

Inst. of Ind. Rel.

IR newsletter

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January 4, 1968

Date: Tuesday, January 16, 1968

Time: 6:00 P.M. - No Host Cocktails

7:00 P.M. - Dinner - \$3.75

8:00 P.M. - Speaker

Place: THE BOARDROOM RESTAURANT
3361 West 8th Street
Los Angeles, California

Speaker: James D. Hodgson

Subject: THE NO-LONGER-SO-BLUE-COLLAR WORKER

Please make reservations by calling Rita Sann at 272-8911, ext. 2425. If you are unable to attend the dinner, you and your friends are welcome to come and hear Jim Hodgson's address at 8:00 P.M.

NEWS BRIEF
ON SPEAKER
FOR
JANUARY

Mr. Hodgson was born and raised in Minnesota and graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1938. After graduate work at that University and at UCLA, he joined Lockheed where he holds the position of Corporate Director of Industrial Relations since 1962. Mr. Hodgson, who is a member of many professional industrial relations and business associations, was among the first twenty Institute certificate holders and among the first group of officers of the Alumni Association.

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JAN 8 1968

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY

PAST Paul Bullock -Fighting Poverty: The View from Watts

PROGRAMS It appears that the only ones never designated as
"experts" on poverty these days are the poor themselves.

The researchers, the academicians, the social workers, the bureaucrats, and many others are getting poverty grants to study, analyze, arrange and attend conferences, and perform the various rituals which allow us to present the appearance of action without sticking our collective necks out to do anything bold or innovative. One possible solution to the problem of poverty is to label poor people as official "experts," thereby authorizing them to participate in conferences, acquire access to expense accounts and fees, and enjoy the other benefits which now go exclusively to persons who live in Westwood, Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Glendale, and the San Fernando Valley. It is even possible that poor people might know something about poverty and its origins and effects, and might contribute something to an understanding of the problem.

The unpleasant truth is that most institutions in our society, whether public or private, retain their traditional and accustomed procedures regardless of the needs of the unemployed or underemployed. We have endless varieties of "special" programs grafted onto an otherwise inflexible bureaucratic structure. Let us take the typical case of a 19-year-old Watts kid who seeks to enroll in the Neighborhood Youth Corps which now pays \$1.40 an hour for 32 hours a week for an out-of-school youngster under 21. Incredible as it may seem, it takes 10 separate visits to various offices throughout the entire Los Angeles area before he actually gets a job with an NYC project sponsored by the City of Los Angeles and funded by the federal government.

In the case of my young friend, who desperately needs work because his mother is supporting a family of six people on a welfare allowance of \$220 a month, he was compelled to make two separate visits to a Youth Opportunity Center near Watts for the completion of financial statements, subsequent visits to three different buildings in and around downtown Los Angeles for further applications and interviews, four additional trips to a downtown Los Angeles building for "orientation" sessions largely devoted to propaganda for the city administration, and a long 20-mile journey to an East Los Angeles clinic for a medical examination even though he had taken a comprehensive selective service physical just two weeks before. The expenses of these trips would normally have been borne by his already impoverished mother.

A great many young people in Watts are cynical about the worth of the various programs offered to them, and the stupid bureaucratic routine to which they are exposed only feeds their cynicism. Despite all the conferences and publicity, it is still the exceptional firm or agency which will relax its traditional requirements and procedures sufficiently to serve the needs of "hard core" jobseekers from the Watts area. The youngster with a police record, a "natural" hairdo, and an inadequate education is "referred" from one counselor to another, from one office to another, and from one program to another until he gets the idea that this is all one gigantic "hustle," with some bureaucrat getting the gravy. In too many cases, his analysis is uncomfortably close to the truth.

It will take massive programs to meet this problem in ghettos like Watts, far in excess of anything undertaken so far. On a national scale, it would require something akin to the 10-year 185-billion-dollar Freedom Budget to provide the framework for a solution. But one critical point should be kept in mind: our efforts would be abortive if we merely give the orthodox agencies and administrators more millions to spend in traditional ways. Success in an antipoverty program demands risk-taking, and this is precisely what most of our existing bureaucracies avoid.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Occupation _____
Address _____ Employer's Name _____
_____ Address _____
Home Phone _____
Phone _____ ext. _____

I hereby apply for membership in the Industrial Relations Alumni Association. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$5.00 payable to the Industrial Relations Alumni Association.

Signed _____ Date _____

Please clip and mail to Rita Sann, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California, Los Angeles, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles 90024, California.