



Irene Gomez-Bethke Papers.

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*"The Urban Coalition of Minneapolis is a private, nonprofit organization established in 1968 to deal with issues of concern to non-white and poor people. Our newsletter, IMPACT, is designed to keep the community informed on issues targeted for action by our organization and to encourage participation in resolving problems of concern to the community."*

## Minority-Operated Corporation Combines Community Development, Jobs and Solar



**Valerie Pope Ludlam gestures, emphasizing the headaches involved in getting governmental assistance for minority community development program.**

On November 2, 1979, the Urban Coalition sponsored the second in a continuing series of workshops on energy. Valerie Pope Ludlam, director of the San Bernadino (California) Community Development Corporation, a solar energy corporation, spoke to a UCM sponsored community forum at Ruth Hawkins YWCA. Throughout her presentation she stressed how important it was for minority people to "get in on the ground floor" in the solar energy field.

Ms. Pope is a perfect example of a woman determined to make her community self-sufficient and to help destroy the myth that minority people are not able to be innovative, creative and self-reliant. A welfare mother for many

years, she did not acquire any of the academic credentials people told her she needed to succeed in this society. Yet she was able to organize other welfare mothers in her community and together they began an organization that has developed into a \$7 million alternative energy program that works. As the director of CDC she has been given national recognition in *Ebony Magazine* (a Black publication) as a pioneer in the solar energy field.

Ms. Pope's presentation was practical, straightforward and immensely informative. Regarding her lack of formal technical training, and her motivation behind organizing CDC, she exclaimed, "I don't know all that technical stuff. In fact, that's why I hired myself an engineer! We cannot depend upon somebody else (federal or local governments) to do something for us, that's why I organized all those women who realized that it would be up to us to get our program off the ground." She added emphatically that this was no easy task, that she had to beat on a "lotta doors." But, as she put it, "... ain't no way I could return home empty-handed!"

Nor did she. Ms. Pope has created a training program using CETA funds which gives her students skills in plumbing, carpentry, solar installations, solar collector manufacture and solar equipment maintenance. Her trainees have developed good work attitudes and habits, and skills which have been certified by the University of California School of Technology. Other sources of

funding were HUD solar funds for purchasing the solar hardware, Community Services Administration funds for engineering and design fees and the State of California paid for insulating the homes. Ms. Pope has also developed a solar-equipped shopping/business center, which is presently under construction.

As a result of her many accomplishments, Ms. Pope is in constant demand to lecture throughout the country on alternative energy and how to begin development of the "Pope Model." In her slide presentation at Ruth Hawkins, representatives of the Black, Indian and Hispanic communities were present, in addition to bankers, legislators and other public officials. There appeared to be unanimity among the 40 or so persons present that there was a need for the "Pope Model" to be imported to Minneapolis. The vision of Minnesota winters coupled with the low energy efficiency of a majority of their homes helped most of those present conclude that a program such as this which could reduce the cost of heat by more than one-third was a dire necessity.

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## President's Perspective

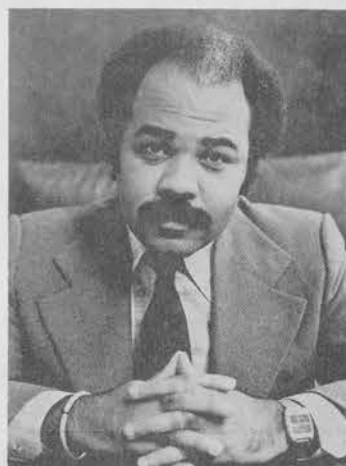
Historically, no institutions have been more important to Blacks, Indians and Chicano/Latinos than the public schools. They were a source of hope for individuals and families. They offered the promise of access to many of the benefits of the nation's economic system. Too often, however, these hopes were dashed, these promises unkept.

During the past 18 months the Urban Coalition has conducted an on-going examination and assessment of the Minneapolis Public Schools through the efforts of a specially created Education Task Force and on-going activities by our Board and staff. The results of these efforts have been presented to the Board of Education and the community at large.

Efforts are now being made to join with other groups, such as the League of Women Voters, the Education Planning Steering Committee and members

of the business community to create a structure of accountability by the school system to parents, students and the community. The Coalition will be concentrating its efforts on the school system's accountability to the communities of color. One crucial element of that structure of accountability is evaluation of teachers. No other single issue was deemed more important by the Education Task Force.

There is currently no truly operational system for the evaluation of tenured teachers in the Minneapolis Public Schools. In Minneapolis today principals are supposed to evaluate tenured teachers once every two years. The evaluation consists of a principal answering four vague questions concerning the teacher's performance. No classroom visit is required. The Coalition's Education Task Force heard reports that some principals merely hand the evalu-



Earl D. Craig, Jr.  
President

ation forms to the teachers with instructions that they be filled out.

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## Coalition Sponsors Sentencing Commission Forum

On December 11, 1979, the Urban Coalition sponsored and hosted a forum at which the State Sentencing Guidelines Commission presented and answered questions regarding their draft of the new state sentencing guidelines. The forum was organized for the purpose of giving the non-white community an opportunity to respond and comment on the proposed sentencing guidelines before the commission's final meeting held December 17.

The commission, which was created by the 1978 State Legislature, was charged with the development of guidelines which would make sentencing more uniform. In the past, judges were given complete discretion in sentencing defendants. Defendants committing the same crime under similar circumstances could receive widely disparate sentences depending on the judge. The issue of racial disparity in sentencing was also an issue the guidelines were supposed to address.

The guidelines would set minimum

and maximum limits on sentences for a particular crime. If a judge chose to deviate from the guidelines' recommended sentence, he/she would have to state detailed reasons for doing so. Appeal of the sentence could then be made. The guidelines would, in effect, structure judicial discretion.

At the hearing the commission outlined its overall purpose and method of operation in developing the guidelines. Chairperson Jan Ingrid Smaby indicated that the guidelines would equalize sentences between blacks and whites who had committed the same crime and had similar criminal records. She stated that commission studies had found that of those persons (blacks and whites) who had the cleanest criminal records and committed the most serious crimes, 67% of the blacks were sent to prison while only 53% of the whites were imprisoned. It was her opinion that the guidelines would eliminate this kind of disparity.

Ms. Smaby indicated that the guide-

lines were a major reform which would bring more uniformity to sentencing practices.

### — DATA BRIEFS —

In the 1979 Gallup Poll of the public's attitude toward public schools, respondents were asked: "In your opinion, what are the main things a school has to do before it can earn an A?" There was general agreement on the steps listed below, in order of mention:

1. Improve the quality of teachers—23%
2. Increase discipline—20%
3. Set higher standards—17%
4. Give students more individual attention—16%
5. Put more emphasis on the basics—12%
6. Better management and direction of schools—7%
7. Establish closer relations with parents—6%

Among the other suggestions mentioned were: update the curriculum, have smaller classes, eliminate drugs and alcohol, teach more life skills, and upgrade school facilities.

## Education Consortium Presses for School Board Action

The Urban Coalition has joined forces with the League of Women Voters and the Educational Planning Steering Committee to demand a response from the Minneapolis School Board to their concerns regarding the public schools. The newly formed consortium was initiated by members of the Minneapolis business community (the Business Action Resource Council of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce), concerned with the public schools.

Each of these groups have previously presented formal reports to the school board. UCM presented its report last May on the same day as the Educational Planning Steering Committee. The League of Women Voters presented its study last April. Since these presentations, the Minneapolis School Board has failed to adequately respond to any of these groups' findings or recommendations.

The Educational Planning Steering Committee was established by the Minneapolis Board of Education in response to enactment of the experimental pairing and district planning act by the 1977 Minnesota legislature. The primary concern of the committee is comprehensive planning for facilities and personnel retention. The co-chairpersons of the committee, disappointed with the reception received from the school board thus far, are now actively participating in this new consortium.

The League of Women Voters (LWV) released a four-part report in April, 1978 entitled *Minneapolis: City in Transition*. They presented their education component of the report to the school board last May. Some of their concerns included community involvement in educational planning, better use of the P.E.R. process (parent groups mandated by the State Legislature) in evaluating curriculum and a more effective evaluation of school personnel.

The Urban Coalition's Education Task Force presented its report entitled —Quality Education for All—on May 29, 1979. The concerns of the UCM while different from the other two groups, were certainly compatible with their interests. The major concern of the Coalition were:

1. A systematic evaluation of the per-

formance of all teachers, principals and administrators of the MPS based primarily on student achievement.

2. Basic skills of reading, writing and mathematics must be given top priority in the allocation of resources by the MPS and extend throughout the elementary and secondary grades. An interim testing program should serve as the basis for promotion and identification of students in need of remedial attention. Specific standards for grade-to-grade promotion must be established in the basic skills and parents must be informed as to how these standards are translated into instructional objectives at the classroom level. Aggregate achievement data based upon race and other relevant groups must be collected to gauge performance by the MPS.
3. The drop-out rates, particularly among non-white youth, must be addressed. The MPS must initiate a process for determining the reasons and causes of dropping out and developing necessary preventive programs.

The consortium has already met several times. The first few meetings involv-

ed arriving at a consensus on what each of the groups favored. A statement reflecting this position was presented to the school board at the November 13 meeting by Douglas Wallace, Vice President of Social Policy and Programs for Northwestern National Bank. In the statement he explained that the consortium was formed due to the lack of school board response and called for the development and implementation of a plan to address the concerns of the consortium by the 1980-81 school year. He also asked for the school board to respond to this request at the December 11 School Board Meeting. The statement of concerns presented to the Board was reflective of the areas the consortium felt required School Board attention in developing a comprehensive plan.

The consortium currently is continuing to seek increased membership and support from the business and political community. It is the hope of the consortium and the Urban Coalition that the unified strength of this group will focus significant attention on its effort to attain a quality education for every student in the Minneapolis Public Schools.

### Craig, Zamora named to Police Chief Screening Committee

UCM president Earl D. Craig, Jr. and board member, Frances Zamora were appointed November 17, 1979 to Minneapolis Mayor-elect Don Frazer's Police Chief Search and Screen Committee. The nine-member committee will conduct a nationwide search for candidates to fill the police chief position under Fraser. The committee will develop a set of criteria by which it will measure the qualifications of each candidate. The list of candidates will be narrowed to a small number, perhaps five, from which Fraser will select his appointee.

This particular police chief appointment is important because it will be the first chief hired under the new appoint-

ment, tenure and review process adopted by the Minneapolis electorate in November. Under the new system the police chief will have a three year contract which can be renewed by the council. The chief can be removed for cause by a majority vote of the council. The Urban Coalition originated this idea and it was adopted unanimously by the Mayor's Police Study Committee. The committee's recommendation was the main impetus for placing the ordinance change on the ballot.

The committee will be screening resumes and interviewing candidates through December and early January, with a final recommendation scheduled to be given to Fraser by January 15.



# Impasse Reached on State Fuel Assistance

After weeks of wrangling, the State legislature and the governor were unable to reach an agreement on a bill to provide energy assistance to lower income Minnesotans. As a result, a special session of the legislature was never convened and no new State energy legislation was enacted. Governor Quie had stated from the outset that an agreement must be reached before he would call the legislature into a special session.

The major difference between the governor and the legislators, in particular the DFL legislators, concerned the provision of assistance to households with income somewhat above 125% of the federal poverty guidelines. One hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of poverty is the upper limit to eligibility under the federal direct assistance and weatherization program. The governor did not wish to go beyond the federal income limits. The DFL'ers initially wanted to go to 150% of poverty with a percentage of earned income (i.e., income received for working) disregarded for purposes of calculation of eligibility. They later dropped the earned income

disregard and argued for an upper limit of 150% of poverty for both direct state energy assistance and several proposed weatherization programs.

Because of the impasse, the State's estimated 202,000 households below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines and the additional 65,000 to 72,000 households between 125% and 150% will receive no additional state assistance to deal with the energy crisis.

Federal legislation signed by the President in late November will provide substantial energy assistance to lower income Minnesotans some time after the first of January. The concern at the Capital throughout the fall was whether this aid would arrive soon enough. Twelve point forty-five (\$12.45) million is currently available through the state-wide network of community action agencies. State funds were used and later reimbursed when federal funds arrived. This action was designed to insure that eligible families would not face an energy shortage because federal money had not made its way through the bureaucratic pipeline.

In early January all Minnesota recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) should receive a check for \$250 from Washington to help pay their energy bills. Some time in January or February an additional \$35.9 million in federal funds will be made available to households below 125% of the poverty guidelines through the state's network of community action agencies. Grants under this program will be \$400 for households heating with fuel oil and \$275 for those heating with natural gas. The total of all federal energy assistance expected in Minnesota during the 1979-80 heating season is over \$60 million.

## Federal Fuel Assistance Eligibility Guidelines

Family Size	Yearly Income Limit
1	\$ 4,050 or less
2	\$ 5,625 or less
3	\$ 5,963 or less
4	\$ 8,375 or less
5	\$ 9,750 or less
6	\$11,125 or less

Families with more than 6 are allowed \$1,375 or each additional member.

Payments are made directly to the fuel vendor. Maximum \$400 for fuel oil and \$275 for natural gas.

# Future Energy Costs May Exceed Mortgage Payments

A recent report released by the Coalition's research staff indicates that residential energy costs will exceed the annual mortgage payment for many homeowners in Minneapolis/St. Paul by as early as 1983.

Using typical mortgages between 1965 and 1978 and Minnesota Energy Agency estimates of energy price increases, the Coalition report traces the growing impact energy will have on overall housing costs in the next ten years. The report focused only on Minneapolis/St. Paul homeowners and their average total energy consumption.

In conjunction with the report, Earl Craig, Coalition president, stated that "rising energy costs will clearly cause fundamental changes to take place in the economics of housing. These costs will affect lenders' decisions regarding

applications for mortgages and home improvement loans. As such, they will pose a threat to new and continued homeownership. By forcing some homeowners to choose between warmth and maintenance, their rising costs may very well lead to deferred maintenance and neighborhood deterioration."

