

# ERAP NEWSLETTER

August 21, 1965

46 Arch Street, New Haven, Conn.

## poem for A RAT MARCH on the POVERTY BOARD

The following poem, from Cleveland, was written by the Citizens Committee (the anti-anti poverty board) in preparation for a demonstration, called a rat march, where people planned to march downtown and drop rats, rubbish, torn clothing on the poverty director's desk.



Your stomachs are full.  
Your housing is adequate.

Mr. and Mrs. CEO board members:

How can you tell us what we need,  
When you don't even bother to feed?

Our stomachs are empty,  
Our housing is rotten  
We are always the forgotten  
The Poor.

The poor people of Cleveland has  
no say about their poverty program  
Is this what we want downtown?  
Are you protesting? I am.

17 suburbanites--8 people from the city:  
This isn't representative of the poor.  
We are protesting this:  
We want more.

Dear Suburbanites:  
Does your conscience let you  
sleep at night?

We are people and we do have brains.  
Until the CEO realizes this  
We will be back again and again.

How can you, CEO Board, say what  
poverty is like?  
We can, the Poor and Needy,  
because we have the right.

What are you going through and  
experiencing to make you  
know what poverty is like?  
We know, we suffer and we are the  
deprived.

Mr. CEO people, we are demonstra-  
ting to make you realize  
we are alive!!

--by Carole King  
East Side Cleveland

# NEWSLETTER NOTES

## IMPORTANT:

This issue has been sent to all readers first class so that we can know that it got to you. IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER BUT HAVE NOT SENT US YOUR ADDRESS THIS SUMMER, YOU MUST DO SO IMMEDIATELY, OR YOU WILL STOP RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER.

If you work on a project or are poor (be honest), you may receive the newsletter free. Otherwise it is \$4.00 a year.

### CHANGING ADDRESS?

Let us know, because our classified doesn't get forwarded.

## To The Projects:

The location of the Newsletter for the Fall and Winter is uncertain. Possibilities as of now are: New Haven, Boston, or Swarthmore, but the question is quite open. The final decision will be made sometime during the Newark Conference. There will also be discussion of what changes should be made in the newsletter. If you have any thoughts on this bring them to the conference, or write immediately.

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Summer staff should send us their winter addresses if they want to get the newsletter. Send \$4 too.

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## A New Exciting READER-INITIATED ERAP Exchange

From: Robb Burlage, 2 Sacramento Place, Cambridge, Mass.

"How about a new exchange game: Supply your own funny cartoon caption! My first contribution enclosed from a recent magazine, with my own caption added."



"What country is SDS?"

# CHICAGO'S Welfare Problems

## by Dave Wheeler

Chicago JOIN has been doing a lot of work in the area of welfare problems recently. JOIN has become widely known as a group that will help people at the public aid offices. This has come about as a result of a widespread leafletting and publicity campaign, activities JOIN has staged at the city welfare offices, and JOIN's recent notoriety in the papers.

Dorothy Perez and 3 other JOIN members sat in at the downtown welfare office when a welfare official refused to show Dorothy a regulation that gave them authority to keep back part of a budget adjustment they had made in her favor. At 11:00 pm the cops took the 4 to jail, but after being bailed out the next morning they returned to the picket line run outside the welfare office to protest the department's irresponsibility to the people it was supposedly created to serve.

### OFFICIAL MADE MISTAKE

Dorothy, her husband, and Richie Rothstein went back in and when they were finally shown the rule they found that the official had made a mistake and Dorothy was entitled to the full amount owed her.

The case was the subject of a short article in the New Republic and when the 4 received the maximum sentence (\$200 or 40 days) for disorderly conduct, the story made the front page of the Tribune. There was another Tribune article with a picture of the 4 when the motion was filed to appeal the case to a higher court.

