

Task Forces Geared for Race Issues

New York — (RNS) — A citywide Urban Crisis Task Force of religious and community agencies has been quietly readying its resources, funds and facilities to aid Mayor John V. Lindsay's Action Task Force in the event of race riots here this summer.

Some 17 Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish agencies from New York City and surrounding suburban communities have been meeting regularly to consider plans for action programs in riot situations.

It would include the setting up of a Communications Network to quell rumors; the use of churches for shelters; the funneling of food and medical supplies to riot victims, and the use of staff workers from various churches and such agencies as VISTA volunteers to root out the causes of racial tensions.

The Rev. David W. Barry, executive director of the New York City Mission Society, has served as acting chairman of the Urban Crisis Task Force in its initial stages.

Each participating denomination or church agency has pledged \$1,500 in funds to the effort. In the first two weeks of the financial commitment period, some \$9,000 had been raised and a number of the groups had made staff members available on a full or part-time basis for the summer months.

Religious Groups Urge End to 'Residency' Rules

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court was urged by four national Protestant, Catholic and Jewish groups and a civil rights organization to abolish state residency requirements for welfare recipients of federally-sponsored relief assistance.

Making the plea in a joint friend-of-the-court (amicus curiae) brief were: the National Council of Churches, the National Conference of Catholic Charities, the American Jewish Congress, the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, and the Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund for Racial Equality.

In their brief, the five organizations stated, "Poor relief is so fundamental and of such long standing as to be regarded as part of the 'basic law of the land' which is incorporated in the due process concept. It would be inconsistent with our system of law to recognize this responsibility while denying those who would benefit from it the right to enforce it."

The residency requirements, according to the brief, "in effect take from

the poor the right to make the most of job opportunity and freedom; to associate with relatives and loved ones."

It asserted that the requirements also "punish not only those who may conceivably move for high welfare payments but also the family looking for work and even the man who comes to the state having a job which ends for reasons beyond his control."

Moratorium Declared On Church Building

Washington — (NC) — Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle of Washington has called for a "temporary moratorium" on all new ecclesiastical building in the archdiocese. Buildings already designed, contracted for "or without which a state of extreme hardship or emergency would result" will be allowed, however, the cardinal said.

He made his plea for increased aid to the poor in a pastoral letter sent to all churches in the Washington archdiocese.

Citing the "spontaneous outpouring" of help to persons made "homeless, hungry and helpless" during recent rioting in Washington, the cardinal said: "Now the work of reconstruction must begin."

"By reconstruction," he continued, "I mean not only the erection of new buildings and businesses of the city, I mean also the reconstruction of society, so that, as much as is humanly possible, we shall witness the disappearance of ghettos and the appearance of equal opportunity."

Rustin Sees Elections Key to Racial Issue

New York — (RNS) — One of the nation's top civil rights leaders predicted here that this fall's elections would be the key factor in determining the course of race relations in the United States for the next quarter of a century.

"The elections of 1968 will determine whether or not there will be race war in the streets for the next 25 years," said Bayard Rustin executive director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute. Mr. Rustin, who was the chief organizer of the March on Washington in 1963, addressed a group at St. George's Episcopal church here.

"No Negro leader can determine whether there will be violence in the

streets," said Mr. Rustin, who is a staunch advocate of non-violence. "That can be determined only by Congress. Violence can be cast out only by justice."

"If Congress is prepared to eliminate injustice in this society, then those who believe in non-violence will have their hand strengthened."

Church Group Begins D.C. Housing Program

Washington — (NC) — A church-sponsored nonprofit organization here has launched a housing program to purchase 322 slum homes, rehabilitate them, and resell them to poor families under federal financing.

The organization — Urban Rehabilitation Corp. — will begin the pro-

gram with the rehabilitation of nine row houses which it will buy for \$26,100 from the Washington urban renewal authority agency.

Purchase and rehabilitation work, which will be done by Negro contractors and involve young Negroes as apprentices, will be carried out under a \$137,000 mortgage provided by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The Urban Rehabilitation Corp was initiated in October by Father Geno Baroni, director of the Washington archdiocese's office of urban affairs, and got its initial planning work under way with a \$10,000 "seed money" grant from the archdiocese.

