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ERAP NEWSLETTER

July 23, 1965

46 Arch Street, New Haven, Conn

Report on Michigan by Carol McEldowney

Since the ERAP institute in Michigan was conceived of as a retreat for older staff people and a training session for new people, and not as a decision-making session, no attempts have been made to formally record what happened there. This is, rather, an attempt to report the very brief plenary meeting's discussion.

Most of the institute was devoted to small group discussion of political strategy, societal analysis, questions of democracy, specialized roles for people in the movement, and more concretely, summer plans for each project area. A group of people, however, felt the need to discuss national ERAP and the forms (spiritual and structural) it should take during the summer and subsequently.

There was informal agreement among the people there that ERAP should not have a highly centralized national office, and that
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Comments on Michigan (Reprinted from Newark Community Unions newspaper)

My personal opinion about the SDS convention was that we really did not get anything done at the convention. The lack of communication between the students and ERAP people is the real reason for this.

By lack of communication I mean people had unclear thoughts without really defining them. Because of this people were not always speaking of the same things. Also, this left the majority of the people, not only community and ERAP people, out of the discussion, who should really have been participating.

Campus SDS seems to be more worried about what was going on in Vietnam, while ERAP SDS were more worried about the surrounding areas where they worked. (Do not misunderstand me. SDS is still
(continued page 4, column 2)

Report on ERAP institute cont'd

the ex-Ann Arbor people now in Chicago should be working with JOIN and not in an office. There was also a lot of feeling that certain functions which had been provided by the Ann Arbor office should continue to be carried out, though not necessarily by an office. Several functions were discussed: newsletter, fund-raising, fund-allocation, "face" (which includes publicity and an address to which people can write for general information), and recruitment or general relationship of ERAP to campuses.

People discussed whether these functions should be assumed by an individual project or whether the particular function require more centralization. Is it possible for a function which affects all the projects to be carried out effectively and democratically by one particular project? The general sentiment of the people in the group was clearly towards experimenting with distribution of functions. In some cases, tentative working decisions were made.

NEWSLETTER

There was a lot of discussion at one meeting about what should go in the newsletter. Suggestions included project newsletters; ideas about organizing; reprints of interesting articles, discussions, and the like, that people happened to read and thought should be shared with others; writing by community people; correspondence with SNCC, SSOC, and fraternal organizations or people. No real decision was made about the desirable balance between straight reporting material (project newsletters), and more theoretical and personal discussions. There was also no decision as to whether the newsletter should print everything submitted by the projects or if editorial perogatives should be exercised. There was agreement that each project area should select one person who would encourage material to be written for the project. Maybe those people should now initiate some discussion about what we want the newsletter to be. There is also a question of funding for the newsletter. Attempts will be made to ask those who can afford it to pay subscription costs, but ERAP will have to raise some money to cover total costs.

FUND-RAISING AND FUND-ALLOCATION

Clark Kissinger will be fund-raising full-time for SDS and ERAP. The assumption was that local fund-raising would continue, that projects should try to become self-supporting. Unanswered questions are: for what purposes should funds be raised nationally (what kinds of national projects?). Essentially, what kind of directives, if any, does ERAP want to give to Clark?

How will ERAP distribute funds raised nationally? How will policy be determined--by the check-signer? By a committee? Should there be established policy or should we operate more on an adhoc basis? The decision was that on an experimental basis for the summer, Cleveland would allocate the funds (i.e. sign checks) and would initiate discussion among the various projects as to how funds should be allocated in the future. Right now, the absence of funds to be allocated makes this discussion rather academic! But that situation may change.

Bookkeeping will not be included in the function of fund-allocation. The books for SDS and ERAP are being centralized in the SDS national office, and all relevant information should be sent there.

"F*A*C*E"

There was more disagreement about this function. Some people felt it could be absorbed into a project, some felt it required an office, and some were dubious about the whole notion. There was recognition that Chicago JOIN would probably receive most of the information requests and correspondence of a national nature, since that address is being used. JOIN people will take care of that correspondence but will try, whenever possible, to pass around correspondence, speaker requests, and so forth, to other projects, particularly when those requests appear to be regional in nature. There was some agreement that by the fall we should have one or

(continued next page)

ERAP Institute cont'd

addresses to which people can write for information about a national program, or that some people should develop material that could be used by all the projects.

RELATIONS TO SDS AND CAMPUSES

A related question that was raised but not discussed in depth was that of the relationship of ERAP to SDS: towards more integration or more autonomy? Should there be an ERAP person in the SDS national office? To what extent should publications and the whole "face" area be integrated?

Campus relationships was barely discussed, though some of the questions are the same as for "face." Can effective recruitment be done locally or should it be more centralized (especially for the summer)? What is ERAP's relationship to SDS in this respect?

STRUCTURE AND DECISION MAKING IN ERAP

There was some specific discussion on the structure of ERAP. Since the ERAP committee has long been abolished, and since there is no central office that makes any decisions, we have no formal mechanisms for making decisions that affect large numbers of ERAP people. There was some argument that we should operate on an ad hoc basis, that when there were decisions to be made, people would find ways to get together and make them, and that we shouldn't create structures. There were other feelings that some structure was needed which could be used when "national" decisions needed to be made, for example a decision to have a photo project or other decisions which involved allocations of resources (money and people). Another suggestion was that we should evolve "working committees" as SNCC has, for example, on publications and staff. In all these cases, there was consensus that we needed to think more about what we wanted ERAP to be, what kind of community we should build.

One specific proposal was that we create an ERAP committee to replace the job of ERAP director. A committee of 4 or 5 people would consider itself responsible for such things as maintaining project communication, taking initiatives affecting national ERAP (experimental pilot projects which require national resources), spreading out "leadership" tasks such as speaking engagements or other occasions when national representation is necessary. The composition of the committee would change every few months and the goal would be to involve new and old people alike in broadening the decision-making processes in ERAP.

The decision made at the institute was that Boston ERAP should be responsible for setting up a get-together (sometime in July) for an ERAP people interested in further discussion of some of the above questions. By the fall we may be more ready to talk more concretely about the form ERAP should take.

EXPANSION OF THE ERAP COMMUNITY

The New Haven project is now loosely affiliated with ERAP, though no official or formal ties exist. They have no financial needs but would like to be able to use the ERAP for staff. The same is true for the SNCC people in Carbondale, Illinois, who cooperate closely with the Cairo project and would like to be able to get staff from ERAP. ERAP people are also working in Oakland, California. Staff is needed, but the Oakland people are confident that fund-raising there won't create problems and that they may be able to help
(continued page 4, first column)



ERAP INSTITUTE Continued...

(report from previous page continued) (Newark comments continued from P. 1)

other projects some. Staff people from Canadian SNCC and SUPA also attended the institute, and are anxious to maintain fraternal relations with ERAP and particularly to communicate with us via the newsletter.

People also agreed on the importance of building up a relationship with SNCC that involved more ERAP people and on the need to increase regular communication and cooperation with SNCC.

NEWARK CONFERENCE
AND NATIONAL ACTIONS

A second community people's conference is being planned for the fall, to be held in Newark. The proposal stimulated a discussion on the importance of finding ways in our organizing to create national consciousness and a sense of national movement, and to broaden our resources. There was also some talk about the need to explore various ways of organizing whites, for example, the possibility of trade union organizing, organizing in low-wage industries, working in Appalachia. This discussion is summarized in the recent letter from Tom Hayden which appeared in the July 10th ERAP Newsletter.



