

cohesive group again. A group of grade school children had a minor dispute that quickly escalated to older brothers and friends. Two groups of teenagers were on the verge of a "rumble" when the police intervened. Two white teenagers later returned to the Negro area in which the fight had threatened to occur, and shot a Negro boy in the arm. The wounded victim went to the Center for assistance. The suspects were arrested at their homes within a few hours, before a major racial become the basis for choosing sides and that the Center is accepted by the residents as a friendly haven.

There does not seem to be the type of community action that is exemplified by the demonstrations, marches, and protest meetings found in other cities with similar problems. The community spirit of the early days of the area became latent upon removal of the high school but the innovation of the Center may be providing the focal point and leadership to encourage a revival of community interest.

The Center Staff has focused on personal services and private contacts among the residents. There seem to be no *mass* meetings for the purpose of generating action to overcome area problems. The Center Director usually acts individually as a champion or spokesman for a group or a cause. However, he has ingratiated himself with so many individuals of his area that he would probably have the support of the numbers of people necessary for a mass demonstration if such a movement were considered by him to be an effective method of solving a problem.

12. Participation of the Poor

The role of the poor in the overall scheme of the program is defined by the poor as individuals and not by the Center. Some are totally inactive; some are both ADC recipients and program aides in the Center. Others serve on the CAA Board, the NSC Council, and as counselors for other CAA programs. Still others simply make use of the recreational, tutorial, and other activities of the Center.

Quite a number of residents are very enthusiastic about participating in Center activities and in serving on the various boards. But those who are participating are still a small percentage of the total target population, only about 15 to 20 percent. This may well figure in the relative absence of tangible changes in conditions as a result of participation.

The desire on the part of the poor to become more effective and active in actual program planning and policy making has had the effect of creating friction with the CAA, particularly the CAA Director. Several verbal exchanges have occurred because the CAA Director has objected to programs developed by residents. He explained his position in one meeting by telling the residents that, "The kids don't tell the parents what to do," and was countered by the retort from a resident, "You're not dealing with kids." The CAA Director regards resident participation as a handicap to efficiency. The problem is a real one; it is not solely a bias on the part of the Director. Many poor residents are extremely interested in being kept informed of what is going on and often demand to see every detail and piece of paperwork concerning all aspects of the CAA operations. The problem of excessive paperwork would be encountered if these demands of the poor were met and this is not considered practical in an efficient operation.

The possibilities for participation by the poor are in theory maximal in this city, but in practice fall short of this for two reasons: (1) the poor are not fully motivated to take part to the extent they are now permitted to, and (2) they simply do not have, as a group, the know-how, education, training, or self-confidence needed to make the existing participation meaningful or rational. The poor feel that they are not being allowed to participate as fully as they should and that officials of the CAA are imposing programs on them instead of allowing them to formulate their own.

The major result of the participation, and it is a significant one, appears to be a change in the attitudes of these people. They are gaining incentive, realizing that they can make themselves heard, and learning how to articulate and solve their problems.

CENTER "I"

1. History and Origins

The CAA organization covering two countries originated as a result of the foresight of three leading citizens of one of the communities who became interested in forming a CAA early in 1965. Their number grew when these men invited the advice and participation of representatives of various professions