

Report By WOPC Is Attacked

6-11-68

The director of the War on Poverty Committee was raked over the coals in City Council today because of a WOPC report.

The report talked of "police brutality," referred to the white community's complete paralysis and told of teaching black history, black art and black culture.

Councilman Wveth Chandler asked Washington Butler, WOPC director, how "the teaching of black history, black art and black culture in this project could help the apparently unemployable."

How, for instance, asked Chandler, could it help the Invaders, a Black Power group mentioned in the project?

GHETTO PLAN

The WOPC report described an activity formerly called Ghetto Organizing Project, now called Neighborhood Organizing Project.

Chandler and others questioned its use of the phrase "police brutality" and its saying "the white community moved from slow progress to complete paralysis to frantic activity."

"We have never been paralyzed," said Chandler. "We have worked with you all along."

Referring to the mention of "police brutality," Councilman Billy Hyman interrupted asking, "what about looting and firing not being mentioned?"

RESPONSIBILITY

Chandler demanded to know who wrote the report. Butler accepted responsibility and said he was trying to explain the situation for the federal regional office of Economic Opportunity in Atlanta and others who would want to know details of the project.

The discussion ranged onto the subject of trying to help

Chandler Raps WOPC Report

From Page 1

Downing Pryor, chairman, finally cut it off as interesting but not pertinent to the question.

Phillip Brooke, a director of the Young Guidance Committee, said Butler had told Council that the Mayor's Youth Coordination advisory Committee had approved all summer programs of WOPC. Brooke said the Mayor's Committee had approved only 22 of 27 programs.

APPROVAL

Butler said he meant that the Mayor's committee had approved the over-all comprehensive plan but not necessarily all projects. He said, legally, each project has to be approved by the City Council and the County Court only, and doesn't have to be approved by the Mayor's committee.

Hyman said he had been trying for five months to get an audit of the Map-South project. Butler said this audit is expected within a few days and each Councilman would receive a copy.

Council took no action but members said they felt they should be better informed to act on the war on Poverty programs.

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Re Black Organizing Project

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50 Students Receive Degrees In Owen's Final Commencement

Cameras from Channels 3 and 4 recorded a history-making event Monday evening of last week at St. John Baptist Church. It was the 13th and final commencement for 14-year-old Owen Junior College which is merging with 28-year-old LeMoyné College in the fall.

St. John was packed for the occasion which presented 62 graduates, the largest number in the history of the Baptist-supported institution.

It was a colorful program, featuring a dramatic "commencement statement" by Dr. Charles L. Dinkins, president of Owen; a challenging address by popular Judge Ben L. Hooks, and singing by the college choir of "I Have A Dream," the last words of the late Dr. Martin Luther King set to music by the Owen choir director, Mrs. Mildred D. Green.

Seven were graduated with honor: Lillie Booker Bowens, Lonnie Cooper, Coleman Crawford, Carthenia Griffin, Delucious Purdy, Gladys Greer Seifert and Addie Bee Williams.

Others receiving degrees were Allie Bernard Bonds Jr., Joyce Marie Branch, Marian Fletcher Brown, Louise Burks, Shirley Jean Cummins, Ruthie Mae Cunningham, Dorothy Dillion Davis, Augusta Dennis, Gloria Jean Dickerson, James Dell Echols, Julia Ann Edwards, Doris Jean Evans, Bobbie Jean Flynn, Bobbie Muriei Gryer, Rolene Harding, Minnetta Harris, Barbara Highower, Rose Lee Hinds, Elsie Mae Hodge, Helen Elizabeth Holmes, Jacquelyn Denson Jones, Lee Vernon Jones, Lorean Electra Jones, James Nathaniel Letcher, Steve Arthur Lett, Ernest Love, Berice LaVerne Luellen, Lawson

Dobbin McGhee, J.C. McLin, Booker Thomas Miller, Kathleen Minor and Geraldine Owens.

And John Lee Parks, Sherman Cregg Perkins, Jacquelyn Louise Phillips, Pearl Mae Rogers, Elvin Elizabeth Russell, St. Clair Sanders, Bettye Jean Sartin, Ada Briley Saulsberry, Sherian Dianne Taylor, Vontina Tipton, Leola Ruth Tucker, Marshall Vaulx, Juanita Voss, Charles Labe Waddell, I. Leverne Walthall, Ethel Criss Williams, Olga Jean Wilson, Nadine Wright and Faye Marie Yarbrough.

