

February 2, 1968

NATIONAL COORDINATORS WEEKLY REPORT

John Feild, who has served as National Co-Coordinator of the Coalition, resumed February 1 his full time responsibilities as Director of the Community Relations Service of the United States Conference of Mayors. John had been on loan to the Coalition since its formation.

Ron Linton will continue to serve as National Coordinator. Christopher Mould has been promoted to Deputy National Coordinator and Staff Director. Chris, who holds a Doctor of Law degree from the University of Chicago, has been Associate National Coordinator working with the Task Force on Local Coalitions.

COUNCIL OF URBAN COALITIONS

Mayors and other leadership representatives of 37 cities met in Washington last week and approved the concept of developing a Council of Urban Coalitions. Membership on the Council would be open to those cities which have formed Coalitions of their own. It would give a voice to the local groups in national discussions and would function as a part of The Urban Coalition. Further discussions through the Task Force on Local Coalitions are expected to lead to the formation of the Council this Spring. The Task Force membership was expanded as a result of the Washington meeting to include representatives of urban coalitions in New York City; Plainfield, New Jersey; Gary, Indiana; and Fresno, California with the possibility of other additions subsequently. The expanded Task Force will meet on February 12th.

LEGISLATIVE PRESS CONFERENCE

Coalition Co-Chairman Andrew Heiskell held a press conference in Washington last week to emphasize the urgency of congressional action on urban problems. Participating with Mr. Heiskell in the press conference were: Arnold Aronson, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Joseph D. Keenan, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Norman Hill, representing A. Philip Randolph; Mayor James H. J. Tate of Philadelphia; and Christian Herter, Jr., Chairman of the New York Coalition and Vice President of Mobil Oil Company.

Mr. Heiskell's prepared statement mainly covered the points made in the legislative statement mailed to you two weeks ago. He emphasized the need to "assure a job for every citizen able and willing to work" and expressed support for the President's proposal in the State of the Union message to reimburse employers for additional costs involved in hiring and training the hard-core unemployed. He emphasized, however, that much more must be done, including government-generated employment programs.

A copy of the Associated Press story of the press conference, as carried in the New York Times, is attached. NBC television news and 16 reporters covered the event. Also attached is the New York Times column about the Coalition statement by Tom Wicker.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The new Executive Committee of the Steering Committee will hold its first meeting on February 9 in New York City. All but two members of the Executive Committee have been named. The list is:

Business: Joseph H. Allen, President, McGraw-Hill Publications; Fredrick J. Close, Chairman of the Board, Aluminum Company of America; J. Irwin Miller, Chairman of the Board, Cummins Engine Company; and Theodore Schlesinger, President, Allied Stores Corporation.

Labor: George Meany, President, AFL-CIO; and Walter Reuther, President, United Auto Workers.

Church: Dr. Arthur Flemming, President, National Council of Churches.

Civil Rights: Arnold Aronson, Executive Secretary, Leadership Council on Civil Rights; and Whitney M. Young, Jr., Executive Director, National Urban League.

Local Government: Mayor Joseph M. Barr of Pittsburgh; and Mayor James H. J. Tate of Philadelphia.

The Co-Chairmen of The Urban Coalition, Andrew Heiskell and A. Philip Randolph, are ex officio members of the Executive Committee.

CORRECTION

In the Minutes of the January 8th Steering Committee Meeting which were mailed to you with the last weekly report, under the heading of Report of the Committee on Budget and Finance and the Organizational Proposal, it was incorrectly stated that "Staff support would require approximately \$5,000,000." This should have read: "Staff support would require approximately \$500,000."