Depending on the fuel used for heating—natural gas, fuel oil or electricity—homeowners will experience different rates of increase in energy costs from 1979-1990. Using what seem to be conservative estimates, the report found that energy costs will approach and in many cases surpass homeowners' mortgage payments during the 1980's.

A home using natural gas for heating, and electricity for other energy needs

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## Solar Energy Forum

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Ms. Pope emphasized that energy is an industry and that solar energy is the fastest growing part of that industry. She was quick to point out that it is her firm contention that "... if so-called minorities don't get involved now, we may well be lost." To that end both she and the Urban Coalition are presently striving to assure that we are not lost as America attempts to deal with increased consumption and rapidly decreasing supply of energy resources.

# Employment Workshop Planned to Address Needs of Disadvantaged

The Urban Coalition of Minneapolis in conjunction with the National Urban Coalition and the Community Planning Organization of St. Paul is planning an Employment Workshop to be held early in 1980. The Workshop results from a U.S. Department of Labor Contract awarded to the National Urban Coalition located in Washington, D.C. The contract calls for twenty employment workshops to be held throughout the country to address employment needs of the disadvantaged.

Statistically in Minnesota we enjoy a relatively low unemployment rate (hovering around 3.5%). However, it is the Coalition's contention that there are pockets of high unemployment in the state, particularly among adult minorities and minority youth.

A recent study by the Community Planning Organization of employment problems in St. Paul reinforces our contention of high unemployment rates in the Metropolitan area. Their estimation of 13% among minorities in St. Paul alone, which is over three times the state figure, is cause for alarm.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) utilizes a 70-step method in ascertaining the state's unemployment rate. It is not, however, realistic in identifying the pockets of unemployed people in Minnesota in urban or rural areas or among major racial groups. The Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Commission on Employment and Unemployment and the State Department of Economic Security admit the present system does not produce reliable state or local data. It is the Coalition's belief that because we do not have data identifying the pockets of unemployment in the state, the notion that there is no problem persists.

As a result, we are forced to utilize national data. National data reflects clearly that non-whites consistently suffer a higher rate of unemployment, particularly non-white youth. Women face a similar plight. Residents of certain rural areas also experience persistently higher rates of joblessness.

Here in Minnesota, we believe the

national data holds true for those groups, particularly in the depressed rural areas, in many older urban neighborhoods and on American Indian reservations. The Coalition believes the state must proceed under the assumption that problems of structural unemployment are present in Minnesota unless proof to the contrary is provided. There is no reason to believe Minnesota is different in that respect. In that connection we feel there is a need for a workshop on employment to address the concerns of the disadvantaged.

A planning committee has been organized to plan the Workshop. Its

members include the Very Reverend Douglas Fontaine, chairman of the Urban Coalition Board of Directors' Employment Committee; Irene Bethke, Urban Coalition board member and member of the Employment Committee; Donald G. Simpson, chairman of the Community Planning Organization Employment Service Committee; Sarah Snyder, National Urban Coalition employment are present in Minnesota unemployed from the Coalition and the Community Planning Organization. The final agenda and topics of the workshop will be announced in the next issue of IMPACT.

## School System Accountability President's Perspective

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Thus, as it now operates, the evaluation system in the Minneapolis Public Schools, a system devised in the days of growing enrollment and teaching staff, is virtually useless. As a result, there are no real rewards, remedial training or sanctions based on the teacher evaluations. This leaves students and their parents in a powerless position. Bad teaching goes undetected and unchanging from year to year. Likewise, exceptional teaching often goes unnoticed and unrewarded. This situation leaves conscientious teachers, the bulk of the staff, in the unhealthy situation, unlike that in virtually all other professions, of receiving no systematic feedbacks on their performance.

The Urban Coalition plans to move to rectify this situation. Based on the report of the Coalition's Education Task Force, the Coalition is now preparing state legislation calling for local school districts to develop a system for periodically evaluating all teachers. Each district would be permitted to develop its own set of rewards and sanctions based on the results of the evaluation. Student

achievement would be the primary criterion for evaluating performance. Parents, students, principals and other teachers would all participate in the evaluation process.

Such an evaluation could then be used to reward exceptional teaching, initiate a process of remedial training for teachers experiencing difficulty, and ultimately result in the dismissal of ineffective teachers. Due process guarantees to protect the rights of teachers would be provided.

A recent poll of Minneapolis students participating in the Urban 80's Conference found that evaluation of teachers was the most pressing issue in the minds of those students attending the Conference. The perceptions of these students correlates well with that of the Education Task Force and the Coalition.

Efforts must now be made to create the proper vehicle for implementing this evaluation process. Ultimately, it must be a vehicle that will protect the rights of parents and students as well as those of teachers and school administrators. This step is absolutely essential to improving the quality of education in the Minneapolis Public Schools.



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had an average energy cost of \$645 in 1978-79 (July 1, 1978-June 30, 1979). This will more than triple to \$2,190 by 1989-90.

Total average energy costs for homes using fuel oil for heating, and electricity for other needs, equalled \$1,070 in 1978-79. by 1989-90 this will more than double to an average cost of \$2,827. (Fuel oil costs were based on the 1978 cost of 49.5¢ per gallon of fuel oil. This cost has already reached almost \$1.00 per gallon, a 100% increase in less than a year. This is an indication of how conservative these estimates may be.)

The total energy costs of those homes using electricity to supply all their energy needs will also almost double, from an average cost in 1978-79 of \$1,030 to \$2,401 in 1989-90.

The report looked at these drastic cost increases in relation to some typical annual mortgage payments. Examples in the analysis included average home mortgages from 1965, 1970, 1975 and 1978 (based on annual averages compiled by the Minneapolis Board of Realtors), and their relative energy costs.

The most dramatic example described in the report is that of a home mortgage originating in 1965 with annual principal and interest payments of \$1,541. In 1978-79 an average homeowner using fuel oil for heating paid \$1,070 in total energy costs. This equalled 69.4% of the annual principal and interest payment. In less than four years, by 1983-84, the energy costs for this same home, \$1,543, will actually surpass the annual mortgage payment. If heating with natural gas, the energy costs for this homeowner will exceed the annual mortgage payment by as early as 1986-87. If the homeowner relied upon electricity to supply all of the

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home's energy needs, the annual energy costs will surpass the mortgage payment by 1984-85.

The findings of the report indicate that the entire viability of mortgage financing is at stake when energy costs reach the point where they actually exceed annual mortgage payments.

The report's concluding analysis is that residential energy conservation and alternative energy systems must be actively pursued. If the dominant in-

fluence energy costs exert on housing are to be mitigated, financial institutions of all kinds must become more aggressive in their provision of loans and grants for residential energy efficiency. The hope of the Urban Coalition is to see that these institutions, public and private, provide more incentives for conservation and thus create housing that is more affordable in the Twin Cities.

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## IMPACT

Impact is a monthly publication of the Urban Coalition of Minneapolis. Editor, Margaret Simmons.

We welcome your comments.



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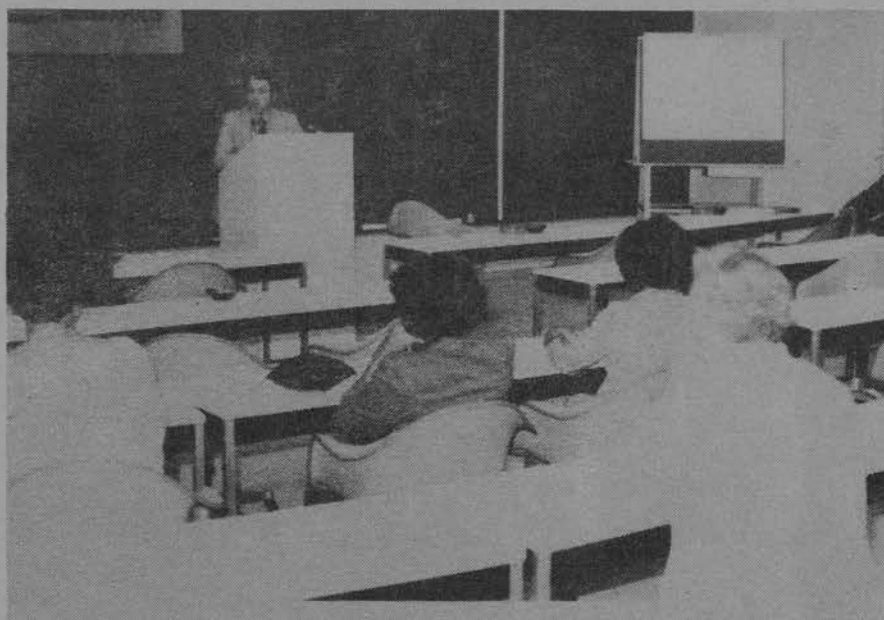
## Community Informed of Nation's Conservation, Solar Energy Potential

The Urban Coalition along with the Spring Hill Conference Center sponsored an Energy Forum Sunday, September 9, to present and discuss the current energy issues, possible solutions and their impact on poor and minority people. The keynote speaker was Dr. Daniel Yergin, a professor at Harvard University and co-editor and major author of the recently published book, *Energy Future*. Two sessions were held and in both sessions Yergin stressed the extremely vulnerable position in which the United States finds itself because of its increasing dependence on imported oil.

In the initial session, attended by various corporate leaders, members of the State Legislature and Public Service Commission, community leaders and state energy officials, Yergin summarized the severe limitations of various sources of energy such as coal, nuclear power, synthetic fuels and other sources of energy.

In *Energy Future* he wrote, "There is little reason to expect conventional alternatives to make a sizable contribution to reducing our dependence on imported oil. These sources—domestic oil and gas, coal and nuclear power—as a group can increase their contributions to cover, at most, one third to one half of the nation's additional energy needs over the next decade."

He then presented the case for increased investment in conservation and alternative energy systems as the most



cost effective, prudent course for national energy policy in the coming decade. He characterized the "unconventional energy sources"—conservation and solar energy—as untapped resources that must be channeled into the national energy policy. "Conservation—not coal or nuclear energy—is the major alternative to imported oil. It could perhaps 'supply' up to 40 percent of America's current energy usage," stated Yergin. "The range of energy possibilities grouped under the heading 'solar' could meet one fifth of all U.S. energy needs within two decades."

In the second presentation to a group of community representatives the Black, American Indian, Chicano/Latino and low income white communities, Yergin stressed the job-creation potential of

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## 1979-80 UCM WORK PROGRAM

The Urban Coalition's work program has been prepared for 1979-80. The program is a commitment for action by the UCM staff and board of directors to address the particular social, economic and political concerns which affect the non-white and poor communities. For 1979-80 our primary emphasis will be in the following areas: energy, criminal justice, employment, education, affirmative action, economic development, community development, legislation and community outreach.

Despite the appearance of improvement, the interests of lower income people continue to be largely ignored by decision-makers and exploited by other interest groups. UCM takes the position that the special concerns of lower income and non-white people must, as ever, be better defined, extensively articulated

and more fully integrated into governmental policies and decisions on all levels.

We see energy related problems as particularly significant because it effects nearly every other aspect of our lives. For this reason there will be a heavy emphasis in our 1979-80 program on the special energy concerns of poor and non-white people. With this issue of the IMPACT we are resuming the publication of a monthly newsletter designed to keep our constituents informed on energy and other issues we have targeted for action. We welcome your comments and participation.

**Earl D. Craig, Jr.  
President**

## UCM Offices Moved

After much exasperation and perspiration, the Coalition, on September 24, moved its staff, lock, stock and heavy boxes, from 1009 Nicollet, Suite 303, to its new offices at 89 S. 10th Street. The move had been under discussion since July of this year.

The new facilities located on the second and third floors provide the Coalition's staff with the much needed space for research and meetings and alleviates the somewhat crowded conditions created by the addition of new staff persons and student interns. The offices had been located at the previous address since 1974.

Although the location has changed, UCM's phone number remains the same, 348-8550. The move involved only the administrative staff. The Coalition's Weatherization Project is still located at 3400 Nicollet Ave. South.

## UCM, School System Face Off on Minority Education

The Urban Coalition of Minneapolis faced off against the Minneapolis Public Schools in a discussion of educational concerns of the local Black, American Indian and Chicano/Latino communities recently in a community forum sponsored by the Powderhorn Community Council.

Major points presented by UCM president, Earl Craig, were the excessive drop-out rates of Black and American Indian students, disproportionate referral rate of non-white students to special education settings, lack of an operational evaluation and accountability process for school employees, and the absence of an educational goal and objective setting process tied to an accountability scheme. Craig also stated that the school district must not use factors outside the schools as an excuse for failure of minority students.

Respondents to the Coalition's posi-

tion included Marilyn Borea, chairperson of the Minneapolis School Board; Vern Indehar, deputy superintendent of the Minneapolis Public School System; Donovan Schwichtenberg, president of the Principals Forum; Norm Moen, executive secretary of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers; and Maxine Nathanson of the Citizen Committee for Public Education. Ken Nelson, vice chair of the House Education Committee, served as moderator.

The Coalition's position is based on the recent report of its educational task force entitled *Quality Education for All*. The major areas emphasized in the report were student achievement, evaluation and accountability of certified employees of the schools, and accountability of the school system as a whole.

The task force, which took eight months to complete its study, was composed primarily of Black, American In-

dian, Chicano/Latino and White parents. The report was presented before the Minneapolis School Board on May 29, 1979. No formal response has been received to date.

In addition to bringing attention to and gaining support for its task force findings, the Coalition took part in the community forum to help initiate educational advocacy work at the neighborhood level. In response to this effort, the Powderhorn Community Council, sponsors of the forum, hope to enlist the participation of persons interested in organizing a neighborhood based education task force.

Those interested in participating in such a task force should call 348-8900. Also, copies of the UCM report *Quality Education for All* are available by calling 348-8550.

