

# ERAP NEWSLETTER

July 17, 1965

46 Arch Street, New Haven, Conn.

## A CALL TO THE PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE

AUGUST 27-29  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

### PURPOSES

A chance for contact between people active in community movements: Negroes and whites, tenants and small homeowners, the unemployed, people on welfare, teenagers, people from the South, the northern cities and the West Coast.

A chance to talk about issues: the war on poverty, police brutality, urban renewal, rats and roaches, unemployment, welfare, discrimination, schools, low wages and bad job conditions, the war in Vietnam.

A chance to talk about action: organizing block groups, community unions, protesting the war on poverty, picketing the slum landlord, voter registration and political action, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, organizing unions, movements of young people.

A chance to plan more action and national meetings: the people at the Newark conference will decide when and where and how to meet again. People from one city may want to plan visits to other cities after the conference. People may want to have another conference later in the year, at another city.

### COSTS

local groups will have to raise their own money for travel. Food and sleeping arrangements will be taken care of at Newark.

### CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS

Mrs. Louise Patterson  
721 Hunterdon Street  
Newark, New Jersey  
Area Code 201-242-8938

PLEASE SEND US A REPLY ABOUT  
YOUR PLANS. EVEN A POSTCARD  
WILL DO.



goldwater info  
in CSMSC?

elw  
photo

SERIES 4.A - NO. 8

# notes on the conference

A working group on the conference is being set up in Newark. Unless we hear from other projects soon, we'll have to go ahead and work out a rough agenda and send it to you. If you have preliminary ideas, please get them to us. Not just ideas about the content of workshops at the conference, but other problems such as: 1) the number of poor whites that can be expected; 2) money problems and what you're doing about them; 3) notions about what kind of business the conference might consider, such as a national demonstration later in the year--etc etc.

Some of us have been working on the August 6 through 9 Washington workshops. The attendance there will be mostly MFDP, student left and peace movement. Where it is a real choice between community people going to Washington or Newark, we suggest the emphasis be Newark. Where both can be accomplished, so much the better.

After the Newark conference, sometime in September and maybe October, there are likely to be a number of regional conferences for students who did community work this summer or are doing work year-around. Like the Washington action, these meetings are not being called by any one of the going organizations, but are proposed by a "working committee" that is trying to get together people across organizational and movement lines (SCOPE, SNCC, MPM, SDS, PLM, PSW etc etc). To plug into this work contact Bob Parris or Eric Weinberger at 107 Rhode Island NW, Washington DC. --Tom Hayden

## From Oakland

The War on Poverty last week (June 29th) provided the issue which started the Oakland Community Project rolling. People of Peralta Villa, a government housing project, were warned fifteen minutes prior to the uprooting of their gardens and demolition of their fences, that such action would be taken in response to the City of Oakland's "Beautification" program.

We talked with the people of Peralta Villa--some of us concentrating on the issue of the fences--others approaching the issue from the standpoint of a community movement. The people wanted to have a meeting on the evening of July 1st--about 80 people came. They elected a steering committee and decided to form a continuing organization.

The head of the Housing Authority wanted a private meeting with the steering committee--but the people decided to stick together. A rally was held--about 30 people showed. They marched to the housing office, presented a petition and asked that the director of the housing authority and manager of the project come to a meeting that night. About 65 people showed for the meeting. The housing director did not come. At that meeting they changed the name to Peralta Improvement League (PIL).

Our role in the fence issue was talking with the people, suggesting they might solve their problems if they organized, speaking with them about a movement, circulating petitions and passing out leaflets publicizing the meetings and rally. There are about half a dozen very strong residents who have been going door-to-door, too. Prior to the housing project we spent most of our time repairing the SRS units. We've also begun doing block organizing. Urban renewal seems to be a real threat. There is a general feeling that this area is wanted for industry.

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Also, a few freedom school groups are being organized, including one with a neighborhood group, the Liberators. Finally, the Unemployed Rights Committee is currently mostly working on appeal cases. The excitement generated during the campaign against the unemployment ripper bill (which passed) has died down.

## Leaflets and petitions from Oakland---

**FIRST LEAFLET:**  
Many people around here want to keep their backyards because  
1. They want to have a garden.  
2. The backyards are everybody's.  
3. They will get a lot of the money that they had to pay for the fences.

4. Nobody will have any privacy.  
5. Public kids will have no place near us to play.

**LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE IDEAS OF WHAT SHOULD BE DONE:**

1. Fences should have new fences built. Those in the Campbell Village project.

2. Fences should be put up to keep little kids off 1128 Street.

3. Grass should be put in the school playgrounds.

4. A sign should be put at Cypress and 10th.

We want to get together and talk about what we can do to get these things done. Come to the Cole Gym on Friday night at 7:30.

**SECOND LEAFLET:**  
**THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS RUNNING SCARED!**

Mrs. Katz, head of the job corps which is working on the backyards, told Otis Lampkins on the phone that no fences will be taken down Tuesday morning; he's waiting until the matter is settled.

