

BARODA, INDIA, CHOSEN FOR URBAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

JULIA AND HARRY ABRAHAMSON have been appointed directors of the new AFSC program in Baroda, and are already in India organizing the project. With them is a third AFSC appointee, William J. Cousins, who will serve as director of community services.

Central, state, and municipal government officials have welcomed the new program which is said to come to India at an opportune time. Currently, the national government is itself establishing pilot urban community development projects throughout India, and it is hoped that the AFSC program will help to establish procedures and set standards for this entire effort. The municipality of Baroda itself has agreed to continue the work when the AFSC finds it appropriate to withdraw.

The Baroda program will involve work in different types of urban areas. It is possible that the plan as finally developed will include: (a) a slum area of heterogeneous population and occupation; (b) a slum area of Harijans (untouchables); (c) a declining middle-class area of mixed business and residential use; and (d) a new residential area developed as a result of industrialization. In each area the

specific program will be developed in accordance with the needs and initiative of the people.

Harry Abrahamson, appointed as executive director, was president and general manager of Celo Laboratories, a pharmaceutical cooperative in Celo, North Carolina. A chemical engineer, Harry Abrahamson has had extensive experience both in business and in consumer cooperatives. From 1945 to 1947 he was in charge of a Friends Service Unit in India.

Staff Experience Is Cited

His wife, Julia Abrahamson, program director of the new project, has been a lecturer and writer in the field of community development. She was one of the founders and executive director of the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference in Chicago, and is the author of a book on the experiment, *A Neighborhood Finds Itself*, published by Harper Brothers in 1959.

The third AFSC appointee, William J. Cousins, had been director of the

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Paul Buck

An interracial team of four young men and women traveled this summer on the Playmobile Project to migrant labor camps near Wilmington, Delaware. Visiting two camps daily, participants conducted educational and recreational programs for the migrants' children, most of whom remained in camp while their families worked in the fields. Participants benefited by an educational program on the migrants' problems.

QUAKER
Service

Bulletin of AMERICAN FRIENDS
SERVICE COMMITTEE

WINTER 1964

NEW JERSEY PROJECT AIDS POVERTY VICTIMS

A PROJECT designed to meet some of the economic, educational, and housing needs of disadvantaged rural residents in southern New Jersey as well as to ease tension provoked by the situation has been undertaken by the Service Committee through its Middle Atlantic Regional Office.

The New Jersey office of the Farmers Home Administration and local citizens of the area have urged the Committee to conduct a community development program there patterned after its own work with seasonal farm laborers elsewhere.

Earlier this year, The Farmers Home Administration began a self-help housing project in Cumberland County, N. J. The FHA has assumed full responsibility for the project itself, which is modeled on AFSC's experiment in Tulare County, California. AFSC's initial role will include working with the families selected for this project, encouraging other families to consider applying for FHA self-help housing loans, and assisting newly housed families to become integrated into this community. The program is designed to achieve participation of the residents of the area in decisions which affect their future and to involve Federal, state, and private agencies, as well as other civic resources, in long-range programs to meet the needs of the people.

Area Economy Is Unstable

Although the area is attempting to diversify its predominantly agricultural and food processing economy, unemployment is very high and underemployment a major problem. For the state as a whole 17% of all rural families have an income of less than \$3,000. Other indications are that

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"... no society is an island"

*Philadelphia, Pa.
December, 1964*

Dear Friends,

There is talk of "The Great Society," and I find it good. We are all aware that grandiloquent phrases are easy to come by, but that they may be void of significant content. America is already a great society, with immense achievements of body, mind, and spirit to its credit. Yet part of our greatness must always lie in a clear-eyed appraisal of the distance we are from the fulfilment of our dream, lest satisfaction with what we are blind us to what we can be.

