA allowances, low educational level, and a lack of needed job skills. The proposed urban renewal program is not being enacted with concomitant programs to deal with these problems.

Jobs, job training, housing and schools are the critical needs of Chester today. Until coordinated efforts are made in all of these areas, no urban renewal can be accomplished which will really benefit all of Chester's citizens.

Here are some of our proposals and demands for a concomitant urban renewal and community development program. Until these proposals and demands are met, we must vote "NO" on any debt hike that gives the City, under the guise of urban renewal

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and the Greater Chester Movement, a blank check for the buying and selling of our homes and our children's futures.

1. Low-cost and low-rent homes, mortgaged or rented by monthly rates equal to the rental rates of Federal Government constructed housing; i.e., on sliding scales based on actual incomes per month. The housing groups should be small, varied in architecture, financed by government monies, and constructed by Chester's own unemployed at union wage scales in conjunction with city and state training programs such as the Manpower Redevelopment and Retraining Program. These housing groups must be administered, insofar as possible, by tenants' councils.

2. Recreation centers and artcraft training centers, for all new and existing housing groups. These must be staffed by community people given supplemental salaries. Outside professional help should be used only in an "on-call" advisory capacity.

3. "Little Schools"; i.e., neighborhood study, recreation, and nursery centers must be initiated in every lower-income community, Negro and white. Preference should be given to those neighborhoods that already prepared to work for and staff "little-schools". For a prototype "little-schools" plan, we suggest that of the Philadelphia Congress of Racial Equality.

4. Full, retroactive enforcement of relocation laws with the stipulations that, hereafter, anyone dislocated by any area redevelopment program will be relocated in a home that meets the requirements of the Housing Code and can be rented at rates equatable to those of low-rent public housing units.

5. We strongly urge that area redevelopment programs entail no increased taxation for DPA families, for the unemployed, and for poverty and marginal poverty groups, as defined by the Federal Government. We demand, also, that any study of Chester's tax structure has the protection of lower class renters from landlords who pass property taxes off to tenants in the form of high rents—a central goal.

6. Training programs and public works (schools, housing, highways) programs to provide training, jobs and incomes for all of Chester's unemployed and to provide unmarried, independent youths with incomes at least equal to forty hours per week employment at \$2 per hour wages and to provide living costs to artists, extra-institutional social workers; and low-wage earners and families of the unemployed above the level of the Federal Government's definition of marginal poverty in Northwestern urban areas.

7. We ask the planning commission, the urban renewal directorate, and the Greater Chester Movement to endorse our demand that the City Government enforce the Housing Code fully, save any case wherein full enforcement would require eviction.

8. A city-wide network of "tot-lots" and recreation areas similar to the playground at Eight and Lloyd Streets and the Ruth L. Bennett playground between Second and Third Streets on Reary. The rehabilitation and modernization of existing recreational facilities and more widespread after-school use of school recreation facilities. Here, again, local staff of supplemental salaries should be hired and trained.

9. Modernization and expansion of the Deshong Park Museum into an art library, art gallery, music and children's library cultural complex.

10. Housing for the aged should be interspersed with other public housing. We are anxious that the young learn from immediate contact with the elderly.

11. Public swimming pool facilities by next summer, centrally located with respect to low-income areas.

12. The immediate initiation of rezoning studies into the possibilities of removing bars and taprooms from the proximity of educational and recreational facilities.

13. Immediate initiation of study programs with the aid of facilitating the construction of an open-air theatre for dramatic, musical, art display, and creative writing displays (readings) and art training. Such a theatre would have to employ local artists of experience and recognized talent, regardless of formal training. These artists, in turn, would be paid to teach non-tuition pupils of promise, especially from low-income and culturally deprived areas of the city.

14. We are compelled by our concern for dignity and decency to demand that negotiations begin immediately between ourselves and other responsible parties for immediate rectification of the West End "stop-gap" library fiasco. Until then, we must assume that all other parties, besides ourselves, are not acting in good faith and do not have the real interests of Negroes and other poor or working class elements in mind. And, on the basis of that assumption and the other criticisms here presented, we must continue to urge the citizenry of Chester to vote "NO" on the November Third debt hike issue.

