

Fair housing clubs are being formed by the Center to work with the NAACP in seeing that the Fair Housing Law is upheld.

The Vocational Program has previously been mentioned. Service through this department is of a counseling nature whereby the capabilities of the client are matched by scholarships or training programs available through schools in the community.

Through the Community Service Workers (neighborhood residents) information about agency services is carried to area homes. For those in need of services, the Workers provides transportation to the agency, following up with the case at a later date. The whole complicated procedure of getting agency service is simplified for the resident by having the worker "untangle the red tape."

At the present time, Center officials are concentrating more effort on study groups and volunteer work details to encourage residents to give service as well as receive services from the community.

10. Community Action

It was intended by the Neighborhood Board that community action take precedence over services. First, however, they felt that basic needs of the people had to be met. The people could not be encouraged to think abstractly about the needs of the community until they had adequate amounts of food, clothing, and shelter. During the first year of operation, it was necessary that the Center program be focused on service aspects of the program, through the mobilization of service resources in the community and the delivery of those services to the people who needed them.

Community action prior to the poverty programs in the city took the form of violence, vandalism, and property damage. Containment of violence and prevention of rioting and delinquency has been the focus of the church-affiliated CAP. The action goals of the Center under study and its Board include the development of groups to study needs, propose programs for submittal to the Board, and take peaceful and legal action to solve problems. "Action" here is interpreted to mean neighborhood clean-up detail, groups to hold discussions with landlords, etc. Results of the "need" surveys form a solid background of information with which to arm the action groups, to assist them in articulation of their grievances and thereby increasing the effectiveness of action.

The Center Director noted that there has been some difficulty in getting the poor out to meetings of the various interest groups. Also, he mentioned the lack of volunteers and the general reticence of the people in getting out to help others. It appears that those of the poor that the Center encourages to act (i.e., the non-violent poor) are precisely the people who are most reluctant to do so. During the summer months, greater effort was expended on group activity and there was some increase in meeting attendance.

12. Participation of the Poor

Due to the apparent lack of interest and lack of direction on the part of the CAA, the poor on the Neighborhood Board have been given a great deal of freedom in running the Center. Several comments of civic leaders indicated that some members of the conservative city government were totally opposed to poverty programs in general and were willing to let the program expire for lack of their administrative guidance. The Board appears to be one of few examples of "maximum feasible participation" in policy-making roles, where the Neighborhood Board in fact is all-powerful, even to the extent of turning down suggested programs from the national and state levels. This is a group that was instrumental in every stage of Center operation, from the initial planning stages to Center operations to program formulation for the future. The poor Board members exercise their new authority with a vengeance and insist upon being alerted to everything that occurs at the Center. Consequently, the Director they have hired has very little authority over the day to day operations there and as a result, many personnel and policy conflicts remain unresolved. Since staff members were hired by the Board and profess a loyalty to it instead of the Director, the Director has experienced some difficulty in coordinating his departments and smoothing out difficulties as they arise.

In spite of the conflicts, the Center has been successful in reaching many of the people, providing service to many residents to meet their basic needs, and