## Coalition Staff Changes Made

Earl Rogers, formerly Community Outreach Director for the Urban Coalition, Minneapolis, was hired recently by Congressman Martin O. Sabo (DFL-5th District) to serve as a legislative assistant on Sabo's Washington staff.

Rogers was with the Coalition for two years and as outreach director was responsible for the administration of the Weatherization Project and research and advocacy of government policies at the local, state and federal levels that effect low-income and minority communities.

New staff persons joining the Coalition are Vusumuzi Zulu, Jake Bishop and Margaret Simmons.

Mr. Zulu, formerly assistant director for the The Way Community Center, was named Program Director. In this capacity Zulu is responsible for the administration of the Coalition's Weatherization Project, the Harambee television forum, mediation for the Citizen Dispute Settlement Project and economic development.

He is a long-time Minneapolis resident and activist in community affairs.

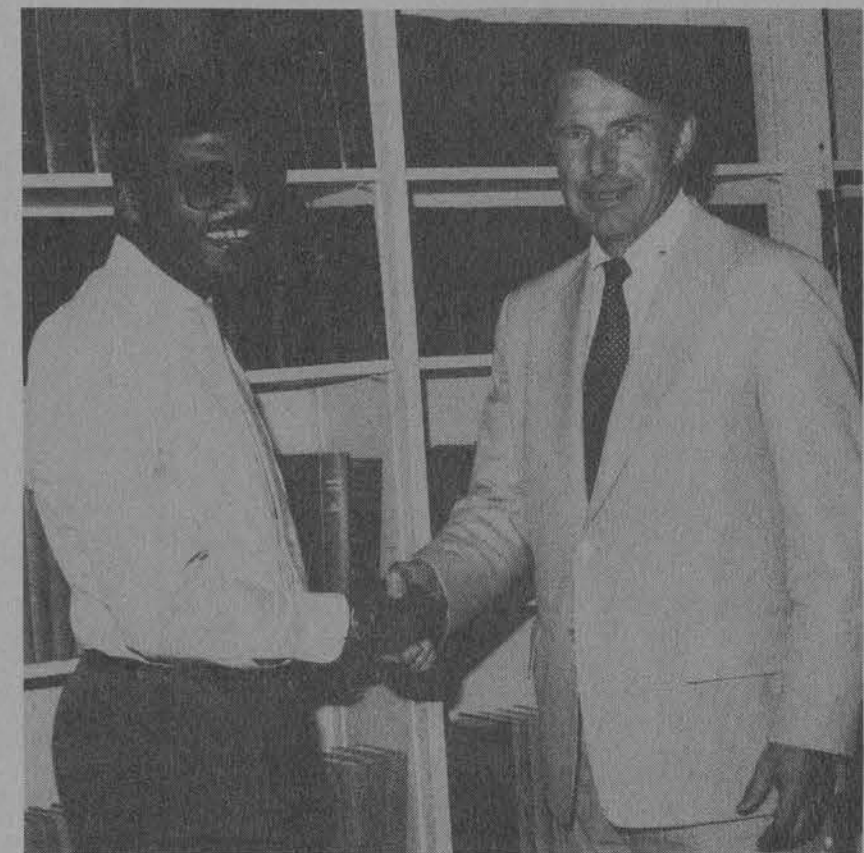
Mr. Bishop, the Coalition's new Comptroller, was previously employed by H.I.R.E.D. (Helping Industry Resolve Employment Disabilities) in Minneapolis. In his new position he is responsible for all of the Coalition's financial functions. He brings to the position a number of years experience in the accounting field.

Ms. Simmons, formerly a Comprehensive Services Specialist with the Pilot City Regional Center, is serving in the capacity of Program Officer. Her duties include research and advocacy in such areas as affirmative action, police-community relations and criminal justice, as well as editing the Coalition's newsletter.

She has had a number of years experience in the social service field and is a sociology graduate of Illinois State University.

### Name/Address Change

We are in the process of updating our newsletter mailing list. Please notify our office if there has been a name or address change for you or your organization.



Earl Rogers (left) and Martin Sabo. Photo courtesy of Twin Cities Courier.

## Census Bureau's Minority Program

For years inadequate statistics about America's minority populations have been reported in the U.S. Census Bureau. This underrepresentation has resulted in minority needs being short-changed regarding the allocation of billions of Federal funds, and inadequate representation in Congress and state and local legislative bodies.

Recognizing the importance, purposes and uses of the U.S. Census, the Urban Coalition of Minneapolis is in full support of the upcoming 1980 census, specifically its Minority Statistics Program, to insure that an undercount does not take place in Minnesota.

This recently formed program seeks to inform minority communities of the importance of the census, to provide more accurate data about the Nation's minority population and to obtain a higher response from minorities to the 1980 census than has been achieved in the previous counts.

The Coalition will be supporting the

Bureau's Minnesota Community Services Specialists, Rochelle R. Lopez and Michelle Thompson, in their efforts to inform local Native American, Black and Chicano/Latino community members and organizations of the impending census and its importance.

Community persons will play a significant role in assuring that local residents understand the census and are included in actually obtaining the count and distributing information and materials. Several hundred temporary census jobs will be made available to Minneapolis-St. Paul residents sometime the early part of next year to assist with this effort. Questionnaires are scheduled to be mailed to residents in March.

Questions regarding the census should be directed to Rochelle Lopez or Michelle Thompson at 374-5145. More information on the Census Bureau's jobs, community involvement and information efforts will be forthcoming in the December IMPACT.



## Minority Survey Results: State Officials Staffs Include Few Minorities

The Urban Coalition of Minneapolis' third annual survey of the staff composition of the state's 16 highest elected officials again found a disappointingly low number of non-whites on those staffs. The study compiled the number of paid, full-time employees in the offices of the state's two U.S. Senators, eight members of the U.S. House of Representatives and six constitutional officers (governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, attorney general and state auditor).

The results for the six constitutional officers were most disturbing. They continued the pattern of steady decline since the survey was first conducted in 1977. Earl D. Craig, Jr., president of the Coalition, stated, "The results for the state's constitutional officers are extremely disappointing. Since 1977 the total staff contingent in the six offices increased by 17.3 percent. Meanwhile, the number of non-whites on the staff decreased by 40.7 percent. This pattern occurred during both DFL and IR administrations. It suggests a real lack of commitment by our highest elected (officials) to the hiring of Blacks, American Indians and Chicano/Latinos." No constitutional office experienced an increase in the number of non-white staffers. Two re-

mained constant, including the Lieutenant Governor's office which has no non-whites.

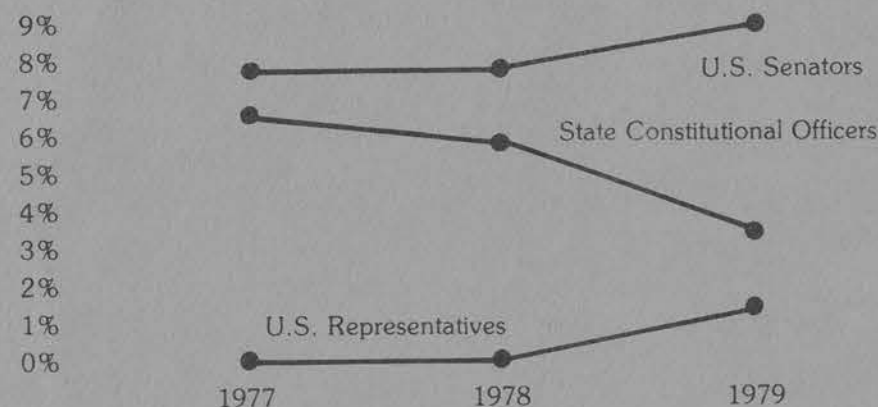
A positive development was found in the congressional delegation. For the first time since the survey was initiated a House member has a non-white staff member. Congressmen Nolan and Sabo have an Indian and a Black, respectively, on their staffs. "The hirings by Congressmen Nolan and Sabo are a step in the right direction. The fact that none of the other Representatives have any non-whites remains a real problem," said Craig.

The results for the two new U.S. Senators were equivalent to those of the previous two years. A total of six non-whites (8.8 percent) were members of the staffs of the two Senators. Senator Durenberger had four; Senator Boschwitz had two; all were Black.

Thus, there was a total of eight non-white staffers employed by the Minnesota delegation, seven Blacks, one Indian and no Chicano/Latinos.

Individuals and community groups are encouraged to call and/or write Minnesota's elected officials regarding this gross and inexplicable underrepresentation of minorities in these offices.

CHART V  
Percentage of Non-Whites on Staffs of the  
Minnesota Congressional Delegation  
and Constitutional Offices



## - DATA BRIEFS -

Despite the fact that only 8.4% of Mpls. Public Schools teaching staff are non-white, 24.5% of those laid off this year were non-white teachers. So currently less than 8% of the MPS teachers are non-white compared to a non-white student population of 26.1%.

Latest national data indicated poor people are spending 30-40% of their income on energy despite their use of less energy than the average American family.

## Energy Forum

continued from page 1

conservation and alternative energy systems, particularly for urban areas. He also highlighted the special vulnerability of poor people to unemployment induced by a failure of national energy policy to pursue these alternative energy solutions, found by the Harvard Business School Energy Project to be the lowest cost, most reliable energy sources.

The discussion following the community session centered on the distrust by the public of private and governmental statements regarding energy. Several participants felt that resistance to conservation in the communities of color was in large measure a result of the lack of credibility of those proclaiming the existence of an energy crisis.

As a result of this meeting the Coalition will attempt to host other speakers in an effort to raise the awareness and understanding of the energy situation in the Black, American Indian and Chicano/Latino communities.

## State, Federal Fuel Assistance Debate Continues

Since mid-summer there has been a flurry of activity concerning state and federal assistance for low income people to help pay their residential energy bills. The Urban Coalition has been actively involved in the negotiations surrounding this issue.

To date no clear consensus has emerged on the size or specific provisions of either the state or federal assistance programs. Much of the debate has centered on the amount and timeliness of federal assistance and the subsequent need for a state program.

The debate in the Congress has been difficult and confusing. Energy assistance has been linked to several other proposals, including the highly controversial windfall profits tax which the Carter administration originally identified as the source of funding for the assistance.

At the state level Governor Quie originally resisted calls for a special session of the legislature in the fall to address the need for energy assistance during the upcoming winter. The DFL leadership has argued for a special session. By early October the consensus was that a decision concerning a special session would be made soon after the Governor's return from China. The decision would rest largely on the status of various federal assistance programs.

By late October there likewise seemed to be a developing consensus concerning the basic provisions of both a short- and long-term state energy assistance program. There would have to be sufficient local, state and federal assistance for the estimated 234,000 Minnesota households with incomes of less than 150 percent of the federal poverty

guidelines (\$10,050 for a family of four). Long-term assistance, it is agreed, must encompass a regular, on-going program of direct assistance for these same households. There is also agreement on the need to make the homes of those eligible for energy assistance as energy efficient as possible to reduce the cost of energy and the cost of the state assistance program. The latter component is viewed as addressing one of the causes of high energy bills, poorly insulated homes, rather than just the symptoms.

The immediate problem of the legislature appears to be resolving the lack of agreement on the method of delivery of the emergency assistance program during the upcoming winter. Some wish to have the state's 26 community action agencies (CAPS) distribute the state assistance as they did last year and are scheduled to do this year with federal energy assistance. Others wish to have the 87 county boards make the decision for their individual counties on the method of distribution of the funds.

Nel Hollic, chairperson of the Coalition's Energy Committee, testified before the House Appropriations Committee concerning the need for energy assistance this winter, a long-term assistance program and expanded state funding for weatherization of lower income people's homes. She stressed the Coalition's concern that assistance for this winter be guaranteed by immediate state action and not be dependent on potentially non-existent or inadequate action from Washington.

Developments on the energy front are occurring rapidly. At the time of distribution of this newsletter the Coalition will still be in the process of monitoring and participating in these on-going negotiations. Updates will be provided in subsequent newsletters.

## Coalition Supports Utility Shut-Off Ban

Dr. August Rivera, a member of the Urban Coalition's board of directors, testified October 19 before a Public Service Commission (PSC) hearing on utility shutoffs. He presented the Coalition's position that an absolute ban on utility shutoffs be instituted during the winter months.

The hearing in Minneapolis was one of several held around the state to hear comments on a rule proposed by the PSC to govern gas and electric utility shutoffs during cold weather. This rule would replace the previous cold weather rule which prohibited shutoffs if the temperature was predicted to fall to or below 32° on a Friday or legal holiday or 0° on any other day.

The new rule proposed by the PSC would prohibit shutoffs if the temperature is predicted to fall to 32° or lower between October 15 and April 15, and also provides that a reasonable deferred payment agreement be offered by the utility. The proposed rule also sets out

factors to consider in determining the reasonableness of the initial deferred payment amount, procedures to adjust the monthly payment if necessary, dispute resolution procedures and requirements that local welfare and law enforcement agencies be notified under certain circumstances.

While recognizing that this proposal is an attempt by the PSC to institute a more protective rule to govern shutoffs, Dr. Rivera stated in his testimony that, "What now appears to be an economic problem could easily become an issue of health and survival during the cold winter ahead. The official position of the Urban Coalition Board of Directors is that as long as weatherization, fuel assistance and other protective measures remain inadequate, the PSC should impose an absolute ban on winter shutoffs." He was referring to the current insufficient programs and the uncertainty of governmental response to skyrocketing energy costs for low-income people.

continued on page 6



# Utility Shut-Off Ban

continued from page 5

The Coalition's position was unanimously supported by other participants in their testimony before the PSC. Dr. Rivera was followed by Joan Growe, secretary of state and an unending list of local residents who demanded a total ban on shutoffs.

This position, however, was consistently challenged by an attorney representing the PSC. He suggested that if PSC's proposed rule was to be substantially changed to a total ban than new hearings would be required and the ban would not be put into effect until March or April of next year. He asked each person testifying if they would be willing to support the proposed rule as a stop-gap measure for this upcoming winter.

