



Youth in service

Youth Service Opportunities volunteers begin school construction in Mexico

Three and a half months after the arrival of our Youth Service Opportunities (YSO) unit in Xoconostle, Mexico, construction began on the town's new 10-room school. Excitement reached a climax when "... the town pitched in with over 100 men plus help from the men in the unit and made the dirt fly."

YSO Mexico is administered by Nancy Duryee, director of the AFSC's Latin America program. It includes young men and women between the ages of 18 and 20. Five of the volunteers are conscientious objectors fulfilling alternative service requirements.

The men in the unit now spend three days a week working on Xoconostle's school. The old school has only four rooms and is not large enough to hold all of the children in the village.

But when the volunteers first moved into Xoconostle, things were not so exciting. They found that the buildings they were supposed to occupy were merely shells of old houses, which needed a great deal of work.

Upon returning to Philadelphia after visiting the unit in March, Marthalyn Dickson, director of the YSO program, reported that cement floors were poured, asbestos roofs and kitchen facilities were constructed, walls were plastered and painted, and latrines were dug and cemented. They even made a shower using a large can with holes in the bottom, held up by a rope.

A familiar sight caught her eye in Xoconostle—a Pepsi-Cola truck. The driver parked in the village square and

turned on a record player, filling the valley with Spanish music. Immediately at least fifty children were clamoring around the truck, each hoping to get a free Pepsi.

The first project to get underway was a kindergarten for the village children. After an interested villager lent a house to the group to use for the kindergarten, the women in the unit got right to work

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AFSC Vietnam programs: one ended, one restarted

When the smoke cleared from the Tet offensive of the National Liberation Front, the AFSC workers in Vietnam knew their situation had changed.

The tactics of widespread destruction used by the U.S. military and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam against hamlets suspected of harboring the NLF had been transferred to the cities of South Vietnam. Our workers had seen large areas bombed, shelled and strafed until they were a sea of fire. Sometimes the inhabitants were able to get out, sometimes not.

A near miss

Our workers were lucky. Several were pinned down for days by the fighting. Some were overrun by the NLF. In the Quaker rehabilitation center in the Quang Ngai hospital compound, a worker who had stayed to watch over the center got out of bed to watch a flareup of fighting. When he returned, he found a shell fragment weighing more than a pound had passed through the spot where he had been sleeping. But no one was hit and all but one were able to rejoin their team. Dr. Marjorie Nelson, of the Quang Ngai staff, was taken prisoner in Hue, where she was visiting a friend. She has since been released by the NLF.

During this period one of the young people working under Vietnamese supervision in the program called Voluntary International Service Assignments had a particularly disturbing experience. He was turned away by Vietnamese when he sought shelter under fire. The meaning of this was clear: the Vietnamese did not want to be

caught with Americans by the NLF. Because of this evidence that our volunteers were endangering the people they worked with, and because of the increased risk to our staff and difficulty of administration, the AFSC decided on March 7 to withdraw the VISA unit from Vietnam for an indefinite period. Ten volunteers had been working with Vietnamese agencies in Hue, Danang, Vung Tau, Pleiku and Saigon.

Plans are being made for several of the volunteers to make a speaking tour of the United States. Their intimate acquaintance with the lives, hopes and attitudes of the Vietnamese people makes them uniquely qualified to speak about the impact of the war. While the newspapers have reported the physical destruction, little has been said of the moral, spiritual and social destruction. Nor has there been much recognition that the destruction of towns and parts of cities has greatly increased anti-Americanism and decreased support of the Saigon government.

Workers return

At Quang Ngai it was necessary to withdraw temporarily because of the break-down in communication, supplies and normal civilian life, but a party of workers has returned to help the Vietnamese director of the AFSC's Child Day Care Center start it up again. It is not clear how soon the situation will be stable enough to permit resumption of the therapy and rehabilitation program and the manufacture and fitting of artificial limbs. There were 55 Vietnamese and 19 non-Vietnamese staff members at Quang Ngai before Tet.

AFSC supports SCLC campaign, lends staff

Poor People's Campaign was started by Dr. King

The AFSC is working with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to carry on the Poor People's Campaign for Jobs and Income, begun by Dr. Martin Luther King. Anthony Henry, director of the Housing Section of the Metropolitan Chicago Program, has been released to serve as assistant to the director of the Campaign. The director is former AFSC staff member Bernard Lafayette. Money has also been provided to free Philip Buskirk to serve on SCLC's Research Committee. Other AFSC staff members are serving on SCLC committees and helping with the planning and interpretation of the campaign in various parts of the country.

