

ning stage; a 265-acre downtown general neighborhood renewal program, in the planning stage; and, a citywide community renewal program, almost completed. The total investment in these programs when they are completed, including Federal, State, local, and private funds will be in excess of \$200 million.

We have a 2-year community college with 1,200 students, and a new technical high school built at a cost of \$2 million. We have a publicly financed city-county office of economic development, created to promote the economic welfare of the Syracuse area; and we have recently engaged consultants to prepare a 5-year action program for industrial development.

We have a local mayor's commission on human rights and a mayor's commission for youth; I will discuss the latter in a few minutes; we have local job training and school dropout programs. In essence, we are well equipped for any attack of poverty, or as we prefer to call it—a crusade for opportunity.

Yet, in the midst of this prosperity, surrounded and buttressed by the facilities and programs I have just mentioned, we have some poverty. More than 7.6 percent of the families in Syracuse have incomes under \$2,000 per year; 16.3 of the nonwhite families, and 7.1 percent of the white families fall into this category. If the income level is raised to \$3,000 per year, the figures for nonwhite families jumps to 30 percent, and for white families to 13 percent.

EXISTING PROBLEMS

Three distinct social problems face our country today. In Syracuse we like to refer to them as our three dilemmas—delinquency, dependency, and discrimination.

In our low-income areas we find a clustering of the social problems producing delinquency and chronic dependency. Discrimination plays a major role in trapping many of our citizens, who could otherwise escape this dilemma.

Official records of local law enforcement agencies bear out our contention that Syracuse has a delinquency rate about three times that of the rest of Onondaga County with the highest rates occurring in the low-income sections of the city. In the area with the highest rate, half of the 14- and 15-year-old boys have had at least one recorded encounter with the police. In our higher income areas, the proportion is 1 out of 10. Additional studies show that two and half times as many unemployed youths—ages 16 to 21—are arrested as compared to employed youths. Again, it is in the low-income sections of the community that unemployment and chronic dependency are concentrated. The cost to the community and to all levels of government of this series of associated problems is enormous.

In Syracuse during 1962 there were 1,065 juvenile police contacts resulting in 1,350 cases. Of the 677 cases not handled by the police department and referred to court, 72 juveniles or more than 10 percent were committed to institutions. In New York State institutions the average cost per day for each child is \$15.25, or \$5,566.25 per year, far more than it costs to send your son or daughter to college. Thus, these 72 juveniles alone are costing the taxpayers \$400,700 per year.

This is only one measure of what delinquency costs us. In addition there is the cost of vandalism, police enforcement, and correctional measures.

Chronic dependency is the second part of the dilemma and was one of the most serious problems toward which my attention as welfare commissioner was directed.

It was the problem of the "welfare child" who, upon reaching the age of physical maturity, took steps to reenact the events that initially produced the welfare family of which he was a part. I was, and still am, greatly troubled by the children of our welfare families who get married on Friday and appear at the welfare office on Monday to make application for themselves as a separate family unit. In simple and direct terms, this is the best example of a most serious breakdown in our social system. Obviously, we cannot deny these physically mature individuals the means for survival. And while we do give them relief the steps we take to help them toward a more self-sufficient and satisfying way of life have not been sufficiently effective. Thus, we are taking some long and deliberate strides toward the creation of a permanent welfare culture that is totally unacceptable to the majority of the people in my community and, I am sure, my State, and, indeed, the country as a whole.

Discrimination is the third part of our dilemma. The immigrant Negroes moving to northern communities from the South find their way to our cities and begin their life in our communities in crowded conditions. It is no coincidence