

Labor Council plan for demonstration project

We need more jobs

A battle plan for a massive attack on unemployment and poverty, on slums and ghettos was spelled out last Friday night by the San Francisco Labor Council.

It called for an outside demonstration city program, under recently enacted legislation, to rehabilitate the entire area south of Market and east of Valencia streets.

The plan called for:
 • a fresh, new supply of low and moderate cost housing;
 • slum clearance;
 • adequate community and social services; and
 • probably most important of all, substantial areas of cleared land for industry and jobs.

The plan is an outgrowth of the Council's longstanding conviction that additional jobs for both skilled and unskilled workers in the city's most urgent need.

IT GOES far beyond a city demonstration program now under consideration at City Hall which would focus principally on Hunters Point.

The tentative city proposal includes a Hunters Point housing redevelopment and two industrial park developments already in the works at the Redevelopment Agency.

"Improvements in the Hunters Point neighborhood are long overdue," the Council's report declared. "But a neighborhood project, desirable and necessary as it is, cannot meet the overall problems of creating an adequate base for additional jobs."

INSTEAD, the Council pointed to the southeast corner of the city, bounded by Market on the north and Valencia on the east, as "the logical place to reorganize our city in the interests of expanding job opportunities and eliminating poverty."

The Council said the program could provide:

• Relocation into decent housing of people now living in slums.

• Immediate utilization of condemnation proceedings and code enforcement to remove slum housing from the land.

• Build an adequate supply of low and moderate cost housing. (The Council warned that this proposal will run head-on into the real estate operators who presently anticipate a 15 per cent return on their investment in slum properties.)

• Activate a campaign to bring to these cleared locations those industries who have been unwilling to locate modern facilities in the midst of slums.

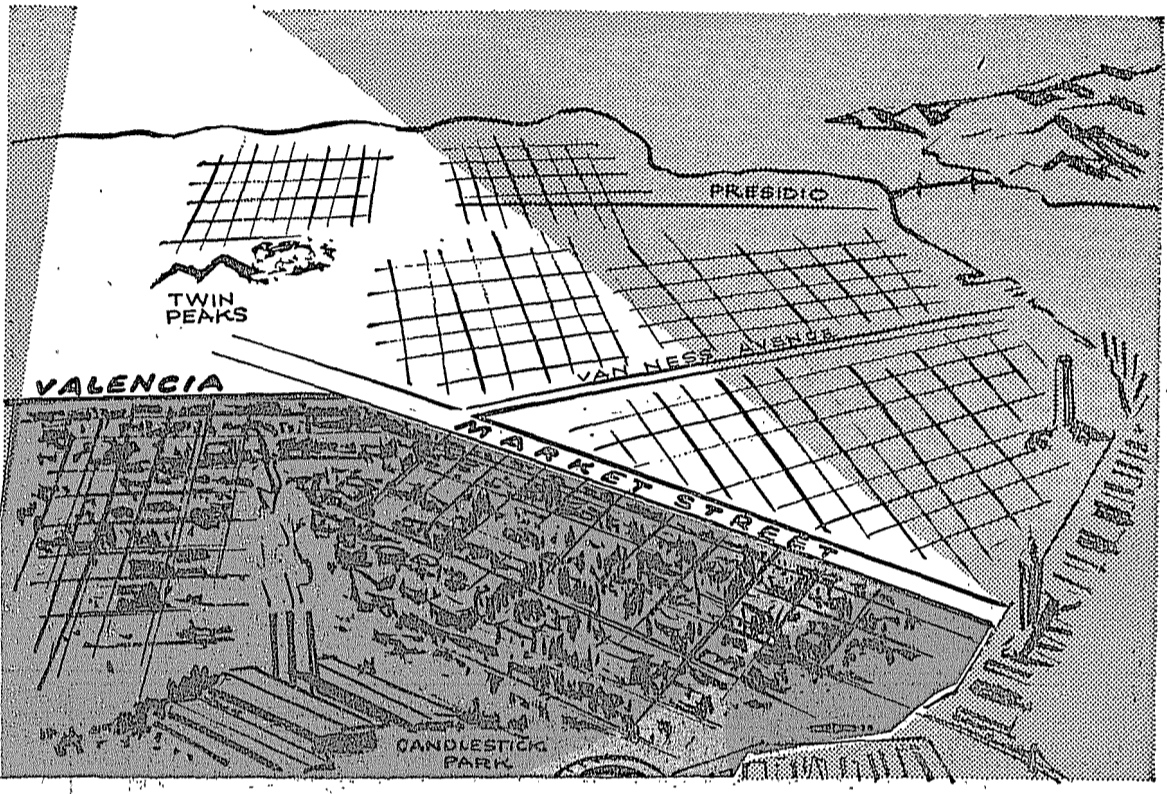
It examined in some detail the economic and ethnic characteristics of some 117,000 people who live in the target area. (See table below).

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 was plainly no problem of one racial group or another; poverty, the report declared, "does not discriminate."

"The militant Negro, fighting for his place in our economic society as many other minorities have done before him," the Council noted, "is only one part of the basic problem of unemployment and poverty in our city."



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 Harlems."

THE DEMONSTRATION city act—virtually the last piece of business enacted by the 89th Congress—opens the way, the Council said—and with the pos-

sibility 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 answers lie 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."

Deadline

This issue of San Francisco Labor goes to press just as voters the length and breadth of the state are going to the polls. It will go into the mails just as the results are being added up.

This coincidence of voting and deadline precludes any results or comment in this issue. And there's little point at the moment in reiterating, for the umpteenth time, how important the outcome will be to union members and their families — to the state as a whole, for that matter.

By our next issue, we'll have some idea where we stand. And San Francisco Labor will report in detail.

Slums and poverty-facts in a nutshell

	SOUTH OF MARKET Between Market and Townsend, 11th St. and the Bay	MISSION DISTRICT Between 11th St. and Army, Valencia and Vermont, near Lick Freeway	POTRERO HILL Between 16th & 25th Sts., Vermont & the Bay	HUNTER'S POINT 25th St. & Yosemite, 3rd St. and the Bay
Population	19,000	35,000	11,810	51,000
<i>Per cent of population in each area</i>				
Negro	16	3	24	37
Other non-white	9	5	4	5
Spanish surname	11	27	16	9
Other white	64	65	56	49
Incomes under \$4,000	48	31	32	37
Unemployed (over 14)	18	9	8	12
On public welfare	37	27	26	37
Live in				
substandard housing	49	17	9	9
Houses lack				
separate bathrooms	77	17	2	2
Over 25 but less than 12 years' education	73	72	64	73