Dick Parrish, a PSC member, criticized this line of questioning as outrageous, adding that "the only substantial change we are hearing is that human life be considered in the rule."

The question of whether adopting a moratorium on shutoffs constitutes a substantial change or not will be decided by the attorney general's office after determining that the PSC hearing examiners' report complies with the Administrative Procedures Act and after PSC reaches its decision on the proposed rule. The hearing examiners' report is due within 30 days after the last hearing which was held October 23 in Little Falls, Minnesota. (UCM has requested a copy of the report.) PSC's decision must be reached five days after receipt of the report.

According to PSC staff a rule governing shutoffs (one way or the other) should be in place by the middle of December.

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### An Ombudsman for Minneapolis/Hennepin County

The Ombudsman is a concept which has, in recent years, become a source for governmental accountability and responsiveness to citizens, both collectively and individually. Simply defined, the Ombudsman is an appointed official whose duty it is to hear and investigate complaints by private citizens against government officials or agencies. The Ombudsman operates as an independent, impartial observer to assist citizens in dealing with government's bureaucratic structures. He/she has traditionally been afforded the power to investigate grievances and to act as an impartial mediator in disputes between citizens and public officials. The Ombudsman is not a substitute for the administrative processes but rather acts as a mechanic, to insure that the machinery of government operates smoothly, efficiently, and fairly.

The essential characteristics of an Ombudsman are that he/she be independent, impartial, an expert in government, universally accessible and that he/she be given power to adequately hear, investigate, recommend and publicize. As such, the Ombudsman becomes a mechanism for providing added protection for the citizen against the improper use of governmental power. The Ombudsman promotes public confidence in government by providing fast, economical, and impartial redress of grievances when judicial relief or procedural safeguards are unsuitable, expensive, or unavailable. The Ombudsman also serves a public relations function for administrators by explaining to the public the rationale for certain administrative rules and procedures which might be frustrating or incomprehensible to some users. Thus the Ombudsman serves two masters — the citizen and the government, with benefits accruing to both.

Since its origin in Sweden two centuries ago, the Ombudsman has become a popular and important institution in many areas of the free

world. With local variations to meet the differing needs of its citizens, the office has been adopted in Norway, Denmark, Great Britain, New Zealand, West Germany, Israel, and Australia. In Canada, Ombudsmen now serve the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, and Quebec.

In the history of this country, there was a time when the elected legislature together with a strong and responsive judicial system left no role for an Ombudsman. Existing agencies adequately protected citizens from bureaucratic encroachment on their rights and liberties. However, since World War II, there has been a rapid increase in the number and size of administrative agencies established at all levels of government. As a result, the accumulated powers of the bureaucracy have become so pervasive that the legislatures and the courts often are unable to respond effectively to the volume of grievances presented by individual citizens.

Courts, of course, continue to play a major role in controlling and correcting abuses of government. But litigation is slow, expensive and usually not appropriate for the types of grievances investigated by the Ombudsman. Also, in a broader sense, judicial review of administrative decisions generally seeks to determine if an act was *legal*. The Ombudsman is more concerned as to whether the action was fair. The Ombudsman's complaint log abounds with situations which are perfectly legal but manifestly unfair.

The legislative branch remains the principle safeguard of citizens against administrative excesses of executive bureaucracy. However, as government becomes more complex, the legislator finds it increasingly difficult to allocate enough time for investigating constituents' problems. In these circumstances, the Ombudsman acts as the legislator's watchdog over the actions of the bureaucracy.

#### The Seattle-King County Model

The Urban Coalition of Minneapolis has recommended an Office of Ombudsman for this Metropolitan area. Our impetus has clearly been concern for the rising number of complaints against the Police Department. But citizens are faced with bureaucratic entanglement in virtually every area of government. In 1976, the Urban Coalition researched avenues of dealing with citizen complaints. That research led to Seattle, Washington, and its Office of Ombudsman.

Seattle-King County has many parallels with Minneapolis-Hennepin County. It is a clean, vibrant area with a metropolitan population of 1,148,000 (the City of Seattle has 503,500 people). It has a City Council and a County Council whose functions often overlap, and it was once devoid of a formal comprehensive complaint agency just as Minneapolis-Hennepin County currently is. In 1971, the City of Seattle joined with King County in an agreement to establish a joint Office of Ombudsman and Citizen Complaints, modeled on the classical ombudsman law developed in Sweden almost two hundred



years ago. The following is a summary account of how that Office operates:

Once the citizen has contacted the Office of Ombudsman, the contact is categorized as one of the following:

1. request for information
2. request for assistance
3. request for a sympathetic government ear
4. grievances

Requests are complied with immediately by the Office of Ombudsman. Grievances may require time and investigation. The actions taken by the Office in response to various citizen contacts vary both because different citizen expectations demand different responses and because resolution of different problems require different techniques and investments of time.

The standard flow of work of the Office of Ombudsman includes the initial screening of all contacts to ascertain whether a request or a grievance is involved, and further whether the citizen's concern involves an agency of Government within the Office's jurisdiction. If initial screening determines that the contact is a request, it is handled informally and as expeditiously as possible. The response normally involves providing the information or assistance requested or referring the citizen to the proper person or agency. If the contact is determined to be a grievance, details are obtained from the citizen and the grievance is then evaluated to determine what further action will be taken. The considerations and criteria governing the choice of a course of action may vary over time, are subject to subsequent change, and should be distinguished from the action actually taken. If the contact is a grievance, it may be categorized in four ways:

**Case:** This process involves a formal investigation of a citizen's grievances, the rendering of an impartial judgment on the merits of the citizen-government conflict, and, if government is at fault, an attempt to resolve the particular grievance and to formalize changes in procedures, rules or governing law to prevent recurrence of similar grievances. The Case process normally consumes much time, from a minimum of several hours to upwards of two weeks of staff time.

**Longarm Case:** This closely resembles a Case but is conducted more informally because the agency involved is outside the strictly defined jurisdiction of the Office. The process includes a limited investigation and analysis, and concludes with an informal report of the Office's activities and findings, which is then sent to the appropriate officials for internal management use. The time required for this process ranges from one to several hours.

**Project:** A Project begins with the identification of a particular problem in government that has been highlighted by a grievance, and the subsequent judgment that the problem may be resolved by systemic change. The process includes a general study of the problem, consisting of in-depth research, analysis, formulation of proposed changes necessary to resolve the problem, and presentation of and lobbying for the recommended changes. A Project may be complex and, therefore, very time consuming.

**Suspension:** A complaint may be suspended by merely ceasing to work on a grievance and identifying it as suspended. A grievance may be suspended following initial screening and evaluation in order

to investigate further, or to wait for more factual input before deciding on further action.

### The Power and the Personality

In considering the establishment of an Office of Ombudsman, clear and concise enabling legislation is a necessity. In King County, the King County Office of Citizen Complaints was created by charter approved by the King County voters in 1968: "The County Council shall establish by ordinance an office to receive complaints concerning the operation of county government and shall grant it sufficient power to quickly and efficiently investigate, to make and publicize its findings, including the power to subpoena witnesses, documents, and other evidence and to administer oaths. The subpoena power of the Office of Citizen Complaints shall be limited to matters under written complaint by a citizen of the county, and any witnesses shall have the right to be represented by counsel. Any individual who is the subject of a complaint shall have the right to present witnesses in his behalf."

Invariably, when the subject of subpoena power arises, there is conjecture about potential abuse. Paul Meyer, Ombudsman for Seattle-King County emphasized the need for subpoena power and recommended this method to minimize abuse: "One way to insure that subpoena power will not be abused is through the selection process of the Ombudsman. The selection committee should consider appointment of only non-political persons." Meyer also termed subpoena power an "absolute necessity," saying: "To the best of my knowledge, there is not one legislative ombudsman who does not have subpoena power. Even though it has **never** been used here, its importance is its very existence. Subpoena power is the gun behind the door. The door opens and cooperation is assured." In addition, Meyer stressed the need for independence of the Ombudsman for a significant term of office. The Seattle-King County Ombudsman and staff are confirmed by the joint councils for five year terms. He also cautioned that the Office must be exempt from Civil Service because it may investigate Civil Service procedures or operations and further advised that maximum effectiveness is derived through powers that provide general jurisdiction. It should be noted that the scope of the Ombudsman's powers in Seattle-King County is limited to "administrative act(s) of any administrative agency . . ." "Administrative agency," under the ordinance, means:

- (1) . . . any department, office, or other governmental unit, or any employee of Seattle and/or King County acting or purporting to act by reason of a connection with the city or county; but "administrative agency" does not include:
  - (a) Any court or judge or appurtenant judicial staff,
  - (b) The members or staffs of the city or county councils,
  - (c) The mayor of Seattle or the King County executive or their respective personal staff,
- (2) "Administrative act" includes every action (such as decisions omissions, recommendations, practices, or procedures) of an administrative agency."

Thus, the judicial and the legislative branches of government, as well as the chief executive, are exempted from Ombudsman investigation but remain responsible to the electorate. This separation of powers serves to promote cooperation between the various branches of government and the Office of Ombudsman. The Ombudsman supple-

ments the efforts of both branches, promotes cooperation between city and county governments and often acts as staff for the elected officials in dealing with constituent problems.

The Ward Committee on Police Issues in Minneapolis, in recommending an Office of Ombudsman modeled on the Seattle Office, said: "There has also been some controversy over whether the Ombudsman needs to be a strong personality." Seattle-King County Ombudsman Paul Meyer emphasized and personified the existence of such a personality. "In order to achieve a reputation of impartiality, the Ombudsman must be free of partisan politics, but he/she must also command the respect of politicians and citizens alike. This is done in time by establishing open policies, by communicating with elected officials when complaints arise from their districts and by working with the press to improve existing conditions." Indeed, personality becomes the tool of the Ombudsman when one considers the options available to him/her in resolving a case. The Ombudsman can apply pressure through: (1) the power to subpoena witnesses, documents and other evidence, (2) letters to officials and department heads, (3) press releases and news conferences to publicize a department's action or inaction. The ability to use these tools of persuasion effectively is the key to the success of the Office of Ombudsman.

It therefore becomes crucial that the selection process of the Ombudsman be effective in terms of personality, as well as administrative competence. In Seattle this process is mandated by ordinance: "Appointment of Director — The director of the office of citizen complaints (ombudsman) shall be appointed jointly by the city and county councils. An appointment shall be made only upon vote of two third majority of the members of each of the city and county councils; provided, however, that the director shall be chosen from a list of at least five names submitted to the councils by the citizens' advisory commission. The name of any applicant submitted by a member of either the city or county councils shall be considered by the citizens' advisory commission. The commission shall be comprised of three individuals chosen by the Seattle City Council and three individuals chosen by the King County Council, and further that the six chosen shall choose by a majority vote a seventh person who shall act as chairman of the commission. If either councils cannot select a director from the list of five names submitted to it, the citizens' advisory commission shall be asked to submit a second list." This selection process requires input from citizens and government, thus providing a check against the appointment of politically partisan individuals. Minneapolis would do well to consider such an approach.

### The Results

In December of 1972, the Seattle-King County Office of Ombudsman recorded 112 total inquiries. Many citizens did not know the office had been created. By contrast, in the month of December, 1974, the Office received 1,223 total inquiries. Translated into yearly figures, the Office recorded the following contacts:

Year	Total Inquiries
1972-73	800
1973-74	14,772
1974-75	15,094

The Annual Report of the Office of Ombudsman for Seattle-King County 1976 lists several accomplishments, including completion of the research on three "Profiles" in 1975 representing six city and county agencies: The Seattle and King County Police Departments, The City Animal Control Division, The King County Animal Control Section, The City Building Department, and The County Building Division. "The purpose of the profile development is to move from day-to-day complaints and show the administrator patterns which describe what is occurring in his or her agency as seen through the ombudsman complaint process."

The first two profiles produced were for the Seattle and King County Police Departments (the Seattle Police Department [SPD] and the King County Department of Public Safety [KCDPS]), with complaints analyzed covering the period January, 1974, through June, 1975. The Ombudsman defined police complaints by nine categories:

1. unnecessary force
2. misuse of authority
3. improper arrest
4. harassment
5. record expungement
6. return of lost or confiscated property
7. traffic citations
8. vehicle impounds
9. jail

The two agencies differed markedly in the percentage of complaints received for each area of complaint. Unnecessary force by SPD officers was nearly double that of KCDPS. The problems of return of property and expunction of unnecessary information on police records was nearly twice as great with SPD as with KCDPS. However, complaints of police brutality and/or harassment were twice as prevalent in King County as in the City of Seattle. The percentage of complaints regarding towing was higher for KCDPS. (There is also a relationship in many of the harassment complaints to towing complaints. The impound is often perceived by the complainant as additional harassment accompanying the arrest).

As a result of these investigations, the Ombudsman made fifteen recommendations to the Chief of Police for Seattle and eight recommendations to the Sheriff-Director of the King County Department of Public Safety. Over half of those recommendations to SPD were for rectifying mistakes. Nearly half were recommendations to modify officers' behavior by retraining. One third of the recommendations made for King County involved the correction of that incident which caused the officer to become involved. The remainder of the recommendations for KCDPS were for procedural or statutory changes. In Seattle-King County, the Ombudsman's profile has led to more openness in the police departments. The Ombudsman has been invited to participate as an observer on the Firearms Review Boards of both departments (The Boards are convened each time a firearm is discharged by an officer in the line of duty). The Ombudsman is also an observer in Officer Disciplinary Hearings and a lecturer at the Seattle Police Academy, and now works more closely than ever in an open and candid way with the Internal Investigation Offices of both departments. Other Ombudsman recommendations have resulted in improved filing of police reports where physical contact has occurred, improved supervi-

sion of officers by police administrators, and the inclusion of a voting citizen in police disciplinary hearings.

