

January 12, 1968

NATIONAL COORDINATORS WEEKLY REPORT

At a meeting in Washington the night of January 8, the Coalition Steering Committee authorized the creation of an Executive Committee and charged it with the responsibility for making an early recommendation on a permanent organizational structure for the Coalition.

The 15-man Executive Committee will be composed of representatives of all groups active in the Coalition. Membership will be allocated as follows: labor, civil rights, city government--two each; church groups--three; business--four. The Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee will also serve on the Executive Committee.

Each group will select its own representatives for the Executive Committee, subject only to the condition that each person selected must agree with Coalition support of a three-point set of principles:

- (1) What the private sector can do on its own;
- (2) What the private sector can do in concert with government.
- (3) What the government must do to meet needs beyond the reach of private efforts.

LOCAL COALITIONS

The Task Force on Local Coalitions reported to the Steering Committee that local coalitions have been organized, or are in the process of being organized, in 27 cities (see attached list) and that there is active interest in 16 other cities.

Steering Committee Co-Chairman Andrew Heiskell commented: "I find it extremely encouraging that all sections of the country are represented in the list. This is real progress. We have felt all along that the development of strong local groups is of prime importance."

Indicative of the geographic spread of local coalitions was two trips made during the week by the National Coordinators to meet with local groups. John Feild went to Fresno, California, Ron Linton to Bridgeport, Connecticut.

On Friday, some 350 representatives from 82 cities in 21 states met in New York City for the third in the series of meetings on Mobilizing Local Coalitions. The interest was high, the speakers were excellent, and the overall staff consensus was that it was the best meeting held to date.

Speakers included Co-Chairman Andrew Heiskell, the Most Rev. John J. Maguire, Administrator of the Archdiocese of New York, Equitable Life Assurance Society Board Chairman James F. Oates, Jr., Rabbi Joseph P. Sternstein, Christian A. Herter, Jr. Chairman of the New York City Coalition, Mayor John Lindsay, Dr. Edler G. Hawkins, AFL-CIO Legislative Representative Ray Denison, and National Urban League Executive Director Whitney M. Young, Jr.

LEGISLATION

The Steering Committee authorized the release of a strong statement of legislative goals of the Coalition to coincide with the opening of the new session of Congress (see attachment).

The Washington Post commented in its Sunday edition: Much of the impetus for any crisis legislation will come from the civic-business-labor-and civil rights forces organized as The Urban Coalition, which yesterday warned Congress that "the hour is late."