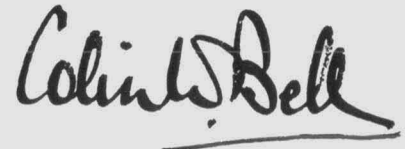
It is the task of the Service Committee to try to add our own measure of content to the concept of "The Great Society." In this bulletin there are glimpses of small efforts to match word with deed. Two of them operate wholly in our domestic scene—the provision of opportunities for young people in one of our greatest cities, and of hope for economically depressed Americans in conditions of severe rural poverty. One announces the start of an adventure of faith in one of India's teeming cities. A fourth deals with our relations with people throughout the world who want to become Americans.

All these glimpses, even those in far places, are relevant to the idea of a Great Society, for in today's world no society is an island. We are shaping and being

shaped by mankind, and if we fail to grasp that fact our own plans will go awry. This is why the Service Committee will at the turn of the year strengthen our staff at the United Nations by the addition of a member whose main task will be to feed back into America the knowledge and understanding of the United Nations and the need it has for our wholehearted support.

President Johnson, in his speech at the University of Michigan in May, talked of the things which lay beyond riches and power—the enrichment of the mind, the uses of leisure, "the desire for beauty and the hunger for community." These are part of our aspiration, but they are also the goal of men everywhere, many of whom know nothing of the delights and temptations which flow from the possession of riches and power. So there is no way in which we can achieve a truly great society unless we are members in good standing of "The Greater Society" which is the world. That still vaster vision calls, as does our own, for the courage to dream and then the will to work.

Yours sincerely,



Executive Secretary

CHICAGO PROGRAM COMBATS CULTURAL ISOLATION

THE Youth Opportunities Program of the Chicago Regional Office, headed by Anthony Henry, former Voluntary International Service Assignments volunteer, continues in its second year of programs aimed at bringing together children, 9 to 13 years of age, from different racial, economic, and cultural backgrounds. Designed to lift participants out of their cultural isolation, activities include art and drama classes, and visits to museums, concerts, private homes, and farms.

A new trend is the limitation of groups to four members, consisting of two Negro children from a disadvantaged area and two children of another race or background from elsewhere in the city. Smaller groups allow children the opportunity for a deeper relationship with their leaders and with each other. Leaders are adult volunteers and commit themselves for three to five months of service with their respective

groups. According to the educational background of the leader, he develops a program around a particular subject, such as art, music, physics, or nature lore to channel the children's interest in a specific direction.

Although the Y.O.P. was moved in October from the downtown AFSC office to the more appropriate setting of the AFSC's Project House in East Garfield Park, children are meeting oftener in their families' homes. Another sign of the growing interest of local parents in Y.O.P. is their voluntary formation of the Parents' Advisory Board which sponsors program activities involving a wider neighborhood participation. Some parents have been drawn to other AFSC programs through their board membership.

White middle-class and Negro participants of different economic backgrounds are benefiting equally through

working together. To interpret the mutual advantage of this relationship in programs, work parties are no longer limited to depressed areas but are also held in suburbs where residents are of a higher income bracket and of varied religious and nationality backgrounds. Volunteer leaders living in these neighborhoods invite their neighbors to help entertain the children in their homes, again widening community interest.

Involvement of a variety of nationality and racial groups has led to plans for future contact with young people abroad. Children participating in Y.O.P. have been American Indian, Chinese, Mexican, Negro, Puerto Rican, and whites from Chicago and from southern states. They attended Chinese New Year celebrations; the "Snow White" ballet; "Black Nativity," a Broadway musical; the opera, "Cosi Fan Tutti"; a folk festival; and the Chicago Art Fair.

IMMIGRATION VIEWS TOLD TO CONGRESS

RICHARD F. SMITH, director of the United States Refugee Program of the AFSC, testified in Washington last August in support of changes in our present immigration laws.

Representing both the AFSC and the Friends Committee on National Legislation, Richard Smith spoke before the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Nationality in support of H. R. 7700, an administration backed bill to eliminate the National Origins Quota System and establish a permanent program for the admission of refugees.

