

Specifically the Chamber has worked with and supported the Columbus Plans for Progress Committee to develop additional jobs for minority citizens; participated with the Bolivar Arms Study Committee to resolve a potentially dangerous neighborhood problem of considerable dimensions; worked to achieve acceptance of an occupations' survey course for inclusion in the Columbus Public Schools' curriculum; and many of our members have participated in an inner city program of counseling Negro youth for employment in business and industry.

A new Chamber committee is now providing business counseling for businesses in depressed areas of the city. The list could go on but basically it illustrates that Columbus businessmen recognize that a community cannot exist half-sound and half-unsound and that social decay cannot be sealed off but will inevitably affect the whole community.

As you know, almost every major city in the United States has been torn by riots and unrest. Fortunately this has not happened in Columbus. We hope that part of the reason is our willingness to work with all concerned groups for the social health of our city.

I understand that some of these community action programs are being questioned by Congress and I am sure that this should be a continuing process to evaluate the benefits of each program. Nevertheless, I would like to indicate to you that we believe that all metropolitan cities are in a dangerous condition and there should be a continuation of programs which will save our cities from growing anarchy. We do know our experience with your programs in Columbus and we can testify to the contribution these programs make to racial and social well being. Let's continue to stay in close touch.

Yours very truly,

KLINE L. ROBERTS, *President.*

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FOR GREATER COLUMBUS,
Columbus, Ohio, July 24, 1967.

Mr. WILL HELLERMAN,
*Chairman, Columbus Metropolitan Area Community Action Organization,
Columbus, Ohio.*

DEAR MR. HELLERMAN: In my capacity as Chairman of the Executive Board of the Development Committee for Greater Columbus I have been asked to outline for you the nature and scope of the organization's interest in the Columbus Community Action Program.

The Development Committee for Greater Columbus is a non-profit civic organization, not connected with government in any way. It is supported by more than 200 business and professional people who are dedicated to building a better community through organized civic activity.

Two years ago the Development Committee organized its Human Resources Committee. This was done as the result of an awareness of the problems of the Inner City. Development Committee sponsors felt that an organized approach should be made toward solutions for those problems.

Since then, the Human Resources Committee has worked closely with the local community action program (The Columbus Metropolitan Area Community Action Organization). It has lent support and assistance. It has encouraged and guided. It has constantly sought to coordinate community efforts to solve Inner-City problems so that the community could receive maximum benefits from its resources.

The community action program here is not perfect. But it is a healthy, progressive program which enjoys wide community backing. It forms the solid core around which many other organizations cluster in the attack on local poverty problems.

I know that the business and professional communities stand solidly in support of the local community action program. They support it because they realize that the alternative is literal chaos.

They know that we cannot and must not revert to the conditions that prevailed before the community action program was organized. The "Christmas baskets and cool consolation" approach to poverty problems didn't work any better in Columbus than it did in any other city. To return to it would be disastrous.

The real keys to the solutions of the problems of the Inner City are better housing, better education, and employment opportunities. Federally financed,