The Ombudsman, with the concurrence of both Councils, drafted a bill for handling lost and/or confiscated personal property which was introduced into the Washington State Legislature. Additionally, the Ombudsman has placed before the Inter-governmental Relations Committees of both Councils a proposal for handling the expunction of the police records that are no longer needed by the department. The City and County Police Departments are also reviewing ticketing and towing procedures, with a view toward avoiding future complaints, and the County is considering a proposal to regulate towing for impoundment. (It should be noted that the emphasis on police-Ombudsman interaction is dictated by the number of complaints against police organizations [40.5% of city cases in Seattle involved police], but virtually all administrative agencies are complained against in the course of a year).

The following are some representative case summaries, taken from the Annual Report of the Office of the Ombudsman, Seattle-King County, 1975.

#### KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

##### Ombudsman Case No.: 75-123

Residents normally served by a 300-foot suspension bridge became dependent on a privately owned logging road when the bridge was declared unsafe and closed to car traffic. They were concerned that a bridge study and consequent repairs would not be finished before winter when the logging road is unusable. The Office brought the problem to the attention to the Public Works Department. They completed the bridge study in August and reopened the bridge with assurances to the residents that the bridge would not be closed for any extended period during repairs.

#### SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

##### Ombudsman Case No.: 5-011

A citizen who was driving his automobile was stopped because his brake lights were defective. He had left his wallet at work and so had no operator's license with him. After giving the officer his correct name and address, he was issued a citation for the violation. Five weeks later the citizen was approached by two Seattle Police officers. Although the officers had an arrest warrant which named an individual other than the citizen, they arrested the citizen upon their mistaken belief that the name he was using was an alias. The arrest was made despite the citizen's protestations and despite the fact that he had an operator's license and an alien registration card, both of which contained his name and photograph.

The citizen came to our Office, confused as to why he had been arrested and why it was believed he was using an alias. We discovered that the citizen's first name, middle initial and last name were the same as the alias of another man. Moreover, the birthdates of the two men were the same and they lived in the same area. To prevent a similar occurrence the computer now contains physical descriptions of the two men.

#### KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECORDS AND ELECTIONS

##### Ombudsman Case No.: 75-077

A citizen indicated that the King County Records and Elections Department used to pay Deputy Registrars to seek out and register new voters, but they stopped doing so. He wanted to know why. It was revealed that the Superintendent of Elections may choose to utilize the deputies to do several tasks, but the law does not require him to take affirmative action in registering new voters. As for compensation of the deputies, RCW 29.07.040 entitles them to pay but many are volunteers who do not seem very anxious to collect the money.

#### Urban Coalition of Minneapolis

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The Urban Coalition of Minneapolis is a private, nonprofit organization established in 1968 to deal with issues of concern to minority and poor people. The chairman of the board of directors is C. Angus Wurtele and the president is Earl D. Craig, Jr.

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### Energy Crunch Hits Lower Income People Hardest

The United States is confronted with an energy crisis brought on by the dwindling supply of non-renewable oil and natural gas and the spiraling price of available energy. Eliminating frills and tolerating some inconvenience will not solve the problem. In order to have enough energy for life's essentials a major alteration in energy use and expenditures is required.

In response to the crisis President Carter introduced his National Energy Plan. It is still being debated by Congress, where it has undergone substantial revision and is in conference committee at the time of this writing. The President's Plan seeks to insure an adequate supply for the country through conservation, new domestic production of oil and natural gas and development of alternative energy resources. The cornerstone of the Plan is increased prices, which serve the dual purpose of discouraging consumption and providing an incentive to producers.

In introducing the Plan the President said, "Our guiding principle, as we developed the plan, was that none of our people should be asked to bear an unfair burden and none should reap an unfair advantage". UCM analysis of the Plan has revealed that it does not meet a reasonable test of fairness.

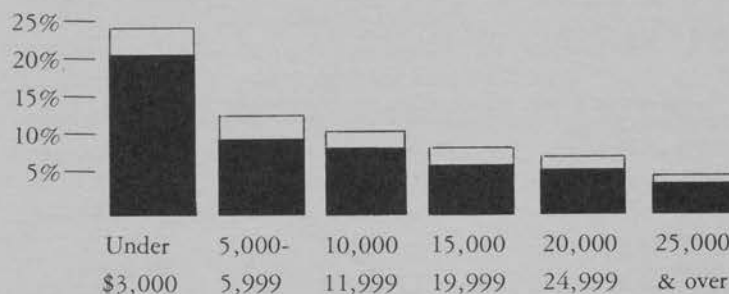
One valuable source that addresses the subject is "The Energy Crisis And Low-Income Americans, An Analysis of Impact And Options", prepared by Eunice S. Grier for The Washington Center for Metropolitan Studies. It shows that household energy consumption increases with income. Low-income households generally consume only the amount necessary for essentials, such as heating, lighting, refrigeration and necessary transportation. They live in smaller dwellings which require less heat and have fewer appliances. The appliances they have are more energy efficient. Nearly half did not own a car in 1975. Most of those who did own a car used it only for short-distance driving.

The ten percent of American households with incomes of \$25,000 or more consume almost as much natural gas, nearly one-fifth more

electricity and about twice as much gasoline as the twenty percent in the lower income bracket. It has been estimated that in 1975 a family of four with an income of no more than \$6,000 used an average of \$670 worth of electricity, natural gas and gasoline while the average family with an income of \$25,000 or higher used \$1,500 worth of these forms of energy.

Despite their low consumption, lower income Americans spend a substantially higher percentage of their disposable income on energy. They also have experienced the largest loss of purchasing capacity (measured as the percentage of income expended on energy) since the OPEC oil boycott and subsequent price increases beginning in 1973. The following graph illustrates this.

Direct Household Energy Expenditures as  
Percentage of Income 1973-1976



(Data assumes continuation of 1973 consumption levels and constant 1973 dollars.)

Calculated from data submitted by Mathematica to the Task Force on Distributive Impacts of Budget and Economic Policies, Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1976 those with incomes of less than \$3,000 spent more than six times as much of their income on energy as did those with incomes of \$25,000 or more. The percentage increase since 1973 is more than six and one-half times greater for the lowest income group than for the highest.

The initial Plan and subsequent versions adopted by the Senate and the House of Representatives do not provide for a change in this pattern of energy expenditures. The pattern will in fact get worse. Energy prices would increase dramatically under the proposed Plan. Similar increases would result without the Plan, i.e. with a continuation of current policies. The situation of lower income groups, which already devote a larger portion of their income to energy, will deteriorate further, although less under the Plan than a continuation of current policies.

#### Projected Increase in Direct and Indirect Household Energy Expenditures as a Percentage of Income: 1977-1985

INCOME	Continuation of current policy	Adoption of original administration proposal	Adoption of administration's proposal without standby gasoline tax*
LOW	15.0	10.2	12.6
MIDDLE	6.7	5.6	6.1
UPPER MIDDLE	5.5	5.2	5.4
HIGH	4.0	4.1	4.2

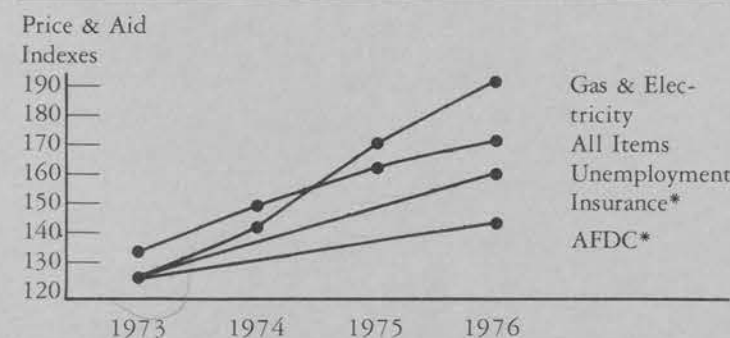
\*Standby gasoline tax has been rejected by the Congress.

Note: Average disposable income levels for groups: low, \$2,810; middle, \$8,656; upper middle, \$15,012; high, \$25,784. Approximate percentage of population of each group: low income 20%, middle income 40%, upper middle 20%, high 20%. Figures assume imposition of a 15¢/gal gasoline tax by 1985, with full rebate.

Source: Calculated from data submitted by the Congressional Budget Office to the Task Force on Distributive Impacts of Budget and Economic Policies, Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives.

Another means of measuring the impact of spiraling energy costs on lower income persons is to compare energy cost increases with general price inflation and payments received through governmental assistance programs. The following chart shows that gas and electricity price increases have outstripped prices generally, as measured by the Consumer Price Index. These energy prices have even more dramatically surpassed increases in AFDC and unemployment compensation payments between 1973 and 1976.

#### Increases in Costs and Assistance Payments: 1973-76



\*Based on average of total increase for the period 1973-76.

Sources: Monthly Labor Review, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Social Security Bulletin, April 1977, Department of HEW, Social Security Administration.

Increased energy costs are inevitable. The stated principle of fairness in sharing the burden has not been incorporated into the Plan, either as proposed or modified. The negative impact on the lower income group will grow increasingly worse.

#### Weatherization

In order to encourage conservation and provide some financial assistance, the President's Plan and Congressional versions of the Act expand federal assistance for home weatherization. Tax credits are provided for those who invest their own money and government funding for grants to low-income residents is increased. The importance of home weatherization as an essential means of conserving energy is undisputed. To a considerable extent it is a low-income problem which deserves greater attention.

#### Use of Insulation in Homes Occupied by Low-Income Households Compared to Upper Middle and High-Income Households, 1975

	Income		
	Low	\$14,000 to 20,000	\$25,000 or more
Percentage of Households with insulation	40	80	89
No insulation	43	13	7
Don't know	17	7	4

Source: Washington Center for Metropolitan Studies, National Survey of Household Energy Use, 1975.

Other basic energy-saving features are also underutilized. Storm windows and insulating glass are lacking in 60% of all low-income households; weatherstripping is lacking in 77%.

Although low-income households are in greater need of weatherization, they are less likely to be weatherized unless aided by government programs. Since 1973 middle-income households have been insulated at a rate twelve times faster than that of low-income households.

The federal government's major weatherization program has been operated by the Community Services Administration (CSA). To date it has weatherized approximately 200,000 low-income dwellings. The current version of the National Energy Act calls for appropriations to the new federal Department of Energy and to CSA for weatherization materials. The Plan would increase the maximum grant per dwelling from \$350 to \$800.

The CSA has calculated that there are 9.9 million low-income dwellings in need of some form of weatherization. The number of units that can be reached depends on the level of the average expenditure. CSA has sought to spread its limited funds by keeping the average expenditure, for materials only, at approximately \$200, while recognizing that the optimal level of weatherization would require \$800.

## UCM PRIORITIES FOR 1977-78

At its meeting on September 15, 1977, the Board of Directors selected eight problem areas for priority attention by the UCM during the coming year. These were incorporated into the UCM Work Program for 1977-78. The Work Program is designed to define pressing problems and to outline a course of action for achieving designated goals. It functions as the guide for the UCM's activities during this period.

## WORK PROGRAM

### Economic Security

Despite some recent improvement in the economy, the level of unemployment, particularly for minority people, has remained extremely high. The CETA program has not proven to be an acceptable solution to the unemployment problem and minority access to regular positions in government employment is limited. The existing public assistance program produces many unsatisfactory results and undesirable side effects.

In response to this problem the UCM plans to participate in the Minnesota Welfare Reform Coalition and the Minnesota Full Employment Action Council, working for comprehensive welfare and full employment reform, respectively; to urge adoption of the "Rule-of-3" within the Minneapolis Civil Service System; to monitor the minority staff composition in the offices of the Minnesota Congressional delegation and constitutional offices; and to continue its monitoring of the Minneapolis CETA program.

### Energy

The serious problem of energy cost and supply must be recognized and conservation methods promoted. The major pending changes in national energy policy threaten to have serious negative effects on poor people. Lower income urban residents must be considered as the state legislature deals with utility rates and other energy related matters in the upcoming session.

The UCM is developing a position on the Federal Energy Plan, proposing a state energy program, participating in the NSP Conference and preparing a program to aid in the weatherization of rental housing occupied by lower income tenants.

### House File #1

This proposed legislation would result in county boards having the final authority for determining the use of social service funds provided by the state in a block grant. These funds are now provided through a series of state categorical aid programs. The impact of this change on lower income people, i.e. participants in the programs, has not been adequately evaluated.

The UCM will attempt to develop and present this perspective to decision-makers.

### Housing

One dominant philosophical strain underlying the considerable private and governmental housing activity in Minneapolis has been the

dispersal of low-income households. Another has placed emphasis on renovating housing structures while not always considering their affordability to lower income persons. These approaches may be harmful to the interests of poor people. There is a question as to whether impediments encountered in existing bureaucratic or statutory requirements are necessary. The direction of future city housing policy may be determined by a recent housing study prepared by the Minneapolis Planning Department in cooperation with the Minneapolis Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

The UCM will respond to the city housing study, initiate a dialogue on the desirability of dispersing low income housing, identify barriers to innovative developments which could be eliminated and conduct an evaluation of selected city and state housing assistance programs.

### Native American Needs Assessment

The needs of Native Americans within Minneapolis have not been accurately identified and probably are not being met by social service programs. Indian organizations have expressed an interest in getting this data and filling service gaps.

The UCM will participate in a task force to design an adequate needs assessment.

### Operation of the Hennepin County Criminal Justice System

Blacks and Native Americans are receiving sentences two to three times more severe than whites in Hennepin County, but it is not apparent where in the system this disparity originates.

The UCM will maintain the Sentencing Task Force and broaden its focus to the entire Hennepin County criminal justice system, exploring means of having a thorough study undertaken.

### Police

Citizen complaints about police conduct do not receive adequate and fair investigation. The Internal Affairs Unit of the Police Department rarely takes action against police officers and often the contents of its investigation are kept secret. This threatens the safety of citizens, particularly minority residents who experience a disproportionate involvement in incidents with the police.

State law now permits police officers to use firearms in a variety of circumstances which may be too broad. The result is that deadly force may be used unnecessarily and inappropriately.

The UCM is advocating a Civil Review Board and/or Ombudsman to provide thorough and fair investigation of citizen complaints against the police and more restrictive legislation governing the circumstances where police may use firearms.

