

Philosophy: Economic Movement

Gandhi said, "Non-violence is an experiment with Truth". Non-violence, therefore, becomes for us that instrument by which we experiment at dissecting economic exploitation. Our working definition of a slum states that economic resources march into a community and set up structures and institutions designed to initiate and perpetuate financial burdens on the residents of that community. A cooperative is instituted in a slum or colony to relieve its members from already existing financial burdens as well as to embrace already existing structures and institutions convincing them to assume their rightful economic responsibility.

In view of that fact that the consumer in a colony participates in this illicit relationship with these structures and institutions, we have a twofold purpose: 1) demand that these economic resources leave a portion of their profit in the cooperative structure; and 2) enable the consumer to demand that the structures and institutions respect him and educate him to understand that he has economic power to create a community which will grow and assume stability.

An economic movement must embrace every aspect of community involvement. Knowing that a colony based on capitalism produces various social evils, non-violence becomes that experimental instrument that demands liberation, not perpetuation of economic resources within the community rather than without.

"There go my people. I must catch up with them for I am their leader".

MEMO: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

RE: Cooperatives' Present Level of Participation in Dissecting Economic Exploitation

PREMISE: Experiment With Structures and Institutions to End Economic Exploitation

I. Servicing Institutions That Perpetuate Economic Exploitation

- A. Gas Stations
- B. Cleaners
- C. Retail Stores
- D. Housing

II Strategy For Dissecting Economic Exploitation: Gas Stations, Cleaners

- A. Consumer receives product or service plus shares in cooperative
- B. Employer enlists his employees as cooperative members
- C. Present Status

A group of promotional advisors, directed by Jim McCrae, are attempting to devise a "gimmick" that would (1) give the cooperative running capital, (2) consumers memberships, (3) a 2 or 3 year contract with the servicing institution which would insure that it receives no loss of profit. Standard Oil Company, Leader and Pekin Cleaners have committed themselves to economically assist the cooperative.

D. Future Involvement

- 1. Servicing institutions can measure their increased volume and cooperative economic participation
- 2. Servicing institutions will know cooperative members by membership cards.

III Strategy for Dissecting Economic Exploitation: Retail Stores
(Grocery and Drug Stores)

- A. Employer will enroll employees in the cooperative
- B. Select popular consumer products (Dentyne, Hershey, Clark)
 - 1. Negotiate
 - a. jobs
 - b. 1% assessment of shares for consumers
- C. Demand sale of products produced by Negro-owned companies
- D. Retail Stores Assessments
 - 1. Chain stores share assessments could go to Chicago Cooperative Freedom Trust
 - 2. Small retail stores share assessments could be distributed to the local cooperative

LV Strategy For Dissecting Economic Exploitation: Housing

- 1. Negotiate with landlord
 - a. receive some of his worst buildings as a test for cooperative housing
 - b. cooperative is currently locating insurance companies that want to sell their buildings
- 2. Method of Payment
 - a. have landlord and/or insurance company give us a 1, 5, of 10 year "waiver"
 - b. use tenants' rent and running capital from retail stores as economic leverage in rehabilitation and receive FHA credits.

B. Homeowners vs. Lending Institutions, Agencies' Invasion of Property (CDA, CHA, Urban Renewal)

1. Homeowners Union to End Slums (HUTES)

- a. each member will be issued a HUTES sticker
- b. closer communication and cooperation between tenants and homeowners for other institutions
 - 1. fire insurance
 - 2. auto insurance

2. Purpose of HUTES

- a. to collectively bargain for rights under urban renewal
- b. to benefit the community.

V. Recommendations

A. Operation Breadbasket

Rationale: possible negotiations vehicle for economic leverage in dissecting institutions that economically exploit

1. Strategy in Utilizing Operation Breadbasket

The tenant Union to End Slums negotiates for several items-- check off, patch up. When they demonstrate publicly it is for collective bargaining. Our negotiation will be for share assessment for employer and consumer. This approach will allow the consumer a better relationship with existing institutions.

2. In the event the negotiations will break down and an institution pushes continual exploitation, then our public issue or economic leverage would be jobs through the withdrawal of trade. Because one of the items for negotiation

would be share assessment we will be setting up running capital into the coop.

- B. Immediate Public Relations re: Homeowners' Union to End Slums
Rationale: Urban Renewal, CDA, CHA and other agencies Invasion of Property threaten Negro homeowners which is one of the stable economic bases in the Colony. We have a structure for the Homeowner as well as professional and businessmen that are willing to commit their talents and economic resources.

Theme: Help Urban Renewal Help Us.

- C. Meeting with Dr. King, Andy Young, James Bevel, Al Raby, Al Pitcher, Earless Ross, Billy Hollins, Stoney Cook, Al Sampson to discuss the Jim Twomey Proposal

- D. Suburban Housewives:

Rationale: Ghetto Food Prices are high and they could involve Negro housewives in this National Food price movement. We would negotiate for share assessment to consumer and high food prices for inferior goods. If the retail establishment breaks down in negotiation our public issue would be high prices for inferior foods and costly advertisement of these inferior products. Yet one of the negotiating items would be "share assessment to consumer" for the purpose of running capital into cooperatives as well as broadening the geographical and population base.