YOUTH TASK FORCE

YOUTH TASK Force: To see that maximum opportunities are provided for all young people to enter the mainstream of community life and fully utilize their potential.

The Youth Task Force feels that it should concern itself with three types of young people: (1) youth involved in organized activities; (2) those who would be involved if they were aware of available activities and (3) those involved in no organized activities and found their interests in the streets.

The four teen-posts have occupied most of the attention and energies of the youth. They have engaged in the refurbishing and equipping them.

Bi-monthly meetings are held at the Service Center where various subjects are discussed. Plans are being formulated for the Youth Task Force to meet with the Law and Justice Task Force to inform the youth of their rights in dealing with police.

Also, the feeling is prevalent that in order for youth to enter the mainstream of the life of the community, they must have representation at the decision-making level, consequently Miss Irma Hernandez was chosen to serve on th Board of Dirctors of the Urban Coalition.

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Dot Hoag

IF YOU GIVE A DAMN
ABOUT THE PEOPLE IN OUR GHETTOS,
WEAR THIS BUTTON

Give a damn!

There are thousands of people in the ghettos of San Diego. Many of them are convinced that nobody outside the ghetto gives a damn, and when you look at the facts, you have to admit they have a case.

If **you** give a damn, support the San Diego Urban Coalition; an organization of hundreds of representatives of business, of community organizations, labor unions, synagogues and churches.

Our purpose is to unite business, labor and community organizations in a joint effort to deal with the problems of poverty and Urban decay. The great joint effort on "Jobs for Youth" this summer is a timely example of what we need to do and can do together.

Long range goals include working to solve the dilemmas of ghetto unemployment, poor education, bad housing and economic underdevelopment.

We know the task is not easy nor is it cheap. That's the reason for our buttons, and we will be glad to send you one! It's a good way to let everyone know how you feel about these problems.

There are many ways that you can show that you really give a damn — everything from part-time jobs, full-time jobs, career jobs, or jobs for beginners. You can give money and you can give time.

If you want a button, send your check or a buck with a self addressed, **stamped** envelope to:

San Diego Urban Coalition
Communications Task Force
P. O. Box 1511
San Diego, California 92112

SAN DIEGO CITY and COUNTY URBAN COALITION

Mayor Curran, Jose Guerrero, Iris Payne, Supervisor DeGraff Austin

URBAN COALITION
1196 Broadway — Telephone 234-3128
Mr. Clinton D. McKinnon, President
Mr. John Johnson, Vice-President
Mr. Larry Cox, Secretary-Treasurer

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George A. Scott, Chairman
P. O. Box 1511, San Diego, California 92112
Telephone 233-8282

[San Diego State College]

SAN DIEGO URBAN COALITION

It was 2 p.m., Monday, April 8, 1968 — four days after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Fourteen men, representative of the most powerful interests in America, sat down around a long table in Washington's Mayflower Hotel. They were members of the executive committee of the Urban Coalition.

The feeling in the room was a mixture of sorrow and determination. Dr. King had been a member of the steering committee of the Coalition. His death had triggered the kind of violence, burning and looting in the cities which he and these men had been working to prevent.

Seven months before, they had come together with others in an "emergency convocation" to create the Urban Coalition. Labor officials, businessmen, mayors, and leaders of religious faiths and and civil rights groups had publicly committed themselves and their organizations to finding practical solutions to the problems that were racking the cities.

Much had been done during the winter and early spring. Yet now, even before the summer of 1968 had started, a dozen cities were on fire.

Presiding at the executive committee meeting was the Urban Coalition's new chairman, John W. Gardner. The selection of the highly regarded former Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare a few weeks before had been a clear signal that the Coalition meant business. And Gardner's acceptance of the post had given the organization an operating head with stature equal to that of the steering committee members.

SAN DIEGO URBAN COALITION STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Urban Coalition was created in San Diego to deal with social and economic problems which are evident in the community. The problems which exist today are undoubtedly the result of the historical evolution of our present day society. As the society has evolved, it has created institutional approaches which have adversely affected certain of its people, particularly those of minority races.