### Poor People's Agenda

The new city government must be made responsive to the needs and concerns of poor and minority residents. The Poor People's Agenda, a list of these needs and concerns, seeks to create a role for poor and minority people in city government decisions which affect their lives.

The UCM will present the Agenda to the Mayor and City Council after their inauguration.



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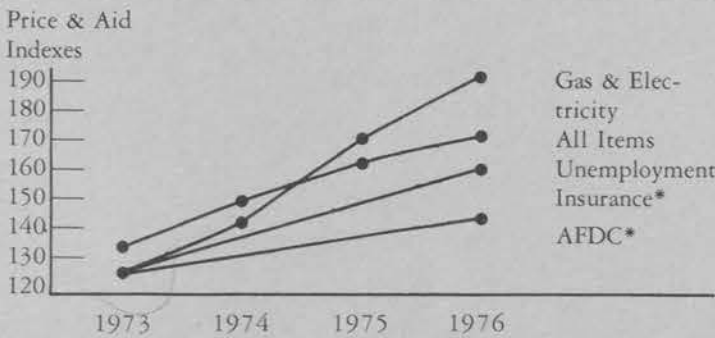
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Although low-income households are in greater need of weatherization, they are less likely to be weatherized unless aided by government programs. Since 1973 middle-income households have been insulated at a rate twelve times faster than that of low-income households.

The federal government's major weatherization program has been operated by the Community Services Administration (CSA). To date it has weatherized approximately 200,000 low-income dwellings. The current version of the National Energy Act calls for appropriations to the new federal Department of Energy and to CSA for weatherization materials. The Plan would increase the maximum grant per dwelling from \$350 to \$800.

The CSA has calculated that there are 9.9 million low-income dwellings in need of some form of weatherization. The number of units that can be reached depends on the level of the average expenditure. CSA has sought to spread its limited funds by keeping the average expenditure, for materials only, at approximately \$200, while recognizing that the optimal level of weatherization would require \$800.

On the basis of this figure it can be calculated that, given the level of appropriations requested by the administration, it would take about forty years to weatherize the low-income dwellings presently in need. To provide optimal weatherization of these 9.9 million dwellings by 1985, it would be necessary to spend almost \$1 billion annually between now and then. The administration has requested only \$130 million for 1978 and \$200 million for 1979 and 1980.

Both the House and Senate approved a tax credit for a portion of the homeowner's investment in energy-saving improvements. Twenty percent of the first \$2,000 spent on weatherization would be a credit against the homeowner's personal income tax liability. Thus, the maximum credit would be \$400. The Senate would allow for a direct payment from the government as a refund to homeowners who get a credit in excess of the amount of tax that they owe. According to the House version, no rebate would be given if the household's tax liability is less than the credit for which it is eligible. This would result in lower income households receiving lesser benefits than higher income households if their tax liability were too low. To get a sense of this problem one should realize that a family of four with an adjusted gross income in 1976 between \$8,750 and \$10,000 paid, on the average, \$395 in federal income taxes. This household would therefore not be eligible for a full \$400 credit.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that \$2.8 billion in tax revenues will be lost because of this program between now and 1985. Some opponents of these provisions argue that much of this assistance will go to households that would have insulated without it. They likewise argue that much of it would go to middle and upper income households, based on patterns of insulation activity observed over the past few years. Particular difficulty is anticipated for moderate income households which are not eligible for the federal grant program. Any household with income above 125% of the federally defined poverty level is not eligible. Families slightly above this level (\$7,313 for a family of four) will have difficulty in raising the necessary funds to make the improvements, will not be eligible for grants and may not be eligible for the full rebate. Additional assistance for this group seems necessary if their homes are to be weatherized as swiftly as those of other income groups.

The problem is even more intractable for renters. They have little reason to improve property they don't own, even if they could find the money to do so. About one-third of low-income Americans live in apartments. Although apartments are usually more energy-efficient than single houses, many do not have individual temperature controls. Yet the tenant pays for the energy used, either directly or as part of the rent. Because the cost of energy is passed along to the tenant, the owner has little incentive to weatherize the dwelling. Furthermore, the owner could pass the cost of any weatherization on to the tenant in the form of a rent increase. Tenants would have little leverage because of the tight market for rental housing. This makes the option of moving to a different housing unit infeasible and biases the situation in favor of the owner.

The Plan's focus on conservation relies on technology such as insulation, solar collectors and fuel-efficient automobiles. This overlooks those who do not have access to the capital necessary for these innovations. Lower income people will not be able to reduce their already minimal consumption, and thereby avoid increased costs, through technology. This amounts to levying an ongoing energy tax on the poor as energy costs continue to increase. It likewise results in a continuous unnecessary loss of energy, a burden on the entire society.

**Natural Gas Pricing**

The President's Plan called for reducing consumption by increasing the price of energy. The supply and cost of natural gas is of considerable concern in Minnesota. Sixty percent of the single family houses in the state, approximately 550,000 homes, are heated by natural gas. An increase was proposed in the price of new natural gas to reflect future costs and risks associated with finding new supplies. The cost of the more expensive new gas would be borne by industrial users, while keeping the price paid by residential users lower. This would inevitably be reflected in the prices of goods and services, becoming an indirect energy cost for the consumer. Congress is debating whether to remove the price controls on natural gas altogether. Proponents argue that it would produce additional natural gas, a claim which is hotly disputed. Opponents argue that it would result in increased cost to consumers and a windfall to producers of \$70 to \$100 billion by 1985.

**Utility Rates**

Another aspect of the President's Plan was a change in the rate structure of utility pricing. Current practice discourages conservation by charging rates which decrease as consumption increases. Thus low-income households, which on the average use less electricity, pay more per unit than does the average household. The Plan called for reform of this rate structure. Congress has refused, however, to allow the federal government to assume control over rate structures, which have been regulated by the states. The conference committee has settled for directing the state public utility commissions only to "consider" a number of new rate concepts.

It is unfortunately clear that the administration's National Energy Plan falls far short of meeting the needs of lower income people. Cost increases will be borne disproportionately by the poor. Their homes will be less energy efficient, resulting in greater energy consumption and costs over time. The changes made to date by Congress have generally further weakened the bill. What appears to be emerging is a national energy policy that fails to equitably address the special needs of lower income people in this area of essential consumption.

Because of the importance of the problem and the inadequacy of the federal response, there is a growing sense that increased state intervention in energy policy is necessary. For information on possible state actions see the Citizens Utility Coalition article on page 4.

**BOARD AND ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**

Bimonthly meetings of the UCM Assembly will be held to provide a forum for open discussion of major issues and to identify priorities for Board action. UCM Board meetings will be held in alternate months.

**Board Meeting:** Thursday, January 19, 7:30 p.m.  
NSP Building, 414 Nicollet Mall

**Assembly Meeting:** Thursday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.  
Northside Settlement Services  
2507 Fremont Avenue North

The Steering Committee, comprised of Chairpersons of the Caucuses, is planning the agendas for the Assembly meetings.

With this issue of IMPACT we are resuming publication of a monthly newsletter designed to keep our supporters informed on issues targeted for action by the Urban Coalition of Minneapolis and to encourage participation in resolving problems of concern to the community. We hope you will find this a valuable tool and welcome your comments.

Earl D. Craig, Jr., President

**RELIEF FOR RENTERS**

Low-income renters in privately owned multiple dwellings may now receive federal assistance from the Department of Labor for weatherization. With the assistance of Congressman Donald M. Fraser the UCM has obtained a ruling making this possible.

Federal funds are available through the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) and the Community Services Administration. They could pay for labor and materials used in installing insulation and doing other repairs designed to make the structures more energy efficient.

Among the conditions to be complied with are that the main beneficiary of the work must be the tenant, who cannot be above 125% of the poverty level. The benefits cannot go primarily to the owner of the building.

The ruling clears the way for a possible cooperative venture by the Minneapolis CETA and the Minneapolis Community Action Agency. The UCM is working with these two agencies on devising the necessary mechanism to implement the program and assure that tenants reap the financial benefits of the energy saved.

**CITIZENS ACT**

The Citizens Utility Coalition, composed of labor, church, community, student, minority, lower income, handicapped and senior citizens organizations, has been formed to develop and work for a State response to the problems arising from high energy costs.

In one of its first activities the Utility Coalition convened a public hearing on November 3 at the State Office Building in St. Paul. More than 70 speakers from 50 organizations around the state testified on conservation and energy policy. They focused on the problems of affordability, insulation, availability of service, the regulatory process and utility shutoffs. Twelve State Senators and Representatives, a representative from the Governor's office and several members of the Minnesota Public Service Commission availed themselves of this opportunity to gain some understanding of the problems and proposed solutions.

Testimony at the hearing clearly showed that increasing energy costs are causing real hardship for a broad spectrum of people, particularly the poor, the elderly, minorities, tenants and rural people.

In light of the state's authority over utility policy, the Utility Coalition identified the state as the level where action must take place. Some of the proposed solutions under discussion are: 1) Redesign of utility rate structures; 2) Direct state aid to lower income households to compensate for high energy costs; 3) Increased consumer participation in utility policy making; 4) Additional weatherization aid pro-

grams, particularly for rental housing; 5) More stringent rules regarding utility shutoff procedures and better enforcement of them; 6) Mandatory safety standards for insulation.

The Utilities Coalition is hopeful that these problems will be addressed and receive prompt action in the upcoming legislative session.

**NSP CONFERS ON POLICY**

Vernon E. Jordan, Executive Director of the National Urban League, and Donald W. McCarthy, President of Northern States Power Company, will be the keynote speakers at the opening session of a conference to be held on January 20 and 21 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. NSP is funding the Consumer/Utility Conference on NSP Policy to discuss utility policies and practices which affect the environment and consumers, particularly lower income people.

The UCM is one of twelve organizations which have participated in planning the conference. Invitations have been issued to 400 participants from approximately 60 organizations across the state. The organizations include government and social service agencies and citizens groups concerned with housing, economic development, environmental protection, alternative energy sources, low and moderate income people, minority groups, senior citizens, tenants and those who live in rural areas.

On January 21 a series of presentations, followed by panel discussions, will cover the following topics: 1) Citizen involvement in utility policy making; 2) Utility rate reform; 3) Environmental and social cost of energy production; 4) Implications of a no-growth policy; 5) Alternative energy sources; 6) Residential energy conservation.

The conference will serve as an examination of the social, economic and environmental costs of energy production and delivery. It is a recognition of the need for new approaches in providing electricity for life's essentials and an exploration of possible changes in corporate policy and practices.

**HOFSTEDE MEETS MINORITIES**

Members of Black, Latino and Native American groups of Minneapolis met with Mayor-Elect Al Hofstede in late November. The groups discussed their concerns in a meeting arranged by the UCM.

Emphasis was placed on the Police Department, relating to the appointment process for the Police Chief and possible methods of assuring that citizen complaints against police officers receive a fair investigation. Hofstede saw the creation of an Ombudsman's office as one possibility.

The Mayor-Elect expressed his support for the "Rule-of-3" for Civil Service hiring and promotion and increasing the number of Civil Service Commissioners from three to five. He agreed to strive for more minority appointees in his administration, promising to make public a list of positions to be filled by appointment. He stated that he had not made any commitments for these positions and would give serious consideration to minority candidates.

Mr. Hofstede voiced his commitment to continuing to meet with members of the minority communities.



## AGENDA FOR THE CITY

Members of the UCM's Caucuses have developed the Poor People's Agenda, an innovative approach to achieving responsiveness from the city government.

The Agenda, a list of issues of concern to poor and minority citizens of Minneapolis, will be formally presented to Mayor Hofstede and the City Council after their inauguration. Its purpose is to prompt action on the items listed and to obtain a commitment from the new Administration and Council to an ongoing process of consultation with representatives of the poor and minority constituency of the UCM. This would be a vehicle for effecting changes in city procedures and actions which affect this constituency.

At the Assembly meeting on December 15 presentations on the proposed Agenda were made by the Chairpersons of the Black, Latino and Native American Caucuses. The Assembly then approved the items to be included in the finished document.

## MONITORING PROGRAM

The UCM is inaugurating a new program enlisting volunteers to monitor government agencies on the city, county and state levels whose activities affect poor and minority people. A Monitor will be assigned to a governmental committee. She or he will maintain contact with the committee staff, keep informed of its agenda and attend meetings when necessary for the purpose of keeping UCM members and staff informed of pending actions relevant to UCM priorities.

The Monitor's service will entail one to five hours per week over a period of six months. A training program will be held on January 11 on the methods of establishing and maintaining contact with the appropriate persons and determining which pending actions are of significance to UCM projects.

Interested persons should contact Patti Frisch, Volunteer Coordinator, at the UCM office — 348-8550.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas Holloran, President and Chairman of Interregional Financial Group, has been chosen as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the UCM for the coming year.

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

#### Neighborhood Service Agency Caucus:

Valli Kanuha David Nasby

#### Community-Wide Service Agency Caucus:

Kristen Magrath Terrie Couch (alternate)  
Dr. James J. McDonough, Jr.

#### Religious Organizations Caucus:

Janet Court Paul Sand

#### Greater Minneapolis Business Community Caucus:

William George John Pearson  
Dave Haskins C. Angus Wurtele

#### Organized Labor:

Ann Lewis (two more members are to be designated)

#### Black Organizations Caucus:

Ron Edwards Vusumuzi Zulu  
(one more member is to be elected)

#### Native American Caucus:

Frances Fairbanks Rick McArthur  
Maynard Hinman Jim O'Brien (alternate)

#### Latino Organizations Caucus:

Irene Bethke Rafael Esparza (alternate)  
Frances Zamora Felino de la Pena (alternate)

## Urban Coalition of Minneapolis

1009 Nicollet Mall, Suite 303

Telephone (612) 348-8550

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

The Urban Coalition of Minneapolis is a private, nonprofit organization established in 1968 to deal with issues of concern to minority and poor people. The chairman of the board of directors is C. Angus Wurtele and the president is Earl D. Craig, Jr.