WHAT DID YOU THINK ABOUT THE MEETINGS IN MICHIGAN? HOW ABOUT THESE TWO ARTICLES? THEY ARE JUST TWO IMPRESSIONS, AND ANY FURTHER COMMENTS WOULD HELP IN THE EVALUATION OF THE MEETINGS.

working for the good of the people. In a way, each meeting was two meetings in one because each group was talking about different things which concerned them only. This split up the meetings into two different conversations, which made it hard to understand.

The lack of structure was another one of the big reasons for no communication. Everyone talked about everything but did not come to any decisions. They felt they didn't have to listen because decisions were not really expected to be made.

Although this really happened I found the last few days of the meeting very interesting because I got to talk to ERAP students and community people who were working on other projects in different communities. (The last few days was the ERAP institute. The first few days was the SDS convention.) They seemed to understand our problems here and were much more interested in it--much more than campus SDS.

We talked about staff structure and what we were going to do and it seemed that they had the same problems that we did but only in different areas, like we had a problem on housing and they might have problems with street lights and things.

They feel this way that they may run up against the same problems like we did and it would be much more difficult for them to cope with them if they did not discuss them beforehand with people who had those experiences.

From what I can see we could communicate not only on basic problems but on abstract problems. By basic problems I mean like welfare, police brutality, housing, playgrounds and so on. By abstract problems I mean in the way we get to know each other. Like you sit down and talk to people about yourself and they listen and try to help you with it like a counselor or social worker only a little better--A LOT BETTER.

--by Richie, Neil, and Wina

NEWARK report and reprints From NCUP paper

REPORT

The NCUP summer project is just beginning to get underway. We now occupy a new office at 471 Clinton Avenue. Two main factors have contributed to our slow start: a several day diversion to organize a march against police brutality, and the myriad problems of operating a staff of 45 in a democratic manner. Our problems and activities of the past two weeks have led us to focus on several issues, all of them concerned with the general question: What does it mean to build a social movement of protest in a manner that will implement the human values we feel are real?

POLICE INCIDENT

When we returned from the ERAP institute in Michigan an act of police brutality was on the lips of everyone in Newark. Lester Long, a 22-year old Negro had been picked up by the police for loud mufflers. Forty-five minutes later he tried to escape, and while running away was shot in the back of the head by Patrolman Martinez. Police first claimed that it was an accident and that the bullet had ricocheted. Later when witnesses said that the shooting was intentional, police announced a new aspect: Long had slashed a policeman with a knife only minutes before he ran. The different statements made the incidents sound suspicious. Even giving the police every benefit of the doubt, the fact remained that a youth who was stopped for loud mufflers had been shot and killed by a cop--not in self-defense, but because he was caping. The police case was not helped by the fact that Martinez was an expert marksman. (continued next column)

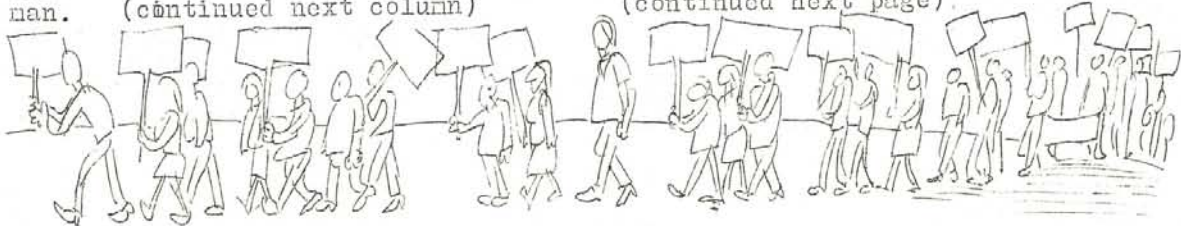
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DEMONSTRATIONS

Our march of June 27 was hampered greatly by the staff disorganization that existed partly because summer people had just arrived, and partly because of the misgivings that many people had about how the march should be organized. Over 100 people did march to City Hall. In terms of shaking the power structure our effects were probably nil. The publicity that we received, however, helped swell the numbers of the CORE march that took place the following week. In lower Clinton Hill, people who felt strongly about the police brutality issue were able to express themselves, while a number of new people became interested in NCUP. Our march was the first one of its type in Newark; if nothing else we learned a great deal from it.

STAFF DEMOCRACY PROBLEMS

The problems of operating a staff of 45 in a democratic manner are much greater than anybody seemed to realize at first. Although many of us regard voting as undemocratic, there is a real question about whether we can afford to take 8 hours to attain a consensus on every issue. How is it possible for this many people to understand and communicate with each other, in order that a real consensus can be attained? Even the problems of fund-raising and meals have become more complex. The initiative of one or two people, who want to do something about what they feel is wrong, is usually not enough to straighten out difficulties. Problems in situations that seem to require quick or complicated decisions have to be solved so that the staff still have control of decisionmaking. (continued next page)



Newark Community Union News continued

SIT-IN CASE--by Jessie Allen

I am Jesse Allen one of the 1- n members of the staff of the NCUP who had a sit-in at City Hall because the mayor refused to meet with us after we had wrote letters and asked for an appointment. We was put under arrest after we refused to leave. We were charged with disorderly creating a disturbance and resisting arrest. After 2 month in court the lawyer argued the case with Judge Del Mauro. At the end all 10 of us were found guilty on both charges. We were fined \$50 each on the charge of creating a disturbance and the second charge which he called resisting arrest we was also found guilty and were sentenced to 30 days in the penitentiary. But the 30 days was given as a suspended sentence and the 10 of us was placed in a year probation and was findd \$26 more at a dollar a week. The probation rules are that the 10 staff members cannot associate with one another. If we did we could be picked up on charges of breaking probation rules and would be sent back to jail for as much as a year. We feel that this is one of the ways that the city are trying to destroy the project. We know of no other sit-in case where people were placed on the probation for resisting an arrest. We feel that we was not resisting an arrest. We sit down after we was placed under arrest. So therefore we think that the case should be appealed and the American Civil Liberties Union are appealing the case for us free although we have to raise \$500 for the transcript of the case. Anyone who has any ideas about how to raise money should contact nd at the NCUP office. 242-6767.



AMERICA--by Richid Clark

This is the land of America, where all men are supposed to be equal, where all men are supposed to be free, the land of the rich and the brave. Do you call this equality, when men are put in different classes, such as rich and poor, is this equality in America? Freedom in America is just an ordinary word. Are you calling this to be free, when you cannot vote in certain states? When the government decided what people should have, when the government tells you when to go to war, this is freedom in America. This is America, the land of the rich, the wealthy land that has so much poverty and yet so much to give away, this is America the rich. This is supposed to be the land of the brave, the men who died on battlefields who though they were fighting for freedom, and yet they do not have freedom in their own state. They've killed men without cause, and for unjust reasons. This is America the brave. America of justice, where the government controls the jury, controls the judge, WHERE POLICEMEN SHOOT PEOPLE FOR UNCAUSE, this is the land of justice and equality, America the beautiful nation. It has so much beauty that people cannot see what's going on before their eyes in America. The beautiful nation America.

PEOPLES ACTION GROUP(War On Poverty)

The first meeting of the People's Action Group (Area Board #3 of the War on Poverty) since the election will be held Thursday, July 22, 1965 at the PAG office at 188 Badger, at 8 PM. Now that the PAG is set up with officers and a constitution we can get down to the business of deciding on what kinds of programs we want for our neighborhood. Teenagers also are encouraged to come so that the teenage committee can be re-established to decide what the teenagers want. Let's get a war on poverty controled by the poor people themselves. COME. Take part.

