NATIONAL EDITION



Nigeria and Biafra relief programs in operation



The American Friends Service Committee has now established two separate relief programs, one in Nigeria, the other in Biafra.

The Nigeria Program, with its field base at Lagos, is co-sponsored by the AFSC and the Friends Service Council of Great Britain.

Kale Williams, executive secretary of the AFSC Chicago Regional Office, has taken on the duties of program field director, and his wife, Helen, assistant director. The Williams' left at the beginning of the year to start their sixmonth assignment, taking the places of Bradford and Jean Abernethy who returned to the States in December.

Three doctors, four nurses, one mechanic, one generalist and the Williams' are now at work in the Lagos area. When fully staffed (five more volunteers are to be appointed) two medical and food distribution teams will be in operation.

Nigerian authorities

The program will work in close association with the appropriate Nigerian authorities and in consultation with other voluntary agencies such as the Nigerian Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The logistics for this were set up by the Abernethys who also established the Lagos office-residence and purchased the drugs and three trucks the teams are now using.

The emphasis of the AFSC-FSC teams will be in two vital areas. First, instead of attempting to import food supplies from abroad, they are working toward more effective distribution of already available food stocks.

Large stockpiles of food await distribution on Lagos' piers while only a few hundred miles away millions of children in refugee camps suffer from severe malnutrition and starvation.

The need for this distribution is heightened as a severe rainy season, the worst since 1892, prevented this year's crops from being planted. Already the supply of staple bulk foods, with which the present supply of highprotein concentrates must be mixed, is running low.

Second, the staff is striving to provide medical services to groups of mothers and children, many of whom have had no access to such services for more than a year.

One of the doctors with the team reports: "As the front has become stable and Red Cross teams have moved in, refugees who have been hiding many months filter out, ragged, dirty, with their few possessions on their heads. No doubt many of them have died exiled from their homes, for those returning are merely skin and bone from starvation or swollen from lack of protein or wracked by disease.

"It is the children and old ones who have suffered most—the former because their growth requirements demand protein urgently, the older ones because their reserves are less."

Abiriba Joint Hospital

The Biafra Program is based at Abiriba, and is co-sponsored by the AFSC and the Mennonite Central Committee. Here the team has assumed administration of the Abiriba Joint Hospital and the over ten feeding stations it operates in a twenty-mile radius.

At present the Quaker-Mennonite team includes two doctors and a nurse, with one of the doctors, Linford Gehman, acting as field director. Current plans call for the assignment of an additional seven persons. The program is working in cooperation with Caritas Internationalis (Catholic agency),

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Building all-American neighborhoods

By BETH BINFORD

"Our goal is to build all-American neighborhoods," says Tony Edgerton, director of the AFSC's community relations program in Xenia, Ohio, Richmond and Muncie, Indiana. Tony has helped get public attention in these cities focused on the need for better housing and for desegregated neighborhoods and schools. Through personal contacts, letters, speeches, movies he has sparked inter-faith and inter-racial groups to work on these problems.

"We also encourage individuals to live up to their ideals and to take responsibility for making their community better. Not to say 'Why don't they,' but 'Why don't I,' "Tony comments. "If people get personally involved in some kind of action program they help overcome the myths and fears in their own neighborhood. It's this kind of personal responsibility, I think, that makes democracy really work."

Tony started Fair Housing Councils which help people find homes of their continued on page 3

Youth Service Opportunities volunteers help build

Story and photos by MIKE DZUBA According to the United States Census Bureau, Robeson County is the seventh poorest county in the country. It was in Robeson County in September of 1967 that the American Friends Service Committee established a Youth Service Opportunities Program for eight young men and women seeking something worthwhile to do. Their first project was a voter registration drive and an adult education program.

When the unit first arrived in Robeson, less than 50% of the eligible voters were registered. Consequently, a great deal of leg work was done going around the county talking to Indians, blacks and poor whites about registering and

"We wrote a 15 page teaching guide before we began the citizenship education classes. The guide included facts about health and welfare regulations, the duties of local and state officials,

the voting process and why the vote is important," explained John Turner, one of the volunteers. "We also handed out sample ballots."

