

Committee asked for a statement of "funds appropriated, expended and proposed . . ." This information was provided in detail as requested. Subsequently, under date of September 10th, the Committee requested "bids submitted for office furniture and equipment". It was likewise provided. The report does not comment on either item.

The concerns expressed in the report about the September 9th hearing (pages 6 and 7) and the political significance attached to the fact that "the Council Chambers were packed with patrons and beneficiaries of UCC" attribute a different motive or purpose than in fact existed. The Council Committee convened a hearing on a matter of vital concern to the community. There is no evidence that UCC exercised any influence or brought pressure to bear upon individuals or groups to attend and participate. The public expressions at the hearing were not the result of any UCC actions designed to "pack" the Council chamber. Community participation in the hearing was a positive expression of an awakening and a new and healthy vigor and spirit in the City of Newark.

At the conclusion of the September 9th meeting Councilman Addonizio thanked the members of the UCC who were present and participated, reflecting the spirit in which UCC and its representatives sought to assist the Council Committee in its investigation. The Chairman stated (exhibit 12; p. 51.) :

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

Such pronouncement reflecting the course and conduct of the hearing does not call for characterization of UCC participation as "packing the hall" or being "politically motivated" or "venturing to any extreme" to espouse a particular philosophy.

The report refers to Mrs. Berger's letter (Ex. 11) as reflecting an "obnoxious employment practice" predicated on political loyalty as an indispensable ingredient. We deny the facts recited in the Berger letter as they relate to "loyalty" and suggest that she may have misunderstood or misheard the statement she repeated. However, in light of the details we have set forth as to the hiring practices and policies pursued by UCC, the characterization of her "experience" as an employment practice is unwarranted.

The report questions the "propriety of former Board of Trustees members creating and taking high salaried positions on the UCC Programs". Presumably the Committee members had reference to selection of personnel in the Pre-School Council and Blazer Programs.

Once again, the facts belie the claim. No UCC Board of Trustee members have been given positions in either of these two programs. People who participated in conceiving these programs were hired by the Board of Trustees of these separate agencies to share in running these programs. Both the Pre-School Council and Blazer Youth Council are autonomous bodies not subject to control of UCC. They have their own Board of Trustees, Officers, hiring practices, etc.

We agree, the Anti-Poverty Program should not be for political patronage, and are pleased to see the Committee report shares this concern. We also agree that "capability and need" are the factors to be utilized in hiring employees. The selection of personnel for key jobs by Pre-School and Blazer has offered opportunity to those who conceived of the program to participate in its further development and has provided expression to the concept of "maximum feasible participation of the poor".

The charge that high salaries, centralized control in the Executive, and questionable fiscal responsibilities as evidences of the political structure of UCC are totally without merit. The evidence presented, evidence available but not considered by the Committee, and evidence it failed to seek, clearly establish that UCC has been administered and functioned outside the arena of political involvement.

The impact of UCC operations upon the budget and tax rate

Much moment is made in the Committee report that contribution of matching funds to UCC will seriously impair the city's fiscal structure (pages 8-10). However, once again no substantial facts are offered to support such conclusion.

We trust that disclosure of the following facts will generate a little more light and less heat to enable a more careful consideration of this question.