### COMMUNITY SOUNDS OFF

Since then a lot of people in the community have sounded off on their welfare problems in the JOIN newsletter, and in the Wednesday night JOIN meeting of July 21 the membership drew up, for the first time, a "Welfare Bill of Rights," an outline of the treatment they thought was due them in the city welfare offices. This was presented to the Uptown public aid office by a delegation of JOIN members and a JOIN picket line of about 20.

Harriet Stulman has had a good deal of success in organizing around the welfare issue. She worked with a group of mothers on welfare that lived close together in one neighborhood on Racine Ave. 5 blocks south of the JOIN office. She had done much to overcome great personal differences between the women and get them together on their common problems with the welfare department when for various reasons most of the group had to move away and split up into different neighborhoods.

The possibility of a new office, in the Racine area, which has a high percentage of people on welfare, is being considered to implement organizing there, and prospective members continue to come on their own to the JOIN office at Ainslie seeking help on their difficulties with the welfare department.

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*Letter from supporter on Chicago's South Side*

### TO ALL THOSE WHO WAS FINED FOR SIT-IN ON PUBLIC AID:

Sorry of the fines against you peoples. Sorry I didn't know before. So I could have been there. I read it in the Sun Times today. But it's a shame, a complete disgrace and more than I will say. Now that all the talk, talk mean so little to poor peoples and with all the peoples  
(continued next page)



## To Those who was Fined continued

in this place and all over why are not some out at all time protesting against the wrong that going on against the wrong that going on against poor peoples. Not just one certain thing. Peoples are suffering now. Need jobs now. Need food now to be able to go to a job or school. Need clothes now. To wear to school to get the education. That we all seem so very very much concerned about and is very necessary to have. But please we need first thing first. Not much. Just a decent living in this world of plenty. Yes, we running into dead ends looking at Mr. Johnson war on poverty. I have a son 18. Suppose to have just finish highschool. He even walks all the way down the loop. Don't just wait on on or two promised here in neighborhood. I know he want to work and I am doing every thing to help and let it be known he want a job now. Of if this public aid was erased then maybe these sitting down peoples in these welfare office could see who keeping them in a job. They are living at expense of the poor. And many of them you can't get a decent answer from them. Hope it will be more peoples out against these wrongs that facing the peoples. And stay on the job and these situations will be straighten out. We keep up and know about the going on in this country we live in and it would be good. When can make it all over concern about these wrongs and not just a neighborhood. So this note...

Because we are always glad to hear someone else is working on these same problems. Didn't mean to say this much, but---

It just a mystery. Mr. President doing the talking himself. Some good passing out money as war on poverty and saying himself its time to do and not talk. Don he know we wish he did mean to do something for jobs and better living for poor peoples now instead of just talk for 4 years then get ready to listen to some talk another 4 years. Please keep up your doing. If you help yourself, you help others.

---from Irene Adams

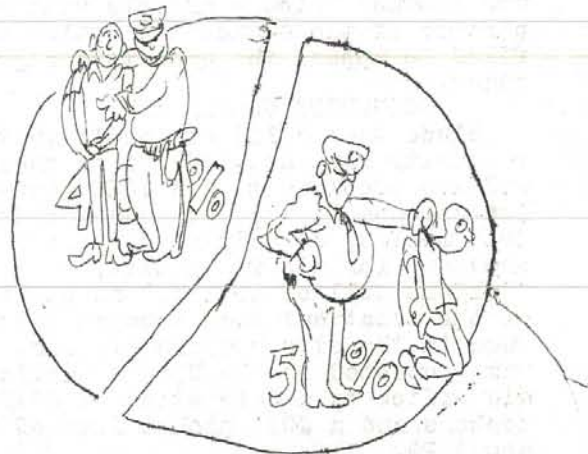
Page 4  
from *We the People*  
publication of Detroit's Adult Community  
Movement for Equality, associated with NSM.

### POLICE MISCONDUCT CARDS

Here is a brief report on the Police Cards that ACME has been distributing in the community.

