

that the question of integration of the Negro into the life of northern communities and our concern and attack upon areas of high incidence of social breakdown are intimately related. In our community the growth in Negro population on a percentage basis has been phenomenal. Since the end of World War II the Negro population in Syracuse has increased approximately 400 percent. Here is a group of people who, by reasons of their move, have indicated their interest in taking drastic steps to improve their lot in this world. They are motivated toward a better way of life. It is our responsibility to take steps that will help insure a way for these immigrant citizens to develop their potential to the fullest.

The city of Syracuse has recognized this problem and has taken steps to correct it. By virtue of a planning grant from the President's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Crime to the Mayor's Commission for Youth, Inc., we have developed an action program focusing particularly on the problems of youth in the inner city. We are in the process of establishing an urban league, and, through my commission on human rights, we are taking vigorous steps to provide more equal opportunity for all of our citizens.

EXISTING SERVICES

In Syracuse and Onondaga County we have health, welfare, and character-building services that compare favorably with those found in any American community. They are addressing themselves, in great measure, to the problem about which we are concerned today. As a matter of fact, in Onondaga County, through city, county, and private philanthropy, we will spend almost \$40 million a year on programs of health, welfare, and character building, or almost \$100 per person. But of this amount, how much is being spent on our low-income group and our regular welfare clients? If we were to assume only 50 percent, or \$20 million, it would amount to approximately \$500 per person per year. This does not include at least another \$40 million that is being spent on the education of our youth. In Syracuse it amounts to \$528.15 per student per year.

People in Onondaga County do not do without the basic necessities of life. There are schools and other service programs to which they can turn for assistance and support, but our institutional services are not adequately reaching the people who need the most help.

For too long we have concentrated our efforts on material assistance and have neglected to provide the spiritual guidance and help that would assist in preserving and strengthening the moral fiber of our people.

This suggests that we need programs that visibly and dramatically open the door to opportunity so that these people can see for themselves that properly focused effort can produce desirable changes in their patterns of living.

MAYOR'S COMMISSION FOR YOUTH

For the past 16 months Syracuse, through the mayor's commission for youth, has directed its attention, in great part, to the issue of poverty. The final proposal, drafted by the commission, has just been delivered to the President's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Crime for their review.

Our concentration in this program has literally been on the next generation. While we have developed supportive programs to help upgrade parental care and improve the exercise of parental responsibility, we have built our major thrusts on the strengthening of the holding power of our educational system, the creation of more realistic curriculums, and the involvement of unemployed youth who are not in school in constructive work training programs.

In our attack on youth problems, the mayor's commission for youth has focused on these problems as they are concentrated in our inner city where families with incomes under \$3,000 ranges as high as 33½ percent. This obviously hits the geographic area of greatest intensity.

I am convinced that in the mayor's commission for youth program a good start has been made in developing techniques that will permit an all-out attack on material poverty.

Here are some of the highlights of the program.