NEWARK REPORT continued

STAFF STRUCTURE

Also on a more complex level is our staff structure. Only half of the staff members are specifically block organizers. We have a research staff of four including our city planner Jacki Leavitt, plus 3 law students. Other people do organizing around specific issues: welfare, big kids, little kids, war on poverty. Besides committees on finance, office maintenance, and other project necessities, we have tried to enhance communication between members of our large staff by setting up work-groups that would bring different types of organizers together. These groups, as well as all committees, would be open to anyone who wanted to attend. So far, this has not worked too well, and communication between people not in the same immediate work area has not succeeded too well. We are still trying to explore new ways to make this rationale real. Our experiences should help to clarify some problems and solutions in handling large staffs and large summer projects.

have you
written in yet?

PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE

August 27-29 - Newark, N.J.

A CHANCE for contact between people active in community movements
A CHANCE to talk about issues and about action
A CHANCE to plan more action and national meetings
WRITE TO: Mrs. Louise Patterson
721 Hunterdon St, Newark, N.J.

From NEWARK COMMUNITY UNION

FEUDAL LANDLORDS

Newark rent scale is extremely high for those of us who do not live in public housing. My husband's income is too high for public housing. But at the same time we cannot afford to pay \$135-\$150 a month for rent. That being the price for 4½ or 5 rooms in a so-called moderate apartment building. In some places such as Texas, Kansas, and Boston, churches and civic organizations are buying and building apartment buildings. The rents to quote one price is "a one bedroom unit for \$6750 a month." This is in a Dallas, Texas building complex. I know all churches and organizations cannot buy or build these complexes, but it is one way that Texas seems to have met the problem. Surely there must be an answer for Newark.

--Mrs. Lane
519 Belmont Avenue

VISITOR FROM CLEVELAND

My name is Lillian Craig and I am a Welfare mother from Cleveland who has become active in the Cleveland Community Union Project there. I am also on the Staff of that group.

One of the reasons that I came here was to see another project in action. One of the things that impressed me is the fact that the office has been moved to a new and different type of place. In Cleveland, we now have 2 projects, one in a poor White area and the other in a Negro Ghetto. But with two projects we still don't have as many staff workers as Newark does. Maybe one of the reasons for this as far as I can see is, the fact that Newark has accomplished quite a bit and is a very vocal group so far.

So far, my impressions of NCUP are not too many as I have only been here less than a day. It seems to me that if enough of you can stand behind what you believe in, NCUP can succeed more and more every day.

J.P. Coleman at close range

A Newark housewife tells it like it is

The debate about whether former Mississippi governor J. P. Coleman, LBJ's nominee for a seat on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, is a "moderate" or a "segregationist" has so far been confined to the organized circles of the civil rights establishment, the Administration, and the Senate. A fresh angle of vision is offered below. It comes from a housewife in a Newark, N.J. ghetto who moved from Mississippi about ten years ago.

"My father played with J. P. Coleman, in Choctaw County when they was poor as dirt, in the hills. J. P. about the only one who made something of himself. In the beginning it wasn't a plantation they had, his father Tom that is, just a little farm. It was just as many poor white as poor Negro, making just a little living. When J. P. got on his feet, he sure bought up that land. All around the creek he cleared trees until it was like a plantation. Kept about three white families there. He hired help from Weir (the nearest "town" in this rural county), people who walked behind the plow. By the truckload, he'd come into a town and get them at \$2 a day.

"When he came home from Jackson, he would put on a khaki uniform. He was nice, but his father was nasty. Business is one thing, I guess, but getting down to the people is another. When I was about thirteen, we was hoeing this one morning. J.P. wanted us to take a hoe length out, leave three stalks standing. That's what I was doing; he went about his business, not bothering me. Tom,

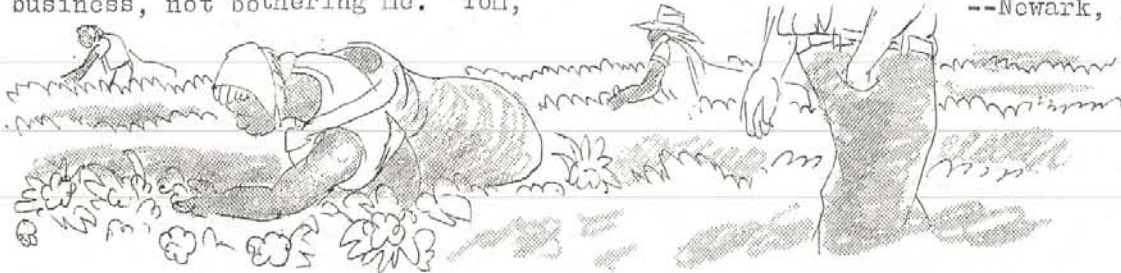
his father, he wanted a hoe-and-a-half length. I'm hoeing the way J.P. wanted. Tom going around telling everybody it's wrong. He snatched my hoe, I snatched it back. I never say "yassuh" to none of them, and they naver did bother me. I told him "one tell me to do one thing, J.P. tell me to do the other." I went home. So J.P. came out that evening to pay off the people and he ask what happened. He said I should come back the next day. But I never went back, I guess for about three years, I was so mad.

"My daddy used to say, 'Just to think I used to play with him and now where he is and where I am'. J.P. and my dad about the same age. My dad worked himself to death and he is still working, and I don't think J.P. would give him a crutch if he were crippled. He's not good for helping the black people if he gets in the White House. I don't care if my daddy did play with him; that ain't no big thing. My daddy still lives down there. He does sawmill work for a man. My mother have a house, about five years old. It's a little house. It's seven, with hip, he has to support.

"Come to think of it, J.P. was the judge when they sent this boy to the electric chair. The trial went on and on. He supposedly raped this white woman. But you know what, his brother was going with this woman, but we don't even know if he was electrocuted. Some say they let him out of the county. There was no funeral.

"When I think of it--just here's little me, he in the White House and where's my daddy?"

--Newark, N.J.



Cleveland East Report

Since this is our first report to the ERAP newsletter dealing with the first 2½ weeks of the project, it would probably be valuable to describe the community. While the general area we work in is called Glenville, the part we are concentrating our activity in is referred to as the Linn Drive-Lakeview area. It is an area made up almost entirely of Negroes; many people hold jobs, but a large segment subsists on various forms of welfare, primarily ADC. Two of the main streets have apartment buildings of 4 to 20 units, rents ranging from \$75 a month for 3 rooms to \$85 a month for 4 to 6 rooms. The apartments are dilapidated or rapidly becoming so while on the side-streets homes are in fairly good condition. There are several new elementary schools in the area, but they aren't enough to cope with the increasing influx of families with children so most classrooms are overcrowded. There are a couple of huge, grassy recreation areas within a quarter of a mile of the area, but where the largest number of children are concentrated the playgrounds are inadequate. The area is carved up politically so that three wards come together at Lakeview Road. Thus, people from the same neighborhood with similar problems have three different councilmen to approach for any grievances. That at least is a brief picture of the neighborhood, and details will be filled in through further discussion below and in reports following this one.