Much study has occurred and much has been written about it, most of which is readily available. The situation might be likened to an illness with certain identifiable symptoms. Prompt medical treatment may alleviate the symptoms but complete recovery can only be attained when the disease itself is overcome.

The Urban Coalition, to be successful, must address itself to the problems at hand as well as the underlying causes.

Out of this recognition the Urban Coalition adopts the following as its announced statement of purpose:

> The Urban Coalition draws a clear distinction between the **contemporary symptoms** of social and economic racial disparities in urban life and the **historical practices, particularly those of institutions,** that largely have created them.
>
> It recognizes that while immediate stop-gap measures are necessary to deal with problems at hand — it is also true, long range solutions will require changes in public and private institutional approaches, insofar as they contribute to perpetuation of the problems.
>
> The Urban Coalition's purpose, therefore, will be twofold: 1.) Institute, encourage, and/or support those efforts amounting to the short range alleviation of **current symptoms** and 2.) Use all available resources to identify and change the historical practices blocking the path to **permanent solutions.**
>
> These perceptions will be governing in its position and approaches to "Urban Problem Solving" efforts.

COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS: To assure that all the citizens of San Diego understand and support the programs being coordinated by the Urban Coalition.

The Communications Task Force was instrumental in bringing Dr. John W. Gardner to San Diego, November 20, 1968. An all-day, all Task Forces and interested community members workshop was held November 21 at the First Presbyterian Church. San Diego was the third city to have Dr. Gardner.

It is the function of Communications to publicize Coalition activities via all media in San Diego County, and to assist other deserving organizations, which may not have the facilities, the know-how or time, to obtain publicity.

Last year Communications cooperated with the National Association of Businessmen in a Summer Job for Youth program which resulted in over 1600 jobs. Currently plans are underway to participate in the Mayor's Youth Program (Job Fair) at the Community Concourse in June.

A two-day seminar "Minority Communications" was held at St. Stephen's Church, March 25 - 26, jointly hosted by Citizens Interracial Council and the Communications Task Force.

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE: To encourage any citizen of this community who has the desire to enter private business, and to assist by providing the best advice and counsel available in all areas of the endeavor.

The Logan Heights Industrial Enterprises, Inc. was the "initial venture" of this Task Force.

Corporate financing is envisioned as follows: 1,000 shares of preferred stock to be sold in the majority community at $100.00 per share; 40,000 share of common stock, 20,000 shares to be sold in the minority community at $5.00 per share and 20,000 shares to be reserved for a profit-sharing plan.

At present the firm manufactures wooden shelving as a do-it-yourself item and wooden pallets (for loading).

The plant-site at 30th and Commercial Streets was obtained through William E. Quirk, former Chairman of the Board of the Urban Coalition.

The embryo manufacturing plant made its first shipment on March 3, 1969.

At the Grand Opening, March 10, Governor Reagan said, "Ventures of this kind, without benefit of government assistance, are the hope of the future." Mayor Frank Curran, Supervisor Henry Boney, State Assemblyman Tom Hom, and others attended. James E. Brown is general manager.

EDUCATION

EDUCATION: To provide quality and equality of educational opportunity for all citizens of San Diego.

During 1968 - 1969 the Education Task Force made the following recommendations and proposals:

1. Supported community demand for a black principal at Lincoln High School and a relevant curriculum. The recommendation was made in 1968, to be effective in 1969. It is now a fait accompli with the announcement by the Board of Education that in the fall black principals will be installed at Lincoln High School and Gompers Junior High.

2. Recommended that the Coalition help raise funds for financing a Grant Proposal for Operation Stimulation.

3. Members of Education Task Force individually assisted in raising funds for operation of the school in 1968, when the school was maintained on a voluntary non-supported basis.

4. In summer 1968, Operation Stimulation on an experimental basis made an exhaustive study of urban educational problems and a detailed examination of compensatory education.