Ernest Marie Gonsky-Rothke  
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December 1980

Number 15

# IMPACT



## URBAN COALITION OF MINNEAPOLIS

"The Urban Coalition of Minneapolis is a private, nonprofit organization established in 1968 to deal with issues of concern to non-white and poor people. Our newsletter, IMPACT, is designed to keep the community informed on issues targeted for action by our organization and to encourage participation in resolving problems of concern to the community."

## 1980 Brings Little Improvement In Minority Representation at State Level

"The employment of minority staff by the sixteen highest elected officials of the state of Minnesota remains at an intolerable low level," said Earl Craig, President of the Urban Coalition. His statement was made in response to UCM's fourth annual survey of minority staff composition in the offices of the ten members of the Minnesota Congressional delegation and the six constitutional officers of the State.

The 1980 survey which was recently released indicates that minority persons remain severely under-represented on the staff of the constitutional officers and Congressional delegation. In October, 1980, (the period during which the survey was conducted), the total number of full-time paid staff employed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General and State Auditor combined equalled 472. Of these, only 24, or 5.1 percent, were minority. This is, however, the first UCM survey that found every constitutional officer with at least one minority staff person and represents an increase from the 1974 level of 16 minority staff (3.5%). Still, minority staff have decreased since 1977 when 27 (6.9%) were employed. This reduction from 1977-1980 in minority staff occurred during a period of significant hiring. There were 109 more staff hired in 1980 than 1977.

While little difference exists between the percentage of minority and white staff in managerial, professional or

clerical positions in the state constitutional offices, there was still only one minority staff person in a managerial position. The Secretary of State's office employed a black in the position of Director of Fiscal Operations.

The two Minnesota Senators, David Durenberger and Rudy Boschwitz, had a total staff between them of 71 in 1980, which included only four black staff members, three working for Durenberger and one for Boschwitz. While the total Senatorial staff has increased by three from the 1979 level of 68, the number of minority staff decreased from six to 1979 (8.8%) to only four in 1980 (5.6%).

Senator Durenberger now employs the same number of minority staff (3) as his 1977 counterpart, and Senator Boschwitz's reduction in minority staff leaves him with the worst record of any Minnesota U.S. Senator since this survey began.

By far the worst overall performance relative to minority hiring rests with the Minnesota delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives. Out of a total staff of 110 in 1980, there are only three minority persons, an increase of one over last year. Congressmen Sabo and Nolan employ one black and one American Indian legislative assistant respectively, and Congressman Frenzel employs a black clerical staff person.

Earl Craig summed up the results of the survey as follows: 'The extremely

low number of minority staff should serve as an embarrassment to these public officials. There is no way to justify the entrenchment in minority staff by our two U.S. Senators. While the modest increases from last year by the House delegation and state constitutional offices must be acknowledged, it is still not enough. The small increases in minority staff identified in this year's survey can only be described as a movement with rather glacial and languid progress.'

'The survey is part of an ongoing effort by the Coalition to monitor the staff composition of the highest elected state officials and to urge a significantly higher level of minority participation. The six constitutional officers and delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives show limited progress, while the two U.S. Senators reduced minority staff and now have the worst record relative to minority staff of any previous Minnesota delegation to the U.S. Senate.'

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## Minority, Disadvantaged Students Targeted for Pilot Project



**Financial Aids Pilot Project:** Participating (left to right, seated) Richard Friedrichsen, counselor, South High School; Vera Rorie, director, Black Learning Resource Center, University of Minnesota; Ron McKinley, Urban Coalition; Maxine Nathanson, Minneapolis Citizens Committee on Public Education; (standing) Ivan Wishekeno, Minneapolis American Indian Center; Congressman Martin Olav Sabo, Jim Kanwisher, counselor, North High School; Kathleen Ertel, counselor, North High School; Daniel Vega, Centro Cultural Chicano; Rose Herrera, Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board; Clareen Nyquist, counselor, North High School; Sharon Ireland, counselor/coordinator, Minneapolis Public Schools; Ed Nelson, counselor, North High School; Margaret Simmons, Urban Coalition; Kambon Camara, Urban League; Carol White, HELP Center, University of Minnesota; Phyllis Crimmins, District Office of Congressman Martin Sabo. Also participating but not pictured are Brenda Beaulieu, Minneapolis American Indian Center; Brenda Moose, Heart of the Earth Survival School; Hedy Gray and Randy Barber, The New Way.

Minority and disadvantaged seniors from two Minneapolis high schools will receive financial aid, career and educational opportunities information from representatives of seven community based organizations as part of a pilot project out of Congressman Martin O. Sabo's office (DFL-5th district).

"This project is intended to supplement the ongoing efforts of the Minneapolis Public Schools and the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board," Sabo said. "Many high school students who would clearly benefit from further education do not pursue it because they are unaware of the available financial aid, or don't know how to obtain it. The goal of this project is to expand the participation of minority and disadvantaged students in post secondary education."

The two schools selected to participate in this experimental program for 1980-1981 are North and South High Schools. Counselors and teachers from these schools will refer students during the project's one-year duration. At the end of the year, results of the project will be compiled and presented to the Minneapolis Public Schools, the HECB, and the participating organizations with the hope that the project will be expanded in the future.

The project was developed by the Task Force on Post Secondary Education Financial Aids as a response to concerns voiced by community people to Sabo about the inability of minority and disadvantaged young people to attain higher education due to financial restraints. Availability of state and federal funds was not perceived as

the problem; more individualized help in determining career and educational choices was needed.

The task force consisted of representatives from the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Minneapolis Public Schools, Congressman Sabo's District office, Heart of the Earth Survival School, the University of Minnesota, the Urban Coalition, the Urban League, Centro Cultural Chicano, Minneapolis American Indian Center, Concordia College, and the Citizens Committee on Public Education. Ron McKinley of the Urban Coalition served as chairman of the Task Force.

The seven community based organizations whose representatives will be working directly with the students

(continued pg. 4)

## Report Uncovers Problem Areas in Energy Assistance Programs

Metropolitan area energy assistance programs. How available are they to eligible residents? Are they easily or poorly accessible? What percent of eligible households actually participate in the programs? These were some of the questions the Urban Coalition sought answers to in a study recently completed of metropolitan low-income energy assistance. The study was prepared by UCM under contract with Northern States Power Company.

The study looked at barriers to participation, and recommends changes to improve the effectiveness of the program and increase participation.

During 1980 there were three energy assistance programs operating in the Metro area: ECAP, aimed at households at or below 125% of the federal poverty level guideline; SEAP, State funded for households up to 150% of the federal poverty guideline; and the Temporary Crisis Fuel Plan, available to recipients of AFDC, MSA (Minnesota Supplemental Aid), and GA (General Assistance), as well as others who had exhausted other aid avenues.

Urban Coalition researchers queried energy assistance program operators, county welfare departments, energy suppliers, community agencies, low income housing personnel, and people eligible for energy assistance.

Though actual figures are not available, a consensus emerged that it is clearly the elderly, the working poor and public assistance recipients that are having the most trouble paying their energy bills. Respondents also agreed that among those groups it is the elderly, the working poor, and people in rental housing that are not taking advantage of the available energy assistance.

Of tremendous significance is the segment of the population referred to as the 'working poor.' The working poor are employed individuals who often are not eligible for energy assistance programs based on income guidelines, despite their reported need. Among those who were eligible, the working poor were reported to be disproportionately non-participants. What

emerges then is a very differentiated population of eligible households.

Four major reasons for non-participation of eligible households emerged:

- Poorly planned and/or poorly targeted outreach affected participation by all groups of non-participants.
- Day-only hours and access problems for those with limited mobility affected the elderly and working poor, in particular.
- Confusion over changing guidelines and eligibility standards affected all non-participants.
- The stigma of applying for what was perceived as a welfare program affected all participants, especially the elderly and working poor households.

The report recommends program changes and policy options in three categories:

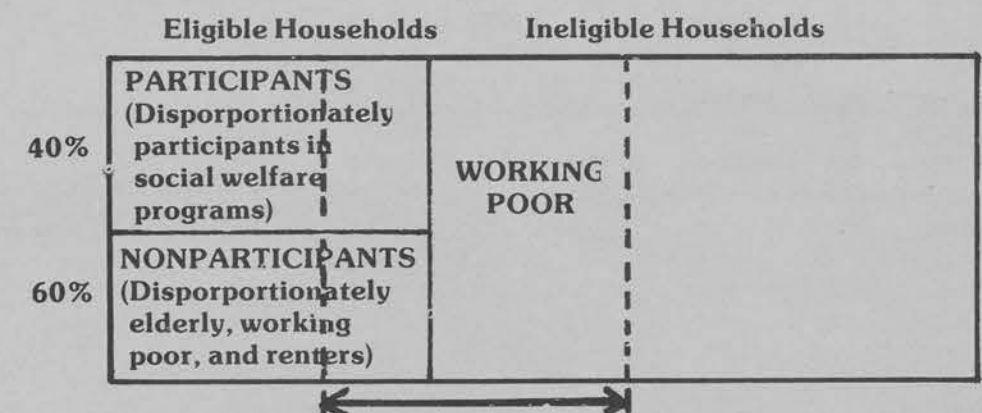
**1) Incremental Changes:** These changes would essentially 'fine tune' the existing welfare based energy assistance model in order to improve programs for participants as well as reach a number of non-participants. Key recommendations include:

- Program operators should be required to develop a comprehensive outreach and intake plan designed to maximize participation in the energy assistance

program(s) they administer. Unlike past requirements along this line, the plan would require an explicit local response to the segmented market identified in this study.

- Program operators should make better use of community-based organizations in outreach efforts and (where feasible) in terms of actual intake.
- The state should require regulated utilities and, at a minimum, encourage other suppliers to provide negotiated payment plans for recipients of energy assistance and as many other lower income consumers as possible.
- Energy assistance should move from its historic pattern of year-to-year funding to a longer term footing.
- There is a need for a more comprehensive, emergency source of energy assistance for households in extraordinary circumstances than has existed in past years. Such 'end of the road' assistance should be available to all households regardless of receipt of general energy assistance and should be available on an equal basis from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

### Conceptual Model of Metropolitan Area Energy Assistance Market



Total residential energy consumers, metro area = 725,000  
Total eligible households, energy assistance = 100,000



The link between energy assistance and conservation must be strengthened both through home weatherization and programmatic incentives.

**2) Major Programmatic Changes:** Altering the present model in terms of application procedures and form of payment would address in part the stigma effect while maintaining direct energy assistance in some form. Less visible, less intrusive forms of intake would change the basic program delivery procedures in order to increase participation among those hesitant to take part in a welfare-based program. Without making a final judgement concerning these changes, recommendations to consider include:

- The state should allow, and program operators should use, various methods of application and forms of payment designed to meet local conditions.
- Method of application—alternatives include straight mail-in forms, forms provided in fuel/utility bills and through income tax returns and/or property tax relief (Goldenrod) forms.
- Form of assistance—the basic options include existing in-kind benefits (vendor payments) or direct cash payments to participants.

**3) Major Conceptual Changes in Program Design:** These policy options encompass the overall concept of energy assistance, and address more directly the policy goal of assuring lower income consumers an adequate supply of energy for future needs. Major options include:

- Utility rate structures—income sensitive rates;
- A combination of utility rates, credit and shut-off policies, and direct assistance; and

● Income tax rebates.

The programmatic changes suggested in this report call for a trade-off between the need for simpler administration and the need for adequate program coverage, between the level of assistance provided pitted against the need for energy conservation and other factors. It is the opinion of UCM that such trade-offs are possible.

The most desirable concept for energy assistance has yet to be achieved in a program delivered almost solely on the 'welfare model' of energy assistance. However, there is room for innovative program design in response to what currently exists in the metropolitan area energy assistance programs.

For a copy of a summary of the report or additional information, contact Michael Cohen or Steve Cramer at 348-8550.

(Continued from Pg. 2)

**Minority, Disadvantaged Students** and their families are: the Urban Coalition, the Minneapolis American Indian Center, the Urban League, the New Way Community Center, Heart of the Earth Survival School, Centro Cultural Chicano, and Zion Baptist Church.

Seniors at North and South High Schools who are interested in participating in the project should contact their high school counselor or one of the participating organizations.

(Continued from pg. 1)

**Minority Representation at State**

The Coalition's 1980 survey looked at the following variables: job classification, including managerial/professional/clerical, civil service status, and salary level. Comparisons between survey years were made and statistical significance between race and the other variables was tested.

**—DATA BRIEFS—**

**Women have come a long way but...The decline in poverty since 1967 has been almost wholly within male-headed families. The poverty rate in female-headed families dropped only 5% between 1967 and 1977, while that for male-headed families dropped by about 37%.**

**Women are even more heavily over-concentrated among the poorest of the poor—those whose income is less than half the official poverty level. In 1977, a child in male-headed families had about one chance in 40 of being that poor. A child in a female-headed family had about one chance in six.**

**The faster decline in poverty among men has meant that the inequality in life-chances between men and women has grown strikingly in only ten years. In 1967, a woman heading a family was about 3.8 times as likely to be poor as a man heading one. By 1977, after more than a decade of anti-discrimination efforts, she was about 5.7 times as likely to be poor.**

**Among Black families, the degree of inequality between the sexes is less, since the poverty rate among Black men is so high, but the pace at which the sexual inequality has increased is even faster. In 1967 a Black woman heading a family was 2.2 times as likely, and in 1977 3.8 times as likely, to be poor as a Black man heading a family.**

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**IMPACT**

Impact is a monthly publication of the Urban Coalition of Minneapolis. Editors, Margaret Simmons & Luanne Nyberg.

We welcome your comments.



"The Urban Coalition of Minneapolis is a private, nonprofit organization established in 1968 to deal with issues of concern to non-white and poor people. Our newsletter, IMPACT, is designed to keep the community informed on issues targeted for action by our organization and to encourage participation in resolving problems of concern to the community."

