

These aides were extremely helpful and did an outstanding job in helping to suppress the violence during the disturbance last June by persuading residents in the area to remain indoors, and by persuading groups that gathered to work with them to quell the disorder. Their work helped to establish lines of communication to city officials.

A plan was evolved by the NSC to evacuate teenagers to recreation areas in the hope of keeping the riots from spreading.

Several days following the end of the disturbance, the "Youth Congress For Civic Responsibility" was formed and organized from among many of the participants.

The young group presented three objectives:

1. To provide a voice for the young people of the community so that they can participate in planning recreational, cultural, and social activities.
2. To provide the young people of the community with representation in the Youth Congress for Civic Improvement.
3. To foster among its members, good citizenship so that the youths of the community may take their rightful place as responsible members of society.

This group is composed of representatives from all deprived areas of the county, and serves as a most important line of communication to the young people living in the most crucial areas of the city.

Funds made available by the OEC to the Neighborhood Service Centers have been used for a summer recreation program. More than 24,000 youngsters per month have been served. Nearly 70 temporary summer recreation aides were employed under this program, many of them from the riot torn areas of the city. Their presence has opened valuable lines of communication between the poor, the centers and community officials. It has also given a sense of responsibility to those hired.

Great effort has been made to establish "block clubs" in the various target areas. The purpose of these is to bring residents of deprived areas together to discuss problems and needs. This information is used by center staffs to assist in developing programs based on the need as determined by the people served.

All Centers have formulated plans in preparation for any civil disturbance that may occur, and all centers are prepared to meet any such emergency by having established a network of communications so that all necessary personnel may be assembled quickly at any hour. Action is coordinated with law enforcement agencies.

It is recognized that many of the projects could be accomplished at the community level. However, the majority of communities lack the financial ability to get programs started in the depth and swiftness required.

Generally, it is agreed that the poverty programs have been successful in improving the lot of the target group, and have served as a deterrent to unrest and violence.

Negro leaders concur that the programs have made a contribution to the target group, but they quickly point out that the effort has not reached enough of their people at the administrative level.

They feel that there should be more negro personnel to set policy and direct programs to administer to the target group; that there are not enough of their people involved to reach the people. The Negro wants to become involved more as a recipient and a participant in these programs.

Negro leaders feel that there is a need for improved housing; a need for accelerated training; more vocational training, and an expansion of on the job training. They want acceptance, especially by employers and employees alike.

It is difficult to assess the effect that programs as vast and varied as these have on a community. Certainly, the impact is great and the true effect may not be known for some time to come.

I sincerely hope that the explanation of some of the poverty programs, as implemented here, will be helpful to your committee and I shall follow with interest the result of your hearings.

Yours truly,

J. P. MULLINS,
Chief of Police.