

out that some sections of Cincinnati, in need of Centers, lacked them: "For example, the East End of Cincinnati is a poverty pocket of Appalachians. This is a group whose problems have been overlooked—when we think of the poor we think only of the colored."

A civil rights leader believes that the program should be expanded both in Cincinnati's West End and in Northern Kentucky. "There should be more staff—both professional and nonprofessional at the Centers. All the staff, including volunteers, should have more training in community leadership. And there should be more consultants and staff for community research and planning." This respondent also believes that "youth components are needed at the Centers—a staff that concentrates on the problems of young people, such as they already have in the Evendale neighborhood."

A substantial minority of respondents are firmly against expansion of the Centers' program. "Not unless the need can be proved" a businessman declares. "It is all too easy to expand programs when we should be pruning them." A lawyer also casts a negative vote: "The program has enough money now—we should learn to spend it better, more efficiently." Two workers in the social welfare field also oppose expansion at this time, feeling that the program should instead be "sharpened and focused."

An elected official is even more negative: "Too much of the budget has gone into the Centers in relation to their value. Two million dollars has been spent, and there is no evidence to prove that the Centers are worth it. While the CAC cites the number of families served, this doesn't prove the value of the program." In his view, "this program raises false hopes among the poor. We just can't meet all their needs."

Most of the respondents paint a grey picture of what would happen if the Neighborhood Centers programs were curtailed or dropped. "The reaction of the people in the target neighborhoods would be a blend of disgust, apathy, and hostility—the proportions varying with the relation of each Center to the community around it," a senior CAC official declared. "Where the programs are good, the people would be very unhappy—in the West End neighborhood, for example, there would be mass demonstrations. But where the people are very poor there would be no reaction—they would be too far down the ladder."

A civil rights leader makes a similar prediction: "the Neighborhood Services program is the only one people would care about losing. In the West End there would be anger and frustration with a potential for riots." And another respondent, active in the civil rights movement, declares that "curtailment of the program would certainly increase the anger and frustration that we are trying to keep down to a reasonable level." A social worker predicts "marches on city hall."

A labor leader is equally outspoken. "Curtilment of the program would be the biggest crime of the century," he declares. "You can't slam the door in the faces of the neighborhood people. In time to come, if you awaken the expectations of these people and then slam them down again, there will be riots, like in Watts."

A businessman points out that "how much the neighborhood people think of the Centers is shown by how hard the East End is pushing to get a Center of its own. If the program were cut the people would feel the loss—they would really miss the opportunity to communicate with each other." Another business leader comments that "curtailment would certainly be a waste of effort and momentum." A lawyer states, "without professional workers and facilities people would slip back into the morass of hopelessness and indifference—not that they are all out now."

The respondents take a gloomy view of the chances of anyone picking up the program if it were dropped by OEO. A senior CAC staff member believes that local government lacks the money—and if it should try to carry on the program it would change the nature of the project. "Social welfare organizations are already doing their utmost just to provide the local contribution and fill in for anticipated cuts." Nor does he see any Federal agency as ready to pick up community action.

The community leaders are no more hopeful. The least negative comment comes from a businessman. "I would hope that local government would pick up the program—this is an obligation upon the community. We should have had a Neighborhood Center program before the War on Poverty even began. But the chances of local government acting are not too good."

There is slightly more optimism about the private agencies. Several respondents think they would try to carry on—and might do a little. But a respondent