Before his death, Dr. King said, "We have learned from hard and bitter experience in our movement that our government does not move to correct a problem involving race until it is confronted directly and dramatically. It required a Selma before the fundamental right to vote was written into the Federal statutes. It took a Birmingham before the government moved to open the doors of public accommodations to all human beings."

A new Selma

"What we now need is a new kind of Selma or Birmingham to dramatize the economic plight of the Negro, and compel the government to act... and so, we have decided to go to Washington and to use any means of legitimate nonviolent protest necessary to move our nation and our government on a new

course of social, economic and political reform."

The AFSC and the SCLC have worked together in the past in campaigns for school desegregation, open housing and civil rights. When he invited the AFSC's help, Dr. King said that he believed the two organizations were working in a common cause.

"We are pleased to lend our support to Dr. King's program," responded AFSC Executive Secretary Colin Bell. "We feel a clear sense of common cause with the SCLC in several areas. We seek to build the same kind of society, one that does violence to no man; one that recognizes the brotherhood of all men. There is no doubt that Dr. King is addressing himself to a sickness in our society, the symptoms of which are found everywhere from the war in Vietnam to hunger in Mississippi."

MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr.

• 1929-1968 •

A LETTER TO THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Dear Friends and Colleagues at SCLC:

Today our hearts are bowed low, because a great man is departed from among us. Martin Luther King bore the name of one who in a past age stood up for freedom, because, as he said, "Here I stand, I can do none other." In a speech of prophetic intensity Dr. King Wednesday night in Memphis spoke to his day and age of standing on the mountain top whereon he dedicated his life that men should come at last to the promised land. He had communed there with his God and knew beyond any peradventure what it was he had to do.

"Love does not make all things easy; it makes us choose what is difficult." Many years ago this strong young man chose the difficult path because he loved his people and was grieved at their condition, and because he longed to see his land redeem its noble promise. He was a patriot in the deepest sense of that word, and our history will be proud of him.

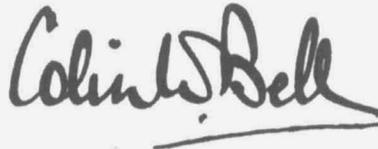
Martin Luther King was a man of peace. He believed in the very fiber of his being that the hearts of his compatriots must be touched and moved to action by the ways of nonviolence. He paid us all the compliment of expecting that we would respond in practical fashion to redress injustice and inequality. His absolute commitment to peaceful witness was often misunderstood or deliberately distorted. Yet for him nonviolence was not tactic, and he never yielded to outside pressure to turn from it. We can only guess what inner travail of spirit he suffered as the early promise of the great 1963 March on Washington turned to stagnation and lack of progress; as the vision of the Great Society faded before the violences of these past years; as war obsessed the national mind; as the hope of the poor was stifled. Like the Master whom he served, Martin Luther King grew impatient at the blindness and hardness of men's hearts, and it is the measure of his inner discipline that he never abandoned his hope or succumbed to the temptations of violence. At the same time he did not mute the clear and potent witness of his voice, or shrink from those public demonstrations which he deemed necessary to shake the nation's sloth and complacency.

The American Friends Service Committee, itself committed to nonviolence, treasures the contact we have had with Dr. King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. We were involved in a journey he took some years ago to India, to seek inspiration in Gandhi's homeland. We have marched and worked with him in the rural areas of the South and in the streets of northern cities. Recently we have conferred with him and with you, his colleagues, as he set his face toward Washington and made his plans to bring the cry of the very poor, of all races, to the ears of those in power. We have seen him grappling within himself, searching how best to bring the urgent plight of those sunk in poverty before his largely unheeding fellow citizens. We have joined wholeheartedly as an organization in active support of his efforts.

The world has honored Martin Luther King with the Nobel Peace Prize. How shall we Americans now pay our tribute to this distinguished son of our nation? Swift action to right the wrongs he made us confront and to remove our shame is the only fitting memorial to him, and the only real comfort we can offer to his wife and children in their grief, and to the men and women who have worked with him through sacrificial and frustrating years. We rededicate ourselves to this task and we shall call on the nation to deploy resources of mind and money on a scale and with a determination equal to the need and to Martin Luther King's hope.

Emerson has reminded us that "here and there a great unselfish soul forgets himself into immortality." Martin Luther King was one such.

