



a stake in the community and pride in accomplishment. Major efforts are being made toward this goal.

The New Detroit Committee has set three objectives: Development of industrial and office centers; development of small business, and the establishment of an insurance pool program to provide inner city business protection at a reasonable cost.

Although a bill to provide the necessary insurance protection is now pending before the Legislature, progress toward the first two goals have been small and ineffective to date, illustrating the difficulties that are present. The New Detroit Committee has spent much time working with small companies interested in building plants in Detroit and with city departments on behalf of potential plant builders. Time has also been spent with Negro businessmen who have problems related to credit and product distribution. This area will remain of high priority to the New Detroit Committee.

To counter the consequences of a serious industrial lag in Detroit, the New Detroit Committee believes development can be achieved in several ways.

First, an aggressive program to bring industry to the inner

city can be pursued by the city administration. All sectors of the community should encourage and support the establishment of small business in the inner city with emphasis on shopping and service facilities in new housing developments.

Consumer co-operative shopping facilities hold promise of being of particular value to inner city residents, who often view existing retail establishments as channeling away economic power, providing few jobs and exploiting residents with higher prices.

In keeping with its commitment to and belief in the principle of self-determination, the New Detroit Committee will be prepared to cooperate with such promising ventures as the Inner City Business Improvement Forum, which has set as its goal the development of the economy of the inner city.

YOUTH, RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Problem: How to fill previously blighted lives with a portion of the world they have never before known.

As the New Detroit Committee continued its work, it became increasingly aware of the importance and critical need for action in the areas of youth, recreation and cultural affairs. It has found itself devoting more of its time to these matters, and has recently established a special subcommittee to handle them.

Tremendous voids exist in Detroit's inner city, coupled with a glaring lack of cooperation between existing agencies.

The new subcommittee has worked closely with the Mayor's Office, Youth Opportunities Council, the Department of Parks and Recreation of the City of Detroit, the Detroit Board of Education, the Youth Foundation, the United Community Services, the Greater Detroit Board of Commerce, and numerous inner city groups in the planning of a number of programs and the development of several proposals for the summer of 1968.

The New Detroit Committee's efforts in the field of recreation have led to the establishment of a Joint Recreation Committee, comprised of key staff members of 11 interested organizations, to help fill the enormous void that exists in this area.

To date, the Joint Recreation Committee has been instrumental in the planning and development of a number of new recreational projects.

Among them is a program which, it is hoped, will bring together a city-wide program of activity for youth, including four city-wide festivals on Memorial Day, Independence Day, Youth Day during Michigan Week and on Labor Day. Expanded camping programs,

to provide 1,000 one-week camping scholarships, are also planned, with the use of Fort Wayne as a camping and recreation center. Businesses are being urged to sponsor youth days and youth programs at reduced prices. Professional athletic organizations are being asked for, and have indicated deep concern, in providing instruction and leadership for clinics and athletic events.

A summer opportunities for youth program will place emphasis on 11,800 temporary jobs for youths 16 years of age and over. Funds are being sought to recruit, train and employ 1,000 inner city youths in neighborhood-oriented projects. The Detroit Junior Board of Commerce plans to form a young people's corporation to provide small grants or interest-free loans to youth groups for worthwhile projects.

Projects are also under study to provide for the possible use of schools during the summer and to establish workshops in the fine and the performing arts, to fill an acute cultural gap in the inner city. Funds are also being sought to permit the construction of tot lots, postage stamp parks and playfields and to provide the opportunity for other forms of organized outdoor activities.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The problems of Detroit in the area of community services could serve, in miniature, as a description of the problems faced by the entire nation.

The problems are so broad that both the needy and those in charge of treating their needs become infected with a sense of helplessness and hopelessness.

The result: A survival technique of apathetic impersonal service. The opportunities for change become stymied because, although the local needs are great, the solutions are usually constructed elsewhere at the state and federal levels.

WELFARE

The Problem: How to help without debasing.

