Labor Council plan for demonstration project

We need more jobs

The Council said the program could provide:

- Relocation into decent housing of people now living in slums.
- Immediate utilization of condemned properties and code enforcement to remove slum housing from the land.
- Build an adequate supply of low and moderate cost housing.
- Activate a campaign to bring to these cleared locations industries who have been unwilling to locate modern facilities in the midst of slums.

It examined in some detail the economic and ethnic characteristics of some 117,000 people who live in the targeted area. (See table below.)

While the area contains sizable minorities of Negro, other non-white, and Spanish surname families, it was close to three-fifths "other white." Two-fifths of the people had incomes below the $4,000 a year poverty level. Sizable numbers were unemployed; still greater numbers leaned on public welfare.

It's only "a partial and unsatisfactory answer to propose a change in the ethnic job mixture, although this should be worked on where any form of discrimination exists."

"The arithmetic is simple," the report went on. "When you take one man off a job and replace him with an unemployed worker, you still wind up with at least one man perhaps two—living in poverty." It continued:

"Luxury apartments, towering office buildings and convention facilities certainly have their place. But a city should plan and develop to meet the needs of all its people. Industrial expansion, not decline, should be an essential part of balanced planning. The dream of a "Manhattan West" should not commit us to Manhattan's class distinctions, poverty, and its variety of Harlem."

"The Demonstration city act—virtually the last piece of business enacted by the 89th Congress—opens the way, the Council said—and with the possibility of a $40 million federal subsidy.

"The root problems are unemployment and poverty, slums and ghettos," the report concludes. "Flowing from them are problems of civil rights, discrimination, civil disturbances, and unrest.... We think the basic answer lies in creating additional jobs by rehabilitating and activating the city's remaining industrial areas south of Market and east of Valencia.

"We propose that those who have the power to create jobs, start doing so."