

EDITORIAL

By Paul C. Smith

Do Programs Help The Poor ?

The number of families that have received help from the Funding Agencies are not detailed for the record. We are not saying that help is not needed. What we are saying is that groups of people have been forming, coming up with proposals for which they seek funding. All proposals have a heart and ear bending stated purpose. The question uppermost is -- the duplication of services offered.

An evaluation of what services not now being provided by other public or private agencies is what we need to look at.

We have some examples of services to the poor: Legal Aid, State and County Welfare Departments, Mental Health, County Health Departments, schools, Training Programs of the Skill Center, E.O.B., P.P.P.T., Welfare Rights Organizations, Food Stamps, Church Charities, SNDAC, Head Start, Day Care, Food Supplement Programs. We have a Labor Commission Equal Rights Commission, The Department of Human Resources, Vocational Rehabilitation, and the list can go on and on.

As a matter of fact a person with a problem has so many sources of help, he hardly knows just where to start.

All these agencies appear to be in competition with each other for funds to provide services. That, in the final analysis, come from the same pocket -- the taxpayers.

If the funding comes from a private foundation, that foundation's source of money means a tax reduction. Many feel that millions of dollars are available so why not propose to help those who need help.

Let's take a hypothetical case: John Q. who has a wife and 3 children. Let's go further to say that John and his family were not able to manage his earnings very well, so when he loses his job they have no savings to last until he can start drawing his job insurance -- which could depend upon why he lost his job. Was his dismissal based upon discrimination or because he felt he had to work too many hours without proper pay? He has two courses open: The Labor Commission and/or The Equal Rights Commission. Neither agency can help his immediate problem. The welfare may or may not depending upon many factors able to help. Let's really muddy up the water and say that the separation pay he received was earmarked for his car payment. With his next check, he is expected to pay his house note or rent.

In short order, he and his family are in trouble. Where can he go to get money to pay for his car, rent or food? The answer, in spite of the numerous agencies and organizations is no place.

Billions of dollars have been spent in consultant fees, feasibility studies and grants and in aid to the poor -- and yet no money has been provided to help -- what we call the "working poor." That family at almost any level of income, would not be in trouble with loss of job, a major illness or a death that would reduce or wipe out income.

Looking at the unemployment figures considering the number of people who need major medical attention, we are talking about millions of "working poor." Our Society must come up with a program that would help those "working poor" who find themselves in trouble with no place to seek or get help.

Before we expend monies to increase the services to those who are already getting some help, some help or assistance for those who have been footing the bill is the most overlooked in our society.

What we need to do is -- examine our priorities.

CAPSULE COMMENTS

According to reports being circulated, that member of the State Board of Cosmetology who had many letters, plus a petition with 800 signatures sent to the Governor requesting her removal is up for reappointment.

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A local Barber Shop Owner has launched a campaign to have the Governor appoint a Black to the Barbers Board of Examiners.

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STORMY SEAS



INSTITUTE MEET ; POINTS TO "VETO - PROOF" CONGRESS

The election of a "veto-proof" Congress in 1974 and the mobilization of a liberal coalition powerful enough to win the presidency in 1976 are the themes of the Fifth National Conference of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, to be held May 17-19 in Cleveland, Ohio.

"Our goals are quite simple," declared Bayard Rustin, the Institute's Executive Director. "We want to help ensure the election of a Congress that will not acquiesce to the vetoing of minimum wage legislation, housing bills, and aid to education. And we ultimately want to help elect a President who is committed to fulfilling the civil rights agenda, instead of thwarting it."

The Institute conducts voter registration and get-out-the-vote programs in over 120 communities in some 35 states. The programs live and work in the community where the specific registration project is carried out. Over 800 of these black union activists are expected to attend the conference sessions.

The conference will feature workshops, seminars, and several plenary sessions at which civil rights and labor leaders will speak. All land Hotel. Mr. Rustin will deliver the keynote address on the shape of politics after Watergate; other speakers include Lane Kirkland, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO; Alexander E. Barkan, National Director of the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education; Congressman Louis Stokes and Norman Hill, Associate Director of the Randolph Institute.

Workshop sessions will concentrate on three areas: how black trade unionists can most

effectively work with elected officials; political issues in 1974; and how black unionists can function within the structure of political parties.

There are many people all around this country who believe that if the President truly wanted Watergate behind him, he would have supplied the committees and the courts -- everything they asked for -- several months ago. Had he done so we would NOW be closer if not finished with Watergate (ITT).

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There will also be a panel discussion on: "The Labor Movement: Are Its Goals Being Fulfilled?". Presentations will be given by Jacob Clayman, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Department; Murray H. Finley, President of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers; and Robert A. George, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO's Building Trades Department.

A special highlight will be a dinner-dance honoring black mayors elected in 1973. Mayor Maynard Jackson of Atlanta will accept an award on behalf of the black mayors.

Since establishing a voter registration project in 1968, the Institute has been instrumental in adding several hundred thousand black voters to the rolls.

Taking note of these accomplishments, Bayard Rustin observed: "The fact that more blacks are voting each year and more blacks are winning election to public office each year are great advancements in themselves. But numbers are no longer a sufficient way to measure our progress."

(See Veto page 11)

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