

Center I, the quality of their performances in this role has been seriously questioned by agency personnel and officials at various levels of the anti-poverty program. Complaints were made that the aides at both Centers were not able to fill out time cards properly or make reports of their field activities. This may be due to the afore-mentioned lack of training and lack of adequate supervision from the Directors.

Because they are in such a definite minority, the poor on the CAA Board have no power to effect any noticeable changes. It is expected that when the new area boards become operational and begin to meet regularly, the poor will be afforded a new instrument for participation at the policy-making level.

People from the poverty areas who serve on the CAA Board and the Area Boards have expressed disappointment over their lack of influence in the poverty program. Several CAA Board members have complained that they, as a minority of the Board, are unable to influence the "establishment." They were indignant over the fact that so much of the OEO money was going, not to the poor, but into the pockets of CAA administrators and for payment of rent for "plush offices." The fact that they were incapable of remedying this situation was a great source of frustration to poor board members. Area Board members also indicated their disillusion about their lack of influence over Center activities. It appeared that at both Centers, only certain board members designated by the Center Directors were invited to participate in "hiring panels," and as this is the only function of the Boards at the present time, many of the board members were forced to remain inactive.

Participation by the poor who were not employees or board members was still minimal at the time of this research. At Center I, several neighborhood residents and Center clients indicated that they would be happy to participate as volunteers but that Center personnel had not indicated that they were needed. At Center II, the Director openly discourages the use of resident volunteers in Center activities because he feels that they do not fit into the general scheme of things at the Center, and that "those who have anything to offer are already employed under some program or other."

Citizen groups that have been successfully organized in the area through Center efforts appear to be those which focus upon a definite problem and envision specific and short-range goals.

CENTER "P"

1. History and Origins

Ninety-five percent of the Negro population of this large urban area is compressed into a single section of the city where the number of housing units is diminishing and the demand for them is continually on the increase. Federal urban renewal programs are in the process of razing many of the dilapidated structures, forcing the inhabitants to relocate and thus severely crowding those buildings that still remain. Over-priced housing and open discrimination practices close most other areas of the city to the Negro, and he often has no recourse but to live in this ghetto.

Various public and private agencies have made token attempts to serve this population in the past but the turbulence and disorder in the lives of these people give evidence to the fact that past agency efforts have been largely ineffective. Other than providing space for decentralization of the established agencies, neighborhood centers in the city offer nothing that is novel in the way of service to this area. The centers do not in themselves provide for outreach or offer programs of their own creation. These centers are atypical of other centers under study throughout the country in that they merely house units of established social service agencies and a few CAA programs; and they employ no personnel other than a director whose duty it is to coordinate the services offered by the agencies in his building.

It is the "Outreach Program" under the sponsorship of an association of private welfare agencies that is the focus of the research conducted in this city. Originally under the direction of a CAP organization, the Outreach Program was funded in July, 1965 but was at that time located in two settlement houses, both members of the private welfare association. The original CAP was terminated in February, 1966, and a new CAA structure was set up to operate neighborhood service centers and other OEO components. Funds for Outreach were allocated to the private association which renamed itself the Neighborhood Centers Association. At the present time, the administrative unit of the Outreach