Richard--head of the Housing Authority--wants a private meeting with our steering committee. Let's ALL stick together and go.

**RALLY AT 10th AND POPLAR AT 10 O'CLOCK TUESDAY. THREE MARCH AT THE OFFICE.**

**WE WILL:**

1. Present the petitions
2. Demand that Guichard and Taylor come to our meeting.

This leaflet was prepared by the committee that you elected at the Wednesday night Tenants Meeting.

Guichard again refused to meet with the body. Let's demand that he meet ALL of us!

### TENANTS' PETITION OF PROTEST

We, the undersigned, do hereby make formal protest against the so-called "rehabilitation" program now underway at Peralta Villa Housing Project, which is a wholesale destruction of our yards and flagrant violation of our human rights and dignity. We demand that you:

1. Stop tearing down the remaining fences.
2. Rebuild fences that already have been demolished.
3. Reimburse those whose private property has been destroyed or damaged.
4. Consult tenants before taking any further actions concerning the community, and/or people of Peralta Villa.

This is what the people decided on at the meeting last Wednesday. Be sure everyone signs it!

# Dear Neighbor,

Some of the people in the neighborhood have been wondering who it is that moved into the light green house at 320 Henry Street. Well, we are members of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). This note is being passed around to let you know who we are and what we're about.

All twelve of us here believe that a lot of people in this country-- especially poor people--don't get to say much about what they want to happen, that they don't get to say anything about things that might really hurt them. Most important decisions are made by the man at the top. The people around here don't get asked. Anybody who doesn't have money, anybody who is unemployed or on welfare, anybody who works forty hours a week for money that only lasts for half a week, anybody like that doesn't get asked. People who are the victims of racial discrimination and segregation have it even worse. Oakland is not much different from Louisiana or Mississippi.

We believe that the only way that some of the problems facing poor people in this country can be solved is by the people themselves. This means that everybody ought to come together to find out what all their neighbors think about things. Other people around here probably have a lot of the troubles that you do, but most of the time they try to handle them alone. The six at the top get together--they get together to decide how much your car should cost, how much rent they want to get from you and all sorts of other things that can make your life harder.

We think that keeping people from making decisions is wrong, wrong wherever and whenever it happens. For instance: the people who live in Berkeley Village are having their fences torn down. A lot of them are mad. Some want to keep their fences for lots of reasons. Others don't mind losing their fences, but are still mad, because they were just told to either fix the fences or they'll be torn down. No one talked to them; they weren't asked "What do you people who live in the project want?"

We started talking to the people in the project and over a hundred of them have set up an organization. They're going to make the man who runs the project listen to them.

Fences aren't the only problem that people should talk about. What about better schools, better treatment from landlords, fairer prices for foods, better street cleaning and street lighting, a fence to help keep kids away from the railroad tracks, or just a bigger voice in the local state and national governments.

Negroes in Mississippi have been told what to do for hundreds of years. Like people in Oakland they finally got tired of being pushed around just as if they were still slaves. They asked the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to work with them. Now they've talked about their problems and they've begun to move as one to change their life in the South. They saw that the Democratic Party of Mississippi wasn't with them, it was against them. So the Negroes of Mississippi started their own party, their own Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Now all of these people are working together to change their lives. They're making a lot of their own decisions now.

There's a movement of people growing all over the country. Several months ago poor people from all over the country met in Cleveland, to discuss common problems and to try and figure out ways to get more people involved in their movement. There were unemployed white coal miners from Kentucky, Negro sharecroppers from Mississippi, and people from community organizations from Baltimore, Newark, Chicago, San Francisco,

*into the Westside  
W. Oakland  
New Hall*

*cc  
05  
100*

Boston, Selma, etc. Many of these people work with SDS and SNCC. All of them believe that they have lots of problems in common and that the only way they'll get real results is by coming together in a big group to work for the things they think to be important.

We'll be coming around and talking to you about building a movement of people in West Oakland, people from this area who will work together to get what they want, what is their rights. We hope you'll come and talk with us, either at 320 Henry St (444-3587) or when we're talking with people on your street.

Building a movement of people is no easy job, but it can be done if all the people start working together to help each other now. Already there are a couple of things going that might be of interest to you. There's the Unemployed Rights Committee that helps people having problems with the Unemployment Office, There's the Welfare Rights Organization that helps people on Welfare who are having problems with the welfare office. And there are the Freedom Schools where kids can talk about problems and questions that they aren't allowed to talk about in the regular schools. Join with us. Come and talk with us about anything you like. If you're having some kind of a problem that you think we can help with, let us know.

Be seeing you,  
West Oakland Community Project

"There's a change gonna come... many voices."

## Report from Cleveland

The Cleveland Project, after spending about a week getting housing arrangements and internal functioning for both the East and West Side projects settled, has begun reviving old projects and starting new ones.

