

NEWSLETTER

January 27, 1965

1100 E. Washington

Ann Arbor

Newark Notes

The Newark Project is in the "kind of trouble (that) always comes to people who are getting to the heart of the matter." This is the response of the Newark Community Union Project to the January 23 breaking and entering that resulted in a phony newsletter. Those responsible, as yet unidentified, apparently entered by breaking the windows of the NCUP office. The newsletter which was sent to 500 names on the NCUP mailing list, included the following stories: Clyde Wright, who was beaten at Klein's department store, had admitted his guilt; Ida Brown, a leader in the rent strike, was an example of the NCUP trying to make a "cause", but NCUP is afraid that she will back down; NCUP would picket Judge Del Mauro's home until Mrs. Brown is released, "even if it takes three years"; "Tom, Barry, Carl and Jill Hamberg are (being called) Communists and so are their parents". The fraudulent news sheet was crammed with other stories of similar intent. C6

Ida Brown goes to trial on January 29, badly lacking in financial resources. If the trial becomes lengthy, her situation could become desperate. The latest run-in with slumlord Shustak occurred on January 21. Barry Kalish, Jesse Allen, and Jill Hamberg were confronted in 406 Clinton Avenue (Mrs. Brown's building) by Shustak and were told that they would be arrested for soliciting. When the police arrived, the staff members left.

Geneva Fowler and her husband have had their rent raised because they complained to the Health Department. They were protesting because the landlord was not providing heat. There

File

SERIES 4.A - NO. 8

are several other violations in the building. We have not determined a plan of action.

housing
The tenants at 693 Hunterdon would now be without heat, were it not for the Hunterdon Street Block Branch. The heater in the building was broken in a fire. The Hunterdon Street Block Branch has provided housing for the tenants, and is talking to the landlord.

see vice
The five families living at a house on Hillside Avenue near Hawthorne, were united in their demands for heat and hot water. When the landlord was confronted, he told the tenants that it was colder outside than inside. He was told that it was not the outside, but the inside that was being rented. The Board of Health was called, with good results. The building now has heat, and the landlord promises more repairs.

Last week, CORE and some Trenton residents picketed the Mayor's house in a protest against urban renewal. The Trenton police brought their dogs. But the people of Trenton will not be intimidated. They are backed by the Program Committee of the NCUP. It was resolved that the Newark Project would do "whatever we can possibly" do. This resolution is reciprocal.

SERIES 4.A - NO. 8

THE POWER OF A FEW

On the 18th of January, a group of mothers on public assistance went in protest to a Rally, which was sponsored by an organization called CITIZENS UNITED FOR ADEQUATE WELFARE. CUPAW is comprised mostly of A.D.C. mothers who are concerned with their lives and want to better themselves. The reason behind this rally was the complete ignoring of the School Lunch Crisis in Cleveland. To explain, first of all, Welfare Grants, both Federal and County supported, are at an all-time low - 70% of the State of Ohio's minimum standard for Health & Decency, yet Welfare children are still made to pay 15¢ per day for lunch.

The weather in Cleveland was terrible... cold, sloppy, and just plain horrible, but over thirty-five mothers (other than CUPAW) came, some with children. All in all, over fifty persons participated in this action. One of the highlights of the Rally was singing "WE SHALL OVERCOME, BLACK AND WHITE TOGETHER, WE SHALL OVERCOME".

From the Rally, which was held seventeen blocks away from the headquarters of the County Commissioners. We, as a group, went then to the Administration Building. The Meeting of these officials was already in process and seated in the chambers were two concerned Social Workers and a Minister. We almost filled, entirely, the meeting room.

