

Economic Opportunity. As a consequence, I have instructed our executive staff to immediately seek out alternative sources of funds for the many programs and projects this community desperately needs. As a result they will be in contact with both private and public funding sources, including but not limited to private foundations, other departments of the Federal Government, the Community Affairs Department of the State of New Jersey, and other agencies, institutions, and corporations within our community. It is anticipated that with a more vigorous attempt on our part to take advantage of resources heretofore untapped, that we will be able to reinforce worthwhile existing programs and also provide moneys for new projects.

The first four vital needs that I will ask this corporation to look at are—

1. Housing,
2. Social action,
3. Employment, and
4. Drug addiction, with other vital needs to follow.

I am therefore recommending that the board establish or reactivate the committees outlined above.

1. Housing committee to be chaired by Dean C. Willard Heckel, and to be responsible initially for convening a meeting of members of the UCC and the financial leaders of the city of Newark, community groups who are striving to form nonprofit corporations to build better housing in the city of Newark, and whoever else the chairman feels will be helpful to explore the possibilities of private industries sponsoring private housing through existing Government programs, and any new imaginative and innovating approaches that will provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing for the low- and middle-income families without eroding the city's tax base.

2. Social action committee to be chaired by Mr. Oliver Lofton. The initial task of this committee will be to present to the corporation a practical plan of action whereby persons with criminal records may be assured opportunity of employment in the public sector, particularly. In cooperation with others this committee will seek to obtain changes in laws or regulations which do not allow such persons to be hired in civil service positions. There has also been brought to our attention the fact that former drug users are required by law in New Jersey to carry cards identifying themselves as drug users. The social action committee will be requested to investigate the legality of this procedure.

3. I am recommending that the employment committee chairman be Mr. Kenneth Gibson. This committee will have two major functions:

(1) To evaluate and ascertain the effectiveness of all job training programs operating in the city of Newark and Essex County. The evaluation to include but not be limited to (a) numbers of persons who have been and are currently receiving training, and the type of positions trained for; (b) numbers of persons who have been placed on jobs; and (c) numbers of individuals who have dropped out of programs, and what followup provisions are made in this category.

(2) To make a concentrated effort to open up the building trade industry apprenticeship programs to minority group members.

4. Narcotics committee. The corporation has been instrumental in establishing the Essex County Narcotic Council which we have asked Monsignor Dooling to chair. It is our expectation that in the near future the council will be incorporated and elect its own officers and serve as a delegate agency to conduct and administer programs to treat drug addicts, and will actively involve former drug users in helping to develop and administer programs.

Because of the current critical state of our community, we are adding the following two committees:

5. Consumer education. I am moving to appoint Mrs. Marie Gonzalez as chairman of the committee on consumer education. Every year thousands of families are unduly charged for merchandise they purchase. Hopefully this committee can work with the area boards and legal services and save the community thousands of dollars per year.

6. UCC emergency relief fund and project. I have asked Mrs. Grace Malone to chair this committee, and am asking the following persons to be among those who serve on it: Mary Smith, Marie Gonzalez, Marion Kidd, Esta Williams, George Malone, Bernice Scott, Richard Debevoise, Duke E. Moore as board coordinator, Francis Quillan, and myself.