

REPORT OF THE LOCAL COALITION DIVISION  
TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

December 16, 1968

I. Accomplishments of Coalitions

The "older generation" of coalitions, with increasing frequency, is showing tangible and substantial results; the younger coalitions are, in many instances, consumed by organizational problems. Some illustrative accomplishments are listed:

- The Miami Coalition, in collaboration with the United Black Federation, a black organization formed with the encouragement and cooperation of members of the coalition, has taken significant steps to ease police-community relations. It is currently formulating programs in other fields identified as key to Miami's needs.
- Ten (or more) coalitions are aggressively creating entrepreneurship opportunities for minorities. The New York Coalition's Venture Capital Corporation has just made its first loan, in cooperation with the Harlem Commonwealth Council. The complementary Coalition Development Corporation has begun with a case load of 203 entrepreneurs seeking technical assistance. Plainfield and Racine have helped establish small companies. REC Industries, a small manufacturing company established by the Racine Environment Committee now employs and is training 35 "hard core" youths. Both the Philadelphia and New York coalitions have active programs designed to enhance the capabilities and opportunities of minority contractors.
- Most coalitions are striving to relieve unemployment, consistently in collaboration with the local NAB efforts. The New Detroit Committee has found 50,000 jobs; Minneapolis has promoted coordination of NAB efforts with other organizations; Fresno has established a Management Council for Merit Employment; Riverside has formed a Job Opportunities Council; and Tacoma has established a ghetto area employment office which has placed 300 hard-core unemployed.
- The Winston-Salem Coalition has established a Housing Foundation (with a million dollar budget), and has helped finance a housing project for the elderly. Other coalitions with strong housing activities include Detroit, Fresno, Lima, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, and Tacoma.
- The New Detroit Committee is pressing legal action to get more adequate resources for core-city schools. Bridgeport, Minneapolis, and Racine are concentrating on scholarships for deserving minority college students. Detroit also has stimulated the formation of partnerships between schools and major companies,

and Newark has proposed private sector construction and operation of schools. New York has helped find sponsors for 15 Street Academies, whose contributions will amount to \$600,000 annually. New York also has attempted to come to grips with the city's decentralization crisis through public education and offers of mediation. The Philadelphia Coalition is launching an employment training program by establishing "academies" in high schools which are sponsored and operated by major companies. Three academies are being organized in Office Management, Banking and Finance, Aviation and Aerospace, and in Electronics.

- Coalitions in Detroit, Newark, New York, Baltimore, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Plainfield, Racine, and Saginaw are promoting legislative activity either at the local, state or Federal level.

## II. Established Coalitions

New Bedford, Massachusetts established a coalition in late November; this brings the total of established coalitions to 40.

## III. Housing Conference for Coalitions

During 1969 the Urban Coalition, with the help of the National Institute of Public Affairs, will provide a series of conferences to help coalitions develop effective strategies in particular substantive areas. The first of the series, To Improve a City's Housing, will be held on February 6 and 7 in Washington. This conference is specifically designed to help the staff and housing task force members of coalitions to identify their role and strategies in improving the local housing situation.

## IV. Organizing Efforts

Efforts are currently underway to establish coalitions in 33 cities. This total includes Chicago, Illinois and Durham, North Carolina. Coalitions are expected to be announced soon in San Francisco, Kansas City and Dayton. Mr. Walter Reuther has scheduled a luncheon on January 9 to advance organizing efforts in Michigan cities.

At the November meeting, the Steering Committee resolved to aid in the formation of local coalitions. All 38 members were contacted by letter as a consequence, requesting assistance in relation to specific cities. Ten members have responded to this request; seven members have provided the names of individuals who can assist in a total of twelve of the target cities.

Since the last meeting on November 13, the following Steering Committee members have made or will make speeches:

Mayor Naftalin - Cleveland, November 21

Mr. Close - Corpus Christi, January 28.