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WE DEMAND:

- (B)
1. Low-cost and low-rent homes, mortgaged or rented by monthly rates equal to the rental rates of Federal government constructed public housing; i.e., on sliding scales based on actual incomes per month. The housing groups should be small, varied in architecture, financed by government monies and constructed by Chester's own unemployed at union wage scales in conjunction with city and state training programs such as the manpower redevelopment and retraining program. These housing groupings must be administered, in so far as possible, by tenants' councils such as the Penn Project neighborhood committee.
 2. Recreation centers and art-craft training centers, such as those being initiated in the Penn and Bennett projects, for all new and existing housing groupings. These must be staffed by community people given supplemental salaries. Outside professional help should be used only in an "on-call" advisory capacity.
 3. Little schools, i.e. neighborhood study, recreation and nursery centers, must be initiated in every lower-income community, Negro and white.
 4. Full, retroactive enforcement of relocation laws with the stipulation that, hereafter, anyone dislocated by an area redevelopment program will be relocated in a home that meet the requirements of the Housing Code and can be rented at rates equitable to those of low-rent housing units.
 5. We strongly urge that area redevelopment programs entail no increased taxation for poverty and marginal poverty groups as defined by the Federal government. We demand, also that any study of Chester's tax structure has the protection of lower class renters from landlords who pass property taxes off to tenants in the form of high rent as a central goal.
 6. Training programs and public works programs to provide training, jobs, and incomes for all of Chester's unemployed and to provide unmarried, independent youth with incomes at least equal to forty-hour per week employment at two dollars per hour wages.
 7. Full enforcement of the housing code short of eviction.
 8. City wide network of lot-lots and playgrounds.
 9. Modernization of the Deshong Park Museum into an art library, etc.
 10. Housing for the aged should be interspersed with other public housing. We are anxious that the young learn from immediate contact with the elderly.
 11. Public swimming pool facilities by next summer, centrally located with respect to low-income areas.
 12. The immediate initiation of rezoning possibilities to remove bars and tap-rooms from the proximity of educational and recreational facilities.
 13. Open air music theatre.
 14. New library.

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Dear Rennie:

I think your response to the idea of using JOIN and other ERAP groups to help build support for the Clark full employment bill doesn't fully take into account the possibilities inherent in this idea, or the significance of the first public debate on public planning since the '40's.

If I.F. Stone is correct, it will be possible to have a major legislative fight over the bill, attended by the national focus and publicity received by the civil rights bill. In this context, it may be possible to build a real national coalition of the major movements of the society. This will especially be the case if radicals now begin persuading civil rights and labor groups that the kind of mass lobbying which were used for the civil rights bill should be mobilized for the full employment bill. In this context, a number of new possibilities open up:

B) options

* The fact that some people are against poverty and some are for it will be shown in Congress, with the Administration's probable desire to water down or defeat the bill exposed. Every unemployed man will be able to see that some of his representatives want to end unemployment and others don't.

* Washington may be far away, but a man's Congressman and Senators are not. In conjunction with other groups, JOIN could exert tremendous pressures on their representatives. Those who oppose the bill could be picketed every time they enter the state, labelling them at every turn as enemies of labor. Some tactic like the March on Washington, designed to involve the rank-and-file of the civil rights and labor movements, could well be forthcoming if such groups are properly mobilized. A real campaign of this kind could involve hundreds of unemployed people in canvassing, petitioning, and the like.

* Action around the bill can create the kind of political alliance within which JOIN political action would not be an isolated, ineffective activity, but rather part of an effective coalition, including the civil rights groups and the unions.

* Within such a context, it is entirely possible that really considerable numbers of people who knew there was a bill designed to attack unemployment and who wanted to support such legislation would pour into JOIN groups as the logical place to give their support. A practical way in which to force the national government to create full employment might become a major recruiting device, although it could of course never in any sense replace more immediate and local issues.

* Given a real struggle over the bill, there is the possibility of a basic change in the whole radical movement. Mass demonstrations of Negroes and whites for full employment could change both the thrust of the civil rights movement and simultaneously start to reverse the white backlash. It could suggest for the first time to large segments of the poor that perhaps political action might have something in it for them. And it would force all those forces in the society which have identified poverty as a basic problem in the society to recognize the relationship between poverty and the privately-planned economy.

It is perhaps this last set of possibilities which is most important. We have staked the main thrust of our program on a set of relationships between issues which we see but which are still hidden from most of the American public, including the poor, by the massive obfuscation of issues which beclouds our body politic. But events are great teachers, and if we have the imagination to let political events serve for us as agitators we may yet achieve that "inter-racial movement of the poor" we started out to develop.

Fraternally, Jeremy Brecher

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