"Our two Committees do not claim to speak for all Friends," Richard Smith said. "Nevertheless, Friends have a long and continuing record of concern for the dispossessed and uprooted."

Richard Smith based his testimony largely on the experience of the American Friends Service Committee in helping to resettle 880 of the 16,000 Dutch-Indonesian refugees brought to the United States in the last six years.

These people, he pointed out, would never have been admitted under the National Origins Quota System. If born in Indonesia they would have been subject to a quota of 200; if born in The Netherlands they would have been referred to the Asia-Pacific Triangle Quota of 100 because of their racial background.

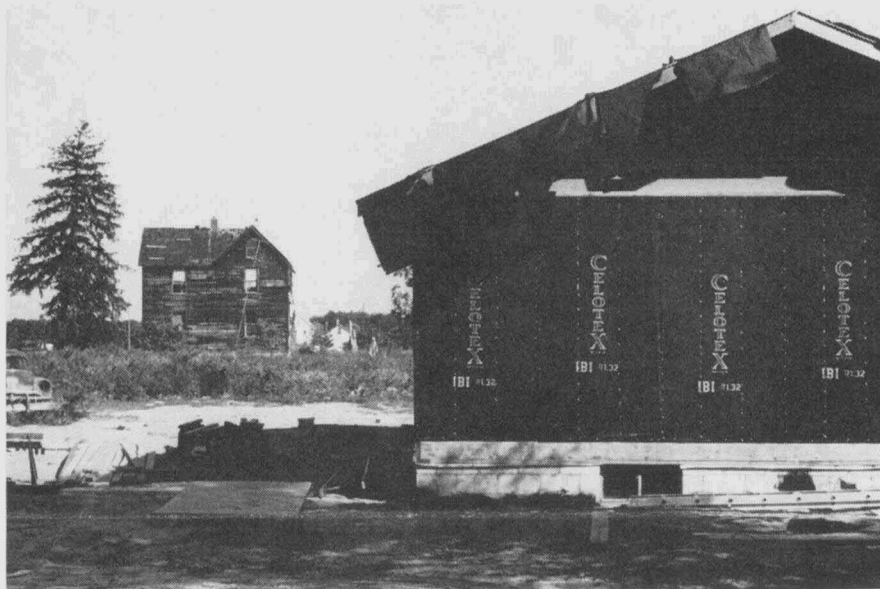
Since both these quotas were exhausted they came under special refugee legislation enacted in the late 1950's.

"Actually, the United States, under special directives and legislation, has permitted the entry of 725,000 refugees since 1946," Richard Smith testified.

According to the results of a questionnaire sent by the AFSC to 118 sponsors of Dutch-Indonesian families throughout the country, these people had little trouble finding employment and they adjusted rapidly.

"By literally opening their doors, American sponsors have once again demonstrated the American tradition of freedom and opportunity and faith in the individual," Richard Smith told the Subcommittee.

"We urge the adoption of more pos-



Paul Buck

One phase of AFSC work in Southern New Jersey will be to encourage wider participation in the federal government's Self-Help Housing Program already under way there.

Anti-Poverty Work Begun

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42% of nonwhite families receive less than \$3,000 per year in Glassboro; in Vineland 37%; and in Bridgeton 34%. In Bridgeton, a city of 22,000 people, 19.1% of the total population makes less than \$3,000 a year. For the area, the percentages by county of the families earning less than this amount a year are as follows: Gloucester 13.4%, Salem 16.3%, Cumberland 19.4%, Atlantic 23.0%, and Cape May 26.0%. The state average is 11.4%. All five counties are low in educational attainment, with Cumberland the lowest in the state.

A by-product of the poverty under which these individuals and families live is the attitude of hopelessness and despair which isolates them even

further from the communities in which they live. Hostility and suspicion follow isolation, and tension mounts, heightened by racial differences.

To the extent that the program is successful in improving economic, educational, and social conditions, migration from the area will diminish.

It is hoped that the program will be a pilot project relevant to other "poverty" areas.

