

In the meantime, working in conjunction with our local Community Action Commission, we gave the names of all of the defendants, together with copies of the ROR form, to the neighborhood workers. The CAC neighborhood workers went out and interviewed the families, friends and neighbors of the defendants to obtain information which could be helpful on the motions for new trial, as well as giving us some basis on which we can appeal to the Parole Board to allow these men out on parole if other relief fails.

As Earl Johnson, Jr. stated to the Congressional committee, "It would be a violation of legal ethics for us to separate the deserving from the undeserving or the popular from the unpopular in providing legal representation." This office echoes these sentiments very strongly; we further feel that among those who were convicted, there are quite a few "innocent bystanders." We here at Legal Services know that the hard core rioters and looters were not all caught. As a matter of fact, it is our feeling that only a few of these hard core agitators were apprehended, and that it was the people who were swept up by the hysteria who were in court and being tried. This is in part based on our investigation into the background of the defendants whom we represented, which indicated that not too many of them had prior police records.

This has been a joint effort with the lawyers and other leaders of our Negro community and with the Community Action Commission. We feel that the CAC has done a marvelous job in assisting us in conducting these investigations, and it is this type of cooperation that will foster good working relations in the community.

Our latest legal move was to file notices of appeal and applications to file them without court costs. I am enclosing a copy of the application, which we mimeographed because of the large number of cases. We are continuing to work with the CAC's neighborhood workers, and I have assigned one of our aides as a liaison man to coordinate information and to work in the communities where the riots occurred to ascertain what we can do to perpetuate the calm that has prevailed since the riots ended.

All three of our full-time neighborhood offices are centrally located in the riot-torn areas, and it may or may not be significant to note that none of them was touched in any way.

Another significant development in the past quarter again involves activity with the CAC. The two juvenile judges called a meeting at which they, our Juvenile Court attorneys, members of the Court's staff and I discussed the various problems arising from the Gault decision. The first proposal made by Judge Schwartz was to appoint our neighborhood staff attorneys as special referees of the court; however, it was our feeling that we do not want our offices to be "courtrooms," nor do we want the people whom we serve to feel that we had become judges and prosecutors rather than defenders of their legal rights. The suggestion that we then approved, in order not to make official records on all juvenile cases, is this. Judge Schwartz will appoint some of our volunteer lawyers as Juvenile Court referees; it will be their duty to hear complaints while sitting in the neighborhood where the juvenile lives, as is presently done in other cities and villages in Hamilton County. The referee will work closely with the CAC neighborhood worker to try to alleviate some of the conditions which cause delinquency. The judges felt that with this grass-roots approach, the neighborhood workers will also benefit, by being able to observe the legal side of the situation. The referees will "hold court" in the various CAC neighborhood offices, and at the present time it is proposed that a neighborhood worker be assigned to the "courtroom" during all hearings. The more serious cases, of course, will still be referred to the judges for disposition.

We at Legal Services have high hopes that this project will succeed and perhaps be used in other parts of the country. We shall keep you informed as to the progress of this project.

The consumer credit and landlord-tenant legislation which we proposed is presently in committee, and some of it has already been passed in the House of Representatives, and is now awaiting Senate approval. Some of this legislation was proposed directly from our office and drafted by our attorneys; some came as a result of a meeting of all the project directors in the State of Ohio called by the Ohio State Legal Services Association.

Respectfully submitted.

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