Father Baroni estimated that monthly mortgage, tax and utility payments on the houses will be about \$125.



Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York addresses the annual meeting of the National Conference of Christians and Jews' Board of Governors. The NCCJ is observing its 40th anniversary. Mayor Lindsay spoke to the NCCJ board, which met in New York, on implementing the recommendations of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders. He lauded the NCCJ for its efforts "to energize the nation at large to do something about it." The mayor was vice-chairman of the commission. (Religious News Photo)

Poor People's Campaign Called 'Last Chance'

Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — The Poor Peoples' Campaign in Washington "may be the last great march, our last chance to be convinced to do something constructively in each local community," according to Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president of the University of Notre Dame.

Father Hesburgh said that people "can brush off, or condemn the march, but you cannot isolate or insulate yourself from the problem that

the march portrays. It will continue to exist in your community until you have found realistic means of eliminating it.

"We cannot all march," he continued, "but each of us can do something even more meaningful—create equality of opportunity in education, employment and housing in our community. This is what the march is all about."

Negro Clergyman Rejects Integration as Realistic Goal

By JOHN E. SULLIVAN
NC News Service

Detroit — Black America's central problem is powerlessness, and it is only by rejecting integration as a realistic goal that black people can overcome this problem, according to the Rev. Albert B. Cleage Jr., Detroit's militant black clergyman.

The Rev. Cleage, pastor of Detroit's Central United Church of Christ and chairman of the citywide Citizens Action Committee, speaking at the opening session of the Catholic Clergy Conference on the Interracial Apostolate, asserted: "As long as black people believed in integration, we were doomed to powerlessness."

He told a standing-room-only crowd of priests, nuns and a scattering of laymen: "And now that we are realizing that separation exists we can gain power."

Racial separation has existed for many years in America, he noted, and was used from the beginning as a means of exploiting and subjugating black people.

Because the NAACP and Urban League were working toward a limited goal of integration, they could not be effective as black organizations, but rather became "instruments of the white power structure," the Rev. Cleage said.

Black people were "at a decided disadvantage because while they were dreaming of integration, they had segregation," he said.

This segregation—and the failure of black people to challenge it as it existed—enabled the white community to use it against blacks, he asserted.

This situation existed until the early 1950s, when first the United States Supreme Court challenged segregation, and later when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. confronted it in Montgomery, Ala., throughout the South and later in the North, he said.

These confrontations—and the violent reaction of white Americans—slowly began to convince black people "that white people did not want a practical realistic integration in the foreseeable future," he continued.

Black power, Rev. Mr. Cleage said, is nothing more or less than complete economic, political and social

control over institutions which affect black people.

"Whites usually equate black power with violence and hatred, he said, "but that reflects more the white man's response to black power than it does its real meaning."

\$20 Million Fund To Battle Crisis

Dallas — (RNS) — A \$20 million fund for reconciliation in the national crisis and recruitment of a voluntary service corps of young people between 18 and 30 are key elements in a four-year program adopted by the United Methodist Church here.

"A New Church for a New World" is the theme for the quadrennial priority which is designed to help meet the urban crisis and to give assistance overseas, especially in war-torn areas.

The \$20 million fund is the largest ever set by an American Church in the struggle to overcome the social and economic problems of the modern world. It was voted by the General Conference of the 11 million-member denomination, formed by merger of The Methodist and the Evangelical United Brethren Churches.

Three domestic groups will be involved in the program both as participants and beneficiaries:

(1) — "The black community, the Spanish speaking communities and the American Indians—those in the United Methodist membership and also those not in our Church or in any Church.

(2) — "The poor of every ethnic group, both in the rural and urban sections of society who have much to tell us if we will listen.

(3) — "The teenagers and youth of the Church, and of no Church who feel there is no way of bridging the gap between themselves and those of other generations."

Half of the \$20 million raised will remain in the geographic areas to be administered locally in consultation with representative community groups.

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