"The registrars were very un-co-operative and were always running out of registration material," said another volunteer, "and we watched them carefully to see that they filled the forms out correctly. Finally, extra registration commissioners were appointed, and about 4000 people registered."

Watched for irregularities

The drive climaxed with state-wide elections in May 1968. The volunteers drove people to and from the polls and watched at the polls for irregularities. They did the same for the run-off election on June 1, 1968. During the runoff election, YSO Bob Cates was "assaulted, intimidated and threatened" by a member of a large landholding family in the county. This incident has become the first test case of the 1968 Civil Rights Act.

Bob recalled what happened that day: "I was poll watching during the run-off election when a man called me over to his car, leaned out of the window, grabbed my coat, yanked me down and asked me where I was from. Before I answered, I asked him to let go of my coat, and then I told him my home is in Maine." The next thing Bob knew was the man had pulled a gun and said "Do

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Chas Bicking supervises some of the Rockland, North Carolina day-care center children.

Dr. Lotspeich, Man of God



He was a tall, lean, raw-boned man with hands so large yet so gentle that yours were lost when you shook hands with him.

He was a Quaker, and like so many of these people of courage, he walked the

earth unafraid, confident that his love would be returned by love—and it was.

Sometimes in his occasional travels, Dr. William D. Lotspeich would write a piece for this newspaper at the request of a friend on the staff. In more than one, his faith shot through like a beam of light. For instance, when he wrote of the serene but hard life of Nigerian fishermen:

"And so the cycle of man and the sea goes on and these people, never more than a few yards from their canoes, symbolize the unity of man and nature and the acceptance of the one by the other in the scheme of things."

His own sense of mission on this troubled earth was as powerful as it was gentle.

He could have done or been anything in the field of medicine or surgery, and probably made a fortune, so visible was his competence, but he chose to teach, and he was still a young man when he headed the Department of Physiology at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. But even then he was writing:

"First I believe it is necessary to have a strong conviction that life has a meaning, and that what I do with it matters."

It was that conviction that finally led Dr. Lotspeich, two years ago, to give up his post at the U. of R. and accept appointment as executive director of the American Friends Service Committee. Given his conviction, given the fact that he and his wife Sylvia had directed in-

ternational Quaker student seminars, the decision was not startling, even though it marked another sacrifice of the material things of life.

"The Friends believe there is something of good in every person," he wrote at another time; "that it is the duty of each of us to speak to that divine element — the element of God — in other human beings. We are traditionally against war but that is not enough; our works are directed toward creating a world situation of brotherhood and love that would remove the causes of war."

He had been in Philadelphia but a short time when he was taken ill. After surgery, and a brief recovery and return to work, he died there the other day at the age of 48. And we have been sitting at a desk, looking at some yellow clippings, and wondering about it all.

He wrote at another time:

"Each of us can organize his life around a series of experiences designed to enhance the dignity of men both at home and abroad, through the strengthening of such things as civil rights, due process of law, health and education, disarmament, and the unity of man within world law."

Perhaps it is as simple as all that: He did what all men should do. He believed in the goodness of man, of the power of man to raise his own condition and to create a world of peace and of love, and he allowed his belief to become his dream and he followed that dream where it led him.

He walked quietly and confidently with his God, and perhaps his greatest gift was that he compelled — but not intentionally — all who came in contact with him to reassess their own lives and their own thoughts and their own dreams.

Reprinted courtesy of The Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester, N.Y.

Build confidence

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you see this." Unable to miss it, Bob kept his eyes glued to the barrel until the man put the gun away and then said, "get the hell out of here." This man also intimidated an Indian woman at the polls, and both she and Bob are witnesses for the prosecution. The case is scheduled for March 24, 1969.

Judy Rosen and Arnold Kawano joined the project in September 1968, and are interested in community organizing. "Building attitudes and talking to people are more vital than anything else. I just want to help build a little bit of confidence," said Judy. She aims to find and encourage local leaders.

Arn began working as secretary for Hope, Inc., and plans to use this position as a jumping off point for community organization work. "I have been looking around for an issue to focus on, and the school system is a possibility," he said. "But school organizing is nothing compared to what is really needed and the work that has to be done, the people have to do themselves," Arn said.

