

We wish to make it clear that we do not believe that these are the only two groups which should be represented on the committee. New groups are being formed as offsprings of the activities of these two groups and in the future if they start to mature, they too will deserve recognition. In addition, there may presently be in this city other neighborhood groups which should be involved on the Citizens Advisory Committee.

The significance and importance of representation for the grass roots is seen in the riots and violence of recent days in North Jersey. Lack of meaningful direct lines of communication between the poor and the city government helped cause Newark's explosion. Tensions are increasing in Camden. The frustrations, misunderstandings, and sense of alienation felt by the poor can only be eased by direct and responsive communication between the Mayor of Camden and the poor.

We believe Mr. Hummel has been misled to believe that the Neighborhood Conservation and Rehabilitation Committee has expanded its membership to include "civic associations and neighborhood groups." From our examination of the list of persons appointed to the Committee, only one, Mr. Charles Barberito of the Pyne Point Association in North Camden, can be said to represent a civic association or a neighborhood group.

Mr. Hummel states: "There will also be a minority group subcommittee. We have asked that this organization be active before we consider recertification of the Workable Program." Although Camden's Workable Program has been recertified, no "minority group subcommittee" has been formed as part of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Lastly, with respect to the issue of the Citizens Advisory Committee, we wish to point out that although the Camden Metropolitan Ministry, the Camden Christian Center, the Methodist Deaconess Community Center, the Neighborhood Apostolate, and the Camden Episcopal Community Center have played a leading role along with the civil rights and neighborhood groups in the coalition to help the poor, no members of the clergy who have been active in this fight have been appointed to the Citizens Advisory Committee. This is so even though all these churches and centers are not only expressing great concern about the actions of the city, state, and federal government which may be detrimental to the welfare of the people living in Camden, but when these churches and centers all assume important roles in the lives of the community they serve by providing recreation for youngsters, counseling services, English, Spanish, and Typing classes, services for the aged and a myriad of other social services.

We believe that if the Camden Citizens Advisory Committee is to be a truly effective and meaningful body, it must contain as members the civil rights leaders, the grass roots people through their neighborhood groups, and the clergy, who have been and are activists in the struggle to help the poor and the discriminated against.

While pleased that the Department of Housing and Urban Development is requiring Camden to provide a statistical breakdown by race of persons displaced and to be displaced by governmental action, we are unaware of any concrete steps which have been taken or will be taken to secure such a statistical breakdown. We wish to be informed as to what has already been done and what will be done in the future to obtain this information.

We are extremely dissatisfied that your Department has not demanded that Camden make low-income housing the number one priority of Camden's Workable Program, ahead of transportation and commercial redevelopment. The desperate need for low income housing is seen not only in the deteriorating conditions of the ghettos, but in Parkside, a moderate income, predominantly Negro section of Camden. People living in Parkside are being forced to subdivide their apartments and houses in order to house relatives and friends from the ghetto areas who are being displaced by urban renewal programs, highway construction and code enforcement. Slumlords are beginning to operate in this area. If this process continues, and it will have to unless Camden obtains a sudden infusion of decent low income housing, this residential area of Camden will become a slum and if it becomes a slum, it will help to perpetuate the myth that Negroes and Puerto Ricans create ghettos. This can only provide fuel for the fires of a white power structure which is basically both racially prejudiced and unsympathetic to the human needs of people who have been "punished" in the past because of the color of their skin and who are presently being both "punished" and "pushed" around as a consequence of governmental action. The federal government *must* require the city government and the Camden