PROJECT BEGINS

The project began with six full time staff: Ollie and Charlotte Fein, Dave Strauss, Nancy Bronstein, Steve Morse, Rafie Podolsky; and Walt Olsen, part time. Carole King, an ADC mother and chairman of CUFAW, has been working closely with the project. Carole had called a few community meetings before the project was set up, so we began with a list of contacts from these meetings. Most of the organizing time went into meeting new people door to door. A meeting date was set for June 28th at Carole's apartment. Two women who had been at previous meetings and five new women attended, as did the full time staff. The meeting was freewheeling, noisy and productive. The issues discussed included: welfare, street safety, recreation, Operation Headstart (war on Poverty program), education, housing, ward politics, etc. The women chose recreation and street safety as the issues they most wanted to work on for the present, committees were chosen to work out details and program on the issues. They gave priority to street safety and decided to circulate petitions in the neighborhood, which would contain some demands and would be presented to the Commissioner of Public Safety. A meeting was scheduled for the following Monday at Louise Gaston's apartment. After the petitions were drawn up by the committee, the staff and the people attending the meeting spent the week going door to door, getting signatures and talking about recreation, the need to get together to solve community problems, etc. It was generally agreed, however, that seeing people for the primary purpose of getting their signatures on petitions was not the best way to have a lengthy discussion on a range of topics.

DISCUSSION

Before the next meeting, Pete Rudolphi from Washington (state) and Jenny Roper joined the staff. The July 5th community meeting was attended by 25 people, including staff. Louise Carston chaired; discussion centered on reports of the last meeting, and what would be the best way to get action from the city in regard to putting up more "children playing" signs, speed limits, radar patrols; etc. The position that prevailed was that a small delegation should go "downtown" and further that the councilman from one of the wards should be invited to the next meeting to be confronted on a whole range of issues. There was also some discussion as to whether or not the group should become a street club; several people felt street clubs represented the middle class people of the block and stifled poor people. Then people asked what the group should be called if not a street club. Although some people left unhappy, it was decided to not pick (continued next page)

CLEVELAND-EAST, continued

a formal name for the group. As one person said, "We don't need a name; the important thing is what we do, not what we call ourselves." Before the end of the meeting, a delegation was chosen to go downtown to the traffic commissioner's. The next meeting was set for the following week. Louise Gaston was elected temporary chairman of the group and Richard Taylor co-chairman.

MORE MEETINGS

The meetings are detailed above primarily because these were essentially the first two meetings for most of the staff and community people. Future meetings may be more important but it is probably of some value to record the beginnings of a group. The second meeting was significant in a couple of ways: first, there were four men there and the effect of their presence was good and was noticeable. Second, nearly all of the people who nearly all the people who attended came as a result of being in touch with a community person from the first meeting. People contacted only or primarily by staff did not, for the most part, attend. Whether this will hold true for future meetings remains to be seen.

Shortly after the meeting, Nancy Kurshan joined the full time staff. Lenny Oshinsky, a second year student from Harvard Law School, arrived soon after to do legal work with both the East and West Side Projects. The staff thus consists of nine full time organizers, one part time, and one law specialist. During the week, the delegation went downtown and received polite answers, and a commitment to look into the matter. From the councilman the woman who called received trite and snotty replies. Nonetheless, he was invited to the next meeting. The recreation committee continued investigation of recreation facilities in the Glenville area and in other areas. Members took pictures with Steve Morse, keeper of the camera, to compare Linn-Lakeview recreation facilities with those of other areas of the city.

The staff is continuing to make new contacts and to return to people who have not attended meetings. Until recently, canvassing has been done haphazardly and a movement to make things more systematic has prevailed, so that in the future, areas will be done more thoroughly and people will hopefully not get hung up because they are not sure who to see or where to go.

PROBLEMS

There have been a number of problems which have lessened by some degree the amount of actual "organizing" that the staff has been able to do. Every weekday night and sometimes weekend nights are taken up with at least one non-staff meeting beginning usually at 7:30. 7:00 to 10:00 is generally thought of as good organizing time and while the meetings are extremely important, they have but into "prime time." The staggering of staff arrivals has made it difficult for the staff to know each other well, or even to know what each others' ideas are. Every few days, similar questions are raised and frustrations go unsatisfied partly because of new arrivals. A third factor is the desire of everyone to figure out what exactly we are doing, where we are heading, how we should head there, and so forth. Some people have felt that these questions must be discussed fully before they can trek out into the community. So there have been many meetings at which these things were discussed: there will be many more of the same, and probably discussions will begin to resolve some of the problems as the summer wears on.



reprints from Cairo's **FREEDOM NEWS**

READ THIS CAREFULLY! WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE OUR LIVES BETTER. IF WE DO NOT TAKE THIS CHANCE NOW, IT WILL SOON BE GONE.

COME TO THE MEETINGS

As you know, the "war on poverty" has come to town. But what is the war on poverty? On August 20, 1964 Congress passed the Economic Opportunity Act. This act was the beginning of the war on poverty. The act stated: "It is the policy of the United States to eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty in this Nation by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training, the opportunity to work, and the opportunity to live in DE-CENCY AND DIGNITY." All laws look great on paper. What counts is how the law is carried out. The law calls for "Maximum participation of the poor" in planning, policy-making and operation of the program.

We won't stand for it!

--by Mrs. Carrie Rush

On July 14, 1965 the five county poverty board meeting was held in the American Legion in Vienna. The Alexander County staff were Mr. Clyde McCullough, Mr. Connel Smith, Mr. J.R. Stokes, and Mr. Brady Buckley. These people walked out because they lost a vote about where to put the office. It let us know that they act like childrens instead of grown-ups. We can't use such men. Cairo wants to rule everything so they can keep poor peoples on ADC and relief and scrubbing floors and walls for 50 or 75 cents a hour. But not so. We won't stand for it!

POLICE CALL US HOODLUMS

--by Perlie Bishop

We went to the city hall to talk to the Mayor Beadles. We talked about the complaints that we have carried to him. He said that he has good men in his police force. He also said that we poor people should understand the policemen's feelings towards our poor people. I asked him did he mean because they have jobs they are supposed to call us poor people hoodlums. We know that it's not right the way they are treating the people in Cairo. It is something we can do about it because we need jobs in Cairo. It's bad to know that our children have to leave home to get a job.

ARE YOU PARTICIPATING? WHY NOT? The law calls for representation of the poor people on the Alexander County Poverty Board. Are you on the board? Why not? WERE THERE ELECTIONS? Why not? Philadelphia and Boston had eldctions. Have the newspapers ever told you who was on the board? How they got there, or what goes on at the meetings? NO!

On Monday, July 19, at 4:00 in the Courtn Housè on the top floor, the Alexander County Poverty Board will hold its next meeting. Why wasn't this announced in the news-paper? It's a public meeting. The law says they must let you attend. Are they afraid to tell the people about what goes on at these meetings?

On Monday at 2:30 before the meeting we will get together at Freedom House to discuss the problem. Then, when we go to the meeting, we will know what is going on. Right after the Alexander County Board meeting, we will return to Freedom House to discuss what happened.

THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO BE HEARD!

TOO LONG HAVE THE PEOPLE BEEN SILENT!

* LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE *



POLICE COMPLAINTS

--by Russell Deberry

On July the 13th, 1965, the Freedom House staff and five of the community people went to a meeting of the board of commissioners. We presented the Mayor with some of the petitions that were filed against the police. Our main objective was to get court appeals and trials brought against the police that failed to carry out responsibilities in the behalf of the people. The only consideration that we were given by the Mayor of the only assurance that was given by the Mayor, was that he would see to it personally that the incidents didn't happen again. As far as we know, these courts and appeal things that we have been trying to get will never happen. Are we just to let it go saying that eventually we will get these hearings brought about? Or should we continue to present these petitions?