Cooperative buying club

Getting a group of people to work together is not a simple task whether the focus is the school system or cooperatives. But Bob Cates, through his initial contacts from the voter registration drive, has interested a group of Indians in a cooperative buying club, an idea he got from the Harvard Co-op. When he was told about a man who is willing to sell dry goods wholesale to a chartered organization, his interest in this venture was really quickened.

Since last June Bob has been researching cooperatives from Washington, D.C. to Atlanta, Georgia. He has drafted a charter, and once a lawyer reviews the draft, Bob plans to send it to Washington to get it chartered under the District of Columbia Co-op Association Act. He can then file in Raleigh,



Steve Nash, editor of THE LUMBEE, a weekly Indian newspaper, prepares the layout and pasteup for an issue.

North Carolina as a foreign corporation.

Not sure the co-op idea would even get off the ground, Bob is surprised it has gone this far. "I'm still not sure it will ever materialize, but the idea is planted and people are working together," he said.

Chas Bicking and Steve Nash, part of the original YSO contingent, both participated in the voter registration drive. However, upon its completion, they took off for Resurrection City and worked at the Poor People's University doing whatever work was necessary.

In Washington, Steve was arrested along with a large number of demonstrators and jailed for 15 days. "In jail I met Steve Cary and a whole bunch of other Quakers," he said. Steve Cary is an Associate Executive Secretary of the AFSC.

Indian newspaper

When Steve returned to Robeson, he assumed the editorship of THE LUMBEE, an Indian newspaper published weekly. "I want some truth and real coverage on what is happening in the Indian and Negro communities," he said.

Steve is keeping his eyes open for hot

Medical supplies shipped to Vietnam NLF areas

By MARGARET H. BACON

The American Friends Service Committee announced on December 18 the first in a series of shipments of procaine penicillin to civilian war sufferers in National Liberation Front areas of Vietnam.

At the same time, the Service Committee said, it was sending a medical shipment of equal value to the Quaker Service unit in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam established in October 1966, which operates a prosthetics center and a child day care center.

Aided both sides

The AFSC, which has aided civilians on both sides of conflict in the Spanish Civil War, the Chinese Civil War, the Arab-Israeli struggle and currently Nigeria, and Biafra, has repeatedly announced its desire to help war sufferers in all parts of Vietnam. In October of 1966, it applied for and received a license from the U.S. Treasury Depart-

ment to send medical supplies to North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and territories held by the NLF. The December action, however, marks the first time it has shipped without U.S. Government approval.

All children of God

"We have worked with many branches of the family of man, whether American or European, African or Asian, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jew, or Muslim," an AFSC spokesman said in announcing the shipment. "Sometimes our service has been among those whom other men call enemies, sometimes with those others call friends. They are all children of God and we cannot let ourselves be separated from them by the arbitrary barriers that men build to rationalize their inhumanity."

The AFSC reported that it had held many meetings with NLF representatives during the past few years on various matters, including the exchange of prisoners, and in recent months has discussed medical needs with them. Though war conditions make it impossible for the NLF to permit Quaker workers to accompany the medical supplies at this time, the AFSC will con-

tinue to negotiate for their admission at a future date. Meanwhile the AFSC expects to receive reports on the use of the penicillin which is being consigned to the Commission on Public Health, a civilian branch of the NLF.

In addition, attached to each vial or syringe is the following label:

"The American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) gives medical aid to Vietnamese war sufferers in Quang Ngai. This gift is a similar expression of good will and friendship to the people of Vietnam from the American Friends Service Committee to help those civilians elsewhere in Vietnam who are suffering greatly because of the war."

Though its primary motivation is Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan, the AFSC said it was also concerned about prisoners of war — Americans held by the NLF and the Vietnamese held by the American allies—and believes that its continuing contacts with the NLF through the medium of the relief shipments will permit it to encourage the release of the imprisoned.

Future relationships

"It is important for Americans to begin now to lay the foundation for future relationships with those on all sides of the Vietnam conflict," a prepared statement read. "These must inevitably be

established when the fighting stops, and the encouragement of private initiatives now may ease the way to greater understanding later."