City-wide, the CUFAW welfare mothers' organization has suffered from lack of work during the hectic last month. Most of the leadership is now employed by the local war on poverty, reducing the time they can spend working on CUFAW.

On the Near West Side, work has been resumed in the Abbey Road area, completing work on a petition asking the city to improve the area's inadequate playground. People in the area have been active in circulating the petition, and a meeting is scheduled to plan action around the petition. Work is being begun in another neighborhood, around Fulton Road, on issues of recreation, street safety (a 3-year old boy was killed on the weekend), and perhaps housing. It is an area where there is both a concentration of issues, and a concentration of previous contacts (continued, next page)



CLEVELAND Continued...

of the project. Housing organization started with a bang: a big apartment house, owned by the same landlord who had been the target of an earlier rent-strike at another "hill-billy heaven," was visited by project members doing exploratory contacts. Within two days rumors spread that people attending a community union meeting would be evicted. Then came



Community Theatre

a confrontation with the custodian, who called the organizers "Communists, Jews, agitators, Freedom Riders, outsiders from Jay Ave." (Replied Connie Smiddie, "Communists? But I voted for Eisenhower.") With such an attack coming so early in the process of building contacts, many people were intimidated; but work will continue, with the leader of the earlier rent strike helping out. The Community Union will have a meeting to be invited; recreation, street safety, and the shooting of a teenager in a car by a cop seem to be the biggest community-wide concerns.

The Community theater has had one meeting, where a skit was written by community people with Bob Smiddie. Because of the difficulty in finding community people willing to act, another skit, involving a smaller cast (2 as opposed to 8), also is being written. Possibilities for performance include blocking off a small street and having skits in conjunction with a street dance (musicians abound in the neighborhood).

A "hanging" of photo by D. Gerton and written material (poems, etc) about life here—kids, playgrounds, streets has been made. Perhaps it can be compared with the suburbs. We plan to display it around the neighborhood.

Both sides of town have been meeting twice a week for "internal education." Topics have included Cleveland power structure, what do we mean by "radical," and alienation vs. class as theories of organizing. Structure has varied from presentation and question of a resource person to breaking the staff down into small discussion groups. And for the weekly baseball game.

FLASH: Community Union meeting was small, but four people from the Brooks apartment came despite threats of eviction for attending the meeting. After the meeting, one tenant's rent payment was refused, and she was told to leave within the week. She called the SDS house, where a lawyer was called, and then told her that eviction (if rent was paid) required lengthy court action. By the next morning, the custodian and land lord had backed down, and accepted rent from two of the tenants who had been at the meeting. A tenant's meeting is probably the next step.



Weekly Baseball Game

REPRINT OF

# CLEVELAND COMMUNITY NEWS

PUBLICATION OF THE CLEVELAND COMMUNITY UNION  
Vol. 1 No. 4  
July 5, 1965

2908 Jay Avenue  
Cleveland 13, Ohio

781-3739  
7711256

## WHY SHOULD CHILDREN FEAR POLICEMEN?

WE TEACH OUR CHILDREN all their lives to turn to the police for help when they need it. Then when this same child gets to the age of being not a child any more, but not quite an adult, what does our law enforcement officers do? These children then live in fear of this same police department that their parents had always taught them to trust. Within the last few days two of our young boys have been killed by the bullets of the police. Why? you ask. Simply because of the fact that they were afraid and running. Why are teenagers afraid? Because when these children reach the age when they are no longer children, but not yet adults, they cannot go to the policemen for help. (CAN YOU ANSWER WHY THIS FEAR IS SO GREAT??)

As I sit here writing this, a young boy of 14 just came up on the porch. He told me that he hated the police. I asked him why? He said that whenever he saw a policeman he would run. I asked him again why? He said that he was afraid he would be picked up for something whether he done it or not, and taken to jail.

Two more just walked up. We asked the same questions, they said they didn't know, they were just scared. They weren't scared when they were little, but they are now.

Why should two young boys be shot down for being scared? To stop them, you might say. As mother of boys, none of us has ever had to shoot a boy to stop him from running. Justifiable homicide, you say. If either boy had a gun aimed at the police, I would say justifiable, but to kill a boy for being scared can hardly be justified. The police are trained very well and expensively in the art of self-defense, target practice is a must, you near to tell me that they could have aimed at the tired instead of the canvas top of a convertible where a boy's head was? This problem of police-fear is in existence wherever there is a poor neighborhood, whether it is on the East or West Side of town. (continued next column)

We know the above facts are TRUE as we have questioned quite a few teen-age boys and girls. To punish with death a child for being scared is one of the most INHUMAN things America can be ashamed of.

DOROTHY OSBORNE  
MASIL DAY  
IVA PEARCE  
LILLIAN CRAIG  
HARRIET SIZEMORE

IMPORTANT—Now the newspapers report that there are witnesses who have testified that the car did not try to hit the policeman, and that it stopped before the shots were fired. Police Chief Wagner has ordered the investigation to be reopened, but the boy is already dead...