But we will not forget.



COLIN W. BELL

for the American Friends Service Committee

Lotspeich withdraws; Cary named acting executive of AFSC

Dr. William Lotspeich, executive secretary designate of the AFSC, has asked to be released from his appointment. Lotspeich, who was to have succeeded Colin W. Bell when the latter retired on April 1, recently underwent brain surgery and felt he ought not to assume the office of executive secretary.

Stephen G. Cary has been appointed acting executive secretary, pending the selection of a successor to Bell. Born in Philadelphia, Cary graduated from Germantown Friends School and Haverford College, and received his masters degree in international administration from Columbia University. A conscientious objector, he served with Civilian Public Service during the Second World War. In January 1946, he went to Europe as the AFSC's European commissioner in charge of relief operations. From 1950 to 1959 Stephen Cary served as executive secretary of the American section of the Service Committee, at which time he assumed his position as associate executive secretary. In this capacity he has served as coordinator of AFSC regional relations, traveling extensively throughout the United States.

Dr. Lotspeich resigned as chairman of the University of Rochester Medical School's Department of Physiology last year and had been in training since last August to succeed Colin Bell. He spent many months traveling across the United States visiting AFSC regional offices.

AFSC starts urban affairs project in Elizabeth, N. J.

Elizabeth, New Jersey, is only one of the satellite cities that make up the "megapolis" of New York, and it suffers accordingly from the whole range of urban problems.

In August 1966 Federal funds allocated for urban renewal in Elizabeth were withheld due to the gross mismanagement of relocation of families within the areas scheduled to be demolished. Many families vanished altogether, probably into the vast squalor of Harlem or Bedford Stuyvesant. Last June the moratorium was lifted, and those families still within the renewal area are nervously awaiting their fate. Last summer the AFSC received an urgent appeal to work with these families.

The AFSC has responded by establishing an urban affairs program, headed by New Jersey organizer Wray Bailey. He will establish a housing information and service center to aid area residents who are caught ill-prepared for and ill-informed about relocation outside the urban renewal area. He will also work in other areas of Elizabeth to encourage fair housing practices.

The project is an attempt by the AFSC to bring together concerned residents and encourage their participation in the decision-making that affects their lives and community. The project will also attempt to use television as a tool of community development, first through open-circuit programs scheduled in cooperation with WNDT, and ultimately through the evolution of a closed-circuit intra-community television system.

YSO volunteers doing a variety of jobs

continued from page 1

talking with the mothers about how their children could take part. Only three children were signed up, but on opening day fifteen appeared, and since then some thirty children have officially registered. Now every morning the women pick up the children on their way to the kindergarten building.

One of the women in the unit has started a sewing and cooking class, while another has organized a small library.

The men have become involved in a variety of projects. One has been showing films and he reports that "My first projection was made on February 6, on the old school's whitewashed wall in the town plaza. More than 200 people attended the showing of three films."

A large area of land surrounding

Xoconostle and other neighboring villages is constantly flooding, resulting in damaged crops. A member of the unit offered to help one farmer, who was enthusiastically working on a canal system to drain off the water. In a recent report we learned that "In return for his help on the canal, Enrique was given a turkey which we all helped him eat."

Besides the group in Mexico, YSO has units in Royal Oak Township, Michigan; Chester County, Pennsylvania; Denver, Colorado; Robeson County, North Carolina; and individual assignments in the national office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and in High Point, North Carolina. Fifty appointments were made during the first year of the program.

In Denver, a guitar-playing YSO

wanted to teach some Mexican-American children how to play the guitar, but did not have enough equipment to teach everyone who wanted to learn. He contacted the Baldwin Company, which sent a representative to discuss the situation with the AFSC office in Denver. As a result, the Baldwin Company distributed \$3200-worth of guitars to community action centers throughout Denver.

Another volunteer in Chester County, after working for almost a year there with Self-Help Housing, Inc., said the following about his experience, "It has made it possible for me to help a great many people build their own houses and, at the same time, gain valuable experience for a possible life of construction supervision in low-income housing."

Foreign students share views

"Unless we are able to cooperate, Asia has very little hope for the future," said a dynamic, slightly-built Thai banker to a group of fellow Asians circling him in the comfortable living room of a New York town house.

The occasion was one of a series of three Sunday night supper-discussions on Asia sponsored by the AFSC's International Student Program. The 18 students, most doing graduate work at New York universities, represented Japan, the Philippines, Australia, Indonesia, Nationalist China, Ceylon, Korea, India and Thailand. The Americans who came brought the dinner — casseroles spiced with curry and accompanied by rice.