Indications are that the present welfare system, rather than helping poor people become self-sufficient, serves to maintain the poorest groups in a permanent condition of poverty. This occurs because the system destroys the potential of individuals and families to improve themselves.

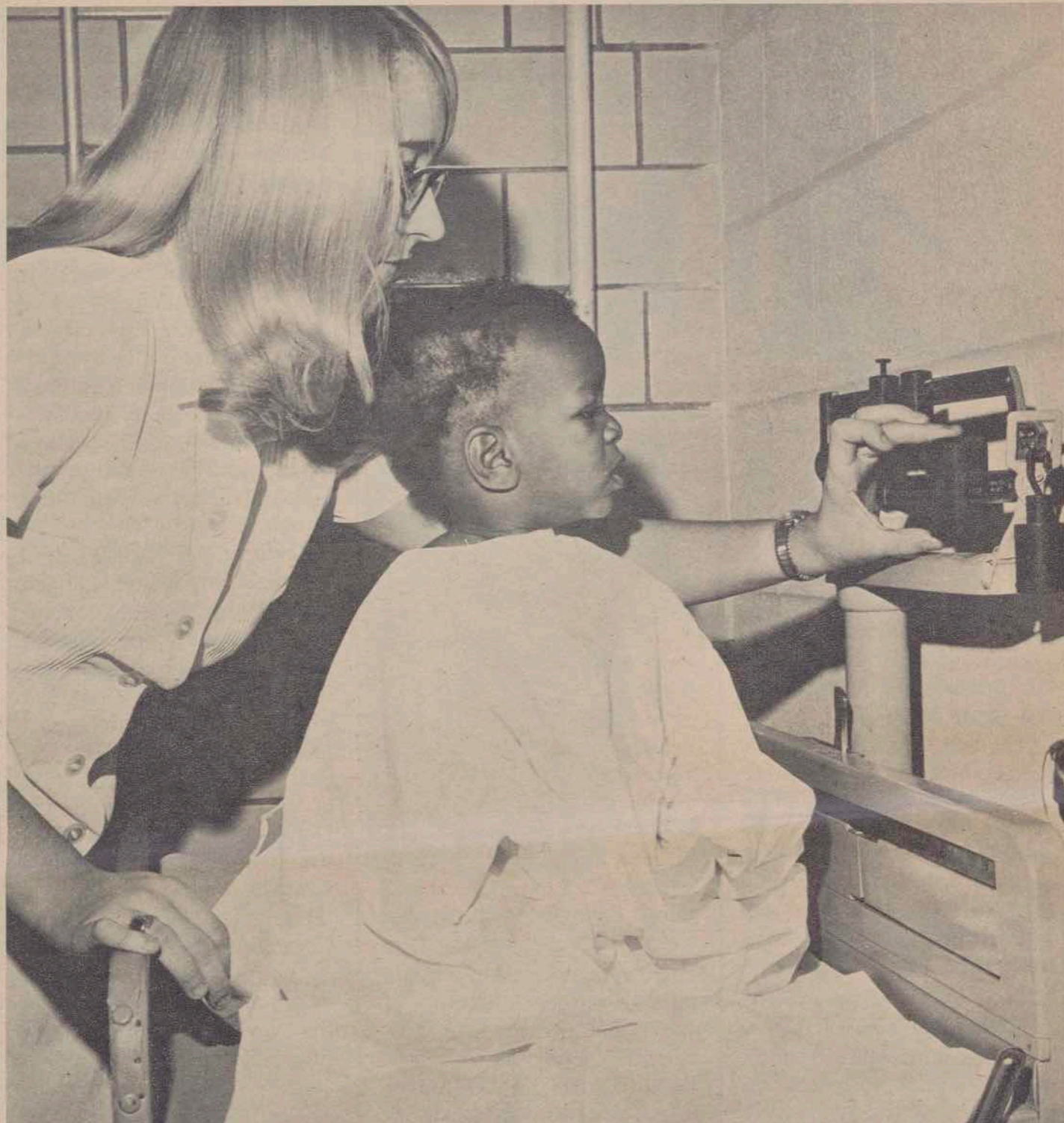
The present system has led to the separation of families, and has contributed to an increase in illegitimacy. It has resulted in the infringement of basic human rights through the search of dwellings by welfare workers. It has stigmatized recipients. It has left recipients without the means to effectively state complaints. It has given recipients little incentive to help themselves.