## URBAN RENEWAL

Urban Renewal can mean human renewal. I had heard this so I went to the Urban Renewal Information Center in the Tremont area to find out what was planned for the N Near West Side. The man I talked to kept avoiding my question and never told me what I wanted to know. He got very angry when I asked him what happened to the people living in the area that was cleared for the new housing that was too expensive for the previous residents. He didn't know what happened to those people and he did not seem too concerned. (continued next page, 1st column)

SERIALS 4 AND 8

cerned either. I told him that people are more important than city plans. He then tried to talk about something else. I was very discouraged to discover that the "information center" didn't give information. I was also angry because this man didn't seem really to care about the people in the "Near West Side. I can't understand how people can not care about people.

--Bob Gross

### PLAYGROUND---

On Friday, July 2, Joey Cox, who was 3 years old, was struck down by a truck accidentally on 30th and Fulton and died 2 hours later. The people were so shocked that they were running in fear to the scene of the accident as if to see if it was their own child.

These are the results of not having a playground area for the children. Had we had a playground area, that child would not have been dead today and if people would cooperate we could have a playground area for our children...if we unite.

On our streets our safety rules are not followed out. Instead of the police sitting in a store eating up food, etc., why aren't they patrolling the streets for speeders and lawbreakers. Our police safety laws are not followed out because once again our police department is falling down on the job. Instead of having police brutality they should have a cop on the street helping parents protect their children. In other words, have him do his job rather than sitting on his can getting fat.

We have an area (Franklin to Woodbine, Fulton to 31st place), of about five block and about 200 kids with no place to play but in the street and along Fulton. There is a vacant lot that could be used as a play area for the small children. The only use of the lot now is a broken-down old house--condemned. The only thing that is in it is rats, broken glass, trash, rubbish which

(continued next column)

the city should remove but hasn't.

If we could possibly get the city to buy this lot, it would make a perfect playground for children and mothers would't have to worry so much about them being on the street.

The parents could help achieve this by going out and working among the children and talking to the people and try and contact the man and see if he would possibly permit the house to be torn down so we could use it.

The house is a fire hazard and should be torn down.

--Iva Pearce

Community Union Meeting  
Wednesday July 6,  
St. Paul's Church  
W. 45th and Franklin  
ALL WELCOME\* ALL WELCOME



# CAIRO..From FREEDOM NEWS

## SUMMER CAMP FOR POOR KIDS

Rich kids go to camp during the summer. Poor kids hang out on Street corners. People at Freedom House have been thinking of ways to bring the fun of camping to poor kids in Cairo. Jerry, Lane, Dorothy, and Ida Mae Johnson went to the swimming pool to see if we could start a program of teaching people to swim. They found that we could have swimming lessons from 8 to 10 each day. Those taking lessons could stay in the pool till 12:30 paying 25¢.

Jerry and Kathy are planning an afternoon program to be held in the parks in which kids would play games, sing, tell stories, go on hikes and trips and so on.

If these programs are to be successful, we need to know what kids will want to go, and we need parents and young adults to help.

We have submitted a plan to the War on Poverty to get enough money to run a big program, but it will be quite a while before we will know how the plan comes out. We also are thinking about raising money locally to get a smaller program started. If we really want to we can do alot to make the summer happier and safer for our kids.

## MECHANICS TRAINING

Young people interested in learning to repair and maintain automobiles should come to Freedom House Saturday June 12 at 1:00 ready to go to work. A trained mechanic will supervise the young people. This program is important not only because of the training received, but because it will enable us to travel to other projects more safely and more often.

## HELP!!

If Freedom House is to survive, we need the financial as well as moral support of the people. If you have something to contribute, either drop it off at Freedom House, 2314 Poplar, or call us at 1798 and we will pick it up.

(continued next page)

## COME TO THE MEETINGS!

The meeting at Freedom House Thursday night at 7:30 will be a very important one. On Friday morning there's going to be a meeting of the people on the anti-poverty boards from five counties. At this meeting the five county board will be set up and they will begin talking about development proposals for how the War on Poverty will be carried on in the region. That's why we need to have a meeting Thursday night--to talk about what kind of development program we, the poor people, think would be best for finding out the real needs of the poor community and doing something about it. Then we can go to the meeting on Friday morning and present our ideas.

## NO PLACE TO GO, NO FOOD TO EAT

About 2 weeks ago a white family that needed help came to Cairo. They had been living in Mobile, Alabama in a section of town that was torn down during slum clearance and many poor white and Negro families had to find other places to live. This particular family decided to come to Cobden, Ill. (the woman's home town) and try to get work on a farm. They couldn't find any work, so a police chief and a welfare man from Jonesboro arranged for the family to get bus tickets to Cairo. By the time they got to Cairo, the father and the 10 year old daughter were very sick. The woman wandered around town trying to find house work so that she could buy food for the five children. Finally she came to Freedom House. We went with her to the relief office to try to get help. Ohler said he would get a doctor for the sick man and child and wouldn't give them anything for food. All he would give them was bus tickets back to where they came from even though two of the people were too sick to ride the bus, and they had no place to live when they got there.

