

## ... Anti-Poverty Program Fails to Deal With Problems of Race and Economy

of dollars are to be made available for programs in depressed neighborhoods. To manage these programs, huge social welfare organizations will have to be created, or existing ones vastly expanded. Thousands of jobs will be created; the new workers hired to fill them will owe their allegiance to those who own the organizations. Through services that will reach thousands, broad constituencies of low-income persons will develop. The organizations to be created or expanded will constitute a new and potentially important source of power.

### How City Hall Controls the Slums

Who will derive that power? The poverty structures being projected in New York and Chicago are key examples of efforts by governmental officials to dominate the forthcoming programs. Under conditions of great secrecy, both cities put forward plans some months ago calling for the establishment in designated slum neighborhoods of decentralized, multi-function public agencies. Most of the municipal antipoverty programs are to be operated from these centers. In both cities, these projected centers are to be responsible to a city-wide corporation dominated by public officials or persons directly appointed by public officials.

What community groups are beginning to understand is that their stake in the present controversy is the right to mount autonomous, self-directed anti-poverty programs in their own slums and ghettos. In New York, as a consequence, organizations have slowly been developing: Central Harlem's HAR-YOUACT, East Harlem's MEND, Bedford Stuyvesant's Youth in Action, South Bronx's SEBU, and the new city-wide organs of the Puerto Rican community. If these local community-action groups could be depended upon merely to carry out politically neutral social-service programs for the casualties in their midst, the current dispute would generate somewhat less heat. But the trend toward neighborhood control is also coupled with the idea of organizing poor people to work for social change, and that is a major threat.

The fact is, however, that today's slum and ghetto lack a radical tradition of any kind. The emerging controversy over the involvement of the poor has its roots in relatively moderate ideologies—self-help, local autonomy, democratic moderate

### Housing Bill 20 Years Behind Need

"We face a critical housing shortage. Congress passed the Housing Act of 1949, which was intended to guarantee a decent home and living environment to every American. But we have failed to admit and act upon the fact that the housing problem is one of severe shortage. Current data indicate that housing starts are running at 1.5 million annually. This is far too few. Even the most conservative estimates indicate that at least 1.7 million units are needed in 1965. Some sources estimate a need of 2 million units in 1965 and an average of 2.2 million by 1970. [The Housing Act of 1965] proposes 60,000 units per year for the next 4 years, but only 35,000 of these [per year] would be new units. New York City alone could use the entire authorization for public housing. This bill is just about 20 years behind the needs of the American people."

—Rep. Ryan (D., N.Y.), in the House, June 29 (abr.)

action, and the importance of ethnic separatism. The struggle, in short, is in the tradition of urban politics, and nothing more. It may be asking too much of established power groups to recognize the value of this development, but it must be said, in any case, that they are not being confronted with anything resembling a revolutionary movement.

[There are] those who are troubled by the thought of creating "separatist" programs under the aegis of the war against poverty. The logic of this position is that community problems are common ones and can best be solved through cooperation and communication. All things considered, however, it is rather difficult to see how the interests of the Puerto Rican slum tenant dweller are congruent with those of the Jewish landlord or those of the unregistered Negro with those of the Italian political-machine leader. Strategies of conciliation and coalition will not bring the poor into the mainstream. For within coalitions of unequals, it is not typically the case that the least equal have much success in advancing their interests. Judging from the history of ethnic groups struggling to gain a foothold in our pluralistic society, it seems clear that minority groups will win acceptance by the majority only through developing their own bases of power, not by submerging their unorganized numbers in coalitions dominated by others.

### Senate Declines to Stop Drug Company Profiteering on Publicly Financed Patents

Not since the days of Estes Kefauver has a U.S. Senator dared to attack the nation's drug industry as did Russell Long (D., La.), in debate June 25th and 28th over a public health bill. Long was battling for an amendment to prohibit the drug companies from acquiring patents, i.e., monopoly rights, on drugs that are discovered and developed solely with public funds. The Senate voted him down 55 to 36, but the result might have been reversed if supposedly liberal Senators like Fulbright, McCarthy, Bayh, Javits and the Kennedy brothers had not sided with the industry.