Additionally, the system in Michigan is economically unsound. The present grant schedule in aid to dependent children, for instance, is based on budgets drawn in 1958. These budgets provide only 70 cents a day per person for food.

The New Detroit Committee has therefore recommended that:

- 1) Truth of need be assumed for all applicants. Periodic checks would determine continuing assistance.
- 2) An administrative bureau be established to effectively and compassionately handle all complaints.
- 3) An explicit appeal procedure be established, and made known to all applicants.

Another problem area in securing adequate social services involves simply knowing how and where to get them. Applicants are frequently blocked by a lack of information. Potential applicants too often do not know what services are available and where. Welfare agencies are them-



selves often unclear as to what services an applicant can receive.

The New Detroit Committee recommends a systems approach, utilizing advanced management techniques, to coordinate agency handling of individual cases, to plan programs and to accurately measure results. Such a program, if established, would link all private and public agencies in the fields of health, education, public welfare, employment, housing, recreation and social welfare in the Detroit area through a central data processing system. This would permit these agencies to respond quickly and accurately on the

basis of all current information as to the needs and resources. A proposal for funding has been prepared and is being considered by the Office of Economic Opportunity.

HEALTH SERVICES

The Problem: How to treat the very serious physical afflictions of the inner city.

A New Detroit Committee staff report effectively summarizes the nature of the Committee's findings in the area of health services to the city's poor. It puts it this way:

"Public health service as it has been applied in the city of Detroit in depressed areas is lacking in concept, adminis-

tration, and meaningful implementation. Health service as applied at the grass roots level is regarded by the community as being largely dispirited, ineffective, unresponsive and administered dispirit-edly. What service there is, is not readily available to those most in need. Treatment, secondary prevention, and rehabilitation services for individuals are scattered about the community and recipients find it difficult to fight through the maze of public agencies to avail themselves of the service to be rendered. Such a pattern . . . leaves the respondent confused, degraded, and in the end largely unaided."

The Committee finds in this critical area there is no plan, no order of priorities and no vigorous leadership.

Perhaps symbolic of these deficiencies is the long overdue report of the committee assigned to implement plans for a new Detroit General Hospital. The Committee began work in late 1965, and there is at this time no evidence that any significant progress has been made. New Detroit believes the report should be made in the immediate future, or that the study group should be disbanded and work begun anew.

The Committee further urges the Mayor to involve local medical and hospital organizations, the Wayne County Medical Society, the Detroit medical societies, the Wayne State University Medical School, the Detroit Area Hospital Council and all other public and professional organizations and agencies in the development of a program of service to the city's medically indigent.

In other areas of the health care sector, the Committee believes that the strengthening of the Mayor's Medical-Dental Program is providing one of the few agencies meeting the health needs of the community at the grass roots level, and believes it should be expanded. The program presently provides four neighborhood centers, and although coverage is not complete, all evidence indicates that the neighborhood concept has validity, and is able to act responsively.

Detroit also lacks adequate day care services for children whose mothers work either part or full time. The need of low income mothers is great for such facilities, yet their ability to pay for them is small. The working mother is left with only a few gloomy alternatives. She can leave her children completely unattended, she can leave them with a rela-

tive or a neighbor, or she can quit her job and depend on welfare.

On July 1, the need for day care centers becomes critical, as a new federal ruling goes into effect, requiring mothers receiving Aid to Dependent Children payments to be trained for work when judged able. The law provides \$4 a day for day care of children, but makes no provision for the additional centers that will be needed. The inner city has very few day care centers. In the Herman Kiefer area, where 5,600 ADC supported families live, there are none. Some efforts are being made to provide new centers, but the need outstrips these individual efforts.