CAIRO'S FREEDOM NEWS Continued...  
VOCATIONAL SCHOOL "COOLING SYSTEM"

By Russell De Berry  
No, the students of the adult vocational school, have come to the conclusion that either the school must obtain a substantial cooling system or allow shorter sessions in the grouping of the classes. We feel that no one should be compelled to sit through 10 1/2 hours of classes suffering from heat due to the lack of air conditioning or even fans. The teachers say "We sat through school hours and it was hot to us," but for the difference between salaries we would also sit through those very hot and drastically long sessions. Our decision (the students) is to obtain a better cooling system or we demand shorter school hours. Because we feel that if getting out at 2:50 which only gives us twenty minutes difference can be tolerated, then surely we could stay the other 20 minutes. We feel that a fine in the vicinity of 2:00 would be more expedient than the latter time agreement.

NEWS FROM OTHER PLACES

In Cleveland, Ohio there is a project where people are working for the same things we are. It started on the near west side in a poor white neighborhood of people from Southern Appalachia that is nicknamed "Hillbilly Heaven." The houses are full of roaches and rats and are about to fall down. The people in this area got together and formed a tenant council and got the health inspector, plumbing inspector, and housing inspector to visit the houses. The landlord ordered 12 new garbage cans. The tenants weren't satisfied so they continued the fight and withheld the rent. They are now trying to get more people involved for a big push this summer.

LET SCHOOL OUT!

The meeting on Friday at 10:00 is to talk about what is going to happen with the War on Poverty. Because all the people who attend the vocational school are directly concerned with poverty, we think the school should let out at 10:00.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

J.R. Stokes, the deputy sheriff that hit Jim Rush over the head while he was tryin' to help poor people get their rights at the welfare office, is one of the people who was appointed to be on Cairo's anti-poverty board? Stokes is also a Republican Committeeman for the 8th precinct.

TWO PETITIONS CAIRO PASSED OUT:

Citizen's Rights

- We believe that:
1. A family shouldn't have to starve just because they cannot find a job or support themselves.
  2. The government has a duty to provide a job or support a family during hard times.
  3. A family should not have to starve just because they move across a state line.

A Petition

J.R. Stokes, part time deputy sheriff, split Jim Rush's head open for no reason at all. That's not right. Police action by violence and threats will not be tolerated.

The rights of citizens must never be sacrificed.

Whenever a policeman hits somebody or used a weapon, a speedy hearing should be provided to determine whether the citizen's rights have been violated.

Policemen found guilty of excess violence should be swiftly punished.



# NEW HAVEN

These stories are written to describe a trip to Washington. The members of the Hill Freedom School went to lobby for the MFDP Congressional Challenge and to see how our political system works first-hand.

The MFDP I think was a good start to a new challenge. Even though we got a long way to go, we'll soon get there. Miss Jan Goodman, their secretary, brought up some very good points in which to go up to the white house. I think it was sort of bad what happened to the Mississippians when they tried to see the clerk, Ralph Roberts. It was one of the most rudest things I ever seen or heard of. Even though they did have an appointment to see the clerk and he didn't show up and kept trying to make excuses not to see them. Miss Goodman told us all about what we should do and what we shouldn't do to help the Mississippians in their struggle for freedom and justice for all.

During the trial, each individual was heard and testified. They were breaks new and then which made the trial seem more boring in some parts and more interesting in others when they start talking. The lawyer asked Mrs. Gray, one of the Mississippians, did the guards ask her to leave the hallway or tell her to get out. Mrs. Gray's word were: "Yes, they told me to get out, they didn't ask me to get out." And he also asked her did he tell her once or more than once to leave. Her reply was that he asked her just once. The judge says that he asked her more than once. One when he asked her to leave and another when he left and came back and asked them to leave again or did anybody want to leave, which

was the second time, but Mrs. Gray still kept to that one thing. The judge he was alright, but he was just trying to bring out a point whether they were demonstrating or whether they were just trying to see the clerk, but he didn't seem too interested in it. He seemed as though he had it solved already. He was going to sentence them to whatever he wanted to.

While in the office of Congressman DiIorio, we are now listening to facts and principles of New Haven and southern states. I think that what he said about the difference between New Haven and southern states do have alot to do with the growth of the challenge. I didn't like what he said pertaining to urban renewal projects in some parts. Example: he said poor people control urban redevelopment. Now if poor people control urban redevelopment, why can't they set up their own rates in housing. They throw two bricks together and they say "Here we have some people live here for a hundred and a half a month" and a couple more bricks with a little seam in it for two hundred which make the difference in prices. He wasn't interested in what we had to say. It seemed like he was a big man, which he is. He thinks he knows everything but he really knows nothing. All they know is things in the paper and junk like that, but the small problems around here, which are the most important problems, he dont know nothing about. He cant go up and then down, he got to go down and then go up. He seemed like he's a hard person to get along with. He is a person of high standing and he's gonna stay with others of high standing and forget about the people who are under him like the people of Connecticut. In order to make good of himself, he is going to try to stick with the higher class people and forget about the lower class.

