

83155

2

CHICAGO REPORT

ECAP-64-14

Oct. 5, 1964

problems

The past week was one of depression for the staff of the Chicago Project. A series of disappointments have caused morale to drop below what it should be if the Project is to function well. These causes for depression will be discussed later but first let me say that the Chicago Project has gotten out of the tragedy stage and back into the area of crises. Three new staff members have joined the two previous. Yet even here, where rejoicing rang out, there is cause for concern. One of the new staff members, Robert Pardun, is staying for a month only. At the end of Bob's stay we will again face a staff shortage. Here possibilities of part-time help are in the planning stages.

B-W

The week started on a sour note with a very poor attendance at Sunday's meeting of our strongest JOIN committee, the Broadway-Wilson Committee. Five old members came plus one new member. The new member served only to disrupt the meeting. The Broadway-Wilson Committee was thought to be self-reliant. It was thought that with a minimum of staff effort many people would show up at the meetings. It is obvious that we were wrong on this point but as far as the staff is concerned, this is not the only reason for the poor showing. //cap

recruitment strategies

Second in this series of disappointments was the cancellation of a film on the problems of automation. This film was to be shown to the public in a hall in the Broadway-Wilson area. The film was to be widely advertized in the hope that we would attract many people who we would otherwise never meet. We tried desperately to locate a hall that we could use but all of our efforts came to naught. We will try again this week since we believe that this is a worthwhile method of reaching people.

money

On Wednesday we remembered that the rent for our office (\$75.00) was due on Thursday. A quick check of funds showed that we had but four dollars in the bank and that funds were not arriving in the foreseeable future. A party is being given this Saturday to see if we can raise the rent money. We have also recently inherited \$200.00 in unpaid phone bills from the summer project.

Our fund-raising efforts have still not gotten rolling because of the tight schedules of people we want to raise from. A number of union guys are very interested in JOIN, but just cannot see us for another week or, in some cases, a month.

On the optimistic side of the project, a few things deserve mentioning. The staff situation is greatly improved by the addition of the three new people, but as previously mentioned, Bob Pardun's early leaving will be the cause of concern for all. Glen and Ann Thureson, and baby Sarah, will be moving into the project apartment on Tuesday. Ann hopes to do some community work but will do mostly office work because the baby necessitates her being in the apartment fairly constantly. Also, a high school discussion group has been founded in the neighborhood around the office. Richard is handling this group and is very enthusiastic about it. He feels that someday this could develop into a high school SDS chapter.

Furthermore, we are fairly sure that the main reason for our lack of morale at this point is that four weeks after the Philadelphia meeting we are still not settled, still living out of suitcases, still not really moved into our apartment. Monday has been set aside as clean-up day, Tuesday as moving-in-the-Thuresons day, Wednesday as finish-up-what-didn't-get-done-yesterday day, and Thursday as open-up-the-office-and-start-working-again day. Furthermore, our strategy demands the use of part-time college student labor to man the office and leaflet the comp lines. Yet this labor will not materialize for another week or two weeks--not until students have their schedules set up, etc. We are optimistic on this score, however, for many people have indicated interest.

So we do expect things to get better.

Finally a theoretical word. We don't really know whether to be elated or depressed because we have no clear notion of what the criteria of success for a project like this is. If by the end of the year, say, we have educated three guys to the point of being genuine, thorough working class radicals, will that be success? What if we do not have any real radicals, but have a committee's-worth of people who identify with JOIN and will regularly attend meetings and agree with most of what the staff says? What if we have neither of the above, but have contributed marginally to the political education of a few thousand people on the comp lines?

Tomorrow we have another apple-selling demonstration in front of the Pete Seeger concert. Four people have committed themselves to take part. We feel a bit screwed because the leaflets for the apple selling were printed by the Packing-house Workers, but only after the UPW had deleted all reference to SDS and to the staffing arrangements at our offices. These references were considered crucial for the kind of people we are trying to reach at this demonstration (Copies of this leaflet will come with next week's report).

Assessing
"Success"

Action

6

Finally, we have done well, with respect to publicity lately. An article published in the Roosevelt University, Torch, the same article promised space in the University of Chicago Maroon, and favorable editorial comment in a Catholic magazine published by Friendship House, Community.