

scratching, featherbedding". I do not agree that the evidence warrants these conclusions, nor are there any facts offered in support thereof.

Apparently, these comments are intended to refer to the Pre-School Council Program and the Blazer Youth Council Program and more specifically, the employment of Mrs. Rebecca Andrade, by the Pre-School Council and Mr. Walter Dawkins by the Blazer Youth Council in executive positions.

It should be noted that these two programs have been singled out as classic examples of Community Action Programs conceived and developed within the philosophy of the Economic Opportunity Act.

From the information reported in the press, and commonly known in the community, Mrs. Andrade played a leading role in conceiving the Pre-School Council Program as did Mr. Dawkins in developing and creating the Blazer Youth Council Program. Both of these programs present new concepts in waging the War against Poverty. It is appropriate that those persons who participate in the planning and development of the program should not be excluded from carrying on the program when it becomes a reality, particularly where they are of the poor and so long as they are qualified to administer the program. There is not suggestion that either Mrs. Andrade or Mr. Dawkins are unqualified. Moreover, there is no evidence or indication of any impropriety in their selection to head these programs or that their participation in the planning or development had any but the highest motives.

It is contended that there are legal bars, based upon provisions of the New Jersey Constitution, which preclude the City Council from continuing to contribute the necessary 10% to enable the UCC and its programs to be funded by the Federal Government under the Equal Opportunity Act. No court decision or substantial authority is included in the report in support of such contention. None of the members of the committee are lawyers, I am advised that an extensive legal memorandum has been prepared by the Corporation Counsel of the city of Newark which disagrees with the legal contention asserted as a bar in the report. I rely upon the legal opinion of the Corporation Counsel of the city as the Chief Legal Officer in the city and reject the claimed legal bar to the council contributing the necessary 10%. I respect the opinion of the Corporation Counsel and in reliance upon it, feel there is no legal barrier to doing what I did before, voting in favor of contributing the necessary 10% to the United Community Corporation.

The report also contends that serious financial problems may face the city in the event it becomes necessary, after a two year period, to enter into a 50-50 contribution with the Federal Government for continuation of programs. I am no less concerned about maintaining the city's financial stability than my colleagues. However, at the moment, the contributions are 10% by the local community and 90% by the Federal Government. I feel that this ratio should be retained and pledge myself to urge upon our Congressmen and Senators that no change be made in this portion of the law which will in any way increase the obligation of the local community.

The report charges that "the UCC has taken many of the aspects of a political-action pressure group." I concur in the view expressed by Mayor Hugh Addonizio that the United Community Corporation as such should not be involved in politics. I am pleased to note that the Board of Trustees of UCC adopted a motion to require any member of the Board who becomes a candidate for public office to take a leave of absence from the Board during his candidacy. I believe that this action was consistent with the view that United Community Corporation as such should not become a political instrumentality in the city. Moreover, from my experience on the streets I have not observed the UCC to be a political force.

I endorse the Area Board concept which was approved by the New Jersey Office of Economic Opportunity as a method of obtaining maximum feasible participation of the poor. I am pleased by the UCC's policy restraining area boards from endorsing political candidates. I have also been impressed by the praiseworthy comments from representatives of the Office of Economic Opportunity regarding the utilization of area boards as a means of involving the poor. I urge all citizens of Newark to participate in the area board activities. This is the medium through which the poor may freely express themselves. This new concept is beginning to work and is involving the poor with all segments of the total community in the planning and development of programs as conceived by the Economic Opportunity Act.