

gram section of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. Approximately one year later, on August 4, 1965, in response to a request for municipal matching funds, as contemplated by the Economic Opportunity Act, a special three member sub-committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) of the Newark Municipal Council was appointed to study "The Federal Anti-Poverty Program as it existed and as it was evolving in the City of Newark."

Approximately four months later, on December 8, 1965, the Committee issued a report on its investigation in which it made certain recommendations relating to implementation of the Federal Anti-Poverty Program in and for the City of Newark. A minority report was also filed.

The UCC welcomed the investigation and the opportunity this presented to inform the City Council of its history, philosophy, accomplishments and problems. Regrettably, this did not happen.

The UCC reaction was clearly stated by Dean C. Willard Heckel, President, when he appeared before the Committee on September 9, 1965, and stated:

"The United Community Corporation welcomes the opportunity afforded by an interested Newark Municipal Council, to report on the development of our city's Anti-Poverty Program."

We view this paper as a factual presentation designed to answer the recommendation in the Committee Report: to respond to its unsupported, unwarranted and unfair allegations; to correct the erroneous conclusions and false impressions created before, during and following the Committee's investigation; and as a positive comprehensive statement of the Corporation's objectives, activities and contributions to the well-being of the people of Newark, which was never adequately developed by the Committee in the hearings or its report.

HISTORY, DEVELOPMENT AND PHILOSOPHY OF UCC

This statement would not be complete without first returning in time for a glimpse of the events that led to the formation of UCC and the manner in which it was created. In 1962, the year of genesis for the Corporation, an attempt was made to formulate a program known as the South Side Project, a plan to utilize all community resources dealing with the problems of increasing school drop-outs and unemployment, particularly among the Negro population of the city which represents some 50 percent of a total population of 405,000.

Focus was on the 1960 census and on the shocking picture it painted of conditions in Newark—so much so that the Federal Government declared that the city was badly in need of programs and funds to prevent it from being completely engulfed by blight and impoverishment (See letter of August 17, 1965, Federal Area Redevelopment Administration to Newark Redevelopment Corporation, confirming declaration of Newark as a depressed area).

In addition to an appalling rate of unemployment among its Negro citizens, running something in the area of 9 percent, studies found that infant mortality ran at better than 45 percent, and that 52 percent of Newark's Negroes living in rented units were living in substandard dwellings. (U.S. Census of Population: 1960 Final Report PC (1)-32C General Social and Economic Characteristics, New Jersey. Published by U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, p 32-266. Supplemental Statistics on Negro Living Conditions in Newark, by Urban Studies Center, Rutgers, The State University, December 1, 1964. Abstracted from Urban League Report based on U.S. Census of Housing; 1960. Series HC (3)-252 published by U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census).

The advent of the Economic Opportunity Act provided the stimulus and direction needed to move the city closer to the ideals and objectives of the South Side Project, and to provide expansion of this massive approach to the problems created by poverty.

Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio recognized the significance and the potential of this revolutionary legislation that sprung from the combined vision of the late John F. Kennedy and of President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Mayor convened a meeting of community leaders that led directly to the creation of the United Community Corporation, in the summer of 1964.

To UCC came other men of vision dedicated to the cause of building and rebuilding human resources. The ranks of the 15 incorporators expanded to form an original board of 53 members representing government, business and industry, educators, labor, social welfare agencies, civil rights, religious and community