

program designed to eliminate poverty. Thus far, this "preferences section" has not been widely utilized. When it begins to play a greater role, however, the knowledge of federal legislation and application requirements which a lawyer can supply will play a significant role in broadening a community action program to include relevant federal programs.

Similarly, the effort to coordinate all programs which can be set to the task of eliminating poverty is a task for which the legal profession bears special responsibility and qualifications. Several critics of the present anti-poverty programs have discussed the feasibility of a master plan for social services which would be linked with the existing master plans for physical development of a city. Development and implementation of such a plan would be a challenge which the lawyer would be uniquely qualified to accept.

I feel that coordination can also be greatly assisted by the lawyer in an equally important fashion in the long and at times bitter negotiations among the various armies united in the war on poverty.

The city's departments and agencies coordinating organizations in City Hall, private welfare and community organizations, and neighborhood organizations formed and composed of the poor—these are social organizations which may seem at first to have little in common and whose interests often appear to be in conflict in the early stages of formation of a comprehensive community development program.

The lawyer's objectivity, his skills at arbitration, and his respect in the community can make unique contributions to progress in bringing greater harmony and coordination among the growing number of groups seeking similar ends in the social services area.

From my own observations, however, it is in the area of the second broad aim of the antipoverty programs—involvement of the poor—where the legal profession may be able to make its greatest contribution. The legislative mandate to broaden the planning, conduct, and administration of the anti-poverty programs to include the poor themselves must, I believe, be considered one of the most far-reaching legislative achievements of the twentieth century.

We have recognized for the first time in national legislation that it is not enough to provide the resources for change, but that those who participate in social change often determine the effectiveness of change itself. We have learned that the root cause of poverty is often a fundamental feeling of powerlessness, to use Kenneth Clark's phrase in his monumental report on Harlem youth.

And we have taken the first halting steps in the direction of enabling those whose destiny, after all, we are trying to shape, to have the power and the sense of efficacy to influence the future of themselves and their neighborhoods.

Inclusion of representatives of the poor on the planning boards of the neighborhood and city-wide antipoverty policy-making councils employment of poor persons as sub- and non-professional employees of the community action programs, and the continuing effort to organize and solicit the reactions of the poor themselves have become crucial strategies in our war on poverty.

I personally view this entire effort as an issue of due process. It seems clear that for too long the voice of those who are affected by federal, state, and municipal policy in the poor neighborhoods of our nation has been stifled and ignored. Those whose lives are dislocated by social change have been the last to be heard from and the least to be heard from and the least likely to influence the final decisions of major import for the future of our nation.

As a problem of due process, the effort to involve the poor in antipoverty programs is one of great significance for the legal profession. Tradition roles of defending those accused of criminal acts are but one of the several ways in which a lawyer can contribute to the effort to insure that the rights of the poor are given equal priority with those of the rest of our society.

Legal aid programs such as those now operating in Harlem, and on the Lower East Side in New York, as well as in Washington, D.C., and Oakland, California have been among the most effective of the many programs now becoming associated with neighborhood service centers financed by the antipoverty programs.

The Legal Aid Society and student legal aid groups have come to realize that the services of a lawyer are a precious resource and one that is rarely even considered by the poor to be available.

Beyond these legal aid programs, there are several other ways in which the lawyer can contribute. Legal education is an activity which must be broadened