

PROGRAM PROPOSAL FOR

EXPANDED, IN DEPTH, URBAN LEAGUE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION SERVICES
IN AREAS OF ATLANTA SIMILAR TO THE ONES OF THE
CURRENTLY MANIFESTED RACIAL UNREST
(SUMMERHILL REGION)

The Urban League movement, against a background of national experience and expert knowledge in community assessment and practical program planning is sensitive to the signs and symbols of community vulnerability to the kinds of outbreaks that Atlanta has witnessed in the Summerhill area during the past few days. Again the Urban League warns against the embarrassment of hurried and stop-gap measures. Such mistakes of countless urban communities facing these specific kinds of problems serve as a guide for the Atlanta Urban League to do effective planning for the prevention and removal of the known glaring problems persisting and untouched by programs of purely passing and opiating impact in Metropolitan Atlanta.

We continue to insist that the problems focused by the Summerhill outbreak are of a nature addressing themselves with unquestioning clarion call for a total mobilization of community resources to reach the basic problems to effectuate substantive solutions.

Quick and momentarily soothing programs, however appropriate to get such communities back to a level of receptivity for participation in organized, disciplined and democratically based procedures for community leadership involvement in self-help programs are, of necessity, limited to just such yield.

The mistakes of Watts (Los Angeles, California) as follow-up studies have demonstrated, are in two important categories: (1) That the efforts of public-based (governmental) agencies, limited as they are in the permissive breadth of involvement and depth of programming and organization, cannot alone satisfy the hard-core needs of such a situation. (2) That because of the existence of the very network of public agencies, despite their limitations, the strengthening of the operational bases of private agencies of experience has been greatly neglected.

We, The Atlanta Urban League, Inc., therefore, are calling immediately upon the National Urban League, the City of Atlanta, the Metropolitan Atlanta Community Services, and other available resources, to join forces in veering away from the futile course of other cities of the nation in attacking the Summerhill problems by supplementing the currently evolving emergency programs with more basically problem-oriented programs, so characteristically lacking in the approaches of similarly situated cities of the nation.

Admittedly, what the Urban League proposes in the following recommendation is not a program of over-night returns. Indeed, we warn that the basic problems of Summerhill and other known communities in Atlanta of similar vulnerability do not lend themselves to over-night solutions.

Human attitudes, changeable only by the skillful techniques of indoctrination in a faith and methodology of grievance -pleading within the framework of existing political and social welfare channels are developed through the knowledge of and guidance into effective processing of such grievances.

However, the rewards in the instilling of self-help possibilities, and the working experience of leadership of such communities with the complex of broad community agencies of responsibilities fixes the lines of communication and faith in total community concern with the problems of troubled areas, and serves, through inevitable achievements, to stabilize such pocket communities in the face of onslaught from exploitative purposed influences.

PROJECTED PROGRAM

The Atlanta Urban League, Inc., therefore, proposes the following demonstration program for consideration in the Summerhill area to later expand to all similar areas in Atlanta establishing field unit offices.

The expansion of the services of The Atlanta Urban League, Inc., through the

establishment of a staffed Unit Field office(s) to:

1. Take immediate action in the formulation of Urban League - method - oriented neighborhood organizations.
 - A. Through these neighborhood units, serviced on a continuing basis by trained Urban League personnel, broader leadership can be trained to:
 - (1) Serve as an on-going source of knowledge on both positive and negative developments in the community.
 - (2) More importantly, to serve as the continuing channel for the implementing of programs geared to the needs of the people.
2. Engage in periodic research, both relating to changing census tract data and attitudinal information for effective programming.
3. To bring to the community practical knowledge of services available for meeting personal and group needs.
4. To develop on-going inter-agency communication on accomplishments and emergency needs.
5. To utilize the experiences and broad skills in program planning and innovating gained by the National Urban League program development staff for consultative involvement in effectiveness of experimental programs of seventy-five (75) urban communities throughout the nation, in stabilizing efforts of such communities.

All of these recommendations, are, of course, based upon the findings of researched needs, and the adaptabilities of selective programs to the community.

Needless, to point out, the program emphases will fall within the four basic program areas in which the Urban League operates: Housing, Economic Development & Employment, Health & Welfare, and Education & Youth Incentives - - on an intensive and on-going basis. A very special effort will be made to identify and counsel new residents of Atlanta in these areas.

The services offered will be different than, but offered in cooperation with, other services available to the community. The services will be problem oriented and will include leadership development; employment opportunities in the Atlanta Urban League's "Skills Bank"; training opportunities through the Atlanta Urban League's Manpower Development and Training Act (On-The-Job Training Project); vocational and educational counseling through the Atlanta Urban League's "See Industry In Action" Program; improved living condition and relocation through the Atlanta Urban League's housing program, and parental health and welfare assistance through the Atlanta Urban League's ENABLE (Education and Neighborhood Action For A Better Living Environment) Program.

Emphasis will be placed on the residents becoming knowledgeable and motivated to identify their needs and to take positive cooperative action, without anger and violence, to satisfy these needs.

The Urban League's motto "American Teamwork Works" will always be manifested. This will mean active and visible participation, at the "grass root" level by responsible white and Negro citizens . . . an important factor in developing faith between the races. An example of this would be "top" employer representatives working in the communities through the Atlanta Urban League's field unit office as a part of our "Skills Bank" operation, and employers welcoming prospective employees in their plants, as a part of our "See Industry In Action" Program.