The Quaker group said it had been in close touch with the U.S. Government regarding all its negotiations with the NLF.

"We understand the reasons for the Administration's present unwillingness to approve such a step," the statement read, "but we still feel it right to proceed."

The AFSC action was decided upon at a Board meeting on December 5, after full discussion through all the regional offices and committees of the Quaker organization.

The following paragraphs were taken from the editorial entitled, "Medical Aid From Friends", which appeared in the December 20 issue of the DES MOINES REGISTER.

Regardless of law or doctrine, Americans must live in the world with those they now call foe, and their South Vietnamese allies must live in the same country. The American Friends Service Committee believes their initiative with penicillin will help in a small degree to "ease the way to greater understanding later when the fighting stops."

We think they are right on this practical point, whatever theology or statute you start from

issues to focus on such as the schools, welfare and tenant farming. "I'm looking forward to the paper getting into the power struggle," he said.

Steve is presently on leave from the YSO unit and receives his maintenance salary from THE LUMBEE. He felt that if the paper were to become controversial, his being a YSO might interfere with the other volunteers.

Talks to student groups

Chas Bicking returned to Robeson, but set off again to make the rounds of colleges in the state, talking informally to student groups about war, racism and the draft. Duke, North Carolina State, East Carolina University, and Pembroke State College are among the campuses he has visited and led discussions.

Presently Chas is working in a daycare center is Rowland, North Carolina, where he assists in a Head Start Program aimed mainly at poor black and Indian children.

Pat Egan and Susie Hoffman worked in day-care centers after they joined the unit last September, but their interests have shifted to welfare rights.

Pat recalls walking in the neighborhood of the day-care center with one of her "students" and introducing herself to someone as "Michele's teacher." From her side a little voice said, "You don't teach me, you just play with me."

"In the evening the center held required activities for the mothers of children participating in the day-care program," Pat said. "They usually made practical things to be used during the day."

Once every two weeks she gave a cooking class which enabled her to meet

a number of women in the area of the center. Now she has been encouraging these women to attend a sewing class.

"Although I liked the children very much, I felt at odds with the day care center's anti-Head Start philosophy, and did not think I would be given an opportunity to introduce new ideas into the program," she said. Therefore Pat has been exploring state and county welfare rights and plans to work with the first rural chapter of the National Welfare Rights Organization which is operating in two communities in Robeson County.

New directions

John Turner is another volunteer whose original activities have led him in new directions. As a result of his early work in the registration drive and citizenship classes, he is known to many of the people in the county as a person whom they can trust and to whom they can go with their problems.

One woman told him inspectors had tacked a notice on her privy which said that she had to tear it down, fill in the hole, and build a new one with a concrete base. "I asked her if others had a similar problem and learned 20 families needed new privies, or at least some repairs."

John decided to organize these families to solve the privy problem. He called a meeting and 30 people showed up to help work out construction plans.

After checking on retail prices he found that the outhouses cost at least \$60 and each family would still have to dig its own hole. John proceeded to visit each family to explain what they needed to satisy the required standards.

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All-American

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choice in the neighborhood of their choice. "This is the way to begin building a healthy spirit of a real neighborhood," he says.

Typical week

During a typical week he may meet with city and state officials on housing programs and problems, attend a workshop at a Friends Meeting, or talk to church committees. This past year he met with high school classes and answered questions on riots, Black Power and integrated housing. He showed movies-"A Matter of Color" and "Violence, Law and Conscience" to stimulate groups to take an interest in community service. Working with a Richmond community center he helped staff set up employment counseling, job referral and block clubs. Concerned with police-community relations he arranged a meeting between Richmond's black youth and the mayor and police chief. He set up a workshop with factory supervisors to help them understand poor and/or black employees.

Tony rallied community support in Richmond for a fair housing ordinance which would provide for a human relations commission. He spent hours talking to women's organizations, councilmen, the mayor and sending out letters to families and clergy. Late last year the ordinance was passed by city council and a Human Relations Commission was established under law. Now Richmond has a legal body for insuring the recognition of equal human rights. Tony is preparing a brochure for the

Commission on its purpose and how it will operate. Forms have been distributed to persons who want to file a complaint with the Commission about discrimination encountered.