The new federal "poverty" legislation provides assistance to rural communities if a comprehensive plan to meet the needs of the poor is prepared by a representative community group. One of the problems today is that these "hidden poor" have no spokesman, no channels of direct representation. The New Jersey situation, representative as it is of pockets of rural poverty near industrial areas, provides the opportunity for developing techniques by which local participation and planning may be facilitated.

Rupert M. Stanley, a skilled community worker, has been appointed as director of this program. During his first year, he will try to develop approaches to problems of seasonal unemployment, inadequate vocational training, and community tensions. Later, more staff may be added with skills needed in the specific activities.

itive immigration legislation in recognition of this fact, for we agree with President Johnson that the National Origins Quota System is 'utterly unworthy of our traditions and our ideals.' It negates one of our most precious principles—support for equality of opportunity. Therefore we urge its elimination."

India Project Chosen

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Peace Corps in Iran before accepting his present assignment. From 1958 to 1962 he worked for the United States International Cooperation Agency and the U. S. Agency for International Development, in Indian community development. His previous AFSC experience includes a three-year assignment as director of the international seminar program in India and Pakistan. He holds his Ph.D. from Yale University in the field of sociology.

A fourth American will be appointed to serve as consultant on research and evaluation, to work alongside a full-time Indian research director. Plans call for a base line study, plus evaluation after a set period, in each of the four areas selected for projects.

A definition of community development evolved by the Abrahamsons has been widely used by the Indian government in the shaping of its own urban community development program. The quote reads as follows:

"The goal of urban community development is to encourage the growth of people toward dignity, self-reliance, and competence; to motivate people to want to improve the conditions of their lives; to develop a sense of community in which neighbors recognize common problems and work together as responsible, self-respecting members of society to solve them. In this process they learn to cooperate with their government and voluntary agencies in improving the social, economic, and cultural conditions of their neighborhoods and the nation."

FAIR HOUSING HANDBOOK PUBLISHED

A HANDBOOK for fair housing groups was recently published under the joint sponsorship of the American Friends Service Committee and the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing.

The manual is designed specifically as a program guide for grass-roots workers for residential integration. It includes step-by-step suggestions on how to organize a local fair housing committee; how to plan and carry forward a program to achieve inclusive neighborhoods; how to locate available housing; how to make contact with minority-group homeseekers; and how to conduct community relations programs to prepare for the acceptance of nonwhite families. Guidelines are provided for programs to prevent panic selling and to sustain an integrated pattern once it is established.

The two organizations report that during the last five years between 400 and 500 voluntary fair housing groups have sprung up in neighborhoods in 25 states, the vast majority having formed in all-white suburban communities. This number does not take into account the hundreds of local chapters of religious, civil rights, labor, and other long-established national organizations which are working for fair housing practices.

In several metropolitan areas, the American Friends Service Committee has provided professional staff to assist local groups in organizing and carrying out their programs.

The manual is priced at 50¢ a copy. Quantities of 100 or more are avail-

able at 35¢ each. ORDERS SHOULD BE SENT TO: National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing, 323 Lexington Ave., New York, New York, 10017.

PAKISTAN FILM NEARS COMPLETION

A FILM, *Seeds of Tomorrow*, tracing the development and devolvment of the Friends Center in Dacca, East Pakistan, was previewed by the Social and Technical Assistance committee of the AFSC last month.

The film was prepared by Robert Worth, a long-time friend of the Service Committee, in cooperation with members of Information Service. Robert and Edith Worth visited the Dacca Center in the early months of 1963 and photographed the sequences from which the film was prepared.

Seeds of Tomorrow reviews the program of the Center, and describes the process by which neighborhood groups took over responsibility for the various Center activities. As a documentary of this devolvment, the film will be useful for some time to come.

Since the filming of *Seeds of Tomorrow*, the Dacca Center has become entirely independent of AFSC-FSC administration. Bernhard and Pamela Klausener, its former directors, are now in West Pakistan exploring sites for a new community development program.

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