1. Have you ever been given a ticket for jay-walking? This was answered by 51% of the people saying yes and 49% saying no.
2. Have you ever been given a ticket for loitering? 30% said yes, 70% said no. Some people refused to answer the question.
3. Have you ever been illegally arrested? 51% said yes and 49% said no, although a few people still refused to answer.
4. Have you ever been stopped and searched by the police on the street or in your car and not arrested? 71% said yes; 29% said no.
5. Have you ever been insulted by a policeman 68% said yes, 32% said no.
6. Have you ever been hit or beaten by a policeman? 29% said yes and 71% said no.
7. Have you ever been held overnight in jail without charges against you? 29% said yes and 71% said no.
8. Have you ever seen a crime being committed and a policeman nearby doing nothing about it? 48% said yes and 52% said no.
9. Have you ever seen or heard of a policeman taking a bribe? 47% said yes; 53% said no.

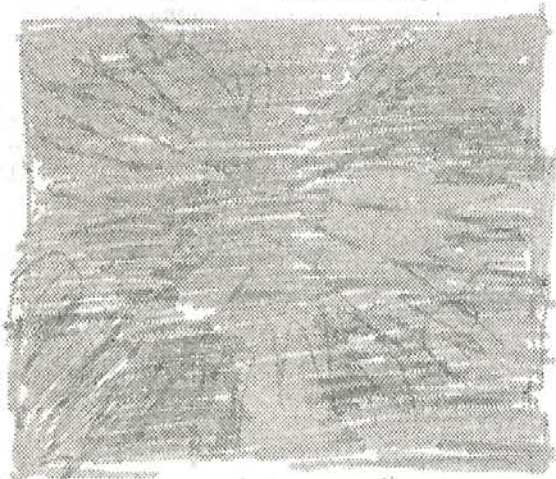
---by Pat Warren



DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, RECREATION CENTER

We are a portion of the peoples in the United States and we have as much care for the United States as the US has for itself. And we the peoples of the US we feel that something should be did about the war. Other than to káep on in Viet Nam. It is going to double back on the United States and we do believe if the war brakes out in the US that this will be the end of the world. So this is why we think the US troops should pull out from the North and South Vietnam, before it is too late to turn back. Now, Mr. President, think about this, we nor you want anyone to come over and try and run the US or tell us how we should live in the United States. Now we are a group of young peoples and we feel very strong about the situation. Now if they young peoples feel this strong about the war, you know the older peoples should think something about it, because this is a very serious matter. And we are very concerned about it. We think the part the US has in the war should be called off, because if it continues sooner or later it won't be no world!

--Bob Stringer



\*\*\* NO world \*\*\*

A car screeching to a halt as a child darts in the street, a child playing with an old tire, a group of boys shooting marbles on a grassless lawn, girls playing hopscotch on the sidewalk. These are common scenes and have been witnessed by everyone in the community. You ask if these conditions will always be, and the logical answer is yes, unless we fight against it.

The Community Union in an effort to alleviate these conditions took counsel with the assistant Commissioner of Recreation, Mr. Wiser. We asked why we had no recreation center and the process to be followed in getting one. He said Stephen Howe School was to have been a recreation center but the Board of Education felt that a school was more important. We asked if we could not have a small recreation center to which he replied no and that a large recreation center would be better. I am sure you will agree to this, but how will your 20 year old child adjust to playing with toys and attending a recreation center he needed ten years ago. I say this because Mr. Wiser claims it takes from 10 to 15 years to get a full scale recreation center. If you believe this, and aren't willing to fight against such lies, you have just cast a vote condemning your child to growing up in the streets. If you want help, come to the Community Union meetings.

--by Joan Davis

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Dear Mister Mayor

We need more safety because people are getting hit mostly every day and it is not safe for the children of Cleveland. We should have more safety so the boys and girls would have more guards and more safety, and then Cleveland would be a safe place to live.