In outlining reasons why regional cooperation is essential for Asia the speaker gave an example of the political and psychological barriers that work against it: "Because of our colonial history Asians tend to look to the West as a model and lack respect for the accomplishments of other Asian nations." His comments sparked an hour of lively discussion. An Indonesian challenged a Thai's remarks on the way his country is achieving economic progress. A Korean pointed out how racial discrimination in Asia creates barriers. A student from Taiwan said: "If we are going to have progress we have to motivate the people."

In an animated and friendly mood, individuals lingered afterwards to talk in small groups about trade problems, contact with China, and the pros and cons of accepting foreign investment. As one remarked: "This is cooperation on a personal level." Certainly both foreign students and American students were having a chance to become better informed.

From 1500 to 2000 new foreign students arrive in New York each year. In addition to the Sunday-night discussion suppers the Service Committee arranges



for students to visit American families in their homes. As many as 100 students visited 51 American families in one month last year. After one such weekend a student wrote: "I hope you realize how wonderful is the feeling that even being so far from home there are still people that know you exist and care about you."

Arrangements are made for students to speak to junior and senior high school groups . . . an exchange that gives Americans firsthand knowledge of countries abroad. A French student talks about the common market, a boy from Saudi Arabia tells about life in his country, a Nigerian speaks before an assembly in Brooklyn. Both the schools and the visiting students wind up enthusiastic about each other. One African student said recently: "Those junior high students asked more intelligent, sophisticated questions than college students I've met."

AFSC book on conscription published by Hill & Wang

"The Draft?", published by Hill & Wang on April 12th, is an 88-page report on Conscription prepared by the AFSC. The following review appeared in "Publisher's Weekly." The eight members of the Working Party on Conscription of the Peace Education Division of the American Friends Service Committee for which this report was prepared include clergymen, an economics professor, a psychiatrist and the executive secretary of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors. Their report is a fact-filled, annotated examination and hard-hitting condemnation of the Selective Service law in the U.S. In force since 1940, with only one 18-month break in 1947-48, the law has gradually become taken for granted, although its legitimacy has never been established. The report presents a short history of the draft, discusses the psychological effects on draftees and their families, and gives the latest information on conscientious-objector movements. The author's dismiss suggestions for a "national service" law that would permit the draftee to choose domestic peace corps service rather than military, because this would destroy home rule in cities and states. They reluctantly suggest that, if U.S. foreign policy can't take a more peaceful turn, a volunteer army could fill manpower needs if wages were increased. The eight authors, concerned with the morality and the legitimacy of conscription, have presented a powerful case against it, but they are not optimistic about any immediate reforms. "This . . . is only a skirmish in a very long campaign." "The Draft?" is the second book published by Hill & Wang in cooperation with the American Friends Service Committee. The first, "Peace in Vietnam," published in paper and cloth, has sold over 100,000 copies.

THE DRAFT?

"Repugnant to the spirit of democracy"
 "a fabric of despotism"
 "state slavery . . . involuntary servitude"
 "a libel and reproach upon the name of democracy . . . repugnant"
 "autocratic . . . despotic; it is not American"

These remarks were made not by today's young draft card burners but by distinguished United States Congressmen and Senators. Dissent about compulsory military conscription declined a generation ago, however, and today conscription has become a part of our daily way of life.

The American Friends Service Committee has been concerned about conscription since it was founded in 1917 to provide young Quakers with alternate service to fighting in World War I. In a book—*The Draft?*—published by Hill & Wang, a working party commissioned by the AFSC argues against military conscription and questions the Government's right to conscript its citizens for any purpose. The members of the working party are Kenneth E. Boulding, Allan Brick, William Camp, Marvin Karpatkin, James H. Laird, Stewart Meacham, John Swomley and Arlo Tatum.

Some of the questions discussed are:

What is the status of the conscientious objector? What is the status of the selective objector who refuses to fight in the Vietnam War but believes himself willing to participate in a "just" war?

What are the psychological effects of the draft on the individual, his family and society?

Does conscription have an increasing effect on foreign policy?

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El Porvenir—"the hope of the future"

Three Rocks is an isolated rural community on the west side of Fresno County, California. It consists of a gas station, a few odd stores, and a small Catholic church. A mud-rut road behind the stores once led to a cluster of sixty tar paper shacks—one of the most notorious slums in the nation.

