

Section 8

Police Center Getting Aid From Ex-Adversaries: Invaders

By **BARNE CARR**
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The Memphis Police Ser-
Center at 1310 Florida is
ted three colors —
k, white and green.

Black Power, White Pow-
and Green Power," ex-
ned Det. E. E. Redditt,
er in charge. "I don't
where in the world you
If you don't have Green
er (economic power),
won't get anywhere."

a wall inside is a sign
better describes the
ct: "Community Pow-
an alliance between
c and private business,
lack and white citizens,
ke City Hall to the peo-

"mini-City Hall,"
t. Redditt calls it, is an
pt by the Police De-
ment to improve slum
ions by getting the city
specially the police in-
l, at the grass roots
in the problems of the

IRONIC

ironically, one of the
estures of good will in
came from the Invad-
black militant group
some members who
seen in the news as
aries of the police.

et with 15 members of
aders here last Fri-
e day after the store-
ice opened) and they
they would stop all
s except construc-
ivilities," said Redditt.

15 represented the
nip of the Invaders,
dditt. There are 40
members, including
5 girls, and quite re-
ngers-on," he said.

ld them, as I have
ny groups, that the
or demonstrations,
and intimidation is
is a time for the
ity. This is a time to
ther and do things.
k people have made
ds known and now

is the time for action and
results — through the com-
munity.

"The Invaders are serious
and I believe they want to do

the right thing," said Red-
ditt. As a gesture of their
sincerity, he said, several In-
vaders earlier this week be-
gan looking for jobs.

"One came in here with
his hair cut shorter than
mine. I didn't recognize
him!"

He said the Invaders have
begun help on one of the
store front office's first pro-
jects — getting kids off the
streets and back into
schools.

(A sign on a wall asks:
"What did you drop into
when you dropped out of
school?")

"The Invaders are going
into the neighborhood now
and getting the names of
youngsters who have been
thrown out of school and who
are below the age (16) of
compulsory education. The
Invaders are going to try to
get them to go back to school
and to indoctrinate them into

the idea that they are going
back to school for an educa-
tion."

When the list is com-
plete, the store front staff
will meet with Memphis
Board of Education repre-
sentatives on the possibility
of readmitting the kids into
day or night classes in pri-
mary, secondary or trade
schools.

The proposed services of
the office on Florida, and
another at 1223 McLemore,
both of which opened the
same day, are much more
comprehensive, and include:

- Collection and distribu-
tion of donated clothes and
food to the needy.
- Job counseling and
placement, especially of
young persons.

• Health services, such as
immunizations.

• Family services and
counseling, such as instruc-

tion in starting a family
budget and shopping, and
possibly birth control.

• Providing a channel of
communication between citi-
zens with a complaint di-
rectly to the appropriate city
hall agency, such as the
sanitation or police depart-
ments.

Many of the services will
be provided through a mem-
ber of a public agency, such
as the state employment of-
fice, visiting the store front
office two or three times a
week.

Other services will be ini-
tiated by the store front of-
fice staff. One of those will
be compiling a "jobs avail-
able" file from businesses
and industries in the neigh-
borhood.

LETTERS

"We have sent a letter to
Industries south of Crump,
north of Belz, west of Third,
to the river, asking that they
notify our office when they
lay off someone or when
someone quits and there is
an opening," said Redditt.

The "mini-City Halls
have been established al-
most totally through dona-
tions, said Redditt. Plate
glass windows, furniture,
light fixtures, flooring, walls,
paint and signs were given
by a number of interested
businesses and individuals.

Four police officers, Det.
Redditt of the community re-
lations division, Det. Joe Ra-
varino of the traffic division,
Det. J. R. Cartwright of the
auto theft division, and Pa-
trolman W. B. Caldwell of
the uniform division, painted
the building.

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Redditt will be in charge of the Florida office. Detective Ben Whitney of the community relations division will be in charge of the McMore office. Each has an assistant.

MODELS

The store front city halls are modeled after those operating successfully in St. Louis and New York State, said Redditt. Several more

are planned for Memphis. However, Redditt emphasized that the store front offices are not police stationhouses. If a person comes in to report a crime, a staff member will call headquarters and an officer will be dispatched there, but officers will not operate from the fronts, nor is there a reporting desk or lock-up facility there.

"A lot of people will think this is a stationhouse, but it's not it. We're not here to spy on people, to see how much liquor they're selling, or how many crap games

they're playing," said Redditt.

The philosophy of the store front city hall, said Redditt, is to convince the public, especially citizens who distrust police, that officers are guardians of the life and property of the community.

"The old image was that a policeman's only duties were to harass and arrest. We are trying to point out that the officer is responsible to the people, a friend of the old as well as of the senior citizen, a friend of the kids standing on the street cor-



—Press-Scimitar Staff Photo

TAKING CITY HALL TO THE PEOPLE

"Mini-City Halls," staffed by policemen, emphasize changing the image of police, helping the needy and improving over-all community relations. Detective E. E. Redditt and an assistant, Mrs. Belinda Winston, staff this office at 1310 Florida.