

3040 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

During the first three days of the disturbance, most of the rioters were from 18 to 22 years old. As the riot progressed, more older persons became involved.

The majority of those who are unemployed fall into the 18 to 25 age bracket. Most of the ones who have jobs are unskilled laborers.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT, LEGAL AID SOCIETY, CINCINNATI, OHIO LEGAL SERVICES PROJECT

All of the activities described in our last Quarterly Report are continuing. In this past quarter, seven of our attorneys attended the OEO-sponsored course on Consumer Credit given at Ohio State University by the Ohio State Legal Service Association. In the last report, we indicated that we were working with the Better Business Bureau in drafting articles of incorporation for a consumer credit counseling service; this has now been done, and I am enclosing a newspaper clipping which refers to and discusses the new corporation. We will continue to work with George Young, and hopefully this project will be operative within the next few months.

During this period we also drafted a new proposal for the coming fiscal year. I am enclosing a copy of this proposal, and one of the proposed budget.

The month of June, 1967 saw Cincinnati involved in its first race riots of this century. We did take, and are still taking, an active part in the defense of the indigent persons charged with acts committed while the riot situation was rampant. Events transpired in this manner: on Monday, June 12, several stores in two predominantly Negro areas had windows smashed, automobile windows were shattered, and a few Molotov cocktails were thrown into some businesses. On Tuesday, June 13, the rioting became much more serious; "Soul Brother" signs offered the only protection in some areas, as more damage was done, and several large establishments were set aflame by Molotov cocktails. One large commercial laundry in the area of our Walnut Hills-Evanston office was practically demolished, having almost \$750,000.00 of damage done to it; another fire to a large business caused over \$300,000.00 in damage. Large crowds of rioters were seen in all the predominantly Negro suburbs, and looting became the order of the day. It was at this time that the city manager called upon the Governor to send in the National Guard and declared the city in a state of riot.

The Riot Act was printed in the newspapers on Wednesday, and was read to the crowds the same day. The Municipal Judge who was sitting in Cincinnati Criminal Court at the time made the statement to the press that all rioters convicted of acts of violence during the period while the riot state was in effect would be given the maximum sentence, which is one year in the workhouse and \$500.00 fine. This same day, the judge personally called me and requested that we have additional men available in Criminal Court to represent the people who were picked up as a result of the riots.

On Thursday morning, there were well over a hundred riot-connected cases on the Criminal Court's docket. Four of our attorneys, our voluntary defender, and a number of volunteer lawyers divided the cases, interviewed the people, and presented their defenses that day. A few of the rioters had retained private counsel, but most of them were unemployed and unable to afford an attorney. There were some dismissals; however, the majority of those who were charged were convicted, and were given the maximum sentence as they had been warned. I am enclosing an article taken from the front page of the *Cincinnati Enquirer* on Friday, June 16 describing the scene in court after Judge Mathews had sentenced twelve persons to the maximums under the Riot Act.

That evening for the first time in the history of the City of Cincinnati, night court was held, so that those people picked up could be brought before the Municipal Judge immediately for hearing or for setting of bond. Our men were at Criminal Court in City Hall until 2:30 Friday morning working on that evening's cases.

Friday morning and afternoon we also had five men in court, together with volunteer lawyers from the NAACP and the ACLU. After the trials, motions for new trials were filed for all of the defendants, including those whose cases were heard on Saturday. These motions were overruled, and the judges were asked for stays of execution, which were granted, and bonds were set in each case individually. This was the result of a series of negotiations between the mayor, the city manager, the safety director, the city solicitor, and the judges, as well as the defense attorneys. It took about two days of meetings before the judges would agree to set bonds and grant the stays of execution.