The merged institutions will be known as LeMoyné-Owen College with all operations scheduled to take place on what is now the LeMoyné campus. Dr. Hollis F. Price, president of LeMoyné, will continue in this role. Dr. Charles L. Dinkins, president of Owen, will become development officer for LeMoyné-Owen.

Activity will continue at Owen during the summer months while administrative officers and staff members move records and classroom equipment to the LeMoyné campus.

In his commencement statement, Dr. Dinkins told of the dream that brought about Owen and how it started 14 years ago with 33 "pilot" students and a loan of \$500. He said more than 4,000 students have attended the school.

He praised pastors and members of churches affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention for "standing by us."

He said Owen "carved a place for itself in our city and state," but pointed out that the merger was necessary because the institution had be-

come the major factors in bringing about the merger.

He added that the merger gives new strength to both LeMoyné and Owen. He said this will be noted in faculty, students and financial efforts. Judge Hooks, chairman of the Owen board of trustees, developed the subject, "An End and a Beginning."

Dr. Dinkins said increasing financial obligations to keep a college operating and the recent fire which destroyed a three-story building on the Owen campus were two of declared.

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War On Poverty Unit Is Accused Of Duping Council On 2 Projects

By CHARLES THORNTON

Youth Guidance Commission director, Phillip J. Brooke, yesterday charged the War On Poverty Committee duped the City Council to win approval of 27 summer programs.

Largely at stake in the dispute are two WOPC programs costing more than \$40,000. One of the programs, a \$20,036 project, would directly reach 45 persons. The city and county are not contributing to the program.

The other, totaling \$20,919, is to involve 10 student groups in a Neighborhood Organizing Project. The Memphis and Shelby County share of this program is \$4,184.

Mr. Brooke, an attorney, yesterday charged that Washington Butler, WOPC executive director, had used the Youth Guidance Commission and the Mayor's Council on Youth Opportunity's names to make the City Council believe on June 11 a 27-project program had been approved by the YGC and Youth Council.

He said the YGC and Youth Council had been charged by Mayor Henry Loeb to coordinate programs with WOPC, yet were uninformed about the additional five programs until after they had been presented to the City Council.

Mr. Butler, appearing stung by the remark, said that WOPC is not legally bound to inform either agency of its plans of projects.

"But it would be good public

relations to do so," he said.

Mr. Butler said both bodies were advisory and not policy making, and while they approved the summer projects in general, had not approved the last five which were added "at the last minute."

One of the programs, entitled "MAP-South Life Experience Project," will be used to teach 38 students about contributions made to society by minority groups. Mr. Brooke termed the course "Negro history." Each student will be paid \$1.60 an hour for attending three hours of classes and for three hours of "work-study experience in poverty areas" five days each week for eight weeks.

Total cost of the program is \$20,036.

Under the program, a director-instructor will be paid \$100 a week for eight weeks (\$800); six student teachers will be paid \$1.60 an hour for eight weeks (\$2,304) and 38 students will be paid \$48 a week for eight weeks (\$14,592).

The total personnel cost will be \$19,466. Books and other educational material will cost an additional \$15 per student, or \$570.

James Bowers, YGC executive director and the mayor's official coordinator with the WOPC, objected to the program as being too limited.

"I think we can reach more

kids than the 38 in this one program. We've got 5,600 kids between ages 16 and 19 in the poverty areas. Taking into consideration all the job opportunities, we can reach only about 50 per cent of them. This means we are going to have about 4,000 youngsters walking around this summer with nothing to do."

Mr. Bowers said he had made it clear to the City Council that neither the Youth Guidance Commission nor the Mayor's Council on Youth Opportunity approved the WOPC program package.

"I'd like to see the money spread around more, but I'd like to make it clear that this is a dead issue as far as we are concerned because we've made our report, and that's all we can do."

Mr. Brooke said if the money were properly spent, it could reach 10 times as many youths at one-tenth the cost. He wrote letters to Senator Howard Baker and Representative Dan Kuykendall.

Mr. Brooke had not received replies from either one, but Senator Baker told a reporter he was going to investigate Mr. Brooke's complaint.