--by Earl King  
Age 11

From New Haven--

# When the Demonstrators Got Beat

The Best thing about the trip to me was the demonstrating and just the fact that I was being on the picket line fighting for something that I believe very strongly about and would get emotionally upset about. On Saturday August 7th the people from the picket line in a group decided to commit civil disobedience by sitting down in front of the gate leading to the white house these people were surrounded by cops immediately and arrested that night. Sunday these people were released because the Assembly of Unrepresented and other civil rights workers including myself decided to picket the white house again on the fact that these people were arrested and put in jail. After we had picketed for over 2 hours the people arrested were released from jail. This really made me feel good. I felt like I had did something very important for these people. On the day of August 9th. everyone decided to march down to the capitol and hold an assembly to declare peace in Vietnam. After the declaration was read the leaders of the group decided to move on to the grounds of the capitol. Pprofessor Lynd and Mr. Dellinger were the first to get arrested. Over 350 of the demonstrators were arrested. On the next corner we were standing with another group from Harlem and other people, decided to sing freedom songs as they carried the demonstrators off to jail. Police were beating on people and dragging and throwing them into wagons to be taken to jail. One girl fro Harlem was pushed by a cop and got very upset about it, we were told to move because we were moving the girl throw a can at the cop but it landed on the ground. Police came from everywhere, 2 Negro cops grabbed her one had his arm around her heck choking her, the other twisted her arm behind her back. They through her on the ground in order to beat her but a young man watching whp was taking part in the demonstration fell on top of her and was beaten by the cops with nightsticks and carried off to jail. Seeing people carried off in such brutally manner brought

tears to my eyes. I felt as though these people were my brother. (Which they really are.) To me this was the most important event about the whole trip. Also I met a lot of wonderful people from all over the country.

---by Marlene Jenkins

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## to the State Welfare Aid

I am receiving aid for dependent children and I have had quite a lot of trouble get my check cash at the food market. They don't want to cash them unless you are ordering food. But sometimes you have your light or gas bill to pay and you don't have time to get your food right then and when their small children to take care you have to get some one to watch them and go and pay your bills as soon as possible.

And to buy money order to pay such thing cost too much. And the bank won't cash your check unless you have an account with them or a drivers license or better ID. Otherwise they tell you no. And on State or the other aid you are not allowed to have any bank account at all. And #2 we can't afford one if we want one cause we are living on a budget ourself.

The reason I am writing this I went to the Second National Bank on August 2 and I try to get my check cash and I was ask did I have a account with them and I said no so they said they couldn't cash my check. I also try another bank and was told the same. The general Bank and I also try one food store. So I want to suggest if I may that could we be give ID card the plastic one with the place on the back for writing our name that would be wallet size.

Thank you,  
Shelby Epps

NAME		
STATE		
EYES		
Height	Weight	Hair

# CLEVELAND WEST

## Do Not Fear the Police

(The following article was given to us in response to the article on children fearing the police. Many thanks to "S.G." for giving us the other side of the FEAR.)

Children do not fear the Police if you teach them right. Three or four women wrote about teen-age children fearing the police, if the boys and girls are in the rights, there should be no fear of the police, but if they do something wrong, then they should be afraid of them. Even so, if you try and keep your children under control, there shouldn't be any trouble with them. The certain party said that there was a 14 year old boy that came up to her and said that he hated the police, she asked why and he said that whether he goes anything wrong or not they might pick him up and put him in jail, that is not the truth, they do not put you in jail for no reason at all. They try and help you instead if they can. People have it all wrong about the police. If they would try and understand the police, there wouldn't be so much trouble. Another thing that was said, was that the Police aimed directly at the boy's head. How is that possible? When a car is speeding away, they just try and stop it. He didn't know he had killed the boy. They are not punishing a child by death.

--by S.G.

## Children Playing in the Street

The trees are turning a pretty green,  
Mother Nature all around us is seen.  
The robin is building a nest,  
Jack Frost has gone to rest,  
But now summer has come,  
And where are children to play?  
But in the street?  
Just because they have no place  
to play,  
Let's stop to think that we were  
once children ourselves.  
Let's not let someone  
Beat us out of this playground  
we need!

