

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.

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—and I would like to thank the subcommittee for their careful attention to Syracuse as one of the key cities in the juvenile delinquency program—through the mayor's commission for youth, Syracuse 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 curricula and the involvement of unemployed youth who are not in school in constructive work training programs.

The mayor's commission for youth has developed the following programs:

1. A new and creative reading and language skills program to educate youths who find it hard to read and speak effectively.
2. A curriculum materials development program to create entirely new curricular materials for education programs designed for low-income groups.
3. Guidance programs specifically designed to help youth and their families through counseling, to meet their immediate problems and to develop insight into ways of handling difficulties in the future.
4. Work and education programs emphasizing vocational education, and providing an alternative curriculum that would lead to a high school diploma.
5. A program to overcome the wide gulf that exists between low-income populations and the school by developing community schools and neighborhood study centers where school personnel can work informally with low-income families. A variety of recreational, vocational, and educational programs will be offered to serve the needs and interests of neighborhood residents.

In the field of employment the focus of the commission's programs is on training of people in work skills and habits so they can enter profitable employment in those trades and occupations that are developing in our community. Obviously, this is the most direct way to reduce poverty, reduce our welfare caseloads, and increase the competence of our citizens so that they become taxpayers rather than tax users.