Mayor Henry Loeb said yesterday there are parts of the summer program he likes and parts he doesn't.

"I'm going to look into it again," he said.

Mr. Butler shrugged off the criticisms. "I don't think there is any program that someone could not say the money could not be better spent. Some things cost more per participant than others. If you employ people, it costs more than providing a service."

Goal of the Neighborhood Organizing Project, as set out by Mr. Butler, is to provide a means for organizing of low-income dwellers in the black and white ghettos of Memphis and Shelby County.

Another aim of the project is to develop job opportunities for young adults, provide tutorial projects directed toward increasing self-awareness, provide provocative discussion groups and to organize neighborhood improvement projects.

Mr. Butler said workshops will be established to develop the "charismatic indigenous leadership," which in turn, will lead and organize around the issues of self-pride and self-identification.

Representatives to a youth policy board will be elected to help develop plans for areas in which to work, said Mr. Butler. He said the first meeting will be in his office tonight at 8.

He said presently 10 groups are participating in the discussions. They are the Invaders, Black Organizing Project (LeMoyn College), Afro-American Brotherhood (Owen College), Black Student Alliance (MSU), City Organizers, Mayor's Council on Youth Opportunity, NAACP Youth Group, Inter-Religious Council (MSU), a student group from Southwestern and student group from Christian Brothers College.

Mr. Brooke said he feared the project would amount to little more than a group organized to decide which stores to boycott.

Mr. Butler denied it. He pointed out alienated groups are dangerous unless they are involved in their society.

"We are trying to get these young people involved and direct their activities toward the good of the neighborhood."

"It's too late to recall the programs, but I'd like to see a lid put on these two projects so the money won't be wasted."

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Hallowmon Where Are You

During a recent interview with John Smith, Black Power strategist and member of the black community organization known as the "Invaders" revealed his complete disgust and dissatisfaction with the city school board, Carver high school Administration, and the policies of radio station WDIA.

In the following letter, John Smith reveals his inner most feelings about the total situation:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Because I am a political prisoner, many things may happen to me since the city finds it necessary to treat me this way. This should encourage my black brothers and sisters to get down on the case because soon we may all be political prisoners. Concentration camps are here baby, they just got to start filling them up.

For years, Bert Ferguson has been speaking as a voice of the black peoples' community. He has neither the right nor the emotional capacity to do this. No white man, regardless of his position can sit in judgment on the actions of black people. It is quite clear that radio station WDIA is guilty of the same crime that the City Board of Education is guilty of and that is "white bossism" and "white control."

If it is the desire of that radio station to serve as the voice of the black community, they should allow a black dee jay to write, read editorials. Out of the entire black staff of WDIA, only one black man serves in a management position. Nat D. Williams has been with that station as long as I can remember. I think it is about time he sat behind a desk and let that be for the record.

Mr. Ferguson has no right to speak on the rioting at Carver high school. For him to make any kind of observation or even express his opinion, he should have first consulted with some

faced with the situation only they can settle...

Our black principals acted as they did because of the fear they have of the board of education. They do not have a free hand in the administration of the school. We even find in some schools that they are placing white assistant principals in our schools to exert even more direct control over the students and teachers.

I charge Mr. Ferguson with the same thing when he starts his editorials with the statement: "We at WDIA" which makes him seem as black as any D.J. at the station. To me it seems he is telling the black community what to feel and think on issues that effect black people directly. If he really had feeling for the black community he should give his job to one of the black radio D.J.'s who knows the community.

To Mr. E. C. Stimbart, who referred to certain charges made by the Invaders as being ridiculous, I graduated from Carver in 1962 and the curriculum is basically the same now as it was then. The last trouble that happened at Carver came directly from the students. If their grievances are not heard and acted upon the school board can expect to feel the full weight of the black community.

This is not a threat from the Invaders, but a demand from the housewives, factory workers, garbagemen, postmen, wineos, pimps, prostitutes — the entire black community and let that be for the record.

The system can do anything it wants to do to me, because there are more where I came from. A \$50,000 bond won't stop me, a \$10,000 bond won't stop me. They can kill me that ain't going to stop me, because there are some 6 and 7 year old black kids who sit on my porch and talk about

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