

## Kerner Commission Findings After One Year Reviewed

"One Year Later," a review of what has been done, and not done, to meet the urban crisis since the Kerner Commission report of March, 1968, has been issued. The sponsors are two private, nonprofit organizations, the Urban Coalition and Urban America Inc.

After presenting up-to-date data on social and environmental problems in the nation's inner cities, the review concludes that "we are a year closer to being two societies, black and white, increasingly separate and scarcely less unequal."

Copies of "One Year Later" may be ordered, for a small charge, from the Communications Division of the Urban Coalition, 1819 H St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

# ACTION COUNCIL LETTER

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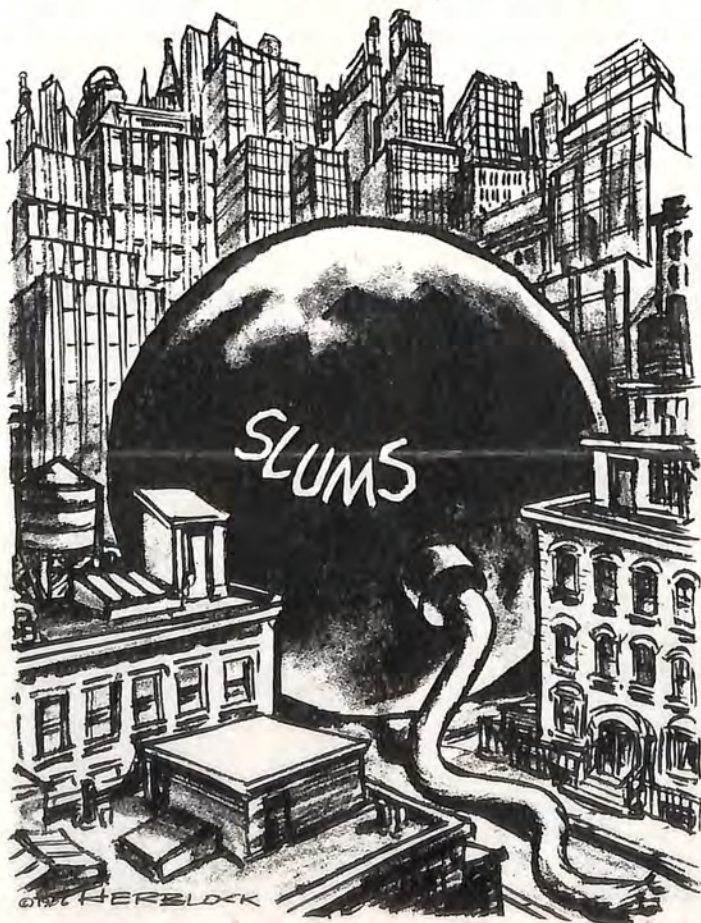
## Funds for Low Income Housing Head Action Council Agenda

Supplemental appropriations for the low-income homeownership and rental programs of the 1968 Housing Act, and for administration of the fair housing law, are a priority goal of the Action Council. The two laws were enacted by Congress last summer but received only partial funding -- far less than was needed for a good start.

The new programs for low-income families are known, in housing law jargon, as Section 235 and Section 236.

Private financing, buttressed by federal interest subsidies, is the key to both the homeownership program, Section 235, and the rental program, Section 236. Low and moderate-income families will be able to buy houses for up to \$15,000, spend 20% of their monthly income on mortgage payments, and the FHA will pay the remaining mortgage costs. Similarly on Section 236 rental units, the Government will pay to the nonprofit sponsors the difference between the interest cost of a conventional mortgage and an interest rate of 1%.

The first homeownership in-



**THE BUILT-IN BOMB**

Reprinted from "The Herb Block Gallery," Simon and Schuster, 1968.

terest contracts were made in October. On the average, they were for houses costing \$12,152. The average interest subsidy was \$33.88 a month, for owners with monthly income of \$430.

The Housing Act authorized FHA to sign contracts for \$75 million under Section 235 this year. Congress, however, allowed only \$25 million. The same figures also were set for the Section 236 rental program.

A House Appropriations Subcommittee is now considering budget proposals submitted by former President Johnson requesting an additional \$50 million contract authority for each of the two programs. His request for the next fiscal year, starting July 1, was \$100 million for each program.

The fair housing law received an appropriation of only \$2 million from Congress. The Johnson budget proposes a supplemental \$2 million for administration of the law plus \$14.5 million for the next year.

## Sen. Ralph Yarborough Becomes Chairman of Labor Committee

The Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, which handles manpower, antipoverty, education and health legislation, is under new leadership this year. Retirements and election defeats have produced new chairmen for the full committee and for its eight subcommittees. Democrats remain in the majority on the committee but the Republicans have one additional seat this year.

Sen. Ralph Yarborough of Texas is the new committee chairman. He also has taken over as head of the Subcommittee on Health.

Other key subcommittee chairmen include: Claiborne Pell (D -- R.I.), Education; Gaylord Nelson (D Wis.), Subcommittee on Employment, Manpower and Poverty; Harrison A. Williams (D N.J.), Labor;



Senator Ralph Yarborough

and Walter F. Mondale (D Minn.), Migratory Labor.

Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R N.Y.) remains the top-ranking Republican on the committee. The new GOP members, all freshmen, are William B. Saxbe (Ohio), Richard S. Schweiker (Pa.) and Henry Bellmon (Okla.).

The new Democrats are freshmen Thomas F. Eagleton (Mo.), Alan Cranston (Calif.) and Harold E. Hughes (Iowa).

## CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

Relocation and Land Acquisition -- Senate subcommittee hearings have been completed on the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Land Acquisition bill (S 1).

The Action Council supports the bill, which would provide relocation payments and other assistance to persons displaced by any federal program or any federally aided state or local program. The last Congress approved this kind of aid on federal highway and housing projects and the new bill would extend this to other programs on a uniform basis. Post offices and other federal buildings and federally aided projects such as hospitals and college

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## Congressmen Take City Tours To Learn of Urban Programs

Small groups of Congressmen are making two-day trips to major cities to learn at first hand of urban problems and programs. The tours are sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors for the benefit of Congressmen from rural areas and small cities. Members of the Urban Coalition Action Council staff are participating in the tours.

Visiting Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 were five Representatives -- Wendell Wyatt (R) of Astoria, Ore., James F. Hastings (R) of Allegany, N.Y., W. S. Stuckey (D) of Eastman, Ga., James R. Mann (D) of Greenville, S.C., and Paul McCloskey (R) of San Mateo, Calif.

The five were given an introduction to Atlanta's problems by Mayor Ivan Allen, who is on the Action Council's board. Allen told the group that the city's progress in urban development was due in large part to funds appropriated by Congress.

After hearing other city of-

officials discuss their programs the Congressmen toured the Model Cities and urban renewal areas and visited antipoverty agencies. Afterwards, Rep. Wyatt commented that there is no domestic problem "more urgent than that of the American city."

A similar trip was made to Dayton, Ohio, Feb. 21-22. The city's Congressman, Charles W. Whalen (R), was host to the group, which included Rep. Mann and three others -- Rep. Bill Alexander (D) of Osceola, Ark., Robert C. McEwen (R) of Ogdensburg, N.Y., and William L. Hungate (D) of Troy, Mo.

Among the programs the Congressmen studied was the coordinated manpower programs operated by the federally funded local CEP office. CEP stands for Concentrated Employment Plan. It tries to concentrate available job resources within areas of high unemployment and poverty.

In both cities the Congressmen got a glimpse of crime problems by riding in police cars for a night-time tour of potential trouble spots.

Later trips are planned for New York and Boston.



In Atlanta City Hall, Rep. McCloskey takes notes as Rep. Hastings, on the far left, listens. Clockwise, facing the camera, are Rep. Wyatt, Vice Mayor Sam Massell, Reps. Mann and Stuckey, Action Council executive director Lowell Beck and Janet Kohn of the Conference of Mayors.

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buildings are examples of programs that often displace inner city residents and businesses who badly need help in relocating.

Provisions similar to those in S 1 were passed by the Senate, but not by the House, in the last Congress. The House Public Works Committee held hearings late last year on similar relocation bills but took no action on them.

As yet, the House committee has not scheduled further hearings for this session. Senate passage probably will come first.

## Urban Coalition Action Council Adds 21 New Members to Board

An expanded Policy Council, the policy body for the Urban Coalition Action Council, met for the first time February 26. Twenty-one new members joined the Council, bringing the total membership to 59. John W. Gardner is the chairman.

Of the new members, six are women -- the first to serve on the Council. They are Mrs. Bruce B. Benson, president of the League of Women Voters of the U.S.; Mrs. Amalia V. Betanzos, executive director of the Puerto Rican Community Development Project in New York City; Mrs. Fred R. Harris, chairman of the Women's Council on Poverty, OEO; Mrs. Patricia R. Harris, Howard University School of Law; Miss Dorothy I. Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women; and Mrs. Aileen C. Hernandez of San Francisco, former

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Executive Director: Lowell R. Beck  
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Ronald J. James  
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member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The 15 other new members are Julian Bond, Georgia state legislator; Paul W. Briggs, superintendent of schools for Cleveland, Ohio; Daniel J. Evans, Governor of the State of Washington; Herman E. Gallegos, executive director of the Southwest Council of LaRaza; Ernest Green, director of the Joint Apprenticeship Program in Brooklyn, N.Y.; Richard G. Hatcher, Mayor of Gary, Indiana; Dr. Vivian W. Henderson, president of Clark College, Atlanta, Georgia.

Also, Richard J. Hughes, Governor of the State of New Jersey; Roy Innis, national director of CORE; Dr. Howard Johnson, president of MIT; Edgar J. Kaiser, chairman of the board of Kaiser Industries; Robert S. Powell Jr., president of the National Student Association; Carl B. Stokes, Mayor of Cleveland, Ohio; Rev. Andrew J. Young Jr., executive director of SCLC; and Dr. Mark Shedd, superintendent of schools for Philadelphia.

Before adding the new members the policy group consisted of 13 businessmen, 6 union officials, and 19 mayors, civil rights and religious leaders.



On the left, new Policy Council members Mrs. Benson of the League of Women Voters and Mrs. Betanzos of the Puerto Rican Community Development Project, with Mayor Cavanagh of Detroit. On the right, Rev. Andrew Young of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, also a new Council member.