Long hit the industry hardest with a comparison of what U.S. drugs might sell for under competitive conditions with what they now sell for under U.S. patent monopolies. This comparison is hard to come by because drug companies don't reveal their costs of production, but Long achieved a close approximation by calculating from bulk drug prices in Europe. He found that the ingredients for 100 tablets of Orinase, an important insulin substitute used by diabetics, sell in Europe for only 18c. Here Upjohn sells these 100

tablets wholesale for \$7.70. The price to the consumer is \$14. "Over a period of 10 years," Long said, "the difference in cost to a diabetic might be the difference between \$1,600 and \$48." Similarly, the ingredients for 100 tablets of the widely used antibacterial drug Furantin in Europe cost only 19c. Norwich sells these 100 tablets to druggists here for \$29 and they in turn sell them to the public for \$48.34. Long analyzed prices for some 15 drugs and concluded that without patent protection they could sell about 30 times cheaper.

Long also made public the first evidence of collaboration between government laboratory research workers and the big drug companies. He told how in one case three employees at the National Heart Institute discovered a new anti-hypertensive, filed for a patent on it with the help of Merck & Co., and failed to tell the U.S. Surgeon General about the discovery until it was too late for the government to exercise its option on the lucrative foreign licensing rights. These rights will now go to Merck.

## Bombing North Vietnam's Dikes Would Drown and Starve Its People

(Continued from Page One)

blatant even we aren't gullible enough to believe them?

### How Dare They Defend Themselves

The public is being prepared for the bombing of the Hanoi-Haiphong industrial complex. An AP dispatch from Vienna (*Le Monde*, July 4-5) quotes an Albanian labor union official just back from Hanoi who declared with an almost audible sneer that all the Russians had sent there were "some medicines, two hundred bicycles and five accordions." But our military through Hanson Baldwin (*New York Times*, July 4) leak intelligence reports of "huge crates" being unloaded from Communist-flag ships at Haiphong with "what are believed to be weapon, ammunition and military supplies" which "may have" included latest model Migs. "Unconfirmed reports" (they have to be pretty "unconfirmed" to rank as such with military intelligence) even say the North Vietnamese "now have, or will eventually be provided with, ground-to-ground ballistic missiles with a range in excess of 1,000 miles". This triggered a flood of similar stories and a State Department statement July 6 estimating that there soon would be four SAM (surface-to-air missile) sites, each with six missiles, outside Hanoi. On July 7, as we write, House Republican Leader Gerald Ford has just issued a statement calling for air strikes "before the enemy uses the weapons against the side of freedom." Even slant-wise, these missiles cannot shoot further than 40 miles. They are purely defensive, but can shoot down even U2s at altitudes of at least 80,000 feet. In the Cuban crisis we at least had the excuse that IRBMs placed in Cuba could reach much of the U.S. mainland. Here all the SAMs can do is reach our attacking planes.

There may be worse in the offing: bombing of the North Vietnamese dikes. These support the irrigation works of the Red River delta. Bombing the dikes has been discussed several times in the French press but has been blacked out of the American. In its July 4-5 issue *Le Monde* speculates whether the dikes will be our next target. In its July 6 issue it carries an article by the famous agricultural expert, René Dumont, describing the enormous effort put into the irriga-

### Shastri Doesn't Feel Like A Domino

Mr. COLLINGWOOD (CBS News): If South Vietnam, for instance, fell into the Communist camp, you do not think that that would increase the threat to India and the countries of Southeast Asia?

Prime Minister SHASTRI of India: I do not think so, because there are other Asian countries which of course—they are not Communist as such, but they are progressive and radical in their outlook and approach. I should not think that once Vietnam is given freedom to live as they like, they would come under the clutches of the Chinese. . . .

Mr. KALB (CBS News): Yes—but wouldn't the victory of communism in South Vietnam, a communism that has been nourished and supported by both North Vietnam and Communist China, certainly whet the appetites of Communists throughout Asia?

Prime Minister SHASTRI: Well, the Soviet Union, they are also communists. And yet they believe in peaceful co-existence. . . . Similarly, I think Vietnam may also adopt the same policy.

—*Face the Nation*, June 27.

tion system to meet the needs of overpopulated North Vietnam. The most tempting moment for our military, especially if they meet serious defeats in the South during the summer, will come at the end of the rainy season in August, when the waters are at their height. Blowing up the great dikes to the North of Hanoi would be comparable to an H-bomb in its effect, flooding the entire delta region, wiping out the summer rice crop and drowning from two to three million people. North Vietnam could survive the loss of the industries it has built up since 1954 but to bomb the dikes would mean starvation. Destruction of dikes was one of the war crimes for which Seyss-Inquart, chief of the Nazi occupation in Holland, was hanged at Nuremberg. The Hague Convention years before had made such action a violation of international law but Goering pleaded at the trial, "In a life and death struggle there is no legality." Has this become our viewpoint, too, even though Vietnam is hardly a life and death matter for us? The bombardment of the dikes would be genocide.

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