

February 23, 1968

NATIONAL COORDINATOR'S WEEKLY REPORT

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT

More than 200 people from 13 states participated in a one-day action conference on private employment in Kansas City, Mo., this week. The meeting was the last in a series of three dealing with private employment problems and opportunities.

J. A. Hosford, general manager of Western Electric Company's plant at Lee's Summit, Missouri, described the imaginative employment program being carried out by the Kansas City (Missouri and Kansas) Urban Coalition. It features pledges by major employers to hire and train "marginally-qualified" people. The goal is about 1000 jobs for such people each year.

Both Hosford and Francis Keppel, chairman of the board of General Learning Corporation, pointed out that there is some degree of risk for business in carrying out such employment programs. But Keppel added: "The disadvantaged residents of the big city ghettos are proving that underneath all of that misery and desperation lies a great deal of intelligence and latent ability just yearning for a chance to express itself."

NATIONAL CONFERENCES

Preliminary arrangements have been made for the national conferences discussed in last week's report. The national conference of local coalitions will be held on April 2, followed on April 3 by the national legislative conference on employment. Both meetings will be held at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington.

LOCAL COALITIONS

Co-Chairman Andrew Heiskell addressed a two-day meeting of the Philadelphia Urban Coalition last week, as did Theodore McKelden, chairman of the Baltimore Coalition. All reports indicate the Philadelphia Coalition has made a very strong beginning. National Coordinator Ron Linton spoke to a community meeting of the Tacoma, Washington Coalition. Englewood, N. J., is the latest city to report the formation of a Coalition.