--by Leona Wilcox

## If I had a Playground -This Would Be My Idea

If you want some fun  
Under the sun  
Go take a ride  
On a slide  
For the nicest thing  
Go on a big swing  
You can't get hurt  
Playing in the dirt

--by Elena Cooper  
Age 8 1/2

## Is the Right to Speak + Question Real?

Last week, a woman who visited a country in Southeast Asia and met with other women from both South and North Viet Nam, came and spoke to a lot of people in this community. The topics in all the discussions were about the War that is raging in their country. Many of Cleveland's people felt mixed feelings about her and the War. Nancy Gitlin is the woman I am talking about. One of the reasons she felt so strong against the War is that many of the people who are dying in Viet Nam are women and children. The women she met with in Indonesia were common women, not politicians. These women were as concerned about their country as we should be about ours. They, as Vietnamese, love and want to protect their country as much as we want to protect ours and they intend to. These are the type of experiences she related to the people in this area and she was condemned and slandered by some residents of this community because of the feeling she has and spoke them.

Now I want to ask you and invite your comments about the question: "What is freedom of Speech here in the United States? And the right to question your government?"

--by Lillian Craig



# RACE and the MOVEMENT

by Peter Countryman, New Haven

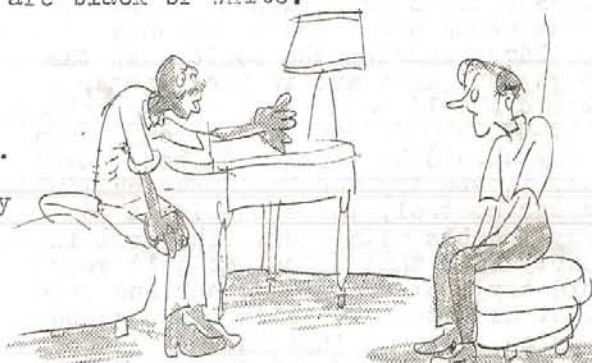
While discussing the Washington Assembly during a Hill Neighborhood Union meeting, John Wilhelm said that poor people and Negroes and students and so on would be present. "Baltimore" exploded from a corner chair: What do you mean poor people and Negroes. Poor people are Negroes and Negroes are poor people. Implicit in that statement is a lot of what I want to say here, in a hurried attempt to provoke discussion.

On the one hand, we face the possibility of identifying so strongly with the "Negro revolt" that we fail to see how closely the present and future of black people are tied to the present and future of the whole society--or, said differently, how racism and mass corporate work organization, a military-industrial complex, elite decision-making, etc. are interdependent. More probably, the danger is one of a personal dichotomy between a psychological commitment to the situation of black people and an intellectual commitment to a revolution by and for all people.

## HOW TO ORGANIZE?

What is the identity of the organizer, especially but not only the white organizer, in the black ghetto? Are black people to be organized for a non-racist, but otherwise status quo vision? If not, if the liberation of black people necessitates a "new" society, if freeing the "victims" of racism demands freeing the "executioners" as well, if one is a "revolutionary" as the noun is used above, why start in the black ghetto? One can say that all Americans (or, similarly, all non-elites) suffer acutely under this social system but that black people are more able and willing to move and thereby to "shake-up" a very authoritarian, even psychologically totalitarian society. And out of this movement of black people can come new insights, new forms (eg, MFDP, coops) and a cadre of experienced organizers,

both black and white, "student" and community people. Besides, it is a question of human beings, and it is irrelevant, except in terms of tactics, whether the people one starts with are black or white.



If elaborated, this kind of understanding may have much validity. But there are dangers. First, as I mentioned the organizer can become psychologically dependent on the special qualities which establish the black neighborhood as a place to begin: the tradition of protest, the lesser stake in the nation's policies and institutions, the moral clarity of race as an underlying issue. It is easy to be unrealistic about the ghetto, the people there, and our position as organizers, eg, Jack Newfield's statement that a mostly white project staff has been able to "blend almost completely" into the ghetto.