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Reading?

5

He sat in the lower class, then somebody in the higher class would have something to say about it. They would be mad at him. On television and newspaper, he seemed to be a nice guy. Not until you meet him face to face do you find the results different.

Signed: "Poochie"

New Haven  
July 16, 1965

We left Monday to go to Washington. When we got there, we spent the night at Mrs. Wilhelm's house. The next morning around about 8:30, we went to the office of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and we sat there. We was talking to this lady, Jan Goodman. She was telling us about the Negroes from Mississippi that came down to Washington to see the clerk of the house and he told them to come back the next day. They had a written appointment with him at 10 o'clock and when they got there the clerk's secretary told them that he had to go to a funeral. They got arrested and we went to the trial. They had a ten minute recess because we were there listening to the trial and they thought we were there to help them. A man from the MFDP told us that it would affect the trial. Then we left. Half went back to the trial and the rest of us went sightseeing. Jake let us off on Pennsylvania Avenue and we watched the Shriner's parade for about five minutes. Then we walked over to the white house. We started to go in, but the guard said it was closed to visitors. We walked over to the Washington Monument. We walked around and we started to go inside, but we didn't. Then we went back to the place

where we had to meet Jake. We went back to pick up the rest of the people.

We went to the Longworth building to see Congressman Giaino. My mother works for his neighbor. We waited for around ten or fifteen minutes to see Giaino and when he came, they started asking questions like would he vote for the challenge. He said he couldn't tell us. Coop asked him about the Negroes about voting and Giaino changed the conversation about his wife sold a house to a Negro in North Haven. Coop asked Giaino about the crisis in Vietnam and should Negroes fight there. Giaino said that Negro leaders said that Negroes should accept the duties of citizenship along with the privileges, like the duty of being killed. I think that Negroes shouldn't have to go fight for somebody else's battle. If Negroes have to fight, they should get together among with other people and discuss things out. Why should our troops go over to Vietnam and fight and help their government win the war. What is the main reason why the Vietnamese government want our troops over there? I honestly don't know.

We left Washington and we went to New York for a while.

Signed: Roy

There is an emergency news bulletin on Southeast Asian affairs called "Viet Report." It contains excellent articles by Staughton Lynd, Bernard Fall, Stanley Millet, Georges Chaffard, and others. First copy free from VIET-REPORT, 133 West 72nd Street, New York, N. Y. 10023.

# Correspondence

## PLANS for CREATIVE EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

From: Nancy von Bretzel, CREATIVE EDUCATION PROJECT, Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 Main Street, Ann Arbor, Mich.

We are planning a newsletter which will be devoted to an examination of current radical education. The newsletter would provide an opportunity for people to communicate with one another about the educational projects in which they are involved. We hope this newsletter will stimulate dialogue among people currently working creatively with children.

The idea of an informal bulletin and clearinghouse on education originated in the series of seven or eight very exciting workshop sessions on education during the SDS National Convention. People composing these sessions were involved in freedom schools, tutorial projects, community organizing through children, etc.

If you are currently involved in work in radical education, would you kindly send us specific information concerning your project for reference and possible use in our newsletter. In addition, would you please send us the names and addresses of any people you know are presently involved in educational experimentation?

We have set July 16 as the tentative date on which we will begin work on the first issue. Please send along anything you might have or wish to write for us to the address listed above. We hope to hear from you soon.

# Newsletter Notes

## TO THE PROJECTS

We have been able to set up exchanges with SNCC and NSM so that all their projects will receive our newsletter, and all ours will receive theirs. It will therefore no longer be necessary to reprint Jack Minnis's

Life with Lyndon

as a result of recent advances in *Electronics* the newsletter will be able to reprint a limited number of photographs. They should be about 4" by 5" and high in contrast. Drawings are fine too.

The normal deadline for the newsletter is *Thursday*. If, however, you have taken over your city government and we receive word of it Friday morning we can probably fit it in

LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE



# News From Washington

## MORE ON THE AUGUST SIXTH ASSEMBLY OF UNREPRESENTED PEOPLE

"I like to believe that the people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. I think the people want peace so much that one of these days government had better get out of their way and let them have it."

--President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Aug. 31, 1959

In Mississippi and Washington the few make the decisions for the many. Mississippi Negroes are denied the vote; the voice of the thirty percent of Americans now opposed to the undeclared war in Vietnam is not heeded and all Americans are denied access to facts concerning the true military and political situation. We must make it plain to the Administration that we will not be accomplices to a war that we did not declare. There can be no doubt that the great majority of the people of the world do not approve of the presence of American troops in Vietnam. We who will come to Washington on August 6 through 9 can not in any sense represent the country, but we can let our voices be heard in a symbolic Assembly of Unrepresented People to Declare Peace.

