

THE ATLANTA CRISIS - September, 1966

- I. The Role of Economic Opportunity Atlanta in the Atlanta Crisis of September, 1966
  - A. To furnish services to the residents of target neighborhoods in the several fields provided by the Economic Opportunity program.
  - B. To use the organized groups affiliated with the program in identifying the pressing community problems, offering the existing services, and developing solutions that will convince disadvantaged residents that public and private agencies are concerned with their welfare.
  - C. To develop feasible emergency programs in relation to neighborhood councils to meet situations which lead to civil disturbances and to assist responsible public and private agencies in meeting these crises.
- II. To this end the following recommendations are being made.
  - A. That an immediate request be made for the expansion of the sub-professional staff to include 1200 additional employees on a 90-day basis: \$750,000.
  - B. That the Neighborhood Youth Corps Out-of-School Program be used to recruit youth for service in the emergency.
  - C. That both of these groups be used to organize youth and adult neighborhood councils.
    1. To acquaint residents of the availability of services of the neighborhood level.

2. To organize them into groups which will identify problems and initiate the development of solutions with the assistance of Neighborhood Service Organization technicians and specialists; day-to-day contact with residents of target neighborhoods, using volunteers where possible.
  3. To work with the police, recreation, public housing, employment, and other departments and agencies in extending communications and services in target neighborhoods.
- III. To use all aides and NYC enrollees to maintain contact and develop communication with residents and exchange pertinent data between the NSO center and the community.
- IV. Use qualified community leaders, P.T.A. groups and ministers not identified with EOA to maintain communication.
- V. Use of community school programs in organizing youth and adult student groups for lectures, workshops, and forums on citizenship education.
- VI. Weekly meetings of CNACs for continuous planning of community programs to meet emergency situation.
- VII. Development of Long Range Programs in the several fields where known problems exist with the funding of a temporary Human Relations program that will be taken over by the City Government after January 1, 1967:
- A. Housing
    1. Housing Assistance now in operation by the Atlanta Housing Authority.
    2. Involvement of Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Atlanta Real Estate Board, Empire Real Estate Board, Atlanta Housing Authority, Housing and Urban Development, Central Improvement Association and owners of large real estate developments

in a program of elimination of slum housing.

- a. Financing the improvement of existing housing.
- b. Code enforcement and cooperation of landlords and tenants in improving or demolishing insatisfactory housing.
- c. Cooperation in clean-up campaigns with the assistance of city departments; revival of Jr. Inspector Program.

3. Development of homemaker services thru Area Block and CNACs.

#### B. Employment

1. The top level industrialists would be asked to work with the U. S. Civil Rights Commission and the Georgia State Department of Labor to establish a Job-recruitment-training program which would involve:

- a. First commitments from ten or twelve agencies to agree to hire five persons each, who would have or could be quickly given thru adult education, minimum skills to fill jobs.
- b. Following successful training and placement over a period of sixty days, the number could be increased gradually each 60-day period to several thousand, by enlisting more firms and asking them to take on largernumbers.
- c. Institutional, as well as, work training programs under MDT would be utilized in developing this project.

#### C. Recreation

1. The experiences of the 1966 Summer Program would be used to expand and develop similar projects on a year-round basis.
2. A recreation council might be established composed of representatives from public and private agencies to develop a coordinated program for the entire community.

D. Education - The Community School Program should be expanded as rapidly as finances, personnel and facilities can be made available, with the the objectives of having every public school to become a community school.