Today a new brick wall on the same site fronts "El Porvenir," an eight-year-old self-help housing project. Sixteen of the fifty-four projected houses are ready. Twenty-two more are in various stages of construction. There are graded streets complete with curbs and gutters, and a new water system in operation.

The AFSC became involved in 1960 when Rufino Cabrera, head of the El Porvenistas, approached staff member Bard McAllister at the Service Committee's Farm Labor Projects office in Visalia. At that time they were paying rent on shacks that had no insulation or operable plumbing. They were forced to haul water each day from irrigation ditches.

During the following year, a series of community meetings were held. Experience had taught the residents that living in grower-owned housing limited their freedom to seek employment with other ranchers. There was no other available

housing in the area, so the citizens of Three Rocks determined to start a self-help subdivision.

Under the guidance of AFSC field director Howard Washburn, an El Porvenir committee was created of concerned persons in Fresno County, and El Porvenir Inc. became a legal entity. Twenty acres of land were donated by a large ranching concern. Architectural firms donated subdivision and house plans; engineering services were donated for streets and water systems; surveying, soil analysis, legal services, and many other contributions were made available.

The first of a long series of crises came in the fall of 1964 when the ranching concern which had donated the land withdrew its offer, following the publication of an article in which Bard McAllister spoke in opposition to the importation of Mexican farm labor. An exhaustive search finally brought in June 1965, an anonymous donation of funds with which to purchase the site. There were other delays over the engineering plans and FHA loans, and in August, 1966, the project suffered the tragic loss of Howard Washburn, when he died in a car accident. The Porvenistas persevered.

O.E.O. grants in 1966 and 1967 paid

for streets, sanitation, operational costs, and a water system. On April 1967 Otrillo Quintero, the second president of El Porvenir, presided over the actual ground breaking.

The summer of 1967 brought 16 AFSC college work campers from such diverse places as Kobe and Hamburg. They built the brick wall that borders the subdivision, laid foundations and raised frames. Western Washington State sophomore Angela Seiberling said of her summer: "For many of us this is

the first time we have really had a chance to do something for someone else without any thought of personal gain. It has been a great experience working with these wonderful people who started El Porvenir with only a spark in their eyes and a dream in their hearts."

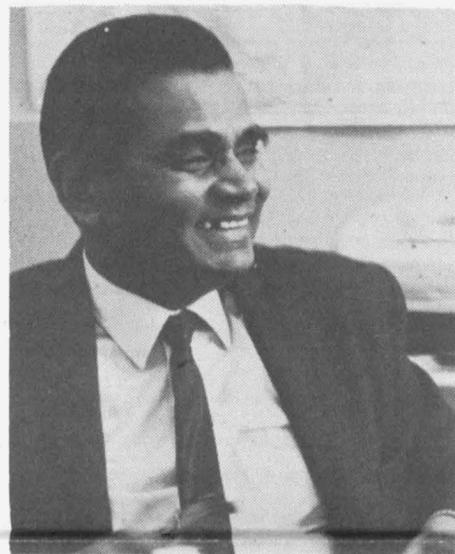


Baroda in transition

You catch his excitement as this gentlemanly man talks about the AFSC's urban community development project in India. Jesse Kavoori, program director of the project, arrived in the United States in January to spend three months learning more about the AFSC and about community development programs outside of India. In a special interview Jesse tells Quaker Service what's happening in Baroda.

What was the basic idea behind the Baroda project when it was started in 1964?

Baroda was facing tremendous problems in 1964. The city was growing steadily. People were coming from villages and moving into already overcrowded tenements. Adjusting to city life wasn't easy. Sanitation became a problem. Jobs were hard to find. Young people, not in



school, had no constructive way to use their energy and ability and felt frustrated and insecure. The purpose of the project is to encourage people to decide together what they and their communities need and want and what they can do about it; then help them to do it.

Do you feel the project has been a success?

Yes, I think the Baroda project can claim a few achievements of a fairly high order. One is the work we have been doing in the four neighborhoods.

We are more concerned with what happens to people than in projects. We do not go to people with ideas about what they ought to do. People must feel the need themselves for new and better things. I think once people have the feeling they are the deciders of their own fate then, by their own efforts, they take the direction for their lives. This is happening. People themselves are making the decisions about what is needed and then doing the work to accomplish the improvements.

