

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967 4095

By far the most popular service of the Center is the Employment Program. Over 50 percent of clients visiting the Center come in search of jobs. Due to the nature and development of the economy in the city, many jobs are available and a great percentage of people seeking jobs are actually placed, and many clients expressed satisfaction with this service. We did receive dissident views here, however, and the complaint was made by some area residents that the program focused on the youth—that an adult could not get a job through the Center without some additional political pull.

The services of numerous other community agencies are offered at the Center through the Counselors and Coordinators. (The Coordinators are called upon in case a client requires more than one service.) The following list of agencies offer services on a referral basis either at the Center or in offices in the immediate vicinity of the Center.

- Association for Retarded Children.
- Youth Welfare.
- Small Business Opportunity Corps.
- Boys Club.
- Youth Center.
- YMCA.
- Legal Aid.
- Public Aid—Slum Housing.
- Food Stamp Program.
- Building Department—Rodent Control.
- Board of Health—Anti-Lead Poisoning.

Center programs and services are delivered to one neighborhood via the Center Outpost. This is a center in miniature with a small staff for intake interviews, referrals, outreach, and one employment counselor. Activity programs are identical to those at the Center but for services other than employment, clients are referred back to the Center or one of the cooperating agencies.

12. Community Action

Policy throughout the entire CAA organization spells out clearly that the program is intended to carry services to the poor on an individual basis. Under no circumstances is there to be concerted action of the people for forcing solutions to their problems. The philosophy is reflected by every participant in this program from the mayor of the city to the most junior of the community representatives. (Note that they are not called "community organizers".) Those who object to the philosophy or who hold loyalties to an organization with dissenting views are quickly drummed out of the corps.

Potential competitors of the Center have had a hard time trying to beat City Hall. A "rival" boys club in the neighborhood of Center I underwent trails which illuminate the futility of such competing efforts. A boys' club, established in that area some eight years ago had developed a membership of about 500 boys and girls, aged 6 to 18. Its goals were to prevent juvenile delinquency by providing recreational programs for the children. Preliminary tactics by Center personnel to undermine the club included attempts to hire club volunteers to work on the Center staff and the sponsorship of competing activities. For example, the club's efforts to hold a bake sale to raise funds were countered with a lower-priced bake sale held at the Center on the same day. Greater pressure was applied when these efforts failed and the club director became the recipient of phone calls threatening the club facilities and himself. A week later an unknown arsonist set fire to the club building destroying about \$4,000 worth of equipment. An interview with the director of the club indicated that he had made efforts to cooperate with the Center and tried to work with it; he had asked for program assistance, personnel assistance, and for coordination of programs. He said he had referred some of his club members to the Center for jobs, but that they had refused to help them.

The tight city controls over every facet of the Center program and the attempted eradication of all outside programs indicate a fear of any resident-inspired community action. It is true that the 200,000 population of this Center area could indeed be an overwhelming force with which to reckon if organized from the grass roots level. Thus, the prevailing attitude is that efficient showering of services in pleasant surroundings should serve to keep the people satisfied and aligned with the powerful establishment.