5. Recommended to the Board of Directors that they support Jazz-By-the-Bay, and that all proceeds from which to be ear-marked for needy college students.

6. The Task Force has engaged in numerous dialogues about the quality of education in the ghetto and ways of improving it.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

HEALTH AND WELFARE: To assure that all of San Diego's citizens are guaranteed and provided basic services necessary for the maintenance of health and welfare and opportunity to live in dignity in this community.

The Health and Welfare Task Force has concerned itself primarily with the list of short-term goals which were advanced at the recent Urban Coalition seminar.

Facts were gathered concerning specific needs and the appropriate agency or agencies most appropriate to the solution of the problem and action was received within the framework of their responsibilities.

Some accomplishments of the Task Force:

1. Continuance of modified vendor (rent) payments. Communication with, and explanation to proper federal, state and local officials secured continuance of these payments.

2. Comprehensive health planning and a survey of health needs, especially of those living in areas of economic limitations where adequate medical facilities are unavailable.

3. Communications with responsible groups resulted in untangling the snarl in the distribution of surplus food.

4. Discussion has been had on the inadequacy of A.F.D.C. and general relief programs in light of inflationary pressures and increased cost of living without compensating increases in dollar grants.

5. A day-long seminar composed of persons from the national Urban Coalition, H&W Task Force, local physicians and poverty workers in which health goals were established and the order of their priorities.

The list of short-range goals and long-range goals is long but it is the intent of the Task Force to pursue each goal and secure solutions to problems as presented within the framework of existing agencies whenever possible.

HOUSING

HOUSING: To assure that all of San Diego's citizens have decent housing within the context of full and unobstructed equal opportunity for mobility in the total community.

The continuity of the Housing Task Force was interrupted when John Cotton, chairman of the Housing Task Force, was elected President of the National Association of Real Estate Boards.

Homer Delawie, new Chairman, Past President of the American Institute of Architects and member of the State Housing Authority has the Task Force on the move again and much progress is expected soon.

The Task Force has made a survey of all existing Housing Authorities in the City and County of San Diego County.

Minority group members have been urged to make application for housing, especially those without children, not for the purpose of entrapment, but with the intent of establishing a bona-fide case of adjudication.

The establishing of Emergency Trailer Parks has been proposed as a partial solution.

Builders have been approached as to the feasibility of the relocation of houses which have to be moved because of freeway construction.

LAW AND JUSTICE

LAW AND JUSTICE: To guarantee that each citizen is assured full and just considerations in all matters relating to law and law enforcement.

The Law and Justice Task Force has addressed itself primarily to the youth of the community. The feeling is that the young people of the community are often the victims of half-truths and downright lies and the Task Force should do its utmost to dispel the myths surrounding youth and the law and law enforcement officers.

In conjunction with the four Teen-Posts, a seminar is planned, delineating the rights and responsibilities of youth who deal with the police.

The seminar will include members of the legal profession, social workers and youth, detailing their problems and solutions.

The Task Force has proposed that the Police Department prepare an information form for youth. An example was cited, where a youth was arrested and detained for a couple of hours. No charges were filed and the youth was subsequently released. Consequently there was no arrest, but the youth didn't know that. The Task Force contends that such an information form is badly needed.

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT: To assure that any citizen of San Diego who is physically able and willing to work can be employed in a manner which will maximize his potential.

The Employment Task Force at present is directing all its energies making the Mayor's Youth Program the most successful yet.

Last year through the cooperation of the National Association of Businessmen and the San Diego Urban Coalition, more than 1600 jobs were provided for San Diego youth.

Escalation of the program is expected this year.

The format of the job-seeking effort will take the form of a "Job Fair" to be held at the Community Concourse on June 4.

The Coalition Board of Directors will provide assistance to the administration and George A. Scott's Communication Task Force under Sherwood A. Gordon will provide publicity, promotion and information.

Sid Gilman, Chairman
Mayor's Committee
"Jobs for Youth"

George A. Scott, Chairman
Urban Coalition
Communications Task Force