After the meeting was over, the Mayor then asked if he could speak with the four white members. It was agreed that if I (Russell Deberry) which is an acting staff member could stay, then the rest of the people would leave. The Mayor then asked me if I were a local person, and I of course said yes. Then he (the Mayor) said that it wouldn't concern me the least bit. Then the staff and the people agreed not to hold this meeting with the Mayor unless he reconsidered his position. The Mayor then said that if that was what we wanted then he didn't care, meaning that if the staff didn't want to hold the meeting without the community people being involved, that he wouldn't talk. The fact that the curfew time was only being applied to the Negro children was also brought up in the meeting.

What do we want as citizens of this community?

--By Mrs. Willella Flower and Mrs. Ida M. Johnson

As members of the Cairo Community Union we submit this letter. A few days ago a meeting was held on the "War on Poverty." After a dispute on where offices of the five county director of the program should be located. Alexander County delegates walked out.

Do you as a citizen of Cairo know who your delegates were? Did you help elect them? Did you think then qualified to represent you? How do you know that your interest was their main concern? Who do you think should represent you? Intelligence is not a question to be asked them electing your representatives. Common sense of freedom and justice is more important. Our representatives must understand the growing need for more jobs, so that you as a citizen of this community can say I face life problems and won't need welfare helps.

Where are you when meetings are being held for your interest? Since you are directly involved, why not come out and voice your opinion and present your problems? Don't keep them in your head.

Negroes and poor people for generations have been the foot stools of the big men's feet. Are you tired, or do you enjoy this type of humiliation? God gave you sense to know how to choose your representatives. Do you rely on the other man's judgment? Many opportunities have passed Cairo by without a moment of hesitation. Please try to help this program progress from the Dark Age to a brighter and new future of the progressing age.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ war on poverty ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

New Haven notes

The status of the New Haven project vis-a-vis the rest of ERAP, mentioned in Carol McEldowney's letter in this newsletter, needs some explanation. Some of our people have become close to ERAP through increasing personal contact with people on other projects, especially Newark, and Hoboken, and to a lesser extent Boston, Cleveland, and Chicago. Especially good were a trip to Sunflower County by some Newark and New Haven people in the spring, the ERAP Institute, and a joint frolic of people from Newark, Hoboken, New Haven, and (eventually) Boston in the wilds of Westchester County last Sunday. We've considered off and on whether we should technically become an ERAP project, but that's so far an unfinished discussion. Most of us don't really know what that would mean, since the significance of ERAP is largely in communication among staff and community people in the different projects. That kind of communication is going on more and more for us, and it should increase with the Newark conference and whatever further contact the projects in this area work out.

ORGANIZING IN THE HILL

Briefly, our work to date has centered on organizing in buildings and on blocks and involving people on the neighborhood level in the Hill Neighborhood Union. The Union nearly disappeared in the late spring because of staff shortage and some other internal problems, but it had been active in the late winter. The only public action so far has been on housing code enforcement, and that was pretty well frustrated by a series of fake concessions in the spring by Mayor Lee. Issues developing now include housing, urban renewal, police brutality, neighborhood involvement in the local war on poverty, and a set of other potential but pretty much unexplored things like the probability that the gas company is scfewing people. The overriding fact of political life in our neighborhood is the liberal Democratic machine and its massive urban renewal and war on poverty arms. The Hill has become a slum in the past few years largely because of an influx of black people shoved out by renewal elsewhere in the city. The housing in the Hill is not adequate for their needs. There is a lot of potential for developing an alternative plan to the one the city is starting to make up, and since this is the last area of New Haven untouched by the Mayor's bulldozer, it's now or never for a neighborhood-wide alternative plan in this city. We also have most of the Puerto Ricans in the city, and they face a whole set of problems that we've only begun to get involved with. There are also some interesting but so far unexplored possibilities for connecting up with the remaining whites, mostly Italians and Eastern European Jews, around issues like urban renewal.

FREEDOM SCHOOL

Three staff are working with Freedom School groups, one of kids about 10-12 years old, one of high school age kids, and a third, just beginning, of guys about 20. There is also a group of mothers who organized and ran a pre-school from February to June. They're spending the summer making plans to re-open the school on a larger basis in the fall, hire a full-time staff for it, etc. The mothers' group also shows some signs of moving into discussion and action on the public schools.

Financially, we have been until now independent of ERAP and SDS, and there isn't any reason we can't stay that way. We got some money from the Norman Fund to get us through the summer, and a little concerted effort both in the community and among miscellaneous local liberals should keep us going indefinitely.

We're working this summer with 11 full-time staff (one of whom spends his time mostly on the ERAP newsletter) and six part-time. This fall as it's shaping up looks like Eddie Smith, a staffer from the community, and
(continued on next page)

New Haven continued

Jay Davis, a spring graduate of Williams who's coming in September, as the only definite full-time staff. Jake Blum, Peter and Joan Countryman, Mike Russon, and John Froines will be in school in the fall but feel that they can continue to work with groups they've gotten together during the summer, and Brian and Ruth Glick will be around for technical help on law and city planning, respectively. All but Froines live in the community during the year. This staff situation is not good. The people in school will be able to conduct, at best, a holding operation with the groups they have, and the continued expansion that ought to go on will be tough for two guys to handle. We are gradually involving some neighborhood people in organizing on their spare time, but there is a real need for at least three more full-time people in the fall.

NEED PROJECT COMMUNICATION

That's pretty much where we are. I'd like to see this letter start a continuing discussion in the newsletter of what projects are doing and what kinds of staff and other needs they have. There was some talk in the spring about non-competitive staff allocation, but if that's going to work people have got to know what's going on in other areas. The major contacts among projects--and the major reason for people going to work on some particular project--are personal ties, and rightly so. We've tried to make personal contact with projects in our area--and ERAP might think about doing that with CORE and NSM too--but we don't know much about what's happening in the Midwest, for instance, and I don't think we know anything about their needs for the fall. It wouldn't take much time for people to do something about that.

NEWSLETTER *What is to be done?*

During and since the ERAP institute in Michigan, several questions have been raised about the ERAP Newsletter. Stated briefly, they are!

- 1) What sort of material should go in the newsletter? Should it be just project reports or is more analytical material needed? If so, how should we get it written?
- 2) What sort of "editorial" function should the project that puts out the newsletter play? Should it simply reprint everything that is sent in, or should it send material back to projects which it considers incoherent or untruthful?
- 3) How should the newsletter keep in touch with the projects?
- 4) Specifically, what should happen to the newsletter in the fall?

The following excerpts from letters and reports begin to discuss these questions. But they only begin, and it is urgent that all projects discuss the newsletter, and send in their views on these or other questions, if we are to have a newsletter which really helps us to communicate with each other.

From John Wilhelm in New Haven:

It seems to me that the newsletter should continue to reprint leaflets, etc., about what's going on, but it could also do a lot more toward communicating what people are really thinking about, maybe through reprinting letters. I'd like to see some development, for instance, of some interesting ideas that were kicked around when the four projects in this area got together, such as what Hoboken people think about what's happened so far, the co-op idea in Newark, Hayden's working by himself in another neighbor-

(continued on next page)

Newsletter thoughts continued...

hood, and other things that I don't know about that must be coming up in other projects. I'd also like to hear people in Newark and Chicago, to name two I know about, talk about problems stemming from large staffs, things like decision-making and communication problems, integration of diverse things people are doing in a neighborhood, some people not doing much work, etc. There's a danger, as always, of getting bogged down in talking and writing, but there are a lot of important ideas floating around which don't get enough exposure between conferences.

