

The chairmen that I have recommended for other than standing committees are all vice presidents of the corporation, with the exception of Mrs. Malone. In terms of strengthening UCC, it is my firm intention to see that the vice presidents play a greater role in the affairs of the corporation.

In my opening remarks I made mention of the fact that the corporation will undoubtedly face problems in the future, as it has in the past, but I am confident with the support of the board of trustees of the UCC, the staff of the corporation, our delegate agencies, and the community that the UCC can continue to make a positive contribution to the community at large and be an instrument for social advancement and the common good.

[From the Newark Sunday News]

HECKEL REVIEWS ANTIPOVERTY BATTLE

(By Douglas Eldridge)

The front line of Newark's war on poverty is a good place to strain the nerves but stir the mind.

That is one of many impressions gained by C. Willard Heckel during three hectic years as president of the United Community Corp., the city's antipoverty agency.

The 53-year-old civic leader retired last week to devote more time to his job as dean of Rutgers Law School. He has turned over the presidential gavel—a well-worn one—to Timothy Still, a Central Ward leader.

As he unwound in his Rutgers office—a cool, quiet contrast to the meeting halls where he has referred many of UCC's battles—Heckel expressed relief his task is over, but few regrets about the last three years.

"If I had it to do all over again, I still would have gotten into it," he said.

HAILS ELECTION

He also voiced excitement and satisfaction about the election of his successor. "This is what has to happen in the city," said the dean, "a fairly rapid transition from white to Negro leadership."

Heckel did not comment on the outcome of the vote, but said the fact the three candidates were all very able Negroes proves UCC is developing the leadership Newark needs.

Heckel said he is proud of many UCC programs, but considers them less important than the opportunity it gives many people "to become seasoned leaders * * * to develop, to mature."

Heckel said the UCC has been for him "a great seminar in human relations and city life. And the veteran educator, lawyer and churchman said many UCC debates were "better than 50 per cent of what goes on in the life of a university."

But he conceded the rough-and-tumble arguments tested his stamina as well as his legal skills. He said he knew when feelings threatened to explode at recent meetings, that he could not call in the police.

"That would have been contrary to the whole philosophy of the corporation," said the dean. "I had to enforce things by just standing there and looking at people."

Since the founding of UCC in 1964, Heckel has been criticized by militant groups for being too rigid in following the rules, and by city officials for being too lenient in giving the floor to malcontents. But both sides have generally respected him, and conceded he has worked hard to keep the agency in business.

Heckel agrees he tried, as a lawyer, to adhere to the rules. And he takes issue with those who think UCC has to forsake formal procedures to be effective or militant.

But he also disputes those who want to clamp down on dissident forces that could damage or destroy UCC. "That is always the calculated risk of democracy," he said.

UCC may always have trouble transacting corporate business while providing an open forum for anyone, he said. But this must be done "in a city full of tensions," he added.