The New Detroit Committee urges that provisions of new legislation that may tend to punish innocent children not be enforced until adequate day care facilities can be provided.

The Committee will also work toward the development of an outstanding day care demonstration model and training center in an attempt to motivate community groups to sponsor similar facilities.

PUBLIC ORDER

The Problem: How to assure every citizen that society maintains a single standard of justice and a single standard of protection for every man.

One of the most dramatic findings of the Kerner Commission was that the relationship—probably better characterized as the lack of a relationship—between inner city residents and the police constituted the largest single irritant present.

Mutual trust and confidence in law enforcement must be established before a climate of progress can be assured. Constructive steps have been taken in the Detroit Police Department: departmental reorganization, proposed neighborhood

centers, personnel changes and salary upgrading.

However, basic unrest and tension have not been reduced, if, in fact, the situation has not deteriorated.

Basic to the reduction of such tensions and unrest is the establishment of a single standard of justice and enforcement for all citizens.

This includes:

- 1) Equal protection of human and civil rights of all citizens in the process of arrest, search and seizure.
- 2) Equality of treatment by the legal profession and the courts, in arraignment and bail proceedings, in the quality of defense and in the nature of sentences.
- 3) Non-discrimination in hiring and advancement in all police forces.

The New Detroit Committee believes that respect for the law is the root strength of our society when it is justly and equally enforced.

The New Detroit Committee believes that a review, which last summer it proposed, of the Detroit Police Department should be undertaken, together with an intensive recruitment campaign and evaluation of hiring criteria so as to bring more Negroes into the police department to assure an appropriate and beneficial racial balance. The New Detroit Committee is presently working with police officials to examine current hiring criteria in order to bring more Negroes into the police department, with full Detroit Police cooperation.

In other areas involving justice and respect for rights in the inner city, attention should be given to the establishment of grievance machinery to provide an independent agency to hear and investigate citizen complaints with reference to all government services and recommend immediate action.

Bail reform, to insure the basic Constitutional right to stay out of jail unless convicted of a crime, should be undertaken. An indigent defendant has little chance of posting or securing necessary bail. In the eyes of the poor, this is an instance of discrimination, and on a practical level it jeopardizes jobs and has large effects on the composition of families.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Problem: How to help people to listen to voices that have never found an ear throughout the entire region, and in the process bring about massive attitudinal changes.

The New Detroit Committee, in cooperation with the Metropolitan Fund's Citizens Information Division, has pursued an active communications program in the firm belief that attitudes can change, and information can be exchanged only when people begin talking to each other, frankly and reasonably.

This program has taken advantage of virtually every media of communications, from a Speakers Bureau to private meetings between individuals. In this way can the myths of racism, some obvious, some more subtle, be abolished?

In the inner city, the New Detroit Committee has conducted a Community Contact Program designed to establish lines of communications between the Committee and diverse inner city groups and insure a meaningful dialogue.

A similar program of communications is being conducted in the suburbs designed to illustrate how the inner city problem is part of a whole that involves everyone, not just a few, and to secure essential suburban attitudinal change.

The Committee has an active Speakers Bureau, which has made presentations to more than 12,000 people since its

establishment.

The Metropolitan Fund and New Detroit now issues a newsletter on urban affairs that goes to some 5,000 business, civic, church and labor leaders and other interested persons. Circulation will eventually total 10,000.

WHAT IT ALL MEANS

This section represents only a brief listing of some of the major observations and recommendations of the New Detroit Committee's Progress Report. The full Report itself represents, in the perspective of the larger problem, only a brief listing of some of the things it will take to build a New Detroit.

The fulfillment of these goals ultimately rests in the hands of individuals.

If you have been moved to ask "Well, what can I do?" you have already made a start.

IV: WHAT CAN BE DONE

The past nine months have been months of progress in Detroit. Yet, realistically, measured against the total needs of the inner city, progress has been inadequate, particularly in such crucial areas as housing and education.