From Carol McEldowney in Cleveland:

About the old ERAP newsletter, and whether most of the stuff was bull-shit: I think most of the project reports (newsletters) were honest but maybe seemed inflated at times because they didn't appear in any relative context. Stuff did often sound like a poorly polished PR job, though it's possible to read between the lines. I disagree with the idea that we should only print things telling what the "real situation" is, mostly because I think the people who can accurately and concisely present the "real situation" are few and far between, and the need to maintain some form of communication, even if it's sometimes rather superficial (I didn't say always), is so important that it should happen regardless. I also think that it's very hard to determine whether the objective reality is someplace else. On the other hand, I agree with Carl and Vernon (et al) that incoherent stuff shouldn't be printed, and that someone should be able to suggest the rewriting of stuff without violating all forms of democratic practice. That happened, by the way, during the past year; people were occasionally asked to rewrite materials.

From John Bancroft in New Haven to Nick Egleson and other Hobokeners:

I'd like to explore more our idea of having an SDS chapter involved in some way in the newsletter operation in the fall.

The advantages of having the newsletter come from a project have been demonstrated to us every minute in New Haven. We'll be sitting typing up the paper, and a kid will come in and ask what we're doing. The first time I answered, "Putting out the ERAP newsletter" and of course realized I hadn't told him a damn thing. So I started from the beginning and tried to explain all of ERAP to him. In other words I think it's really vital to have the newsletter coming from the same surroundings as do its readers.

But there are also disadvantages. Most obviously, it takes time, and every day that all 12 New Haven staff have to spend collating the newsletter they are taken away from their main job of organizing. If we're hoping to have people travel as part of their putting out of the newsletter, this would be even more true.

I can see several reasons for having a chapter work on the newsletter. Most obviously, it would be a step in the direction of increasing contact between chapters and projects. I would hope that this would be especially true if we could put into operation the idea of having a person in contact--personally--with each project. This is the sort of thing a chapter could do more easily than a project because students have time to travel. Finally, chapters have massive manpower for the idiot jobs of putting out the paper.

What I'm wondering is if something could be worked out to get the advantages of both, by having a project and a chapter cooperate on the newsletter. The chapter would do a lot of travelling, and would add to the collecting of material, and would do the actual putting together. The project would work over the material, and pretty much make the final decision as to what should go in, what should--if necessary--be rewritten, etc. The functions would overlap. I'm not very knowledgeable on SDS ERAP geography, but I think there must be several places where such a combination would be feasible. I certainly think it would be with Swarthmore and Hoboken. Anyway, I'd like to know what you think. It would be great if people going back to school didn't feel like they had to forget their work for 9 months. And maybe this is the way to increase the newsletter's contact with the projects.

Young Democratic Clubs of Mississippi

The following are excerpts from communication received from R. Hunter Morey, a SNCC field secretary in Jackson, Mississippi.

The Mississippi Summer Project of SNCC and COFO and the Freedom Democratic Party (FDP) convention challenge had created such great pressures that the national and state power structures were beginning to be forced to give in some to the civil rights movement. But at the same time, the liberal community was tired of being in the back seat in the Movement to SNCC, CORE, FDP, and COFO, and they wanted to run the show as they were used to before the Movement got going in these recent years. The NAACP announced that they were going to run a separate summer project from COFO (rumored to be with the national Democratic Party and the AFL-CIO as part of the drive to isolate and kill SNCC, COFO, and FDP). The "Movement" had gotten too strong and had gotten too much (the 64 Civil Rights Bill, the upcoming voting bill, etc.) and now had to be slowed down. The NAACP was willing to be "responsible" and happy to criticize the direct action/local people forces. The new voting bill especially is going to create a large chunk of voting power which all types of people want to control.

YOUNG DEMS MOVE

While these conservative moves were going on with the power structure and the liberal establishment, the national Young Democrats were working. The YCDA President, J. Albert House, is from North Carolina and he appointed Spencer Oliver, a former Texas YD leader to head up a committee to "handle" the situation for him (the Mississippi group was applying for a YD charter). As chairman of the Membership Practices Committee, Oliver set up a meeting in Jackson April 4th without consulting the only group who was applying for a charter (our group) as to who and where the meeting should be. It was held at the AFL-CIO office and it was clear that Claude Ramsey, Mississippi AFL-CIO President, was the "leader we

all were to accept." Our group, (called the Whitfield group after Melvin Whitfield, the President of the Young Democrats) was supposed to voluntarily drop our application to the Kansas City meeting and fall in under the direction of Ramsey, Oswald, and the Ol' Miss. group, headed by Ransom Jones, and the Civil Rights man for the state was Charles Evers, of the NAACP. No one from any other civil rights group would have been there if Whitfield had not brought me along. No one from FDP had been invited. After refusing Whitfield's offer of working together, the meeting ended with Spencer Oliver vowing to fight our charter application.

TO KANSAS CITY

Next, we went to Kansas City to the YCDA National Committee meeting. There Oliver ran the show against us, and had the help of Ramsey, Oswald, et. al. After our second defeat we came back and organized the Hinds County Chapter. This time the NAACP, instead of attacking us, came with a prepared slate of officers to take us over. They were quite successful, although the end result is good in that the NAACP will not go so easily against our state charter application now. Then we had a state planning meeting May 2nd at Tougaloo. Whitfield's group got no official nor direct notification of the meeting, but I found out fast enough to get a lot of Negroes there. Claude Ramsey brought a lot of white men there, including Hodding Carter III from Greenville who, along with Ramsey, tried to railroad the meeting, spoke without being recognized by the Chairman, and pushed the idea of college chapters which Atty. Rosenthal thoughtfully pointed out was supporting segregation, given the Mississippi school system. A planning committee (chapter presidents, Rev. Ed King and myself) was set up for another state meeting June 4th.

More recently there have been meetings around the state and in Washington with old line Negro "leaders" from Mississippi with National Democratic Party big shots. They seem to plan to kill FDP and our Young Democrats by building up the status and power of certain (cont'd next page)

Mississippi Dems, continued

Select Negro "leaders," like by means of the poverty program and Operation Headstart, and then by organizing a counter FDP called the Mississippi Democratic Conference. Sunday May 23 I was refused entrance and the acting FDP chairman and local COFO director were kicked out of one of their meetings in Meridian."

From a letter of 15 July 1965:

"The state convention has been set for Saturday, August 14th at the Victory Room of the Hotel Heidelberg, in downtown Jackson, Mississippi. R. Hunter Morey, Chairman of the YDCM Convention Committee hopes that the "Liberal Establishment" does not completely take over as they have been trying to lately. For example, the convention committee had first decided to have the convention at Tougaloo College on the August 14th date, but the NAACP arranged for it at the Heidelberg with the money coming from (or through) Robert Oswald. They had no authority to do so, but that's what happens in the American game of politics. The convention committee decided to go along with the Heidelberg to keep as much unity as possible and to guard against a rump convention which might then apply for a charter separately from the main group.

"The Mississippi Democratic Conference is having its big state meeting this Sunday, July 18th at the Heidelberg with Charles Evers of the NAACP getting Negroes to come (and screening out militant civil rights people such as FDP, COFO, etc) and Claude Ramsey getting a lot of whites to come. The National Democratic Party is sending down people to help, and this looks like the first real opposition in the state that FDP has. Aaron Henry is fully supporting the Democratic Conference and the conservative Negro elements are certain to enjoy the drive to wrest leadership away from the sharecroppers and maids of the FDP.