August 6 is the 20th anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima; August 9 the anniversary of the Nagasaki bomb. Therefore, we choose August 6, 7, 8, and 9 for a new attempt to draw together the voices of nonviolent protest in America; not only those who have for so long been calling for an end to the Cold War, but also those whose protests focus on racial injustice, inquisition by Congressional committees, inequities in labor legislation, the mishandling of anti-poverty and welfare funds and the absence of democratic process on the local level. We invite not only those now active in organized protests but ministers, members of the academic community, teachers, women, professional people, students, people from the newly formed community groups in slums and rural areas, industrial workers, anyone who wished to symbolically withdraw his support from the war and who wishes to explore the possibilities of inter-action inherent in this community of concerned people.

Briefly, the activities of the 4 days will be as follows:

August 6th: A demonstration at the White House centering around a "Declaration of Conscience" that has already received over 6,000 signatures; it declares the signers' complete refusal to assist in the carrying out of the undeclared war in Vietnam. Those of the signers who can come to Washington will constitute the core of the demonstration; non-signers will be welcomed in the supporting picket line. The Declaration has been sponsored and circulated by Committee for Nonviolent Action, War Resisters League, Student Peace Union and the Catholic Worker. These groups will therefore have full responsibility for the conduct of this aspect of the four-day assembly. There may be non-violent civil disobedience by a small number of the signers who will seek to present the Declaration to the President.

\*\*\*\*\*

August 7 and 8 will be the heart of the Assembly of Unrepresented People. They will be devoted to workshops, probably carried out in the open on the grass surrounding the Washington Monument.

\*\*\*\*\* (continued next page)

ASSEMBLY OF UNREPRESENTED PEOPLE CONSTITUTION...

August 7 (PROGRAM WORKSHOPS): The Assembly will divide itself according to the section of the protest movement which claims the greatest attention of each individual.

There will be groupings of community people and staff who have been working at the local level on organizing the poor to have a voice in the lives of their communities and in the administration of federal anti-poverty funds.

There will be another grouping of people whose interest and work centers on the MFDP's attempt to have Congress unseat the five improperly elected representatives from their state.

There will still be other groupings to discuss the recent threats of destructive investigation by the HUAC of elements of both the peace and civil rights movements.

We hope that there will also be present representatives groupings from the ranks of organized labor to discuss labor's attempt to have repealed the so-called "right-to-work law" provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Additional workshops on other aspects of nonviolent direct action will be scheduled to meet the interests of those present.

August 8; Vietnam (CONSTITUENCY WORKSHOPS): There will be workshops of ministers, teachers, members of the academic community, women, professional people, students, people from local communities, union members and other "constituency groupings" to plan how they can work in the summer and through the year to stop the war.

A Declaration of Peace drawn up by the initiators of the demonstration will be circulated in the workshops for use on the 9th.

August 9th ("Governments had better get out of their way and let them have it"). Those members of the Assembly of Unrepresented People in a position to face possible arrest and willing to pledge themselves to non-violent behavior during the course of the demonstration will assemble and walk toward the Capitol with the intention of convening the Assembly in the chamber of the House of Representatives and thus deny that Congress has the right to declare war in our names. If stopped along the way we will sit down and declare the Assembly of Unrepresented People in session. One of the group will rise and begin to read the Declaration of Peace circulated in the workshops on the 8th. If, as seems likely, the person reading is arrested before the Declaration is fully read, another person will rise and continue the reading. The Assembly will be open to the reading of additional declarations of peace that individuals or representatives of organizations may bring with them. We hope that this demonstration will serve as a symbol of the desire of the people of the world to express their opposition to the Vietnam war in a democratic fashion.

To implement this plan, we suggest that one focus for community organization between now and August 6th be discussion of what the government should do in Vietnam. The results of these discussions could be embodied in declarations of peace which representatives would bring to Washington. Some groups, particularly those farthest away from Washington, may want to create assemblies at state capitols and city councils on August 9th.

Preparation for the Assembly will be coordinated at 107 Rhode Island NW, Washington, DC. Before and After the Assembly related activities will go on in Washington concerning Vietnam, FDP, 14-B, HUAC and community organization. Volunteers are urgently needed. We can probably provide free housing.

--Norma Becker, Bob Swann, Donna Allen, Bob Parris, Mel McDonald, Carl Bloise, Peter Kollman, Barry Weisberg, Dona Clanager, Dena Clanager, Steve Weissman, Stephen Ardur, Eric Weinberger, Walter M. Tillow, Carl Oglesby, Ed Hamlett, Jeff Gordon, Jim Garrett, O. Sox, D. Dellinger, R. Raphael, S. Adickes, F. Mitchell, J. Proccoli, W. Hartzog, B. Downing, M. Smith S. Lynd, D. Sweeney, R. Nixon, F. Howe, P. Lauter.