## CETA Trainees Realize Goals Through UCM Weatherization Program



Sharing in success story are: top row, (l-r), Bill Dudley, former director, MCAA; Al Lopez, former director, UCM Program; Herman Ashford. Bottom row, (l-r), Paul Armstrong; George Monroe, PSE Coordinator; Donna Harris, director, Federal Employment Training Program; Clinton Harris; Frank Jackson; associate director, UCM Program; Don Peterson, and Walt Dziedzic, city alderman.

The measure of success of any work program is often measured in terms of its ability to provide a decent salary, good working conditions, meaningful employment and upward mobility. For Herman Ashford, Clinton Harris, Don Peterson and Paul Armstrong, the Urban Coalition's Weatherization Program has provided these essentials. These men are the key characters in a major achievement of the program—the promotion of carpenter apprentices all former CETA trainees, to journeyman carpenter positions.

The four men are excited over their new careers. Paul Armstrong, formerly of Philadelphia, Pa., stated that he "appreciated the chance to gain a marketable skill." Clinton Harris, a Beaumont, Texas native, believes that this opportunity is "fantastic" and is "happy to have been in the right place at the right time doing the right thing." Don Peterson, from Minneapolis, sees this promotion as a personal victory, and "enjoys helping to promote comfortable homes for the needy." Herman Ashford was not available for comment.

Historically, attempts to combine the efforts of unions, management, funding sources and local government have produced many goals. All too often these goals appear to be both contradictory and complementary.

The UCM Weatherization Program began as a typical example of that process with a significant difference. All the parties involved were determined not to allow narrow interests to interfere with the overall success of the program. The achievements of these four individuals is symbolic of this determination.

At the onset there were a number of separate interests to be served by the UCM Weatherization Program, including the carpenter's union, CETA and the City of Minneapolis. The carpenter's union was concerned that the crews would be union members and afforded union training/certification and wages. The CETA personnel were concerned about the availability of career training and opportunities to those persons identified as

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## President's Perspective : (Initiative & Referendum)

The civil rights, economic and social welfare of poor and racial minorities in Minnesota are in jeopardy with the possible passage of initiative and referendum in the State Legislature. Current policies affecting affirmative action, low-income housing, taxes and employment, Indian land and water rights, to name a few, would not be guaranteed protection. They could conceivably be wiped out or seriously altered by any initiative or referendum proposal.

Initiative would enable the general public to write laws and through petition, have them placed before the voters for approval or rejection, while referendum would enable voters to approve or reject a bill enacted by the legislature.

Under the guise of being a forum for the voice of "the people," initiative and referendum could prove extremely destructive and devious. However, passage of this bill by the Minnesota Legislature appears imminent, because it is interpreted to be the "popular and political" thing to do.

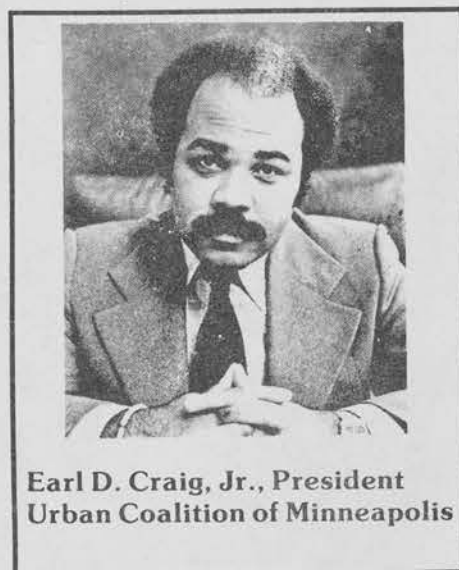
Careful examination of the initiative and referendum process would make passage neither popular nor beneficial for the poor and racial minorities. This

is true for several reasons, 1.) The initiative and referendum process is ideal for groups with money, organizational ability and political know-how. Nine out of the ten initiatives which passed in California had more financial backing than opponents. Most of the poor, Blacks, Indians and Chicanos in Minnesota would again be left out because of their economic status. 2.) The chances are extremely slim that an initiative begun by minorities will have much chance for passage in this state. Population percentages are clearly not in their favor. While the reverse is true for the white population. 3.) Simplistic solutions to complex or technical issues will be presented to the advantage of those fully informed on the issues and to the disadvantage of those who are not.

The existing legislative system, though not perfect, works better for the poor and racial minorities—authors of bills are known and are much more accessible than would be true under initiative and referendum; more deliberation is conducted and public hearings are held before passage of a bill. This would not be true under initiative and referendum.

The idea of initiative and referendum is frightening, the repercussions are many. Those of you concerned about the possibility of initiative and referendum being instituted in Minnesota should contact your Senator or Representative and voice that concern. The decision regarding initiative and referendum will be made within the next week or two. You can make a difference.

Feel free to contact the Urban Coalition at 348-8550 for more information on this important issue.



Earl D. Craig, Jr., President  
Urban Coalition of Minneapolis

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Affirmative Action/Education Bill Defeated Fate of Others Undecided

#### Alteration of Pupil Fair Dismissal Act

A bill (H. F. 959) giving teachers the right to remove a student from class for up to three days without holding hearings ran into strong opposition before the House Education Committee. It would substantially alter the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act.

Kambon Camara, representing the Education Committee of the UCM, testified against the bill which removes due process protections from the student and parent, usurps the principal's authority and places the authority and discretion totally upon the teacher. The Urban Coalition's testimony included evidence

of the already disproportionate number of non-white youth who are out-of-school and pointed out the potential abuses inherent in allowing teachers such latitude.

Other groups testifying against the bill included the State Department of Education, Minnesota School Boards Association, the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals, the Minnesota Association of Elementary School Principals and the Association of Metropolitan School Districts. The bill is supported by the Minnesota Federation of Teachers but not by the Minnesota Education Association, the state's largest

teacher organization.

A parallel bill (S. F. 1130) has been introduced in the Senate where it has run up against the same opposition. It is likely that neither bill will be passed but instead a legislative conference including Urban Coalition participation will be held this summer to focus on the issue of discipline in the schools.

#### Affirmative Action -- Education

In other legislative activity, the UCM was orchestrating support behind bills introduced in the House by Representative Ken Nelson, DFL-Minneapolis, to allow local districts to retain minority teachers over seniority considerations. (H. F. 420)

## State's Role in Employment theme of March 26 Workshop

**The Role of State Government in Employment** is the theme of an employment workshop co-sponsored by the Urban Coalition of Minneapolis, the Community Planning Organization of St. Paul and the National Urban Coalition of Washington, D. C. The workshop will be held March 26, 1980, at the College of St. Thomas, Murray Hall, beginning at 12:00 noon with a luncheon. The luncheon will cost \$6.00. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Patrick Babcock, Director of the Department of Labor, State of Michigan. Other participants are Earl D. Craig, Jr., President of the Urban Coalition of Minneapolis; Rolf Middleton, Commissioner of the Department of

Economic Security, State of Minnesota; The Honorable Don Fraser, Mayor of the City of Minneapolis; The Honorable George Latimer, Mayor of the City of St. Paul. They will address issues on the role of state government in employment.

The workshop is being held because of the Coalitions' concern over the state government's attitude in addressing state employment issues. As stated in our previous newsletter, statistically in Minnesota we enjoy a relatively low unemployment rate (hovering around 3.5%). However, it is our contention that there are pockets of high unemployment in the state, particularly among adult minorities and

minority youth.

A recent study by the Community Planning Organization of employment programs in St. Paul reinforces our contention of high unemployment rates in the Metropolitan area. Their estimation of 13% among minorities in St. Paul alone, which is over three times the state figure, is cause for alarm. We will attempt to determine what the role of State Government is today and what it should be tomorrow.

Those individuals and organizations concerned over the unemployment rate in Minnesota should plan on attending this workshop. Call Dennis Dorgan, 291-7848, for pre-registration information.

## UCM 1980 Legislative Activity Update

(continued from page 2)

was the preferable bill in that it would allow districts to retain teachers with less seniority in order to achieve affirmative action goals. (H. F. 2016), on the other hand, would leave the issue of affirmative action superceding seniority as a negotiable item during the collective bargaining process. The Urban Coalition is strongly in favor of (H. F. 420) but was also in support of (H. F. 2016) in the belief that something must be done to make some progress towards achieving an appropriate balance between minority staff and students. (H. F. 420) was not heard and (H. F. 2016) was defeated by a 22-8-1 vote. Supporting the bills were Representatives Ken Nelson and Todd Otis.

#### 60% Vote to Raise Taxes

This is Governor Quie's Constitutional Amendment change which would require that taxes be raised only upon a 60% vote of each house of the legislature. The bill (H. F. 1079) has been heard in the House Tax Committee's Tax Division 1 subcommittee. It was not favorably received by the subcommittee because (a) not enough research on its potential impact was done, and (b) there were several

language definition problems uncovered. The bill was tabled pending clarification of language definitions. There has been no hearing date set for the Senate companion bill (S. F. 990) in the Senate Tax Committee. The Coalition opposes this bill.

#### Constitutional Convention to Balance Federal Budget

This bill (H. F. 43, S. F. 279) would have the State of Minnesota petition the United States Congress to call a constitutional convention for the purpose of balancing the Federal Budget. It was heard in the House Judiciary Committee and defeated. The bill has yet to be given a hearing in the Senate Rules Committee. The Coalition opposes this bill.

#### State Spending Limit

This is another of Governor Quie's Constitutional Amendments. The bill (H. F. 1099, S. F. 1123) is advocating that the State budget not be increased more than the average growth in Minnesota's personal income. No hearings have been set in either the House or the Senate on this bill. The Coalition also opposes this bill.

#### Initiative and Referendum

This bill (H. F. 2304, S. F. 1018) is also part of Governor Quie's Constitutional Amendment proposals. Initiative is the process by which, through petition, the general public may write laws for submission to the voters. Referendum is the process by which, through petition and popular vote, voters may approve or reject a measure already passed by the legislature. The Governor is proposing a direct method of initiative and referendum which means those measures accepted by

the voters would be enacted without input from the legislature. Hearings have been going on on this bill since January before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Recently hearings were held before the House's General Legislation & Veterans' Affairs Committee. The House voted to accept Representative Raymond Kempe's version of the bill. This bill would make initiative and referendum indirect (the legislature could alter or reject a proposed measure before submission to the voters) and advisory in nature. The Coalition is strongly opposed to any method of initiative and referendum. (see President's Perspective column).



## Weatherization (continued from page 1)

unemployed for at least 15 weeks or substantially underemployed. The City of Minneapolis (city council and Minneapolis Community Action Agency) was concerned about both the CETA potential as well as the provision of weatherization services to residents of the city who were below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines. And the Urban Coalition was interested in all of the above with a special emphasis on a model to employ the so-called "hard-core structurally unemployed" in our energy conservation/weatherization effort.

It was no easy task to blend such seemingly complementary objectives into a viable mechanism which would ensure the realization of each goal. CETA trainees are thought to be the last trainable by many and the least retainable in the job market. The unions were equally famous for not having any significant number of minorities who were either skilled journeymen or with the necessary ability to work well with CETA trainees.

The question of production — how many poor people would we actually help to weatherize their homes — was no small problem either, especially when one had to consider the small amount of money available. The overwhelming amount of the funds was and still is materials. This was set by the federal government in spite of the fact that labor costs are almost always DOUBLE the cost of materials! Despite all of these obstacles, the determined efforts of these four men overcame them all to succeed.

Sharing in this success story because of their determination to see the program succeed also are the Minneapolis City Council, especially Alderman Walt Dziedzic; Ms. Donna Harris, CETA Director; Mr. William Dudley, former MCAA

Director; Mr. Al Lopez and Mr. Frank Jackson, former UCM Weatherization Director and Associate Director, respectively; Mr. Earl D. Craig, Jr., UCM President; and the supportive staff of each organization.

Current weatherization program changes also include carpenter apprentices, Dave Isais, Jack Bethke, Terry White, Jerome Pike, Aaron Bynum, Alonzo Cooper and Paul Troreke attaining the status of indentured carpenter apprentices. This means that seven men (2 Hispanic, 3 Black 1 Indian and 1

White) are now in the mainstream of the Carpenter's Union Apprenticeship Program. All of these men deserve congratulations.

The UCM Weatherization Program is currently operating out of its new location in the former Bryant Junior High Building, 3737-3rd Ave. South, which has been converted into a southside comprehensive service center by Sabathani Community Center. Those interested in more information on the Weatherization Program should call 827-5465 or 827-5103.

### APRIL 1st CENSUS DAY

## Revenue, Social Services Depends on Accurate Census Count

Census day is approaching fast. The Urban Coalition of Minneapolis encourages its constituency (low-income, American Indian, Black and Hispanic communities) to fill out the questionnaires and return them to the Census Bureau by April 1st. Funding for economic aid and social services is directly determined by the census count. No one can benefit by not being counted.

The census is strictly confidential. Personal information about individual households is not released by the Census Bureau. Names and addresses on census questionnaires do not go into government computers. Social Security numbers are not requested on census questionnaires. By law, NO ONE, can obtain personal information about you or your household from the Census Bureau ... for any purpose. This includes the Welfare Office (AFDC, GA, Food Stamps), IRS, BIA, Immigration,

Selective Service, the Police, FBI, Social Security, and the courts.

One out of every six City households will receive a long questionnaire which has 65 questions and takes about 45 minutes to complete. The short questionnaire has 19 questions and only takes about 20 minutes to answer. Questionnaires in Spanish are available from the Census Bureau upon request. If you have any questions call the Census Bureau at 340-9999.

Census jobs are still available; clerks and enumerators are needed. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to earn money while helping your community. As of March 5, 1980, 24 Blacks, 5 American Indians and 3 Hispanics have been hired. We need to increase that number. Testing and interviews are conducted during evening as well as daytime hours. Call Ella Gross 340-9993 for information.

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#### IMPACT

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