It would be an exercise in self-deception for the people of Detroit to believe that any program, however far it has progressed, however large its hopes, has met the challenge to basic unity that faces this community.

This review and commentary is an abbreviation of many important observations and programs contained in the New Detroit Committee's Progress Report. We urge that the full report be read and considered in depth.

The crisis of the city is a complex and costly one. The Committee is convinced that:

1) Detroit alone cannot

solve the problem. It will take money in amounts only the federal and state governments can supply. It will take cooperation of both private and public interests to provide steady jobs, adequate education, and decent homes.

2) Various government agencies have been under fire as major irritants in the urban crisis. Much of this criticism has great validity, and the Committee concludes that these agencies will be less than effective in implementing any program until this image is changed.

Crucial to the Committee's proposals is that the President and the Congress of the United States help dispel prevailing apathy and lack of urgency in dealing with the urban crisis by taking action on the call of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (the Kerner Commission) for a national commitment "compatible with the historic ideals of American society."

Although the New Detroit Committee applauds the passage into law of the new Federal Civil Rights Act, it is clear that the nation needs to move more aggressively to basic legislation that will directly and dramatically affect people.

Congress must recognize, for instance, that no open occupancy provision has substantial meaning while those who are presumably affected by the law are financially unable to actually purchase homes and have little chance to do so in the future. Good will has meaning only when it is accompanied by good works.

At the state level, the New Detroit Committee proposes a similar commitment. The New Detroit Committee calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to enact legislation, together with the financial backing necessary to support

it, designed to eliminate conditions which deprive the individual and cause group alienation.

The Committee's proposals may seem to some to be overly ambitious, but the Committee does not believe that they are beyond the capabilities, the responsibilities, or the will of the people of Michigan.

The Committee's specific action proposals are directed, in addition to the President and the Congress, the Governor and Michigan lawmakers, to the Mayor of Detroit and the Common Council, to the Michigan Employment Security Commission, the Detroit Council of Organizations, to all employers, to the Detroit Board of Education, the Building Trades Unions, and the Detroit Bar Association, to mention a few.

The Committee wishes to lay particular stress on local response, which should receive no less high a priority than action at national and state levels. One of the most difficult things for many people to understand is the tremendous impact of local government and local agencies on the life of the poor in their intensive day-to-day contact with these agencies. Every effort should be made to assure that these agencies and institutions provide balm, rather than salt, for the wounds of the poor.

In order to provide proper local response, both the City of Detroit and the Detroit School District must receive the funds necessary to make a significant impact on the problem.

In summary, the New Detroit Committee proposes:

In housing, passage of open occupancy and landlord-tenant bills, revised housing and building codes, funding of a State Financial Public Housing Program, enactment of a State Rent Supplement Program for low-income families. The State Housing Development Authority Act should be

amended to provide non-profit sponsors with mortgage loans of 100 per cent of the cost of housing. Programs to provide social services in housing developments for low-income families should be enacted.

The City of Detroit is asked to seek remedies for housing and building code violations and to unify the city's code enforcement machinery along with a systematic inspection enforcement program. It is suggested that the Metropolitan Detroit Citizens Development Authority seek development of a minimum of 25,000 housing units over the next five years for low- and moderate-income families.

In education, the Committee suggests the state provide the funds necessary to permit the Detroit Public Schools and other systems to assure an acceptable standard of public education for all our people, and asks support of the upcoming funding program to establish a community college system in Wayne County with particular attention to inner-city needs. The Board of Education is asked to intensively examine the concept of the year-round public school, and to pursue all possible means of obtaining funds for summer school programs for 1968 and the years that follow.

The Committee proposes that the McNamara Skills Center be given assurance of a permanent staff and operational funds, that community groups be given greater opportunities to share in educational decisions.

In employment, all employers of any size are asked by the New Detroit Committee to conduct recruitment programs within the inner city. Building trades unions should make every effort to open their apprenticeship programs to Negro applicants. All employers should carefully examine their hiring practices so that barriers against the hiring and promotion of inner-city resi-