When Tony found Richmond realtors soliciting door to door for listings, attempting to play on the fears of white residents, he worked to counteract the scare by meeting with residents, distributing literature and involving the city's religious leaders. Tony talked to the mayor so he would understand the need to combat "panic peddling."

After three-and-a-half years what are the results of the AFSC's Tri-City program? "In Xenia, at the beginning of last year, 24 Negro families had moved into six formerly all-white areas with no fuss," says Tony, "and progress has kept pace throughout the year." Xenia citizens and city officials are working on the need for low-income housing and rent-supplement programs.

Low-income housing

In Richmond, one can see quite a bit of progress as well. The city recognized the need for better housing and built 188 low-income housing units.

In Muncie, the city administration is now pushing for an ordinance to set up a non-profit housing development organization. The board members would see that national fair housing laws were carried out on the local level. They would work for low and moderate income housing and to provide tools and staff services to groups attempting to create decent housing.

This pilot project will end at the close of 1969 as individuals and groups in the communities take on the tasks started by the AFSC.



Work at Quang Ngai continues

Active fighting in and around Quang Ngai, South Vietnam has kept a constant stream of broken bodies arriving at the provincial hospital. Death claims many, and survivors often face life as amputees. Since 1967 AFSC has operated a prosthetics program which provides artificial limbs for some of the more fortunate. It now assembles and fits about 50 limbs per month. In addition, 20 young Vietnamese men are being trained as prosthetics makers.

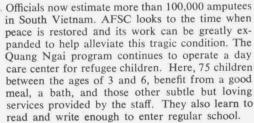


















THE QUIET REBELS

The Story of the Quakers in America

By MARGARET H. BACON Published by Basic Books, Price: \$5.95.

Reviewed by MARY HOXIE JONES

Margaret H. Bacon, a member of Germantown Monthly Meeting and a staff member of the American Friends Service Committee, begins her book, The Quiet Rebels, with the question in chapter I, "Who are the Quakers?" The remaining nine chapters are all attempts to answer this question which has been asked through the centuries by countless persons, both young and old. In one way, the title of the book is hardly accurate. Never has there been a religious group who has expressed itself more intensely by the written word, the spoken word, or by deed. And yet the title is accurate because, with few exceptions, Friends have gone about their affairs quietly and without desire of world acclaim.

Far from quiet

Perhaps the exceptions could be listed as the first Friends to come to the New World in 1656. Mary Fisher and Ann Austin, who tried to take Boston by storm were indeed rebels and they were far from quiet. They were silenced, however, by the authorities, sent back to England and efforts were made to do the same for the Quakers who followed after. It took many visits by many vociferously unquiet men and women to establish the Quaker faith in the Puritan stronghold of New England. The difficulities were not so great in the land farther south.

There have been many books written about Quaker history, Quaker faith and Quaker works. This particular book has been written primarily for school and college age young people and covers the 312 years between the first arrivals in Boston in 1656 to the present day, including the Friends World Conference at Guilford College, North Carolina in 1967 and efforts to help in both North and South Vietnam.

Historical material

Margaret Bacon has handled well the historical material dealing with all phases of Quaker philosophy and of action. She goes all the way back to the beginnings of Quakerism in England, its transplanting in the New World, the new political climate and the changes which migrations across the American continent brought into the picture. How the Society of Friends tried to, or refused to, adapt itself to its environment, comes out well in this book. Of necessity she has to rush along to cover over 300 years within a readable volume but it is hoped that her readers will become sufficiently interested and excited by this survey to want to read more and will turn to some of the books mentioned in the bibliography. Students of Quakerism will find this an invaluable book.

How could so small a religious body have such a wide influence and accomplish so much? This is a fascinating topic for consideration. Quakers can also feel exceedingly humble to see how far short they have fallen in fulfilling the inheritance given to them.

The American Friends Service Committee takes its proper place in this history of Friends. Its brief account comes near the end of the book and no one can feel that its activities are stressed unduly. Friends' interests in missions, work with the mentally ill, with prisoners, are given their rightful share. This book should help its readers, Friends and non-Friends alike, gain a clearer understanding of Quakerism—its contribution to the American culture and its relevance to the issues of the day. Margaret Bacon has met her challenge well.