CANDIDATES

"We are thinking of running Lee Dilworth as President (a Rust College graduate from Aberdeen, Mississippi and a strong civil rights supporter)
(continued next column)

and Joyce Brown as national Committeewoman (the strongest Mississippi Student Union leader in the state, from M6Comb), and Len Rosenthal for Secretary (a native white Mississippi lawyer who handles civil rights cases to his social detriment) and Robert Oswald for Treasurer (former YD President, Jackson County regular Democratic Party chairman). In other words, we are working within and promoting a slate of representatives of a coalition--we are including Negroes and whites, young and old, militant and moderate. We are doing this to show good faith with the purpose of the Young Democrats to be loyal to the national principles and ideals of the Democratic Party and therefore not exclusionary, unlike the Democratic Conference which is excluding civil rights activists. However, it is natural that SNCC workers such as myself, would not be interested in the group if it did not offer strong chances of supporting the basic democratic changes that Mississippi needs. For example, I am sure that the vast majority of members would not agree with Charles Evers (NAACP) and the Ole Miss groups endorsement of Coleman's nomination."

If you are willing to help the Young Democratic Clubs of Mississippi please write to Jack Blum, 46 Arch, New Haven, Conn. for more information. You can also write to R. Hunter Morey, P.O. Box 2251, Jackson Mississippi, But he has very little money with which to send you material.



Correspondence

To Larry Gordon and Nick Egleson from Evan Metcalf in Cleveland:

The organizing here has in general been a lot on the level of building personal relationships--Jenny commented that it was in that sense a half-way Hoboken--partly by intent, seeing that as a way to change people's lives in real ways, partly by necessity, because of the difficulty of creating enough organization to have an organizational focus instead. People who have been here a year seem frustrated with building personal relationships with no action resulting, however. Anyway, that makes it even more difficult for a new person to fit into an area where some relationships have been started, but none are to the point where there is real commitment, understanding, and frankness. The one contact I had with people that was at all significant there was one involving red-baiting--people apparently known fairly well; wife dull, husband came in hostile, asked who our boss was; then wife said, I might as well ask you, we heard you are working for a Communist organization; is that true; the guy I was with said weakly, no; I tried to explain red-baiting as a harrasing tactic and that we let the people decide. I was a bit shook up--it's the kind of thing you worry about when you avoid getting started knocking on a new door, but it's the first time I really confronted it personally. I sympathize with a guy here who said he has come to cease to believe in social change, and is only learning all the ways in which it is prevented. As for work in the general area, the random contacts, I go out every so often, and be friendly (which is often pleasant), and listen to people complain and say that they don't have time to do anything and that you can't do anything and that they are moving and that the neighbors and the kids are bastards. Shit. People are so damn busy, trying to move upward on the ladder of success; they are suspicious about who we are in ways that are less understandable than in a Negro community, where color simply has to be let be. Potter has an idea that there are a large number of stable working class people in the area, who've lived here a long time and haven't moved out, and who are generally satisfied. The working class people who are dissatisfied and alienated move out, or try to change things through the channels, like trying to elect someone from the area, who is still a crooked politician. The lower, similarly, tend to hang together, in expressing alienation or apathy; they are unstable, but can't move out; they are potentially our people. Only trouble is getting them to change their personal priorities. It's often really hard to get started with them, because their conditions are not unbearably bad, they plan to move immediately and the subjective intention keeps them from wanting to make any commitment; the stable working class and lower middle class people (I'm no longer at all sure what those terms include) tend to have more interest in working on the neighborhood, because they plan to stay in it, and own a stake in it, in addition to organizational experience; but their tendencies are conservative, potentially red-baiting, perhaps.



Correspondence: IN THE FACTORY

From Nick Egleson in Hoboken to Joe Eyer and Brenda Porster:

I have a job in a fibre can company in Hoboken. Vernon works in a venetian blind plant, Carl is an orderly in a hospital in Jersey City, Jill Hamberg works in a coat factory, Helen Garvey inspects electrical components in still another plant. Ingrid and Bill Hankin are here as well (both have had jobs) and some other people in still other kinds of work. That's the Hoboken project.

The work teaches much. I am coming to understand the pulverizing effect of the factory upon the soul, and appreciate the infinite forces which grind upon the people here. For anyone who lives among them it would take an almost superhuman effort to stand up against them and strike for a new ideal.

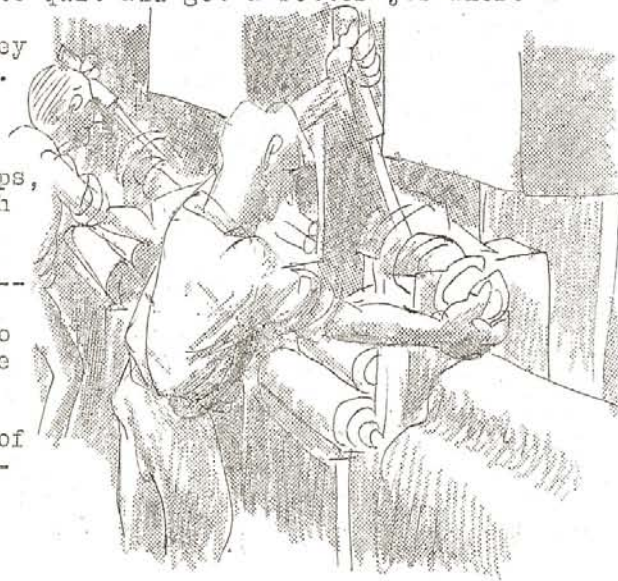
I am also coming to understand that people comprehend their situation very clearly. Jill pointed out that when we were on a regular project we took a patronizing attitude toward the people we worked with (going out to see Mrs. Cephas 15 minutes before the meeting to make sure she came). Here, this attitude is diminishing partly because, I think, we have a greater respect for people's perception of their own surroundings. If they don't think an organization will get them anywhere, it is not always because, as we thought in the past, they have no experience with community organizations, but sometimes it is because they have had just that experience and sometimes it is because they perceive the smallness of the organization compared to the enormity of the problem much better than we, the hopeful organizers, can allow ourselves to do. Another example: people in my plant understand that it is a sweat shop, that they get screwed by their bosses and treated like machines. I would once have been tempted to attribute the fact that they did not want to organize against it to lack of knowing how to work together. And of course to fear of losing their jobs. Now I am much more willing to recognize that they do not want to move on the basis of sound perceptions of where it would get them: If they fail, they get fired, if they win, they still have to work at the same stuff and live in almost the same way: They won't be much better off. In addition to having good perceptions about the prospects of even a victorious struggle, they perceive better than I had ever before, the nature of the difficulties. For instance, I had never realized before how terrible it was to get older than 35. Many of the people at my plant say to me that I am a nice boy and ought to quit and get a better job where I can go somewhere. When I ask why they don't do the same they say they are too old no one would hire them. And they are right.

In short, I am realizing that when people feel that for them as individuals, or even as small groups, the best course is to go along with the game, cover up mistakes, lie, give the boss a line, don't mess with the cops, keep your mouth shut-- they are probably right.

A movement is the term used to describe a group that has overcome those perceptions. Three things happen:

--Some come to believe in a set of values which says the existing society is corrupt, and try to change it. They may try thinking that.

(continued next page)



IN THE FACTORY continued

they can, or with the knowledge that they can't--I don't think it matters.