SERIALS 4 AND 8

# WASHINGTON Summer Action Project

Introduction: Some theory behind the Washington Summer Action Project

People active in various protest movements in the country have always talked from time to time about the need for communication between movements. They have talked in terms of sharing ideas, sharing manpower, and generally strengthening each other. But in the past, very little work has been done actually to get people talking together. Some of us see this summer as an opportunity to begin the long-awaited dialogue between activists in various political struggles. This summer in Washington there will be many different groups coming into DC in order to lobby and to take other forms of action. Some groups will be active around the question of the war in Vietnam, some civil rights groups will be active concerning the challenge of the MFDP, others will be lobbying for the new voting bill, perhaps some labor groups will be lobbying for repeal of 148?

What we would like to do is to provide a forum for discussion between these different "interest groups" by setting up workshops in the D.C. area that would run continuously all summer.

When the question of "working together" rears its head, the objection is always raised that it would simply "diffuse people's energies," that without a particular concentrated effort by a smaller group of "specialized people" all of the movements would suffer. But the reality is that now the political climate of this country is such that all independent political action is under fire. Johnson seems intent on co-opting at least the visible movements in the country as he has done so successfully with a great portion of the civil rights movement. HUAC's target is any progressive movement including the civil rights movement. We are becoming more and more convinced that the only hope we have of checking Johnson's increasingly "independent" and dangerous foreign policy is with the development of a deeply based "critique" of his actions--one that he would be forced to heed.

The only chance there is for the conservative forces in the country (which are now in power) to kill the currently existent independent voices of protest is if these voices remain isolated from one another. In the past movements have died, have grown stagnant and have left only the bureaucratic skeletons of their former strength. If we are to take hold of the activity which is existent today and build it into something strong, broadly based, that reaches deeply to the people who most need the changes it seeks, then we must begin our work now.

The Washington Summer Action Project would be such a beginning.

Idea: organization of workshops in Washington DC and project areas around the country.

Purpose: to begin numerous discussions wherever possible between organizers in the various independent

(continued next page)



WASHINGTON-SUMMER ACTION PROJECT Continued...

political movements that are now part of the country's radical politics. Projected Goal: that out of such discussion and exchange of opinions we could begin to see our way to developing common programs as part of a new and broad social movement.

In order for such dialogue to be meaningful it will have to take place on at least 3 different levels:

a) the people in communities around the country who have begun to organize in order to confront the country with their problems will come together in meetings, workshops and conventions to discover their own sources of strength.

b) We will have to provide some mechanism for the "leaders" or visible figures in various movements to talk with each other about the possibilities of common action. King's speaking out strongly about Vietnam is a very heartening proof that such a mechanism is feasible.

c) What we are specifically concerned with here is the "organizer"; the people in various movements in organizations who are responsible for the work that keeps it alive. These workshops will mostly involve this set of people.

The method we are using is to reach those areas of the country which we see as loci of activity: the South, the West Coast, urban-ghetto areas, Universities, etc.

Our program would involve reaching all of the groups in Washington this summer (see previous pages) and bringing them together in workshops to discuss: poverty, peace, community organizing, campus organizing, HUAC, MFDP challenge, Problems of labor, foreign policy in general, South Africa, etc. with the hope that the discussion would clarify the connections which thread these many problems together. Hopefully they would result in the creation of common programs in which people could work together so as to strengthen a general movement toward the integrity of individuals and the further promotion of independent thought and action--while at the same time allowing individuals to feel that they would not be taking their energies away from what they conceive as "the most crucial problem" faced by the country or the world today.

Workshops around the country: Here the same principle would be involved and we would be interested in reaching all those people (mostly students and staff of various organizations like SNCC and CORE and SDS) who are organizing during the summer in whatever area. Dennis Sweeney, Mary King and Ed Hanlett are at present trying to raise money and make the necessary contacts so that there could be a series of workshops in the south this summer at which all the people who had primarily come together to work in the general area of civil rights could participate. They will be responsible for getting people to the workshops to discuss the war, labor problems and all the other various action programs that are being conceived of and are already in motion. The same things needs to be done in the No North and on the West Coast.

Mechanics: There will be an office set up in Washington to coordinate the workshops there and to provide all kinds of materials and information for people who come into Washington this summer to participate in action and/or lobbying. Both the resource people and the participants for these workshops will be recruited from the various groups that will be in the area. Needs for the Washington office: phone; \$1000 for 2 months, supplies: 600 postage: 400, rent: 150, workshop materials information: 50, housing: 500 (10 auditoriums at 50 each), transportation: 500, Petty cash: 200. TOTAL FOR TWO MONTH OPERATION: \$3400.

Communication on any of the above Washington activities should go to Bob Parris or Eric Weinberger at 107 Rhode Island NW, Washington, DC

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\*NOW FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY\*

# ERAP Photo Exchange

Second in an exciting series of ERAP offers!

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