Relief programs

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World Council of Churches (Protestant organization), ICRC (Red Cross) teams and Biafran authorities.

Before the war some 500,000 people lived in the region served by the Abiriba Hospital. Now this facility provides the only medical services available to between 700,000 and 1,000,000 people.

Atlee Beechy, assistant secretary of the Mennonite Central Committee, returned on January 22 from a five-day visit to the Abiriba Quaker-Mennonite program.

Needs immense

Atlee reported that the saff was hard at work and that the "needs were immense." He went on to say that the severity of the condition shows up in the "sharp increase in the numbers of refugees, the growing military and civilian casualties, the growing scarcity of food on the local markets and the inflation of prices."

The AFSC programs on both sides will try to be catalysts in the solution of the common refugee problems: relief and rehabilitation. AFSC work is being carried out strictly on a humanitarian basis without regard to the tribal background or political affiliation.

An annual budget of \$250,000, not including \$200,000 to \$300,000 per year for food and medical supplies, is projected for AFSC work in Nigeria and in Biafra. The Committee expects the programs to be in operation for the next three to five years.



John Turner stacks lumber for the outhouse project. A completed unit is behind him.

Build confidence

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"Then I encouraged some ladies to go from house to house to collect money to buy materials so we could begin construction," he said. John managed to get the materials at a tremendous savings, and with the people providing the

labor, was able to bring the average cost per family to a mere \$15. Meanwhile John has applied to the Bureau of Public Health for future funds for privy

John and several other YSO's feel such a strong commitment to Robeson County that they are seriously considering staying after they have completed their service with the AFSC.

AFSC spends \$7.6 million in 1968

The American Friends Service Committee spent \$7.6 million during its 1968 fiscal year on programs in the United States and 18 countries abroad.

It received in income during this period of nearly \$7.5 million from individuals, corporations, and bequests. Almost \$4.5 million of this income was in cash and securities and nearly \$500,000 in gifts of clothing, food, textiles and supplies. 94 bequests, totalling \$1,144,441 were added to the bequest fund, while \$1,791,710 was appropriated for current activities from bequests received in previous years. \$745,000 was received in other income, such as ocean freight reimbursement, participants' fees and literature sales.

During the year, the AFSC committed a larger sum than ever before to projects directed to ending racial discrimination in our society. More than \$1 million was channeled by Community Relations Division into programs identifying with the victims of inequality, unequal justice and discrimination.

International Service Division distributed more than \$1.7 million over its broad spectrum: a prosthetics program in a Vietnam War zone, plans for self-help housing in Zambia, and at year's end a major effort to bring relief to civilian refugees with the establishment of medical and distribution units in both Nigeria and Biafra.

World-wide corps of leaders

The AFSC has generated the good will of a world-wide corps of leaders who have participated in its International Seminars and Conferences for Diplomats. Both programs have been carried on for many years by the International Affairs Division. The division invested part of its \$625,000 1968 budget in seminars arranged for young leaders in the Ivory Coast and Malaysia, as well as diplomats' conferences in Bulgaria, Switzerland, Ceylon and Japan.

The Committee's efforts on behalf of world peace have, over the last four years, had a national focus on ending the war in Vietnam. The heart of the Peace Education Division's work toward this goal has been to publicize AFSC viewpoints at the community level where support for peace initiatives must be built. The AFSC's stand against conscription was reaffirmed with the publication of a major study, "The Draft?" which presents evidence of its dangerous impact on national life. Peace Education invested nearly \$900,000 in these and other

Channel energy and talents

Almost \$1.5 million was spent by Youth Services Division in projects attempting to channel the energy and talents of young people into direct participation in social change processes. These ranged from surveys testing racial attitudes in an affluent Minneapolis white neighborhood, to counseling young men opposed to the Vietnam

Close to \$1.7 million was spent by the Committee for general administration, personnel, publicity and finance. If you would like a more detailed financial statement, please write the Finance Department, AFSC, 160 N. 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., 19102, for a copy of our '68 Annual Report.

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