--Other people are attracted to the way of life of those people. One could say that they adopt those values, except it makes the process sound intellectual. If the new values are better than ways of living based on them will lead to a more decent community--into which people will be drawn, again often in spite of perception about the possibility of change.

--At some point people begin to join partly because they perceive that change is possible. It is not until this point that those perceptions are changed, rather than gone against or around.

This isn't a strategy for change--there is no program in it. Its just trying to deal with the problem. I will state one more way before leaving: It may be true that if everyone who feels screwed thought things could change, they could. But seeing as how almost no one thinks they can be, they can't and no one will perceive that they can be. Someone who does is a fool.

Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

On Vietnam ORGANIZING our man in LONDON

From: Sue Schwartz, N.Y. Committee to End the War in Vietnam, 1165 Broadway, Room 412, New York

Our project, which is now attempting to organize people in seven different N.Y. City areas around the issue of Vietnam, now has about 250 full and part-time volunteer workers, and has met with more success than any of us anticipated. The general uneasiness about this war is great, and potentially exploitable for the crucial purpose of enlightening people about their society. One cannot speak of "success" in such a depressing war situation... but perhaps if we succeed in making a few people understand better the patterns in American society and economy that cause such recurring crises, we will have planted a few seeds toward the "movement".

As long as this remains possible, we hope to work fruitfully with a group that is extremely diverse in its political organizations. We have our disputes and schism, but seem to be so far held together by our common purpose, ending the war through US withdrawal, and education of the "masses" as well as ourselves. A small job!

The communities we are now working in are Washington Heights, Chelsea, Forest Hills, Flatbush, the garment district, Riverdale, Grand Concourse, Northern New Jersey (Bergen County) and are affiliated with groups on the upper West Side (Morningside Heights) the lower East Side (Thomkins Square Neighbors for Peace) and the Village (Village View Committee Against the War in Vietnam).

From: George Clark, 3 Gulford Gardens, London, S.W. 3. England

The situation over here is somewhat depressing after my American experience. Everybody is in a low state of morale and most feel quite helpless to affect the situation in Vietnam or elsewhere. I am trying to get people interested in tackling the proposition that Britain does not have need to be dependent on America and I am hopeful that it will be possible to get something moving by September.

During August a party of us will be visiting European countries and are spending 7 days in Yugoslavia to study and talk about Workers Control and democracy. We are also to visit, Hungary, Austria, and East Germany and hopefully we shall tackle the people there about attitudes to democracy and government.

From this distance, the situation in Vietnam seems to be getting progressively worse. Would it be possible to have accounts about response in the States to Johnson's latest pronouncement. Also can you make sure I have an account of the Washington weekend (August 6-9th).

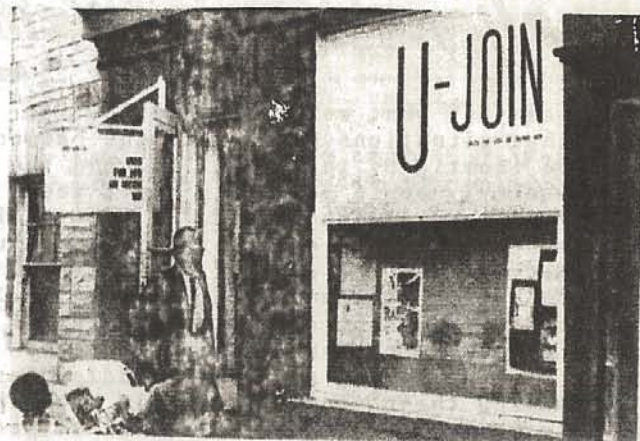
personal notes on alienation-organizing

I find the very basic question of just what we are organizing for raised more strongly here than in other situations because of the personal discouragement which results from the inertia of the community, and the related fact that in this white community, people generally don't feel alienated, don't perceive themselves to be disenfranchised. I make an implicit comparison to poor Negro communities, where oppression is less subtle and people are more angry and "alienated," but the generalization is limited -- organizing Negroes, except perhaps for short-lived, charismatically-led, mass movements, is also a slow process. The questions which are raised include an understanding of the class of the people here - what sorts or attitudes characterize lower-class, working class, and lower-middle class whites, and how do they differ (presuming these are very roughly the classes of our area); differences at the extremes of lower- and middle-class people are evident, but most fall in the gray areas in between.

Let me first try to define alienation as here used. I don't mean "interpersonal alienation," which I think is the usual sociological meaning -- sort of an isolation and inability to communicate with other people, which I think in some measure characterizes the dominant society, and is one of the things I see SDS as trying to change. Rather, I mean an alienation from, i.e., a distrust of and minimal participation in, social institutions -- elections, politicians, cops, newspapers, social workers, landlords, etc. We try to organize people who feel this distrust because we are trying to change these institutions -- it is through these institutions that many forms of social oppression take place (foreign policy, urban renewal, the welfare system, all the little points that politics touches people's lives -- city services, all sorts of red tape registrations -- cops, etc). An additional key reason for attacking these institutions is that in addition to doing bad things to people now, they control the means with which broader change can come; i.e., political power.

The humanistic question of how values and attitudes change remains. It is understandable that the self-centered, materialistic values of the society should affect the poor as well as the rich. But these values can be attacked on the grounds that the society that those values' support is not serving people's needs. Thus, people who are "alienated" from social institutions are at least partly also alienated from the social values that go along with these institutions (people who distrust politics in general, or who don't give a damn about welfare workers who tell them they are lazy, or have in some way opted out of the material and status struggle, which operates through these channels). Poor people, then, are by no means universally alienated. The organizer's task, in a sense, is to create this alienation by trying to create a perception of individual problems with society as caused by malfunctioning social institutions; thus, we speak of confrontation with power, in order to demonstrate that these institutions are in general, not in unconnected instances, to be distrusted. People here already do distrust cops, housing inspectors, welfare workers; they distrust individual politicians, but not the institution of politicians. Their solution, however, is to escape, rather than to try to change institutions. I see values changing, then, by this negative process of alienation from the material and status institutions which are necessary if those values are to be realizable and meaningful, combined with the sort of positive example that counter-communities of ERAP projects serve.

*-Evan Melcalf,
Cleveland*



Newsletter notes

--We're working out publication exchanges with MFLU, and the Southern Courier

--3 issues ago we were putting out 550 copies of a 6 page newsletter. This issue is going to 850 people and is 22 pages. If you are receiving it and can afford \$4.00 for one year, please send it. We're poor.

--We now can reproduce pictures cheaply. Send us photos and drawings from your project.

From Cleveland Community Union **Morals-What Are Morals?** *by Lillian Craig*

What are Morals and who sets the moral standards up? Society has set up these standards of what is moral or immoral for Americans, but who is Society? So many times, the only thing that is considered moral or immoral is things that are concerned with Sex. That is the great Taboo. Is it really? There are things that are happening all over the World that are immoral and have nothing at all to do with anything Sexual. Why is it wrong to show your love or care for a person, but not wrong for a Public Agency to mistreat a person? Is it Moral for a mother on the Relief Rolls to be treated like a sub-human? Is it Moral for a Negro to have to beg to be able to Vote? So, you see why I feel there are many types of Morality. So many times and places, when a person is treated like a crud, like a person who is no longer a human being, people feel a need to express themselves and the most worthwhile type of expression is Love. Love is one of the most wonderful and worthwhile type of that expression. Immoral? No I do not think so. By Society's warped values, the answer would be yes. But by human values, would it be SO WRONG?

Morality is one subject so many people are afraid to broach and try to understand. Are you afraid, also?

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