## USING PEOPLE?

Second, it is hard not to be dishonest when the organizer is outwardly working with people on issues of material welfare while inwardly looking to broad change that goes far beyond issues of poverty and wealth. It can be charged that we are in fact using people to gain ends that they do not (now at least) understand and accept, and that "participatory democracy" is a rationalization for that. We are caught in a bind: the organizer must start, for the sake of both effectiveness and principle, where people are, with

(continued next page)



# Race and the movement, continued

with the immediate issues with which they are concerned--yet he must also convey the broader, more universal values that move him. Finally, in our need to establish our connection to people, our own personal involvement, and to place the movement in the context of universal problems and broad change, it is hard not to push race out of the picture. ERAP people have been accused of excising race from their analysis, of tracing everyone's problems solely to economic and political facts, of refusing to differentiate black from white poor people. Why has ERAP so few black staff people? Is there a general unwillingness to consider race as a or even the critical factor in the ghetto?



Two personal views. All of us, black or white, are faced with a set of powerful forces that press upon our personalities: race, class, nationalism, anti-communism and so on. We have to come to grips with these, and we have to be open to helping other people, similarly victimized, to overcome fully these forces. We can't impose our own resolutions on others, eg, we can't demand that race-conscious people immediately eliminate race from their way of viewing the world. Second, predominately white staffs have a much more difficult job than predominately black staffs in black areas. One way to put it is to say that they can't afford as many inadequacies in terms of inexperience, personality problems, and so on.

And a final ambivalence. Race has very few solid handles--it is so intensely psychological that grappling with it can easily lead to the construction of terribly crippling spectres. (It is difficult even to raise it without getting pegged as "hung up on race"). Yet these questions--or similar ones--must be kept constantly alive, conscious, out on the table.

## OVER-INTELLECTUALIZED?

I also wonder if we do not over-intellectualize these problems, or if theory here is not often very divorced from experience (and maybe such theory even becomes or creates experience). I spent last week as part of a mixed staff working with an all black group of tenants and residents on a rent strike and picket lines. I think some very important things happened to all of us, ie, we all came to understand better who we are, what our position in society is, and what we are up against in trying to realize our various goals. Clearly it was a very tenuous experience, a small step, and perhaps it was diluted because the staff was interracial, or we asserted too much or not enough leadership or failed in communicating values beyond good housing. But if it is followed up on there may have been so damn fruitful seeds of liberation planted which should not be suffocated by theorizing.



# Correspondence

FROM: Matthew K. Clarke, Forces of Change Discussion Program (Washington)  
of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions of Santa  
Santa Barbara and New York--5432 Nebraska Ave NW, Washington, DC

"I have a paper by Fred H. Blum (author of Toward a Democratic Work Process, a study of the Hormel Packinghouse workers project done by Hellstein of the Packinghouse Workers, Hormel, and a sociologist). This Paper is on Humanization of Work via change in value and power structure of the people and the economic enterprises in which they are engaged. Blum has a strategy for change, and has discussed it with Chester ERAP people and others.

Fred Blum is coming to the USA this October or early November for 3 weeks. Evan Metcalf and Nick Egleson (see ERAP Newsletter, July 23rd) should meet with him with a view to systematically organizing the changed they are mutually interested in accomplishing.

We know a box company near Philadelphia where this kind of operation is feasible.

I want to contact Metcalf and Egleson and anyone else who is interested in exploring the creation of some kind of humanization of work demonstration project in the USA."



The ERAP NEWSLETTER helps to maintain contact among community organizations associated in some way with Students for a Democratic Society, and its Economic Research and Action Project (ERAP). It also contains news of any other community projects which it can contact.

For the moment it is compiled by the New Haven Project, 46 Arch Street, New Haven. Community projects receive it free. Others subscribe for \$4 per year.

FROM: ERAP NEWSLETTER  
New Haven Project  
46 Arch Street  
New Haven, Conn.

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
PLEASE Forward or  
return

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
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