At this meeting, our two spokesman presented our anger at the "passing the buck" attitude of both the School Board and the County Commissioners. The Socials and the Minister stood and presented statements completely in accord with our feelings, To state our feelings, "our children are hungry while the county is quibbling". The anger of the mothers in the room was very thick. We then decided two spokesmen weren't enough. Mothers stood up one after another venting their indignation at the County Commissioners. This was very effective as it badgered them and made them nervous. I, for one, got very angry when Mr. Gorman, one of the Commissioners, stated that in A.D.C. checks we were allowed for School Lunches and Clothes. I stood up and blasted the whole power structure sitting up on the platform in front of the room. First, I explained in emphatic terms, the small amount of money left from a welfare check, after essentials, and very sarcastically told them this small amount of money also had to be used for clothing of which most of us can never buy. We explained that in another city in Ohio is receiving State funds to help support this feeding of hungry children.

The Rally and Demonstration at the Commissioners chambers, in my estimation, was a great success. The greatest success was achieved when the Commissioners sent a telegram to the School Board requesting an early meeting to go to the State Capitol and ask for State funds to help underwrite the School lunch Program for the coming semester.

--Lillian Craig

P.S. By the way, I am a white A.D.C. Mother member of Citizens United For Adequate Welfare and working on integration in Cleveland.

SERIES 4 A - NO 8

HAZARD REPORT

SPEECH GIVEN BY DOROTHY HAMMER, MOTHER ON ADC AND MEMBER OF CUFAM,
AT A RALLY SPONSORED BY CUFAM TO GET FREE LUNCHES FOR JUNIOR AND
HIGH SCHOOL CHILDREN OF FAMILIES ON RELIEF

Speech at Rally

We are gathered here for this rally to go to the county commissioners in a force instead of the 5 or 10 that have been going. They don't recognize a few so we invited you to come with us to show that not just a few are interested but the whole of Cleveland. When we were there they had a lot of excuses of why they can't support us. One of the reasons was that it's the school board's committment, it's their responsibility. Then when we went to the school board they say they don't have the funds, it's up to the county.

But both of them seem to have so much of the non-necessities like plush carpets in their offices and escalators for the stadium. But they can't give our children the necessities. And also they spend money for detension homes rather than money to feed our children so they won't have to go there.

So we want to go down and ask now not what they can do for themselves but what they're going to do for our children.

Cincinnati fought for this and the Welfare Dept. came through for them by getting the state to pay 40% to their 60% of the cost of the lunch. So why are they any better than we are. We want it too! So let's go down and show them we want to NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!

Statement before the county commissioners

I am Dorothy Hammer, and ADC mother and member of CUFAM, and I'm here because I want answers to some questions. That is, can't we get free lunches for our children? I know you have told us it's the responsibility of the school board. If this is true in Cleveland, why did Cincinnati get it through the county and the state? What have you done to find out if the state would help? If you would take the time to find out if the state would help us it would lessen the burden on you. So why can't we do the same thing as Cincinnati? We're not asking you what you can do for yourselves, but what you're going to do for our children.

children

New Anti-Poverty Group
(Taken from Hazard's Voice For Jobs And Justice)

Jan. 22,---Perry County Judge Babe G. Noplis is in Frankfurt to have an organization incorporated to help wage Perry County's anti-poverty war. The name of the organization, to be composed of 12 men "from all walks of Perry County life," including some retired and unemployed, is the Perry County Advisory Committee.

According to the articles of incorporation, "The fundamental and primary purpose of this corporation is to deal with the problems of poverty among the poor in Perry County, Kentucky. Said Corporations shall have the necessary power to formulate policy and to implement all programs dealing with the alleviation of poverty in Perry County, Kentucky, including applying to the federal government for all types of grants and assistance which might be provided under the Economic Opportunity Act or any other. Federal Fund. This corporation will grant to the Fiscal Court the right to veto, under certain conditions, any proposed projects that are set up that will incur indebtedness to the county..." The court will also have the right to veto expenditures to any overlapping project that already has existing funds. This Fiscal Court will be set up by the corporation to be trustees of the funds and will serve as a depository for all funds received.

The incorporation follows, by a week, a trip that Judge Noplis made to Washington D.C. to submit to the offices of Economic Opportunities a request for \$4,000, to hire a full time planner and staff who would draw up a detailed, comprehensive program aimed at improving conditions in Perry County.

