

[From the Washington Evening Star, Aug. 7, 1968]

U.S. SENDS BILL FOR TENT CITY—ASKS SCLC FOR \$71,795 FOR CLEANUP

(By Roberta Hornig)

The National Park Service sent to sponsors of the Poor People's Campaign today a bill for \$71,795—the amount it says Resurrection City cost the government.

The Park Service asked for "immediate" payment.

The biggest item in the detailed claim submitted to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference is \$64,859 for dismantling and removing the wooden huts that had stood in West Potomac Park.

The bill, however, does not include the \$65,000 the Park Service estimates it will cost to resod and restore the grass at the Resurrection City campsite.

"WEAR AND TEAR"

That cost, a Parks spokesman said, lies within the "reasonable wear and tear of turf" Parks accepted when it granted a camping permit to the campaign.

The claim, the spokesman said, deals solely with SCLC's responsibility under terms of the permit "to remove facilities installed and to restore the site to its prior condition. . . ."

The claim was submitted by registered letter today to Washington attorney Frank Reeves, who had helped negotiate the camping permit for Resurrection City for the SCLC president, the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, with the federal government; Leroy Clark, a New York attorney with the NAACP, who also helped with the campaign, and the SCLC Washington and Atlanta headquarters offices.

Parks sources said the hope is that SCLC will take the claims amicably and pay up. They indicated, however, that if SCLC does not honor the government bill, a lawsuit for the money could follow.

SCLC has said it will submit claims of its own to the government, but so far it has not indicated what they are.

Other Park Service bills to the campaign range from \$3,350 NPS estimates it will cost to repair and replace trees, to \$100 for replacing two park benches.

PAINT ON MEMORIAL

The \$71,795 billing also includes \$1,726 for repairing and replacing shrubbery; \$660 for replacing 300 feet of snow fence; \$200 for removing paint that had been thrown on the D.C. War Memorial located on the site, and another \$900 for repair to the slate sidewalk around the memorial that had been ripped up during the course of the campaign.

The Resurrection City dismantling, Parks said, cost NPS \$14,122, the General Services Administration \$27,217 and the District government \$23,520. The money is owed mainly for labor costs, with lesser amounts for equipment.

[From the Sunday Star, June 30, 1968]

ADDING UP THE COSTS—TENT CITY AND CAMPAIGN INVOLVED MILLIONS

(By James Welsh)

Early in May, the week before the first of the Poor People's campaigners came to town, staff members of the Smithsonian Institution were in New York and Newport, R.I., huddling with officials of two foundations.

Their idea, conceived some time before at the Smithsonian, was to mount a cultural program at Resurrection City. It would have been designed not only to entertain the tent-city residents, but to stimulate what cultural talents they brought with them, especially in the field of music.

Approval of the idea was no problem. The Ford Foundation promptly made a grant of \$30,000, to be used for installing a wide variety of facilities, from a "culture tent" to elaborate sound and lighting systems, and for tours to the Smithsonian by the children of Resurrection City.