

the unions has opposed the CAC programs, but he feels that many labor groups were indifferent. Following Bilik's departure, no labor representative has taken an outstanding part in the antipoverty campaign.

Among the community leaders interviewed, two persons who are active politically consider the Cincinnati unions to have spark plugged community action.

Three others characterize organized labor as strongly in favor of the anti-poverty programs and most of the others described the unions as responding. A number, however, have reservations about some elements in the labor movement.

Here too, Bilik's name comes up repeatedly. "Bilik was a leading CAC supporter and he's the key to labor here in Cincinnati," "hand-in-glove with the CAC," "one of the architects of the local plan."

Bilik aside, there is considerably less enthusiasm about labor's role, and there are some highly critical comments on certain segments of the labor movement.

A school official said, "Local labor has not been a stumbling block to (OEO trained) kids getting jobs—we have agreements with them saying they will cooperate. The labor people usually find a way to help when asked for it. Or at least," he added, "they go through the motions."

"Building trades unions are an obstacle to employing Negroes in their crafts," a labor official declared, adding, however, that "individuals have been helpful." A housing official reports that "as a result of a slow process the unions have been well coordinated with the job training programs—but they held out as long as they could against admitting minority groups." "Now, however," he went on, "there's been a definite breakthrough in this area: except for the electrical workers, something is being worked out." But he added throughfully, "I believe it's been a hell of a fight to get them to cooperate."

A top labor union executive notes that the "biggest problem is to get people to understand socioeconomic problems: this area looks like a natural for labor."

But he went on: "There have been problems trying to convince the craft unions that rehabilitation and on-the-job training programs couldn't threaten their own jobs. The approach has been to disprove criticisms as they are made, and to point out that programs won't damage job security. Those who were critical at first are now salesmen for the programs—it's most gratifying."

Although one civil rights leader describes the unions as supporting the programs, another was extremely critical—not only of the Cincinnati unions but of Bilik himself.

"In general, organized labor has not been very helpful," he declared. "It sees the training programs as a threat to its apprenticeship system. The unions fight preapprenticeship programs. Bilik was a great white liberal until we (the respondent's civil rights group) had a sit-in in his office." This 27-hour demonstration, the respondent explained, had followed Bilik's refusal to sign a statement that the labor movement would try to eliminate discrimination, on the ground that there couldn't be any discrimination because it was already forbidden by union charters.

"Bilik was then head of the Democratic Party and a buddy of Gilligan and the others," the respondent said. "He sparked the beginning of the OEO program but I feel he was politically motivated rather than working for the good of the city." A Negro candidate had defeated Bilik for the last seat in the City Council race, the civil rights official noted, adding that "the unions have forgotten why they were founded. They have become too fat."

(There is so little organized labor in Clermont County that the unions play a very small part in CAC operations there, according to a senior member of the CAC staff. However, he noted that a representative of the Upholsterer's Union who sits on the Clermont CAP Board "is both respected and vocal.")

The respondents mark the PRESS as one of the least friendly segments of the Cincinnati community. There is general agreement that at times the papers had been extremely critical and had become more unfriendly in the past year. There are differing views, however, on why this change has occurred as well as on whether the newspapers are basically hostile to the program.

"Although the papers think they have done well by us, their overall position has been negative. We've made mistakes and they've clobbered us," was the comment of a senior CAC official. He cited what he felt were unfair stories about CAC salaries, misused interviews, "nit-picking," and minimal press coverage when Sargent Shriver and Vice-President Humphrey visited Cincinnati. Basically, he felt, the papers were hostile—which he attributed to their Scripps-Howard ownership.

As for the other mass communications media, the CAP executive believes that they generally tend to take the same line as the newspapers. He accepts WCYN, a Negro radio station, and WCKY, which he felt were more liberal and objective