

I do not agree with that portion of the report which criticizes the community for its appearance and conduct at the first hearing of the committee on September 9. I am at a loss to fully comprehend the criticism of the community's participation, in light of the statement of Chairman Addonizio at the conclusion of the first hearing when he stated:

"The committee at this time takes the opportunity to thank those in the audience for demonstrating their interest in this vital area and also for their good conduct. I would especially like to thank the members of the United Community Corporation that are present and have participated this evening * * *"

I am no less concerned than my colleagues about the tax rate of the city of Newark. I have put my beliefs and convictions into action in many ways to help protect the tax payers of our city. When the Blazer Youth Council Program was announced I endorsed the program because I believed in its principles. I moved the City Council to contribute the necessary 10% (\$37,000.) to the Blazer Program. I did this because I believed in the program and also because I believed that an expenditure of \$37,000 by the city, which would result in a saving to the city of approximately \$600,000 by reducing Welfare costs was good sound economics and would help to reduce the tax rate. I regret that this motion did not succeed before the City Council. I commend the devotion and dedication of the Blazer Youth Council, those associated with them, and the business community which contributed the in-kind share to permit the program to proceed in the City of Newark.

The population of the city of Newark is in a state of flux. Today our city is 50% non-White. As the only Negro elected official in the City of Newark, I wish to publicly state that without the programs developed, and being developed by the United Community Corporation and those agencies working with them I see a dim, bleak future for our city. Being black and having grown up poor, I have a special commitment to the Anti-Poverty program. I reject any attempt to defeat the needs of the people of our city because of a lack of understanding.

I reject and refuse to join in the recommendation of the report to withdraw support from the United Community Corporation because of a dispute over control of the Anti-Poverty program in our city. I support President Johnson and his administration which has breathed life into the War against Poverty as part of the development of our Great Society. I support President Johnson, the philosophy of the Equal Opportunity Act, and the UCC in urging involvement of the poor as part of a total community effort in waging the War against Poverty.

I am informed that recommendations are about to be submitted to the UCC membership to amend the By-Laws of UCC by expanding the Board of Trustees to include additional representatives of the poor from the Area Boards and at the same time, to expand the involvement of elected city officials and heads of appropriate city departments which will insure a maximum total community involvement in the direction of the affairs of the UCC. Based upon my convictions what I've said above, and the proposed changes in the UCC By-Laws to result in total community involvement in the direction of UCC, I recommend that the City Council approve the continuance of UCC and express their confidence in the programs necessary to elimination of poverty in our city by contributing whatever funds are necessary to the functioning of UCC as the Community Action agency in the city of Newark.

STATEMENT OF UNITED COMMUNITY CORP. TO THE CITY OF NEWARK RELATING TO THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE OF THE UCC AND IN RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE NEWARK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE ANTIPOVERTY PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, N.J.

To: Hon. Hugh J. Addonizio, Mayor of the City of Newark, Hon. Ralph A. Villani, President, Newark Municipal Council, and Members of the Newark Municipal Council.

On August 10, 1964, Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio, other public officials, and representatives of all segments of life in the City of Newark caused the United Community Corporation (hereinafter referred to as UCC) to be organized as a private non-profit corporation under Title 15 of the New Jersey Revised Statutes. UCC was created as the Community Action Program Agency in the City of Newark to effectuate the purposes and policies of the Community Action Pro-