Our primary effort, you see, has been to effect changes in the lives of the people through a change in attitude. It is educational work . . . trying to motivate people. This approach may take a little time but it is effective.

What activities have the people chosen to work on in the neighborhoods?

The balwadi, the children's kindergarten, is the most popular activity, I think. It seems to fill an important need. Poor people realize that education may be the answer to poverty. Another neighborhood set up a development council to work on children's education, a women's crafts program, and a cooperative credit society for people who need loans.

Have the nine community workers been effective, do you think?

This has been one of the real successes of our program. As you probably know, the workers were selected by careful screening for their qualities of working with people. Only two of the nine are professional social workers, two have had some college education, but the rest are only high school graduates. It is clear, after three years, that our best workers are not necessarily the professional workers. When you must get people involved in working themselves for social change then the kind of person the worker is matters more than his education. He must relate well to people, motivate them, be a conflict-resolver, inspirer, so many things. Our workers are able to make people do things for themselves. I must say they are the pick of the lot . . . superior men and women.

What problems do these workers find in the neighborhoods?

Apart from education the problems are mainly economic. We are concentrating on four areas of need: health, education, recreation and vocational training.

Has the citizens council, formed in the beginning to oversee the project, been valuable?

Apart from the work in the four communities, the biggest achievement probably is the creation of the citizens council. This body of voluntary leaders represents the best elements in the community . . . leaders in government, industry, social welfare work, and in the university, the trade unions and the municipal corporation.

The council is independent of the project and is advisor to the project. The project staff make no major decisions without its consent and approval. The problems that come up in our work in the four neighborhoods often go to it for city-wide attention.

In the 4½ years of its existence the members of the citizens council have shown an amazing degree of responsibility. To illustrate this: a few days after



the elections, a meeting of the citizens council was called. At this time India had gone through the most convulsive experience of its political life. The Congress Party, which had ruled for 20 years, was thrown out. In the city of Baroda itself only one seat was won by the Congress candidate. There was a mood of despondency on the part of the Congress Party and a mood of elation on the part of the opposition. Of course when the meeting was called this was not foreseen.

The first to come into the room was the mayor himself, a man who had ruled for two terms, now a humble, defeated man. After him came the man who had financed the opposition party. Then came a congressman who had lost, labor leaders who were defeated, and so on. More than half the people that came that day had some part in the elections. We thought this might affect the deliberations of the council but none of the rancor was seen. Underneath you could feel the tension but there was no anger. When we asked some of them why this was, they said: "We have called a truce to our differences. We have committed ourselves to work for the city and we are working."

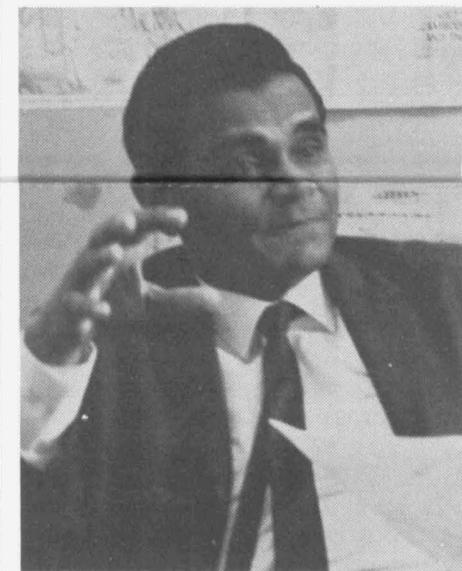
Is the experience you're having in Baroda being used in other cities?

A young college group from a small Moslem community came to us for help. They wanted to begin a community development program in their area. Our evaluation man explained to them how to study their own community scientifically.

Our man in charge of community relations, and the man in charge of educational materials have been doing really significant work as consultants. Now it's a question of how much we can take on.

Have any adjoining neighborhoods expressed any interest?

Yes, surrounding neighborhoods are asking for help. Most agencies give direct help but we've never done that. Development is growth on your own, not a gift from anyone. The new neighborhoods will require more intensive community development so the old neighborhoods will have to depend on leadership we have created. Ultimately, in a sense, we want to make ourselves obsolete.



How do you feel about the Baroda project as a whole?

As a whole it is a very challenging experience and we are enjoying every bit of it. It's difficult. Cities in India, as elsewhere, are in ferment. Luckily Baroda has had leadership and institutions and agencies which have been most cooperative. All the political parties have functioned with amazing responsibility whatever their differences. I think we'll succeed.

Quaker
Service

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