The new Advisory Committee is the second Perry County anti-poverty organization to be incorporated in the last two weeks. On Jan. 12 the Perry County Development Association, an organization of long standing, was at last incorporated. Since these two organizations may overlap a meeting between the two is likely, to determine ways to resolve any conflicts the existence of two such similar organizations may create.

The judge said that the Advisory Committee would wait until the office of Economic Opportunity approved the request for planning money before it began to function. The names of the members of the Advisory Committee will not be announced until the group is officially formed.

Combs Ordered To County Jail

Hazard, Ky. Jan. 21---Jason Combs, Vice-President of the Appalachian Committee For Full Employment will serve an eight hour sentence in the Perry County Jail from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. tomorrow. Mr. Combs was tried in Perry County Circuit Court December 1, on a charge of eavesdropping on the grand jury. The main witness for the prosecution was Hazard City Police Chief,

SERIES 4 A NO 8

Sam "Bud" Lirttrell. Combs pleaded not guilty and stated "The only reason I was there was because I had been called to give information on the shooting of my home and the Appalachian Committee Office." The trial resulted in a hung jury, and Judge Don Ward stated that there would be a retrial in February.

On Dec. 17 Judge Ward ordered Combs guilty and sentenced him to a \$10 fine or five hours in jail. This morning Deputy Sheriff Ed Farler telephoned Mr. Combs and demanded payment of the fine. Mr. Combs refused to pay the fine and was ordered to appear at the county jail at 8:00 in the morning. The sentence was increased to eight hours to pay for court costs. In a statement to The Voice Mr. Combs said "I'm going to go to jail. I refuse to pay the fine because I'm not guilty. The whole case is just another attempt to destroy the influence of the Appalachian Committee For Full Employment. They're more interested in charging me with something than in trying to find out who shot up my house."

STILL WAITING

by Atha Whitson
L & N Yards

I got my regular welfare check last October 3. That was the last check I got and it was for \$100 for four children. I have been taking care of these children ever since my sister died in May 1963. They are my sister's children and their father hasn't sent them anything or come to see them in four years.

On the 27th of October my field worker came to visit the children and said that I would get a check for November but not for December because she had got in touch with the father and he said that he had not deserted the children. She wouldn't tell me any information on his whereabouts. The father did not come and get the children or send any money for them but the check was cut off anyway.

I went back to my field worker several times and told her that I had no way to feed the children unless I got the check back or the father came and got the children. She just told me that since the father said he hadn't deserted the department had to assume that he was taking care of them and couldn't put me on welfare. I didn't even get the November check like she had promised.

I went to the Appalachian Committee For Full Employment office and called the man who is the head of the welfare department in Frankfort, Mr. Anson Paul. He said he would call and see about it. Then a woman from the department in Frankfort called me back and said I would be put on the emergency list and she wished me a happy Thanksgiving. Well, we didn't hardly have anything for Thanksgiving because the check never came.

I kept going back to the Public Assistance Office, but they kept switching my case around to different field workers. They never would tell me anything definite.

I finally went down and got an order from the court that gives me custody of the children from the time their mother died. I got that order of December 15, and the field worker came out to investigate on the 18th or 19th. She told me then that I would definitely get a check before Christmas. I still haven't got the check. We have to live on food stamps, but that doesn't give enough to eat on and we have nothing to buy clothes, shoes, or anything else with.

1. South Africa

I want to apologize, first off, for having waited so long to communicate to the entire Work List about the progress and requirements of the March 19 demonstrations. We have been turning cartwheels trying to unearth the most precise facts of U. S. corporate investment in South Africa, and contacting civil rights and peace groups inviting their participation in both the bank sit-in and the city-by-city demonstrations, and inviting prominent people to join the sit-in.

We have gathered now as complete a list as can be gathered of the U. S. corporations that invest in South Africa. It's impossible, though, to determine the exact amounts of investment company by company. (A Department of Commerce official told me, "Oh, we don't give out that information.") At least we can't use normal channels to find that out; we're now trying some abnormal ones. We also have complete information about the sizes of the corporations in toto, though not broken down country by country. All the information that applies to corporations in the vicinity of each chapter and Work List recipient will be sent out soon. Please make preliminary plans and begin contacting other groups for support. Time is really pretty short.

The following question has arisen in correspondence with some offices and chapters: Should we urge chapters and other groups to concentrate their assaults on branch offices of one particular company (either one particularly offensive, or one that we think may be vulnerable to our pressure to the point where we might actually convince it to cease South African investment), or should we rather urge groups simply to tackle different companies according to their own criteria. For example, should the chapters in the Philly area picket a local Chrysler office (along with other chapters elsewhere) rather than, say, the Crown Cork & Seal Co., whose central headquarters is in Philly? It seems to me that the best argument for "concentration" of attack is the possibility that we might win. But I don't think we can win even there unless we gain massive support from other organizations. I've ascertained that very little cooperation will be forthcoming from the UAW, so the general outlook for allies, at least, initially, among liberal groups is probably gloomy. Another argument against "concentration" is that it would leave the impression, to some extent, that the one company being concentrated on is the only offender--an impression far from the truth. Furthermore, if we experiment on March 19, many chapters tackling many different companies, we may discover some soft spots; the chapters would then be free to pursue them to their limits. So I think our foci should be dispersed, at least until March 19. But correspondence on this point would be welcome.

SERIES 4A NO 8

MESSAGE TO THE PREP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Greetings! To make further plans concerning both South Africa and Vietnam, and to talk about Boston and conversion projects in general, a meeting of the PREP Executive Committee is called for. New York has been suggested as a place; mid-February as a time. (Booth has left for the West Coast and will not be back here until February 12.) PLEASE SEND US YOUR PREFERENCES, BY RETURN MAIL IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

--Todd Gitlin

That point is related to the "March 20 problem": what next? My feelings about that is that until we hear from the other organizations contacted, and see what happens March 19, we aren't in a very good position to make future plans. This too may be debatable; debate is hereby solicited.

Meanwhile, back at the bank, Mike Davis of the National Office has rased the Chase Manhattan's physical plant in a preliminary way, and from his report I would estimate that 60 to 75 people will be needed to block all the entrances. Chapters, at least those on or near the Atlantic coast, should begin figuring out whom they can send as representatives to the bank sit-in. The main focus of each chapter's work in this project should be in its home town, but I hope that each can send one or two representatives to New York on March 19. Other people who want to participate in the sit-in should begin letting me know, with a carbon to Mike Davis at the N.O., so we can keep track of numbers.

The aforementioned mailing will also contain copies of the revised prospectus on the South Africa project. If you want copies before that mailing goes out, let us know. We also have copies available of Bob Laufer's background paper on South Africa.

2. Vietnam

Drafts for the demonstration Call are circulating among the chapters and offices the NC made responsible for the organizing of the March: N.O., PREP, Harvard, Swarthmore, and Baltimore. As soon as a final version is arrived, at, the Call will be printed in New York and shipped out to the projects.

The PREP office is preparing the following materials:

- a bibliography on the Vietnamese war;
- a history of the war;
- working papers on various proposed solutions;
- questions and answers on Vietnam.

People should remember that the central office for the organizing aspects Vietnam demonstration is the New York office; the central office for research, writing, and fund-raising is Ann Arbor.

3. Miscellany.

(a) Some money has been made available for graduate work in areas connected to the study of peace. If you're interested or know someone else who is, please communicate with me.

(b) We're still anxious to find and reproduce critical exposures of American foreign policy around the world, both governmental and private. If you know of any young academics who should be contacted, please contact them yourself or send their names to us.

(c) In the December Bulletin, a leaflet was enclosed containing information about a foreign policy seminar to be run this summer by the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Anyone interested either in that seminar or some projected similar ones should get in touch with me.

SERIES 4 A - NO 8